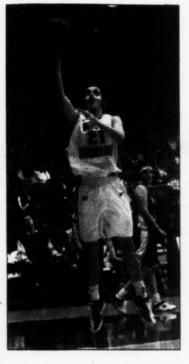


### VOL. 84 NO. 16

# INSIDE

Lady Raiders win in WNIT first round



Brandi Brown was one of six Lady Raiders in double figures, leading the team to a 104-69 win.

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**Check out this** week's comics **OPINIONS**, 6

### FEATURE



The Blastoids entertain fans in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room during MTSU's Last Band Rocking

Photo Courtesy Joel Hebert

# **Blastoids blow away competition**

By MARK BELL Staff Writer

The Blastoids blasted the competition at MTSU Student Programming's Last Band\_Rocking\_event held Tuesday evening in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room, outscoring their closest rival by 30 votes. Charlie Hareford, Joe Volmer and Tyler Walker of the Blastoids wowed the audience with their experimen-

tal pop electronica and their eclectic visual show, which featured video loops of Elmo from the popular kid's television show Sesame Street.

"We were hoping we would win," Walker said after the final tally came in. "Now we're just really stoked."

with their original song the bands playing tonight," "Who Nose". The competition at the three-hour event was abundant.

Thief, with Matt Tubandt's droning vocals and playful stage antics, mesmerized the crowd.

Performances by Blindman's Peace, Title Page and The Candy Cigarette Lottery were equally impressive.

"I was really surprised by They kicked off their set the great talent I saw in all of said Brandon Black, a junior industrial organizational psychology major. A total of 270 votes were

cast for the competition. At any given time there were almost 80 people watching their favorite band rock the stage.

Crowd members' hands were marked to ensure fair and accurate vote totals. Each crowd member was allowed only one vote.

Student Programming Ex-

"I think everything went really well," Williams said after the show."All of the bands had a big fan base this year."

The eligible field was narrowed from more than 15 bands to the five that made it on stage.

The event was definitely more successful in terms

### Langerado enjoyed by thousands

Concert-goers enjoy this Bonnaroo-like annual festival in Florida.

FEATURES, 4

### **Red-light** enforcement to be automated

Major intersections around Murfreesboro will be monitored by cameras as of summer.

NEWS, 2

### COMMUTE

### FROM MARCH 7 -AUGUST 2008

MTSU Blvd. is closed from Rutherford Blvd. to Blue Raider Drive due to construction. Drivers will be able to enter the campus off Rutherford Blvd. at Alumni Drive (newly opened road by Greek Row). The 4-way stop at MTSU Blvd. will also be closed during construction. Please follow detour signs.

The gravel lot at the corner of MTSU Blvd. and Rutherford Blvd. will also be closed during this time. Students are recommended to park in the Rutherford Blvd. lot across from Greek Row and ride the shuttle.

ecutive Chairperson Stacy of crowd turnout this year. Williams, along with stu- Last year, rockers played to dent helpers, tallied the votes an empty room. at the end of the event.



Photo Courtesy Photographic services Carol Swain, Maurine Beasley and Rita Jensen sit down for a panel discussion at the end of the lecture.

# Women deliver speeches on politicians and media

#### By JESSICA GRAY **Contributing Writer**

In honor of Women's History Month, a three-part seminar entitled "Women, Politics and the Press-Historical Roots and Current Contexts" was held in the Keathley University Center Theatre on March 18.

The three guest speakers were Carol Swain, Maurine Beasley and Rita Henley Jensen, who are all nationally known experts on women's politics, racial issues and media coverage.

The event was composed of a series of three seminars held at 1 p.m., 2:40 p.m. and 4:20 p.m.

First on the itinerary was a discussion by Maurine Beasley, who gave an overview of the American media's history of covering female politicians.

Beverly Keel, a MTSU recording industry professor and head of the Siegenethaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies, was the event coordinator.

