

MONDAY

JANUARY 31, 2005

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Mostly Cloudy

MTSU alumna excels
in final rounds
of writing competition

In Living page 5

Rhythm owner fires
coach after tantrum

In Sports, 6



An editorially
independent
newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

2003 National Finalist
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-Society of Professional Journalists

Volume 80 No. 49

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Registration for spring elections begins

Election packets for students wishing to run for office in the Student Government Association are now available in the SGA Office in the Keathley University Center, Room 208.

Campus Recreation organizes spring trip

Campus Recreation is coordinating a spring break trip to Roatan, Honduras. The cost is \$1,550 for MTSU students.

Sign-up is now taking place, and money is due by Feb. 11. Contact Campus Recreation at 898-2104 or www.mtsu.edu/_camprec for more information.

Collage accepting submissions

Collage, the literary and arts magazine for the University Honors College, is now accepting submissions for the spring 2005 issue. Submission guidelines and submission forms can be picked up outside Room 224 of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. Submissions are not limited to honors students. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 18 at 4:30 p.m.

Career Center hosting on-campus interviews

The MTSU Career and Employment Center will be hosting on-campus interviews for prospective employers throughout February. For more information on employers and to schedule an interview, contact the Career and Employment Center at 898-2500 or visit their office in the Keathley University Center, Room 328.

Fraternity recruitment begins this week

Fraternity Tours will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. Students interested in joining a fraternity will learn more about each organization at this informative event.

Habitat for Humanity holds meeting

The MTSU Chapter of Habitat for Humanity will be holding a meeting Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 6 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 220.

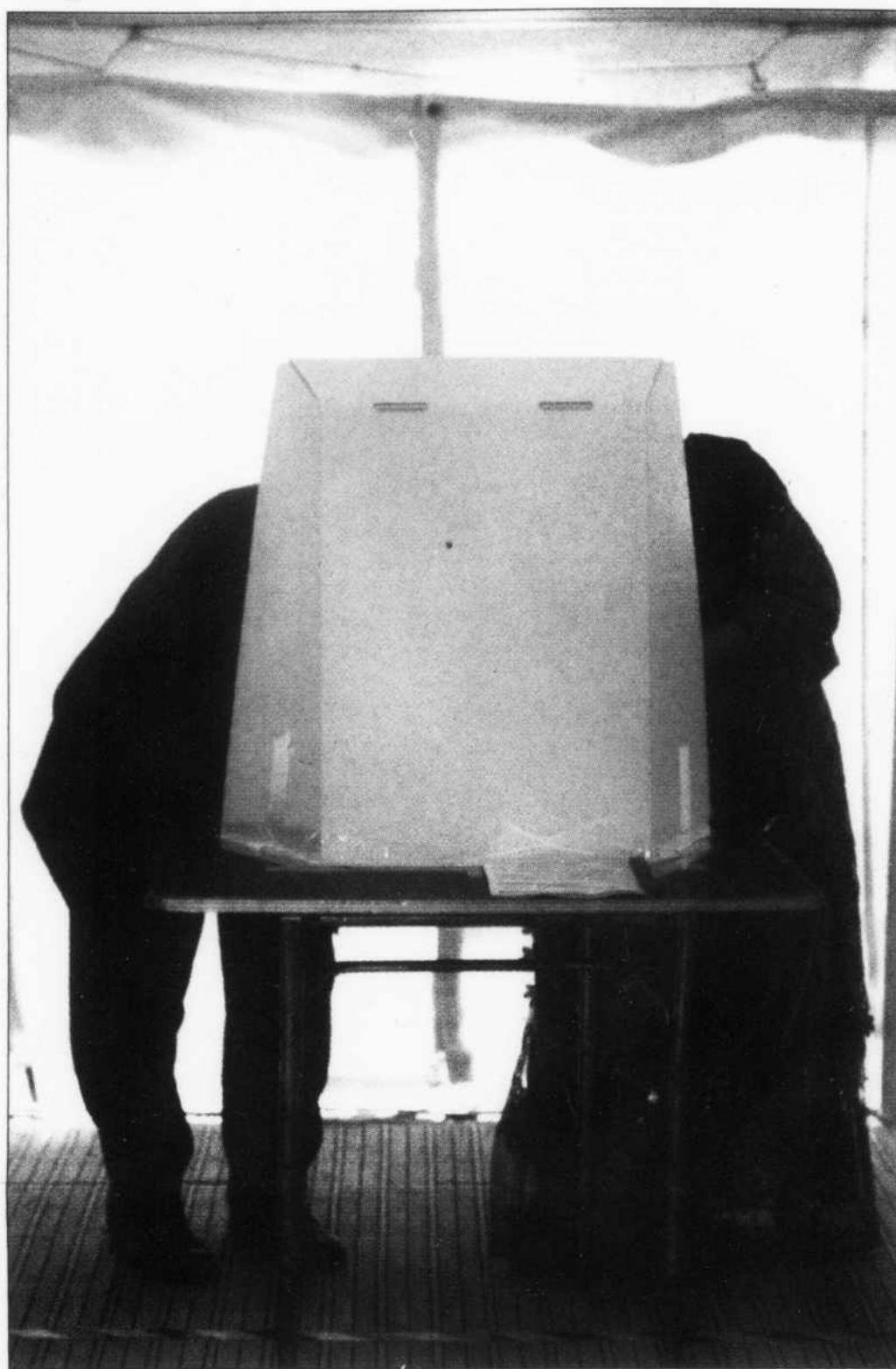
Advertising Club resumes meetings

The Advertising Club will be holding their first meeting of this semester on Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cason-Kennedy Nursing building, Room 108. Membership dues are \$15, but membership is not required to attend the meeting.

Gospel choir performs Saturday

Gospel music performers, including the MTSU Gospel Choir, will be performing in honor of African American History Month. The event will take place on Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. in Tucker Theater. There is a \$5 admission charge that will benefit the African American Study program's Study Abroad scholarship. ♦

Baghdad, Tennessee



Photos by Melanie Burford | AP Photo/The Dallas Morning News

After casting his own vote, Hussein Besfki (left) from Richardson, Texas, helps his wife, Akilla Besfki (right) vote in the Iraqi election at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds in Nashville on Saturday. Besfki, his family and other Iraqi Kurdish expatriates drove 12 hours from Richardson to Nashville to vote.

Student votes in Iraqi election

By Jason Cox
Staff Writer

Voting in Iraq's first free elections in recent memory turned out to be both an exciting and confusing experience for some voters.

Zaid Altalib was among the Iraqi expatriates who voted in Iraq's first multi-party elections in a half-century this weekend. Immigrants who retained Iraqi citizenship were able to vote worldwide.

Altalib, a graduate student in computer science and president of MTSU's Muslim

Student Association, said he was enthusiastic about voting for the first time, but the lack of information available made the experience a bit of a letdown.

"Well, I was very excited to go vote," Altalib said. "I like politics, personally, so I was very excited to do it. But after voting, I was a little disappointed."

"I want a democratically elected government that's hopefully going to ... serve all the different ethnicities that are in Iraq. That's what I was looking for, but I was not able to find enough information

... personally."

"There were more than 100 parties that we had to choose from and more than 7,000 people that were spread out throughout the parties," he said. "But unfortunately, I had tried to do my research and could not get any information except the party name ... the party name doesn't give you very much information."

Altalib said what he saw were people voting on ethnicity and region instead of who best represented their

See Vote, 3

Religious leaders reconcile faith and pro-choice views

By Kim Peer
Staff Writer

Reconciling religious beliefs with pro-choice politics was the topic of a panel discussion hosted by a campus group last Thursday.

VOX: Voice for Planned Parenthood of MTSU screened a film "In a Just World: Abortion, Contraception and World Religion," which was provided by the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

The film was followed by a panel discussion with three local spiritual leaders discussing abortion issues and taking questions from the audience.

The panel included Felicia Searcy of Unity of Life in Murfreesboro, Rev. David Garth of First Presbyterian Church in Murfreesboro and Rabbi Cliff Fielder.

VOX President Jessica Dauphin, a senior English major, said the main purpose of the event was to raise awareness about unplanned pregnancy prevention and abortion rights.

"We feel that it's unfair that [women] should be ... intimidated out of our religions because we are pro-choice," Dauphin said.

The video highlighted the problem of overpopulation and lack of contraceptive education and acceptance in Third

World countries. Efforts to bring education and abortion options to these locations started churning the audience's questions.

Dauphin credits the quality of the discussion to the panel "who complemented each other well and didn't have the same stance or answers" on the issues.

All the panelists agreed that abortion is a complicated and painful issue, yet each held their personal views.

The individual woman must find "what is truth for them," said Searcy, the only female on the panel.

Garth, who provided some

See VOX, 2

MTSU outsources cleaning contracts

By Matt Anderson
Campus News Editor

Custodial services under private contract are likely to be expanded when a new contract is approved in August, university officials said.

Aramark currently cleans 1.3 million square feet on campus, or 42 percent. In-house cleaning accounts for about 2 million square feet, or 58 percent, according to John Cothorn, MTSU vice president for business and finance.

Bids will go out in March, and Cothorn expects several companies, including Aramark, to submit. He said Murphy Center, Keathley University Center, the Todd building and possibly others are likely to be privatized.

Privatization of custodial services saves the university money — about \$1 per square foot, according to Cothorn — but Aramark employees do not receive the benefits state employees receive.

MTSU President Sidney McPhee said the university has been successful with privatizing custodial services, especially in residence halls.

"While we're an educational institution, we also have the fiduciary responsibility to make sure that we are using the state

taxpayers' dollars wisely," McPhee said.

"It's like telling a business what you're doing is inefficient, but because it's going to impact employees, you must keep doing it," McPhee said.

"If you keep doing that, at some point, you're going to run out of business. The issue of whether an employee's going to have a job becomes a moot issue."

McPhee and Cothorn made it clear that no employees have been laid off due to outsourcing.

McPhee said giving MTSU employees first preference and first choice are part of contract negotiations.

"[Custodial employees] are given preference, and that's one of the things we negotiated last time," McPhee said.

However, the facilities services agreement signed with Aramark in 2000 said "Aramark will employ, or cause to be employed, on a fair trial basis to those of the present facilities service employees [MTSU] recommends, but will not be required to utilize those who do not meet Aramark's standards or those in excess of the number required for efficient opera-

See Contracts, 2

Governor announces safety net task force

By David Driver
Staff Writer

Gov. Phil Bredesen announced Monday the formation of a 90-day task force on the Health Care Safety Net.

The task force's intent is to find alternatives for those who may be dropped from TennCare through county health departments, community and faith-based clinics and hospitals.

"We'll be looking at a range of options, to help those enrollees who are losing coverage," Bredesen said. "At a minimum, revisiting the safety net is a must."

Bredesen's TennCare reforms are cutting 323,000 enrollees and limiting coverage for 369,000 others.

The task force will include representatives of county health departments, clinics and hospitals along with health care experts, state commissioners and a representative of each

house in the state legislature.

Last Tuesday, the Tennessee Oversight Committee in the state legislature listened to testimony from Finance and Administration Commissioner David Goetz, TennCare Deputy Commissioner J.D. Hickey, Treasury Comptroller John Morgan and Tennessee Justice Center Director Gordon Bonnyman.

Bonnyman opposes Bredesen's cuts and outlined his alternative for fixing the TennCare problems.

Bonnyman's suggestions include curbing high prescription drug usage, seeking more drug discounts and asking for more federal money.

Marilyn Elam, TennCare communications manager, said Bonnyman's ideas do not fix the state budget problems with TennCare.

"The Tennessee Justice

See TennCare, 3



Photos by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

David Garth (left) and Cliff Fielder (right) lead a panel discussion about abortion and religion.



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com

How do you feel about
TennCare reform?

Opinions 4 • Living 5 • Sports 6 • Classifieds 7

TennCare: Bredesen promises no children will lose their coverage

Continued from 1

Center even acknowledges their cost saving suggestions will not work to fix the \$650 million hole in the state budget," Elam said.

Bredesen's cuts to TennCare will take care of \$575 million of the deficit. That would still leave the state \$75 million short, which Elam said is a more manageable number for the state budget.

After the cuts were proposed, Bonnyman issued a statement warning that children would not be completely protected from losing coverage.

Children on the Medically Needy or Spend Down programs and those in families making the transition from welfare to work will lose coverage after 12 months, Bonnyman said.

However, Elam said this is not new. Those children have always had the opportunity and still will have the opportunity for temporary coverage for 12 months that can be renewed.

"It is quite a shame that the Tennessee Justice Center would scare parents of children about losing their coverage," Elam said.

The governor's office is now preparing for Monday's State of the State Address and was not available for comment, but Bredesen has made it clear he will not make any cuts in coverage for children.

"[Tennessee Justice Center] chose to shoot holes in the proposal instead of directing their concerns to the governor," Elam said. "We, certainly, are interested in protecting the children."

Tennessee Justice Center paralegal attorney Diana Gallaher said they understand the budget problems the governor has and they want to work with him in resolving these issues.

"TennCare definitely needs to be reformed," Gallaher said. "We do not want to see any

more enrollment reductions. If you are only making \$6.50 an hour, you will lose your medical care. We're also concerned about high co-payments for enrollees."

Gallaher said they feel the problem in Tennessee is a problem nationally and the way Tennessee handles the issue is important for other states.

Bredesen hopes the TennCare reforms will open up the budget for other programs like education and safety.

Tennessee budget problems have caused most state universities to raise tuition to replace funds lost from state budget cuts.

"Directly, some students on TennCare will lose their coverage," MTSU political science professor Mark Byrnes said. "But indirectly, the reforms will affect tuition prices at universities."

One-third of Tennessee's budget goes into TennCare, which is the highest percentage in the nation.

On Jan. 19, Bredesen outlined changes to the TennCare program. The changes affect TennCare Medicaid enrollees, but those who are not enrolled in Medicaid will see their coverage dropped.

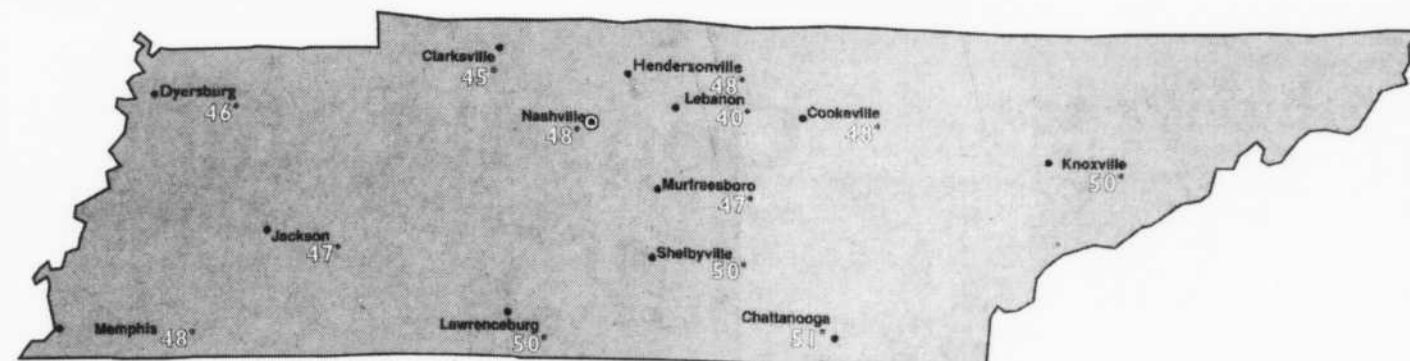
The coverage for Medicaid adults will place annual limits on physician visits, inpatient care, outpatient visits, X-rays and lab tests, and will allow enrollees only four prescriptions per month.

Currently, 22.3 percent of Tennessee are covered by TennCare, which leads the nation. Bredesen indicated he believes the number will drop to 17.3 percent putting Tennessee seventh overall in the nation.

The enrollment reduction includes 121,000 uninsured adults, 97,000 adults whose income is too high to qualify for Medicaid, 67,000 uninsurable adults and 38,000 seniors who are covered under Medicare. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Monday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
49° ▲ 30° ▼	51° ▲ 35° ▼	50° ▲ 32° ▼	51° ▲ 33° ▼	54° ▲ 45° ▼

Vote: Nashville one of five voting sites in U.S.

Continued from 1

ideas.

"Iraq is one country, and I think personally I've never felt there's a difference between Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish. I think most of that was the Baathist party ... and the Kurdish have always wanted an independent state. Saddam (Hussein) always fought them and rejected them."

"[This election] is creating separation between people instead of uniting them."

Nashville was one of five sites in the United States where expatriate Iraqi citizens were allowed to vote for members in a 275-seat council. This council is responsible primarily for drafting a constitution by Aug. 15,

2005. The Iraqi people will then vote to ratify the constitution.

The National Assembly, as it will be called, also will be charged with the duty of electing a president and selecting a cabinet, serving as a parliament.

Security was tight at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds, where voting took place.

"There were roadblocks in place. They didn't allow us to have bags or cell phones. We had to go through metal detectors, also, but I don't think it was any discomfort or anything like that," Altalib said. "We understood the situation."

Altalib was born in Kirkuk, Iraq in 1980 and lived much of his life in Mosul prior to his family's move to Washington, D.C. in 1992 after the Gulf War

and United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

His father was a banker in Iraq and had lined up a job in the United States prior to moving his wife and four children to the United States. The family moved to Georgia in 1994, where his father now works as an accountant.

Much of his family remains in Mosul, which has been an epicenter of insurgent activity since coalition forces took back Fallujah.

Altalib said he keeps in regular touch with his relatives, who have recently been forced to leave Mosul and are staying elsewhere.

Altalib attended North Georgia College and State University, but decided after

graduation to follow his wife to MTSU and seek a master's degree.

As it turned out, he was also an instrumental part of reviving the university's chapter of the Muslim Students Association.

"When I came to this school, I saw that they didn't have a Muslim Students Association. This is a national organization that most universities in the United States have," he said.

"So I got together with the people who were going to reactivate it, worked together ... this was last year and this year I was elected president," he said.

Altalib is still not able to work except for on-campus jobs, but he has applied for residency and is awaiting approval. ♦

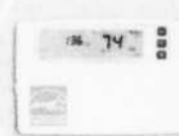
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From the Editorial Board

Aramark contracts hurt custodial employees

It's clear that there is a rapidly growing problem with labor and healthcare in this country. We're seeing it looming as large as the TennCare crisis and as small as the problem of privatization of custodial services here on the MTSU campus.

Aramark's custodial services have acquired almost half of the campus through low bidding for building contracts.

As a result, custodial employees, who were once state employees, are losing their benefits by moving to the private company.

University administrators are quick to point out that MTSU is saving money by outsourcing to Aramark instead of providing in-house custodians.