Keel said that she got her inspiration to sponsor this seminar from a February speech by columnist De-Wayne Wickham entitled

"Race, Media, and the Presidential Election."

"We are in the midst of an important historical presidential election and I wanted to examine the press coverage of two unique candidates," Keel said.

Beasley gave an overview of the American media's history of political coverage

spected historian, professor at the University of Maryland and

# Aerospace dept. hosts job fair for second year

#### By ALEX MOORMAN Staff Writer

The 2nd Annual Aerospace Career Fair was held all day Wednesday in the James Union Building.

"[Students] need this. This is a great opportunity for aerospace majors," said Daniel Prather, organizer of the Aerospace Career Fair. "Some of the companies are hiring today and are accepting resumes and taking down contact information as well."

By 9 a.m., 20 to 30 students were already filtering into the area. Many professionals and company representatives were present.

"This is a good time to meet future employees and it's nice for us to see the future of our companies," said Lesley Romans, representative for Epps Aviation.

Prather said that other career fairs at MTSU don't cater to aerospace students. "We just felt like it was time to give these students a better idea of what they will be working for and who they will be working for," Prather said. And with around 850 aerospace majors, he added, they need to see what their options are.

"We find ourselves hiring a lot [at] career fairs. So this is a great opportunity for both

the students and the companies," said Robert Clemet, FedEx representative. "We have a lot of MTSU interns that work with us at FedEx. It's a great opportunity to develop a relationship with your company and learn about the job.

FedEx wasn't the only company looking to hire though, Prather said. Kim Davies, recruiting agent for Republic Airways, said that the company is hiring and taking resumes, adding that it is important for students to know what companies there are.

"This [career fair] allows the companies to inform the students of the curriculum that will be required so that they can go ahead and start preparing their studies to help them be better qualified come time to get a job," Davies said.

Many aerospace students took advantage of the fair, and were glad to have the opportunity to meet with representatives.

"It helps us get our names out their and lets us know what we need to expect and prepare for to get hired," said Scott Perryman, freshman aerospace major.

JOB FAIR, PAGE 3

regarding females. Beasley is a highly re-

Your mom used to tell you not to talk to strangers. Now you're off at college and defying your mom is rad. Become a reporter and we'll pay you to do exactly that. And in the end, you mom might even be proud of you for it. slnews@mtsu.edu / slstate@mtsu.edu / sleditor@mtsu.edu



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# **Red-light cameras** to snap risky driving

By DANIEL POTTER and JOHNATHON SCHLEICHER Community News Editor and Assistant News Editor

Seven major intersections in Murfreesboro will be equipped with red-light cameras this spring.

The cameras are to deter drivers from running red lights by photographing any vehicles that do so; \$50 citations are then mailed to the vehicles' tag holders.

"Traffic safety is paramount," said Chris Shofner, spokesman for the City of Murfreesboro. "This seems to be a good system for improving that."

Cameras will be in place by April 1 at the intersections of Memorial and Northfield boulevards, Rutherford and Mercury boulevards, and South Church Street and Middle Tennessee Boulevard.

For the first 30 days after cameras at those three intersections become operational, violators will receive warnings rather than payable tickets.

By July 1, cameras will also be in place at four more intersections: Northwest Broad at South Church, Northwest Broad at Northfield, Old Fort Parkway at Thompson Lane, and vehicles that are driving and Middle Tennessee at New Salem Highway.

No warnings or grace period will follow for those four intersections.

The tickets will only be issued when vehicles clearly violate an intersection's stop bar after the light has turned pay it ouright or view the infraction and dispute it before the city judge.

The use of red-light cameras in Murfreesboro stems from a contract approved by the City Council in 2007.

"The company itself will operate and maintain the cameras for a percentage of the revenue" the cameras yield, Shofner said. The City will pay \$32,000 monthly to the company, Traffipax, for operating the system, using funds from the citations, The Tennessean reported.

### Frees time for officers

Automating red-light enforcement will free up officers for other tasks, said Kyle Evans, public information officer for Murfreesboro Police Department.