However, that savings is costing many employees their health insurance.

What value is the university placing on their employees' standard of living by letting Aramark take more control over the campus?

And, more importantly, what kind of example are the administrators setting when they enjoy free rounds of golf on Aramark's dime while custodial employees are faced with the possibility of losing their health care?

President Sidney McPhee said that the employees' concerns shouldn't move the university away "from doing something that's right for the institution in the bigger picture."

This bigger picture apparently only encompasses the almighty dollar and not the people who make up this university — people who depend on state benefits.

When will America's standard of living become more important than a private company's financial assets?

More than 300,000 Tennesseans will most likely lose their health care this year and companies like Aramark aren't taking up the slack by providing their employees with insurance.

We clearly live in a capitalist society where money makes the world go 'round, but we shouldn't let money become more important than human life.

This isn't just a state problem. This is a national problem that in the coming years will affect everyone. Administrators, state legislators and other national leaders cannot continue to let this epidemic continue. ♦

Cops shouldn't be above the law

In Ridley Scott's cult film, *Blade Runner*, character actor E. Emmet Walsh reminds Harrison Ford that "if you're not cop, you're little people."

The double standard between the police and the average citizen is an accepted convention of the detective movie genre. Unfortunately, two upcoming court cases in Nashville show that it can be a reality for all of us.

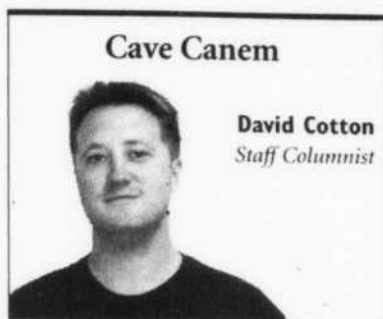
On July 19, 2004, Officer Christy Dedman pulled over to help motorist Jaimee Underwood, whose sport utility vehicle was stopped on the inner shoulder of I-40 with a flat tire.

Dedman's police cruiser was protruding at least three feet into the left lane of traffic when a commercial tractor-trailer truck driven by James L. Fitzgerald, 25, of Somerset, Ky., struck it. Tragically, Dedman was killed in the crash.

Fitzgerald was not intoxicated at the time. "It was just a terrible accident," he said.

The police and the prosecutors do not see it that way. The Davidson County grand jury recently indicted Fitzgerald on charges of vehicular homicide and aggravated assault.

They insist Fitzgerald, who has a poor driving record, with repeated suspensions of his driver's license, was driving recklessly and going faster than 80 miles per hour



Cave Canem

David Cotton
Staff Columnist

when his truck collided with Dedman's cruiser. He was arrested that night and has remained in jail ever since.

As it turns out, however, Fitzgerald's truck, which was owned by Arkansas-based Continental Express Inc., was fitted with a device that kept it from going faster than 70 mph. The truck's data recorder shows that it was not speeding at the time of the crash. It appears that the collision was just what Fitzgerald said it was — a terrible accident.

These facts have done nothing to alter the charges against Fitzgerald. To dispute the truck's data recorder, prosecutors have instead chosen to rely on an unexplained mathematical method for determining the truck's speed and statements from an unidentified officer who did not stop Fitzgerald, but claims to have seen him speeding.

The fact is that tractor-trailers are dangerous and their sizes and

weights make them responsible for a disproportionate number of crashes and interstate fatalities.

That's not always the driver's fault. If the speed restriction devices were not working, then the trucking company is more culpable than the driver. Indeed, Underwood, who was seriously injured in the accident, recently filed a \$15 million lawsuit against Fitzgerald and Continental Express Inc.

Perhaps Fitzgerald's past license suspensions may be relevant in a civil case. No evidence, however, has been presented that proves Fitzgerald's actions come anywhere close to the criminal charges he faces.

Compare Fitzgerald's case to that of Kim Gooch and Marsha Brown. Gooch ran down MTSU student Micah Jones in Nashville last July, leaving her in critical condition. Marsha Brown moved the car after the accident. Both Gooch and Brown were intoxicated. This was apparent even after they were given time and water before taking a Breathalyzer test. The incident occurred on July 9, but they were not arrested until July 14, after a blood test showed Gooch to be twice the legal limit for intoxication.

Both have spent almost no time in jail as their bonds did not exceed \$11,000 together, as com-

pared to the \$150,000 bond for Fitzgerald. They did not even appear in court when their lawyers pled not guilty to the lesser charges of vehicular assault and drunk driving.

Gooch and Brown were both Metro police officers. Justice is different for cops, whether they're the victims or perpetrators. Gooch asserts that pedestrian Jones caused the accident.

If convicted Gooch could get no more than four years in prison, and would lose her driver's license for one year. This is far less than the punishment Fitzgerald faces.

Both cases should be decided by a jury. It is shamelessly apparent, however, that fairness is not a priority for the authorities when the police are personally involved. "It's very unfair that I've been here this long," Fitzgerald said.

A new state law went into effect July 1, requiring drivers to slow down, change lanes and move away from stopped emergency vehicles. It would be wise to obey this law — especially if you are just a truck driver or college student. And remember, if you hit a police car or, for that matter, are run down by one, that "if you're not cop, you're little people." ♦

David Cotton is a graduate history major and can be reached at dpc2b@mtsu.edu.

Left fixates on debates inside their ivory towers

Why are college professors so liberal? It's a question I am asked frequently and one I feel is worthy of consideration.

While there has been an active movement to identify professors across the country that seek to indoctrinate students with liberal drift (see any writings by Ben Shapiro or Prof. Mike Adams), my best guess tells me that conservative faculty will never equal their left-wing counterparts in number.

While there are a few conservative campuses in America, highlighted by schools such as Texas A&M and service academies, a vast majority of college campuses remain outposts for great left-wing traditions such as bigger government and America-hatred cloaked in something called "multiculturalism."

I'm not bothered anymore that this is the case. As a matter of fact, I enjoy sport or logo on campus, just because I know somewhere there is a '60s relic history professor that seethes in rage upon seeing any mention of the man that currently works to protect our country from the true tyrants of the world.

But back to the original question: Why do professors slant so far to the left?

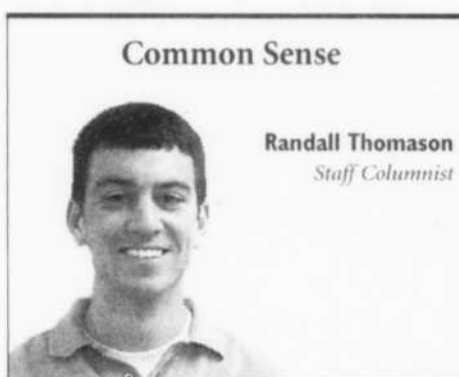
The broadest answer is that, in general, government employees tend to be more liberal (after all, higher taxes on us could mean higher salaries for them). State university professors draw government paychecks, so the deck is already stacked against conservatives.

Yet, even deeper than that initial observation is the real root of the issue. We often hear about how college campuses are supposed to be hallowed grounds in which the great debates can take place on the issues of the day.

If there's one thing liberals love it is endless debate, which makes a college campus their personal playground.

If it were up to most college professors, we'd still be debating on what to do about the Soviet Union. Fortunately for us we elected Ronald Reagan, who faculty elite labeled a renegade cowboy (sound familiar to today?). Reagan was tired of debating and wanted results; due to his policies communism was exposed for the failure that it is and we won the Cold War.

If it were up to most college professors,



Common Sense

Randall Thomason
Staff Columnist

we'd still be throwing money at President Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society" initiatives that liberals felt were one more tax hike away from perfection.

And if it were up to liberals, we'd still be debating what to do about Afghanistan, much less Iraq. Instead, we have leaders that chose to act in America's interest, and now two democracies are emerging where it was previously unthinkable.

The Clinton administration perfectly personifies the endless debate. It was Bill Clinton who first raised concerns over Saddam Hussein's weapons programs following the Gulf War, and it was Clinton who first sounded warnings about the social security system and even terrorism, to some extent.

But what we got was all talk and no action, as our problems were simply kicked down the road to be faced by someone else while Clinton worried about approval ratings. His most significant accomplishment, reforming welfare, only came about because his 1996 re-election stood in doubt unless he signed it.

I have sat in classes over the last four years and heard my country impugned and ridiculed as some professor pontificated about how America is the cause of various world problems.

I'm sure many students have been in similar classrooms. The key is to not let it discourage you.

Whatever you do, don't buy into the myth many of the supposed intelligentsia would have you believe, which is that they know what's best for everybody, and that you should blindly follow their lead. ♦

Randall Thomason is a junior mass communications major and can be reached at rthomason@raiderrepublicans.com.

Have some patience in the take-out line

If you like to pull up to a drive-thru window and ponder what deliciously greasy meal your arteries desire, stay away from the Easton, Md., McDonald's.

An overly impatient driver was arrested for hitting the van in front of him because the occupants were taking too long to McOrder. Now, the irate man was in no way justified, but this brings up an interesting point: If you don't know what you're going to order, go inside. Pulling up to a drive-thru window at a fast food restaurant and reading the extra value dollar menu repeatedly to find the most appetizing option is not helping the line move any faster.

Drive-thrus are for people who are going places — like work — and don't have time to exit the vehicle, enter the establishment and place an order. It's easy for Joe CEO to pull up to the speaker in his black Lamborghini and order his coffee and biscuit without having to wait for Susie Socmomm to order eight Happy Meals, two no pickles, five with chocolate milk and one with apples instead of fries. "What? You're not serving lunch yet? OK, kids, pick something else." Going inside won't hurt you. In fact, the kids can run around the play area to burn off some energy, so they don't keep you up all night wanting to bend it like Beckham.

If Joe CEO were anything like our impatient rammer, 40-year-old Joseph Richard Howard, he'd be screaming profanity and revving his engine at this point. More than likely, however, Joe CEO is yapping on his hands-free mobile device, staring at his watch and motioning to the Starbucks girl to put another shot in his non-fat cappuccino.

We live in a society where everyone seems to be in a hurry. To avoid being victimized by those who just can't seem to get where they're going quick enough, here are some drive-thru etiquette rules to make your experience as disaster-free as possible.

First, know what you want. Do not sit under any circumstance pull up to the menu and just sit there unless the inside of the store is closed. If that is the case, apologize to the employee for the delay and get a good mental image of the menu so that next time you can decide what you want before you leave the house.

Second, know that "fast food" is just a term. It really just means "faster than a sit-down restaurant." There may be service delays. Odds are, if you're going right in the middle of the lunch rush, you could have to wait a minute or two. Don't freak out. This is normal.

Thirdly, realize that not everyone is as drive-thru savvy as you. You may end up behind a van full of indecisive kids. Use this time to make sure you really know what you want. You may even want to think of a back-up order in case the restaurant is out of something. I also recommend keeping a copy of this column in your car to distribute to these people. Keep them informed that there are rules people should follow while in a drive-thru.

Do not honk and yell if someone is taking too long to order. Regardless of whether or not you're in a hurry, don't be rude to the employee serving you. Usually, these people are only at the drive-thru window and do not assist in preparing the order. If something is wrong, don't yell, because it's more than likely isn't their fault. Simply explain the mishap and wait for a correction.

Oh, and most drive-thrus have nearby trash cans for disposing of garbage. Do not hand it to the employee through the window; not only is this rude, but in most cases, it's also against health regulations.

If the employee is rude to you (for example, the employee throws something at you), that's another story. Ask to speak to a manager and insist the employee be written up, or McFired. ♦

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

Letters Policy

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



Sidelines online poll results

Do you feel that ID readers are necessary to ensure campus security?

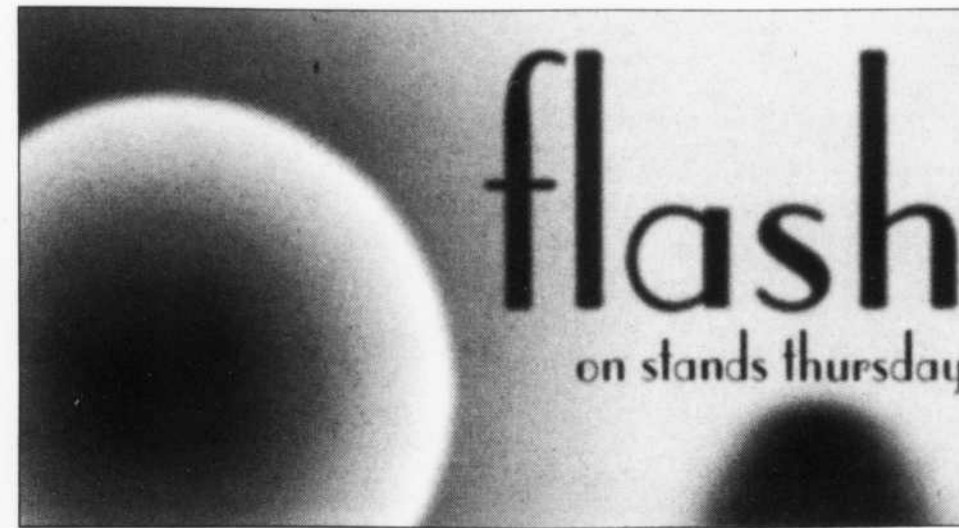
Yes, it's the best way to ensure no one goes where they shouldn't. (19 percent)

Yes, it helps, but other measures should be taken as well. (37 percent)

No, think of how many IDs get lost or stolen. It wouldn't be accurate. (24 percent)

No, it's an invasion of privacy. Who cares where I go? (19 percent)

Visit www.mtsusidelines.com to answer this week's poll question, "How do you feel about TennCare reform?" 103 people voted in this poll. Results are not scientific.



slopinio@mtsu.edu

Romance Janice

MTSU alumna excels
in final rounds
of writing competition

By Brandi Fleck
Staff Writer



Photo by Ryan Conley | Staff Photographer

Move over *American Idol*, because the hot new contest in town is "American Title," and one MTSU alumna is flying high through the hype.

Janice Lynn, a nurse practitioner from Manchester, Tenn., is two rounds away from landing a publishing contract with Dorchester Publishing for her contemporary romantic comedy *Jane Millionaire*.

Lynn saw an ad for the contest while nonchalantly flipping through *Romantic Times Magazine* in a bookstore last year and decided to enter for fun.

"American Title" started in April 2004 with an announcement of guidelines for the contest in *Romantic Times Magazine*, the contest's sponsor along with Dorchester Publishing of New York.

After a day of brainstorming in the office, the magazine staff that loves reality TV — *American Idol* in particular — pitched the contest idea to the publishing company, and "American Title" was born.

Writers were asked to submit

"During the day I deal with women who have been abused or have had their spouses cheat on them ... but in romance you offer a happily ever after."

Janice Lynn, Novelist

50 pages of their original, unpublished manuscripts.

After the sponsors whittled down the contest entries to the books that seemed promising, full manuscripts were requested.

By August 2004, Lynn had submitted her entire manuscript, printed from her computer and bound with rubber bands.

During each round of voting, the two contestants with the lowest number of votes in each round are bid farewell.

Lynn has fared well with the judges in the categories of best first line, best hero and heroine

and best story summary.

The three judges have had nothing but positive comments for Lynn throughout the first three rounds, but Flavia Knightsbridge, who can be paralleled with Simon Cowell from *American Idol*, hasn't been so positive in the current round, best dialogue scene.

She spoke Lynn's dialogue to an excerpt from "Romance Novels for Dummies."

David Lynn, her husband, still admires his wife.

"She's always looking into the good qualities of other writers and doesn't give herself

enough credit for the talent she does have," he says.

However humble, Lynn signed with agent Caren Johnson at the Peter Rubie Literary Agency in New York City. She has built a Web site, made T-shirts, postcards and pens to promote her book in the contest.

Lynn is serious about getting published, with or without "American Title."

Lynn has 10 completed manuscripts and has also been a finalist in the prestigious Golden Heart competition for aspiring authors.

Jane Millionaire started as a joke, Lynn says, because she dislikes reality TV and has never seen any reality TV shows.

Being a writer that goes heavy on characterization instead of plot, she fell in love with the heroine, Jill Davidson.

"She makes you fall in love with her characters and cheer for them as you read. Like all new writers, though, she is still finding a balance between plot and character," Johnson says.

In Lynn's book, Jill Davidson (Jane) and Rob Lancaster, producer of the reality show, know they should not have an affair because it will disqualify Jill from the show, and it will hurt Rob's career.

Odds are that the affair is a success, because Lynn likes providing escapes through happy endings.

"During the day I deal with women who have been abused or have had their spouses cheat on them and unfortunately most of the time all I can do is pat them on the back and say 'I'll pray for you,' but in romance you offer a happily ever after," Lynn says.

Lynn admits that writing at night keeps her sane after a day at the Woodbury Medical Center.

She has been an aspiring author for three years and balances writing with enjoying soccer, basketball and ballet with her four children whose ages range from 5 to 13.

Lynn's close circle of friends and family has been very supportive and active in trying to build awareness in the community.

"I didn't think I would make it this far," Lynn says.

To learn more about the contest, visit www.romantictimes.com or www.janicelynn.net.

To vote, simply send a blank e-mail to webmaster@romantictimes.com with JANE MILLIONAIRE in the subject line. Only one vote per e-mail address is counted.

The winner will be announced during the Awards Luncheon on April 28 at the RT Booklovers Convention in St. Louis, Miss., and will be posted on www.romantictimes.com on May 2. ♦

Dear Emily

Watch for her signals; avoid rushing into something



Dear Emily,
In one of my new classes this semester, I met a really awesome girl who seems to be interested in me as well. We enjoy talking to each other and joking around in class; it seems like our personalities really click.

I want to ask her out and see if it's something more substantial than just class friends, but I don't want to jump the gun and seem pushy or desperate.

In the past, I think I've tried to move to the next level too quickly, and it freaked the girls out.

How long should I wait to ask her out and how will I know if and when she's ready? I don't

want to misinterpret hints and make an idiot of myself, but I don't want to miss out on this, either.

When should I make my move?
Speed Demon

Dear Speed Demon,

Listen to the girl — she will let you know what her particular speed limit is if you pay close enough attention to her signals.

I think one of the trickiest things for a guy to figure out is the pace of a potential relationship.

Obviously, you don't want to come on too strong and scare her away, but on the other hand, you don't want her to think that you're a spineless weenie either.

Whenever you're wondering whether you should pick up the pace, remember this rhyme: When in doubt, chicken out.

At least for now.

Make sure you've established a good friendship with her; you don't have to be best friends, but a mutual interest and respect is key. It sounds like you've already come to this point, so you're in good shape.

Don't try to move to the next level too quickly or you'll seem demanding; if the girl doesn't know you too well, she may actually be turned off by the fact that you show so much interest in her so quickly.