"To run an effective redlight enforcement at a single intersection for one approach takes a minimum of three officers," ideally five, Evans said. With the camera system, one officer issues the citation and thereby "can do basically the work of the other four.'

Instead, those officers can focus on other duties. "In a city the size of Murfreesboro, with the number of people focus on other intersections, they can focus on speeding," and other related causation factors for accidents, Evans over privacy. said.

Further, when multiple motorists run the same light simultaneously, "only one red, city officials said. Upon or two of them get the tickreceiving a citation in the et. We want to try to catch mail, a tag holder can either everyone," Evans said. The

system is also safer, because police don't have to stand in traffic.

The tickets issued will count as civil violations, "meaning it won't go on your driving record and it won't affect your insurance," Evans said.

### Traffipax

Lori Mellman, a marketing associate for Traffipax, the company contracted to install and maintain the lights here, said statistics reflect the utility of red-light cameras.

"The Federal Highway Administration conducted camera studies at 132 intersections in Maryland, North Carolina and California," Mellman stated. These "showed crash decreases ranging from 15 percent to 25 percent.

"Economic analyses suggested savings of \$39,000 to \$50,000 annually per crossing, mostly in hospital bills, vehicle damage and insurance expenses."

### Qualms

Not everyone is looking forward to seeing the system implemented.

I'd feel better about it if the city was funding it, but honestly I don't think it will help - People are going to run every day, our officers can the red light anyway," said Stephen Allbritten, senior recording-industry major.

Others expressed concerns

Jack Robinson, junior marketing major. "I suppose it's safe in the way of tracking people speeding. But in another way there are privacy concerns in this company taking a percentage."



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## **MTSU Habitat Week** March 24-27

### **C** This week is all about raising money that goes for something substantial."

TREY SUGG Senior Business Finance Major

### March 24- "Shank-in Up With Habitat"

A cardboard building will be constructed on the Keathley Knoll for students to decorate and admire throughout the day. This cardboard building represents poor housing people have had to endure before being helped by Habitat for Humanity.

### March 25- "Habitat Bash"

A car bashing ceremony will take place on the KUC Knoll all day for people to take out their frustration on. Weapons will be supplied and money will be raised per hit of the vehicle.

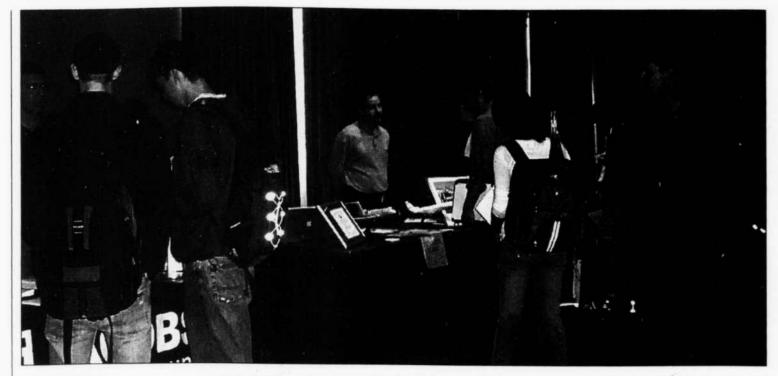
### March 26- "Nachos Sale"

A nacho buffet will be held on the third floor of the KUC for students and faculty members to enjoy for \$5. Tickets will be sold at the door as well as by emailing mtsuhabitat@ gmail.com to pre-order them.

### March 27- "Spring Into Habitat"

A nine hole mini golf course and basketball game will be set up on the KUC Knoll for advocacy day. A D.J. will be there as well as refreshments to raise money for the Rutherford Habitat for Humanity.

The sponsors for MTSU Habitat Week include Presto Partyz, 615 Signs and Designs, Express Auto Recyclers and Enchanted Gingerbread.