The key is to keep some mystery about you. Don't show your hand all at once.

Remember, you can speed things up at any point, but if you take things too quickly, you can't readily undo the damage.

Again, the secret is learning how to read people and their reactions.

Hopefully, she's not into playing sneaky girl games, which usually involve sending out the wrong message on purpose just to keep you guessing.

Sometimes we girls (OK, guys too) think we're being mysterious and intriguing when we're really just being confusing and misleading.

Assuming she's beyond all that, the signals she's sending you will be genuine and honest, and you can learn a lot from them.

Watch her body language when she's around you.

Does she seem genuinely interested in the conversation, or is she constantly checking over your shoulder, looking at the trees, her watch and your shoes, hoping for the conversation to end?

When you see her around campus, does she seem happy to see you and stop to chat for a few minutes?

If she's always "running late" or she's always on her cell phone (or pretending to be on her cell phone; yes, we all do it) when you bump into each other, beware.

Now, assuming you've correctly interpreted her signals and she does indeed reciprocate your interest, it's time for the tricky part: testing the waters.

Invite her to something on neutral

ground and see how she reacts. By neutral, I mean non-threatening, like attending a campus event together.

Go to a basketball game or a movie in the Keathley University Center theater, or attend a special lecture or concert on campus.

If she agrees and all goes well, invite her to go eat afterward — eating is a bonding experience for college students. If the interest remains, gradually build up to more serious activities and you're all set.

On the other hand, if she seems hesitant to make plans, suggest bringing some friends along.

Don't give up immediately if she's not as receptive as you'd like her to be — she may just need to warm up to the idea.

You can pursue without being aggressive, but you must also know when to just let it go.

If at any point she seems reluctant to make plans, begins canceling them altogether or seems to be avoiding you in class, she's trying to warn you that you've begun moving too fast.

And if she wants to slow things down, you'd better back off or risk losing her respect and her friendship.

Don't invade her space. And above all, don't try to convince her that moving fast is a better idea, because if she wants to go slower and you fail to recognize those signals, she'll feel pushed and threatened. Sometimes "class friends" is all it's meant to be. ♦

SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, January 31, 2005

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Rhythm owner fires coach after tantrum

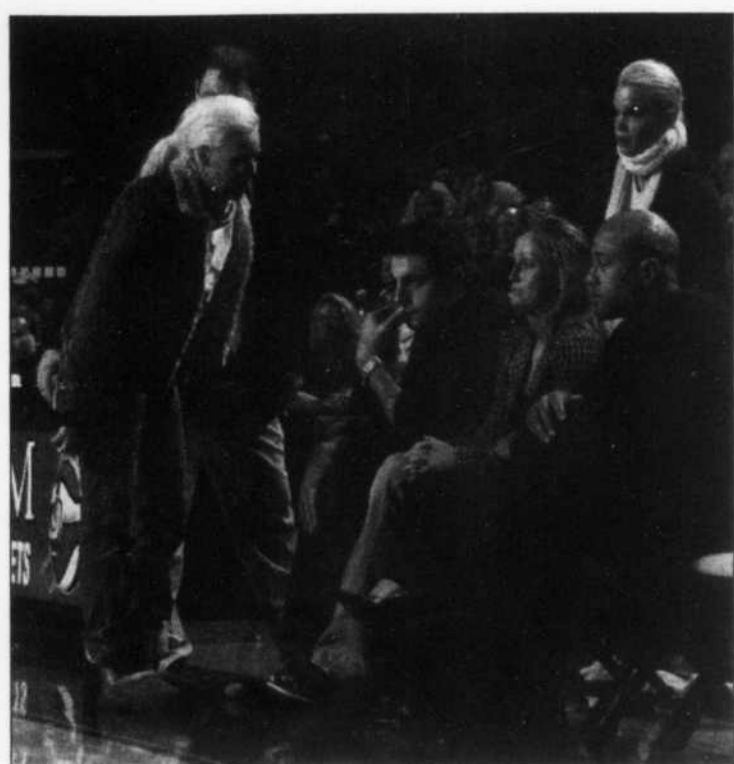


Photo by Katy Hamlett | Staff Photographer
Nashville Rhythm owner Sally Anthony, left, yells at head coach Ashley McElhiney, seated, at Saturday's contest.

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

NASHVILLE — Nashville Rhythm owner Sally Anthony was escorted out of Allen Arena by security guards after publicly dismissing Rhythm head coach Ashley McElhiney and confronting angry Rhythm fan Jason Sonn Saturday night.

Anthony told McElhiney before the game she did not want Matt Freije, a former Vanderbilt player recently released by the NBA's New Orleans Hornets, to play Saturday night even though Freije signed a two-game contract with the Rhythm.

After Freije's 30-point performance in Friday's 96-94 victory over Kansas City, there was speculation of Freije becoming a permanent player.

"We are going to wait till after tomorrow night to try and figure things out," McElhiney said Friday. "Right now it's just tonight, tomorrow night and after that game we'll sit down and evaluate, both of us, and see what's best for everyone."

Anthony was concerned other players on the team would be hurt financially by the move if Freije completed his two-game, \$10,000 contract. The American Basketball Association's salary cap is currently \$150,000.

"She looked me right in the face and said she wouldn't [play Freije]," Anthony told *The Tennessean*. "She's fired as of now."

McElhiney played Freije, a fan favorite, despite the instructions from Anthony.

As the second half of the Saturday's game commenced, Anthony, visibly upset, made her way through the stands to McElhiney, who was seated on

the Rhythm's bench.

While the game was in play, a verbal argument arose between Anthony and McElhiney that attracted fan attention. Assistant coach Scott Flatt attempted to calm Anthony down while McElhiney returned to her seat on the bench.

"[McElhiney] held her composure," Flatt said. "She finished the game out, and the team made a great effort."

Anthony's gestures and loud remarks caught the attention of nearby fans, who began to shout, "Technical [foul] on the owner!"

The bizarre incident concluded when Anthony was escorted back to her seat by Nashville Rhythm security.

Following the Rhythm's 110-109 victory, McElhiney declined an opportunity to comment on the earlier incident with Anthony.

Shortly after McElhiney's exit, Anthony entered the gym, where the media stood waiting for her comments. Instead of commenting, however, reporters looked on as Anthony turned against Rhythm fan Jason Sonn.

"She cursed and she asked me to go in the back, like she wanted to fight," Sonn told *Sidelines* after the incident.

Anthony then approached Sonn and pushed him. Security immediately separated the two and escorted Anthony out of the gymnasium.

Rhythm players were not allowed to comment on either incident, but seemed to be in the same state of disbelief as onlookers.

"There's no comment about the situation," Flatt said afterward.

See Rhythm, 7

Lady Raiders roll at home

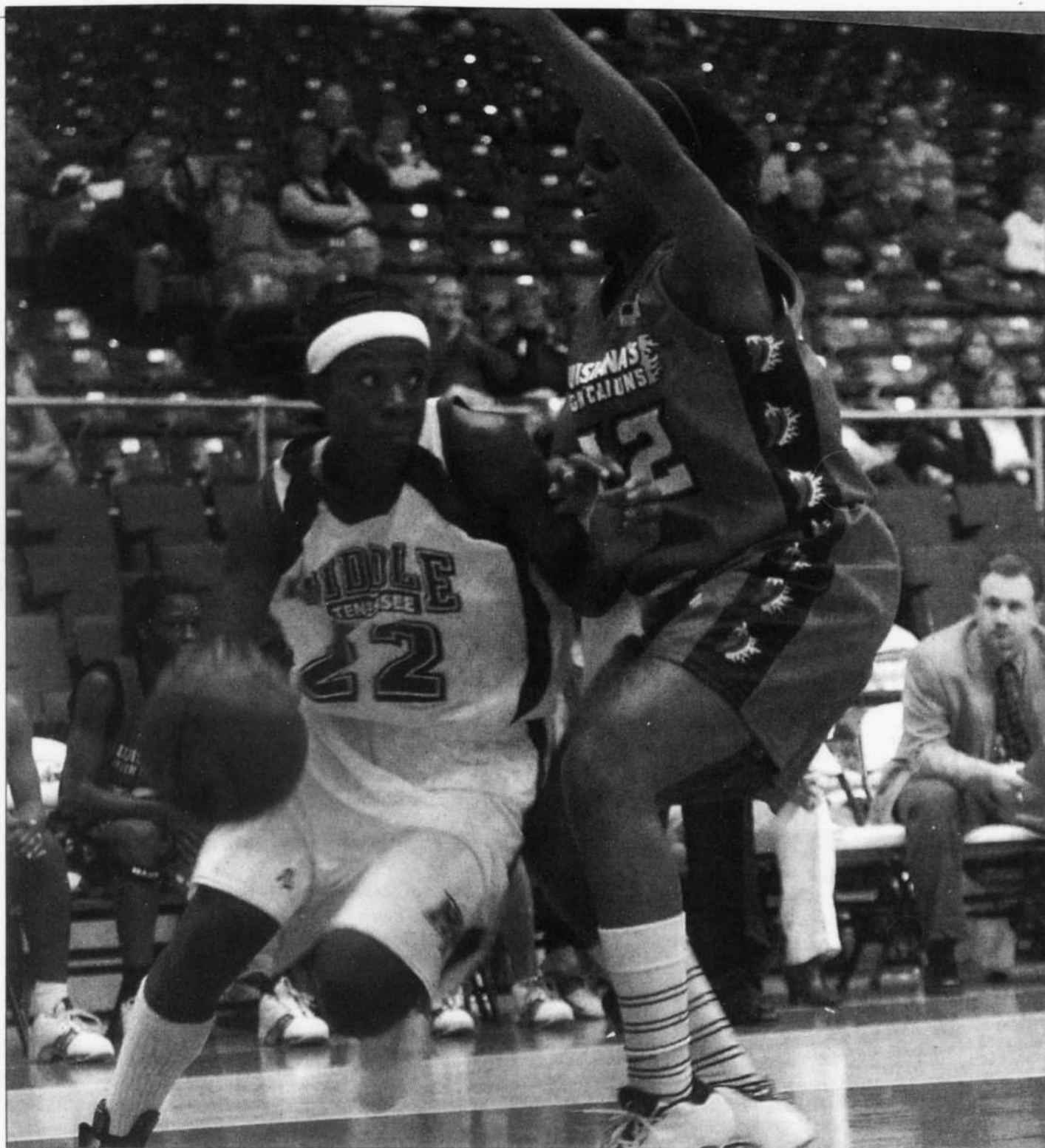


Photo by Brady Purnell | Staff Photographer

MT sophomore Chrissy Givens had 12 points, seven rebounds and six assists in a 53-45 victory over ULL.

Defense comes through despite offensive struggles

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer


The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team defeated Louisiana-Lafayette 53-45 Thursday night at Murphy Center.

The Lady Raiders jumped out to an early 11-2 lead and led ULL for the entire whole game.

"There were two different teams from the first half to the second," MT head coach Stephany Smith said. "Our defense out-scored our offense in the first half."

Smith expected the game to be close if the Lady Raiders came out on the winning side.

"I think after the first half when we saw how aggressive the team played, we felt good about our chances to win," Smith said.

	
MT	53
ULL	45

In the first half, the Lady Raiders out-scored ULL by 12 points, but in the second half the Ragin' Cajuns cut the lead by three points.

"I think we showed a little bit of immaturity by being so lackadaisical in the second half," Smith said. "But every time the game got close someone could come and knock down a shot."

One player who knocked down shots in the second half was Patrice Holmes. Holmes

See Cajuns, 8

MT opens with 9-0 run for seventh straight win


By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team defeated New Mexico State 65-41 Saturday afternoon at Murphy Center for another Sun Belt Conference win.

MT (14-5, 6-0 SBC) is currently on a seven-game winning streak after beating NMSU (6-13, 1-6 SBC). The Lady Raiders jumped out to an early 9-0 lead until Monique Bribiescas hit a three-pointer for the Aggies.

"I was pleased with our start, but then we immediately went through a low with no communication," MT head coach Stephany Smith said. "But I was really pleased with how we bounced back."

Smith was also pleased

	
MT	65
NMSU	41

with her team's defense, as NMSU had 31 turnovers (16 in the first half).

"We have preached defense for a long time, for the last couple of years," Smith said. "Now that we have upperclassmen that have been hearing it year after year, it has been the reason why, this season, we have been putting the pieces together on the defensive end. I was very impressed with our defensive effort."

For the Lady Raiders, all

See Aggies, 8

Blue Raiders dominate UTC, Belmont for 2-0 start

By Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

As of today, the men's tennis team can claim something no other Middle Tennessee team can touch: an undefeated record.

The Blue Raiders swept their matches against University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Belmont on Saturday at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro in their first action of the spring season.

In the morning match against UTC, only one match went into three games: the No. 1 singles match between No. 68 Andreas Siljestrom of MT and UTC's Arturo Navarro. Siljestrom won 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

"Andreas played well, but he didn't put the points together like I'd like him to," MT head coach Dale Short said. "He'd play two or three really good points and then make a loose hit here or there and let [Navarro] in the match."

Tennessee Tech transfer Marco Born won his first match as a Blue Raider 6-4, 7-6 (4) over Thomas Knizat at No. 2.

"[Marco] did okay," Short said. "It wasn't his best match for him. I'd like to see him play the big points a little better, but I think

he did all right."

In doubles action, the No. 29 duo of Brandon Allan and Kai Schledorn defeated Knizat and Navarro 8-5 at No. 1, and the No. 58 duo of Siljestrom and Born defeated Josh Bales and Ryan Fynn 8-3 at No. 2.

Greg Pollack and Anant Sitaram finished off the doubles play with an 8-4 win over Tim Kutschera and Artem Vlaskenko.

Schledorn overcame cold-like symptoms to defeat Ryan Fitzgerald 6-2, 6-3 at No. 3 in singles play, and Sitaram finished first at No. 4 with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Vlaskenko.

Pollack then defeated Fynn 6-4, 6-1 at No. 5, and Allan completed the sweep with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Kutschera at No. 6.

Short then mixed up the lineup Saturday evening against Belmont, swapping several singles spots. The Blue Raiders actually improved thanks to the changes, as every singles victory came in straight sets.

"The past two years we've been a little bit too predictable with our lineup," Short said. "By rule, we're allowed to change players from one position to the next from match to match, and so I decided early in the year to keep our opponents off guard."

Belmont also made a few changes, pitting

usual No. 1 singles player Fausto Rocha against MT's Sitaram at No. 3. The change resulted in the closest match of the evening, but Sitaram prevailed 6-4, 7-5.

"Their best players didn't play at [Nos.] 1 or 2," Short said. "Their best player went at 3, then 4, then from the top."

Born defeated Alex Gillot 6-1, 6-0 at No. 1, and Siljestrom defeated Felipe Lima by the same score at No. 2. Schledorn moved down to No. 4 and defeated Javier Rodriguez 6-4, 6-3.

Allan moved up to No. 5 and won over Felipe Abreu 6-2, 6-4, and Pollack took out Ignacio Gesto in a shutout at No. 6.

In doubles play, Siljestrom and Born played at No. 1 and defeated Gillot and Gesto 8-1. Allan and Schledorn moved to No. 2 and won over Rodriguez and Rocha 8-3, and Pollack and Sitaram won by the same score over Lima and Abreu.

"I addressed our approach to the matches, and we played more relaxed," Short said. "We were a little uptight earlier."

The Blue Raiders now must prepare for a three-match road trip, beginning in Louisville on Thursday. ♦

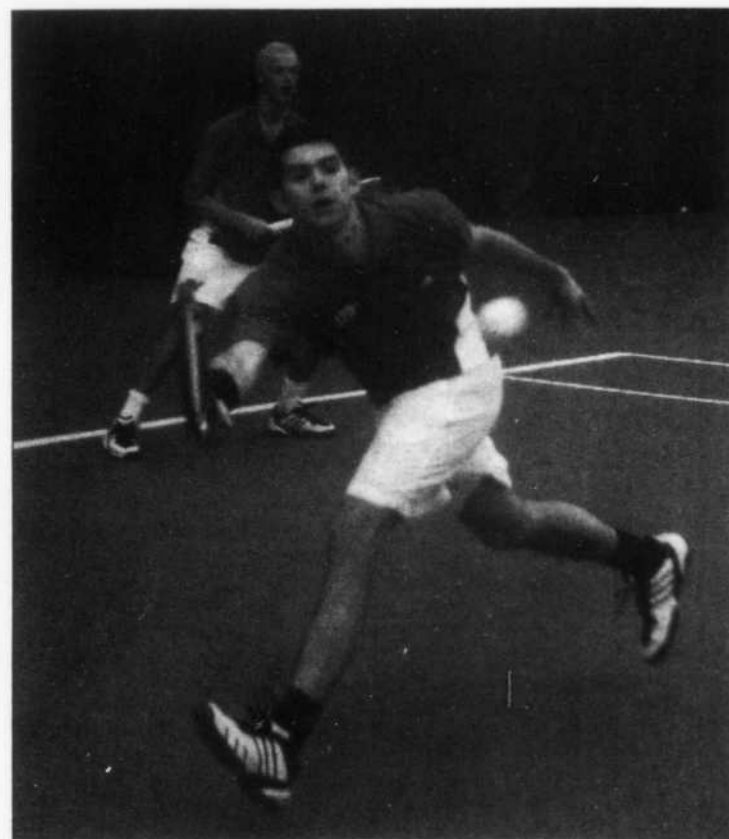


Photo by Matt Orenstein | Staff Photographer

Brandon Allan lunges as partner Kai Schledorn looks on.



By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders lost to defending conference champion Louisiana-Lafayette after ending their three-game losing streak on Thursday.

No Mike Dean was no problem for the Blue Raiders on Thursday as four players scored in double digits in a 65-50 win at New Mexico State.

Bryan Smithson led the way with a season-high 16 points, and Kyle Young added a career-best 15. Steve Thomas, chipped in with 11 points and 10 rebounds, his second double-double of the season. Michael Cuffee also scored 11 points.

"I think our team has several offensive weapons, and although we miss Mike, we know we have other options," Smithson told MT Media Relations. "We compensated for not

Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

MT forward Michael Cuffee scored 10 points in the team's loss at ULL.

having him by having other people step up."

The Blue Raiders held NMSU to 34 percent shooting overall, including 25 percent in the second half. MT, meanwhile, connected on 51 percent of its shots, the team's highest percentage since shooting 57 percent in a win over Arkansas-Little Rock on Jan. 17. The Blue Raiders also out-rebounded the Aggies 38-20.

"I'm proud of the way our team played tonight," MT head coach Kermit Davis told MT Media Relations. "I thought we were very unselfish, and we got back to the basics that are what our team is all about - defense and rebounding. I thought our perimeter defense was a key to the win."

After leading by six at the half, MT extended the lead to 13. The Aggies narrowed the score to 54-48 with 5:15 to go, however, before Smithson nailed a jumper and Young scored nine consecutive points to help MT pull away for good.

Saturday night, the Blue Raiders hung in with defending Sun Belt champion ULL before falling 54-44.

MT held ULL to 32 percent shooting, the Ragin' Cajuns' third lowest total this season. ULL did the Blue Raiders one better, however, holding MT to a season-low 27 percent shooting.

"We played hard and competed, and our defensive effort was good enough, but we couldn't score," Davis told MT Media Relations.

The Blue Raiders were down by as much as 15 in the first half, but MT fought back and closed the gap to two at 44-42 with 2:37 to go in the game.

The returning Dean turned the ball over with 10:25 to go, however, and ULL went on a 10-2 run to pick up the win.

Steve Thomas was MT's leading scorer with 19, while Cuffee added 10. Brian Hamilton scored 16 to lead ULL.

The Blue Raiders are now 13-8 (3-4) on the season, while ULL improved to 12-7 (6-1).

MT returns home this week to take on Western Kentucky on Thursday and Florida International on Saturday. Tipoff for both games is at 7 p.m. ♦

Hilltoppers use balanced scoring to beat NMSU

Compiled by sunbeltsports.org

New Orleans 71, Denver 61

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - Bo McCalebb scored 30 points to lead New Orleans to a 71-61 victory over Denver on Saturday night.

New Orleans (9-11, 4-3 Sun Belt) led 37-26 at halftime and held on by shooting 52.2 percent from the floor (12-of-23) during the final 20 minutes.

Jamie McNeilly and Chad Barnes each scored 11, with Barnes going 3-of-4 from 3-point range and McNeilly providing eight assists.

Yemi Nicholson scored 20 for Denver (11-7, 6-1), while Antonio Porch added 17.

Denver turned the ball over 15 times, leading to 19 UNO points.

South Alabama 67, North Texas 60

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) - Mario Joiner scored 24 points, leading South Alabama to a 67-60 victory over North Texas on Saturday.

Joiner shot 8-of-16 from the field, including 4-of-11 from 3-point range, and 4-of-6 free throws for the Jaguars (6-13, 3-5 Sun

Belt Conference). Richard Law added 16 points and Daniel Northern had 10.

Leonard Hopkins led North Texas (10-8, 3-4) with 13 points. Ty Thomas added 11 points and Calvin Watson had 10 points.

South Alabama led 36-27 at halftime.

Western Kentucky 77, New Mexico State 75

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) - Six players scored in double digits and Western Kentucky held off upset-minded New Mexico State 77-75 Saturday night.

The Hilltoppers (13-5, 3-3 Sun Belt Conference) got 15 points each from Antonio Haynes and Anthony Winchester, 12 each from Boris Siakm and Danny Rumph, 11 from Courtney Lee and 10 from Elgrace Wilborn.

New Mexico State (5-15, 1-6) led by as many as nine points, 48-39, early in the second half. The Hilltoppers hit three 3-pointers in a three-minute stretch to finally take their first lead of the second half, 63-62, with 9:49 to play.



The Aggies were never able to regain the lead, although they cut the deficit to 75-73 on a Josh Jenkins 3-pointer with 41 seconds left to play.

The Hilltoppers then ran the clock down until Jenkins fouled Winchester with 12 seconds left to play. Winchester sank both free throws to make it 77-73.

Arkansas State 88, South Dakota State 61

JONESBORO, Ark. (AP) - Dewarick Spencer had 25 points and six 3-pointers to lead Arkansas State to a 88-61 victory over South Dakota State on Saturday.

J.J. Montgomery had 18 points and Lorenzo Hampton had 12. Steve Holdren led South Dakota State with 26 points and eight rebounds.

ASU shot 62.5 percent from the 3-point line en route to a 39-25 halftime lead.

The Indians were 10-of-21 from the 3-point arc.

Arkansas State's bench contributed 21 points, while South Dakota State's had 11 points. ♦



Rhythm: McElhiney canned

Continued from 6

It is not clear at this point whether players will back the decision to fire McElhiney. Anthony hinted to *The Tennessean* that the team could be in jeopardy if players decide to support their former coach, who led the Rhythm to a

17-7 season thus far.

"If they're willing to stick their neck out for Ashley, and that would be dumb, I would fold the team right now," Anthony said.

Flatt, however, told reporters that Rhythm practice will resume Monday as scheduled, despite Saturday night's incidents. ♦

SIDELINES ONLINE
THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Visit the message boards at www.mtsusidelines.com.

Classifieds

Employment

You determine your own hours, your own pace and your own compensation. Great way to work around your current schedule, earn extra money and try a new financial services career. For more information...Valerie 904-1817 or 943-8274.

The Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is seeking student tutors for the following ETIS courses: Statics, Instruments and Controls, Technical Drawing, Industrial Electricity. Please contact Barbara Knox at 898-5311 for more information, Jones Hall Room 333.

Need Money? Student advisors are needed for 120 unit off-campus MTSU apartment community. On-site training, cash referrals and generous hourly salaries are included. Call toll free, 1-866-594-5470 to make an appointment with Kimberly Sanders.

Now hiring full-part time for front desk help. All shifts open. Please apply in person, prefer experience. I-24 - exit 64 Waldron Road. Super 8 - LaVergne. 615-793-9999.

Five Senses Restaurant & Bar is now hiring cooks, requirements - good listener, hard working and quick learner. Apply in person between 2-4 pm Tu. - Fr. 1602 W. Northfield Blvd. Suite 515 (Georgetown Park)

Veterinary Assistant, part-time: Grassmere Animal hospital in Nashville has an opening for an assistant from 3pm to 7pm weekdays and 8am to 5pm every other Saturday. Apply in person @ 3926 Nolensville Road. Need more info? Call 832-6535.

Opportunities

VINYL SOUP is looking for very serious Drummer and Keyboardist to Tour. Must be able to rehearse once a week. We are based in Franklin. www.vinylsoup.com. Call 615-397-9634 or 931-682-3878.

Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girl's Rock Flash show in March 2005. If interested, contact Brandon 898-2917.

Models Needed! 3-4 female models needed for exciting new web project. No experience necessary. Applicants must be between 18-23, and should be between 100-130 lbs, be in good physical shape, and have an outgoing personality. No nudity involved, and there's no cost to the model at all. Project has long-term

potential, with average model earning \$750 per week for more. For more information, send an email to models37@southernangelz.com indicating interest. Serious inquiries only, please.

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Are you an Undergraduate student interested in pursuing a PhD? If so, we would like to talk to you. Undergraduate research is beneficial for prospective PhD candidates. To find out more information visit www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair for qualifying criteria.

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ATTORNEY Christine Barrett 890-1300 320 West Main St. Suite 121 Murfreesboro, TN 37130 Visa/MasterCard Accepted.

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Spring Break Bahamas Celebrity Party Cruise! 5 days \$299! Includes Meals, Parties! Cancun, Acapulco, Nassau, Jamaica From \$459! Panama City & Daytona \$159! www.springbreaktravel.com 1-800-678-6386.

Sales

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Steel Buildings Be prepared for Almanac's Harsh Winter Forecast! Garages and Equipment Storage 20x30, 20x26, and 30x52. Fast and Easy Assembly! CALL for Details 800-405-7501

Two Cheap Computer desks. One desk type with cabinets overhead. One is a stand type with 1 drawer, no cabinets. \$30 for both. Email: deb_mtsu@yahoo.com. Call 615-563-4488 after 5:30.

New Toshiba Laptop computer w/ Intel Celeron Processor, DVd/CD-RW, 256-MB Ram, 40 GB Hard Drive with Windows XP, 56K Modem. Call 615-491-4656.

For Sale. 8 ft. pool table descent condition and accessories. One set of normal balls, one set of clear balls. Eight sticks including a short stick. Love the table but moving. \$350 or best offer. Call and leave a message. Joe @ 904-2035

CB Maxx SP series 5 piece drum set, 14 inch Wuhan hi-hat, one ride, crash, throne. Barely used, great beginner set. \$350 or best offer. Love the set but not enough room. Call and leave a message Joe @ 904-2035

Roommates

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Streaks, defense key in Sun Belt victories

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

Two words come to mind when talking about the Middle Tennessee women's basketball team: streak and defense.

Streak, according to Webster's dictionary, is defined as "a spell; run; an uninterrupted series."

The Lady Raiders have certainly cast a different kind of spell over their opponents lately as they continue to hold the top spot in the Sun Belt Conference Eastern Division.

With the weekend sweep over Louisiana-Lafayette and New Mexico State, MT continued many different streaks. First, the Lady Raiders moved to 6-0 in SBC play, the team's best conference start since MT went 8-0 in 1995-96 as a member of the Ohio Valley Conference.

The Lady Raiders have won seven straight games overall and have picked up wins in eight consecutive SBC games at Murphy Center. The last home conference loss for MT came on Feb. 5, 2004 against Western Kentucky.

Thursday, ULL came into the game leading the SBC West but left as another victim of the Lady Raiders' win streak. Part of the reason for MT's success has been its defense.

Defense, according to Webster's, means, "resistance under attack; protection."

Three prime examples of good defense came in the past three victories over South Alabama, ULL and NMSU. The Lady Raiders held South Alabama to 17 points in the opening half and 46 for the game.

In the following contest against the Ragin' Cajuns, MT continued its defensive pressure by allowing 16 in the first half and 45 for the game. ULL came into the game scoring about 71 points per game.

The Lady Raiders then held

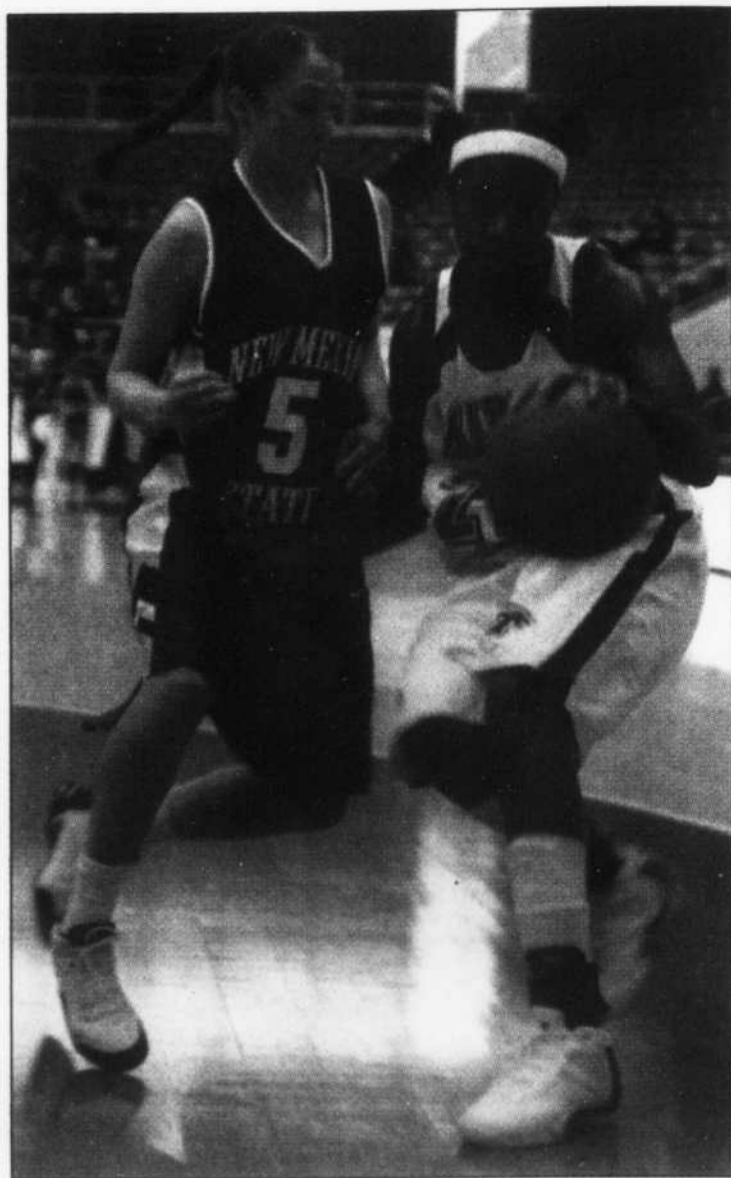


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Chrissy Givens scored 10 points in a win over NMSU.

NMSU to 41 points in Saturday's win.

"I think defense is what we hang our hat on," MT head coach Stephany Smith said. "I think it is a specialty for us. I think it is something that can separate us."

The Lady Raiders have held opponents to less than 40 percent shooting in nine of the last 13 games, including holding both ULL and NMSU to 30 percent.

In the past six games, MT's opponents have averaged 34.6 percent shooting from the field. "That's our bread and butter,"

MT guard Chrissy Givens said. "Our defense is what gets our team going."

MT looks to show the rest of the SBC that defense will be one of the factors that could carry them to back-to-back SBC tournament championships.

"We want to make sure we continue to play good ball, and we want to make sure we stay in first place," MT guard Patrice Holmes said.

This week the Lady Raiders travel to Western Kentucky on Thursday to play for the outright lead in the SBC East. ♦

Cajuns: Defense helps MT knock off ULL

Continued from 6

had 12 points, and 10 of her 12 points came in the second half.

"We had a couple of quick hitters set for me," Holmes said. "Fortunately, I knocked them down."

Holmes believed the defense kept the momentum.

"In the first half, I thought we were really good defensively," Holmes said. "In the second half, I thought we came out a little flat and weren't as aggressive."

Chrissy Givens also had 12 points, seven rebounds and a career-high six assists.

"I get hyped and energized from the defensive end," Givens said. "I then become more comfortable and don't turn the ball over. I just feel good when we get it done on the defensive end. It just helps me play better."

Givens also thought the defensive deserved credit.

"We have been harping on defense pretty hard," Givens said. "Like Coach Smith said in the locker room, defense is our bread and butter. Our defense is what gets our team going."

MT's defensive also held ULL's leading scorer, Anne Petrakova, to 10 points when she usually averages 17.

"We could not stop her off the boards," Smith said.

Petrakova led her team in rebounds grabbing 12 boards. However, ULL out rebounded MT 45-31, but the Lady Raiders created 19 turnovers while Ragin' Cajuns had 25.

MT then played New Mexico State at Murphy Center on Saturday. For more on that game, see "MT opens with 9-0 run for seventh straight win" on p. 6. ♦

Aggies: Stovall leads Lady Raiders in win

Continued from 6

players played and scored.

"You play better with fresh legs, and it is a good thing when everybody scores," Smith said.

One player coming off the bench and scoring was freshman Starr Orr, who had nine points and five rebounds.

"When I first came here, I was nervous that Smith wanted me to drive and rebound, so I thought if I can do it in practice, then I can do it in the game," Orr said.

Chrissy Givens can relate to Orr's position.

"For me, coming to MT, I was pretty much like Starr," Givens said. "I came in learning how to play with other players that were as good as I was and playing in an offense, which I had never

done, so it took me a while to get it. But, if you can do it in practice then you can do it in a game."

Givens had two back-to-back double-figure scoring games this weekend. Thursday night against Louisiana-Lafayette, Givens scored 12 points and then netted 10 against NMSU.

Three players for MT scored in double figures on Saturday. In addition to Givens, Krystle Horton had 10 points and Tia Stovall led the team with 12.

Trecha Kennedy led the Lady Aggies with 13 points and two rebounds.

MT will move on to face conference rival Western Kentucky on Feb. 3 in Bowling Green, Ky. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. ♦

Patriots confident, not complacent

By Barry Wilner
AP Football Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The third Super Bowl in four years is anything but old hat for the New England Patriots.

"You never get tired of winning," Troy Brown said. "It comes down to the willingness to win and I want to win them all if I get a chance."

There won't be any complacency, New England claims, because that's an approach completely foreign to the Patriots.

"Not a chance," Brown said when asked about being satis-

fied. "There are some guys on this team — Corey Dillon is one — who have not won a Super Bowl. I've got two rings, but I want to go out and play well and give a guy like that the chance to win one. You play your butt off for him to win one, too."

Not surprisingly, considering their regularity in this game, the Pats were relaxed and playful with the media hours after touching down in Jacksonville.

Veteran safety Rodney Harrison was alone among those who spoke Sunday to take a particularly serious tone. Harrison was annoyed by com-

ments from Eagles receiver Freddie Mitchell that the New England secondary wasn't all that good.

"Maybe he was drinking before he started talking," Harrison said, "because that was clearly a mistake. No one in this league would attack somebody a week before the Super Bowl."

"I don't need any extra motivation; I need something to calm me down."

Asked if he would speak directly to Mitchell, Harrison responded sarcastically: "What would I say? I don't have much to say. It's Freddie Mitchell." ♦

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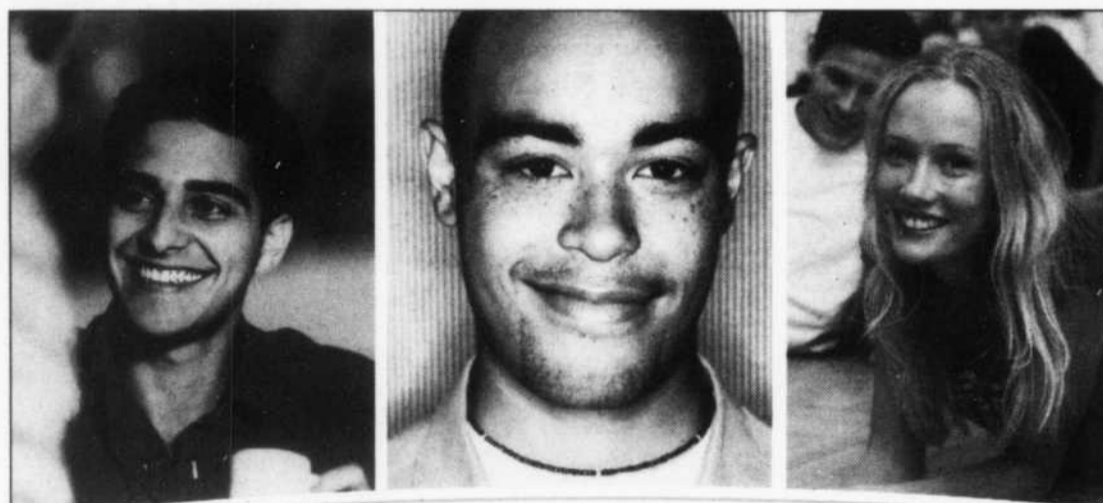
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