### **JOB FAIR FROM PAGE 1**

Prather started at MTSU in 2006 and said that students in aerospace were asking then for a career fair. "I told them that I wanted it to be run by students, but that I wouldn't mind helping them coordinate it," he said. They started planning late in 2006 and had the first in early 2007.

"We had a great turn out this year. Last year we only had about 15 companies and this year we've almost doubled that with 27 companies here," Prather said.

Company representatives met and talked with students individually and as a group to help inform the students of what to expect from their company.

"Knowledge is power and the only way students are going to get the knowledge they need to pick a career that's

Jensen is the founder and editor-in-chief of Women's eNews, which has won 26 journalism awards. The New York Daily News named her one of the 100 most influential women in New York. With over 20 years of journalism experience, she is also a domestic violence survivor and a former welfare mother.

right for them is by coming the career fairs just like this," Lt. Rory Wiuff, representative for the Navy.

"It's who you know in the aviation field and this is one of the easiest opportunities for students to be recognized by some of the top companies in their field," Prather said.

Carol Swain is a professor at Vanderbilt University School of Law, and teaches a course called "Race, Gender and Representation in the Politi-cal Process." She is the director of the Veritas Institute for Racial Justice and Reconciliation, and has authored three political books, winning numerous awards.

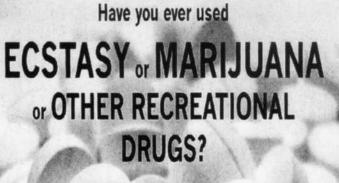
### POLITICS **FROM PAGE 1**

most of her literary works on presidential wives.

Beasley is a highly respected historian, professor at the University of Maryland and an author, who centers most

of her literary works on presidential wives. She is considered to be an expert on first ladies, and is referred to as "a an author, who centers rock star in the world of history," Keel said.

> Jensen was at MTSU in a March 2007 for the Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence event held in honor of Women's History Month.



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und to next column

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**OPPORTUNITIES** 

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Continued to next column

Marketplace of MTSU

Continued to next column





### By BRANDON BOUCHILLON Staff Writer

Mounds and mounds of blood-thirsty fire-ants, 30 or so panthers that still roam this particular stretch of the Everglades, and of course, the toothy alligators: such hazards make up a gonzo reality at the Langerado Music Festival.

But for the 25,000 fans in attendance March 6 through 10, the stellar lineup easily outshone any potential fireant hazards. Having Phil Lesh, the Disco Biscuit and Sound Tribe Sector Nine on the bill translates smoothly into south Floridian speakas one nondescript fan put is so well, yelling during a particularly good set: "Alligators Schmalligators!" This year marked the sixth annual Langerado Music Festival, but the first year for the weekend's new home, the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reserve. It seemed like a thriving wildlife refuge. Cranes stretched lazily in the midday heat, and the occasional seagull found itself too far inland, wafting astray in the steady ocean breeze. At night, the boggy marsh echoed with choruses of bullfrogs belching in the moonlight.

'This ain't your daddy's festival," says John Brasfield, an accountant from west Tennessee who trekked down for the weekend. "The everglades are literally alive all around us and set to the perfect soundtrack. Who could complain?"

Madison House, the purveyors of this big-slash-little festival, really changed the weekend's atmosphere from years past. Gone are the nights where music grinds to a halt at 10 p.m.

This year, a handful of cherry-picked sets even slid past the 4 a.m. watermark. With such spastic late nights, Langerado '08 flaunted a feel like "Pleasure Island" for adults. Anything goes, sans curfews.

to a line of traffic stretched unmoving down a spindly, 10-mile dirt road. Inside, Les Claypool kick-started the festival. His chunky bass lines provided a soundtrack for the traffic jam. Patrons walked alongside their cars, dancing, throwing Frisbees, killing time.

Early morning Thursday, the levee broke. In the still-dark, a solitary camper velled, "Langerado!" at the top of his voice. But the solo cry turned into a cacophony of "LAANGGERADDDOO!" as the 3 a.m. silence gave way to frenzied fans, ready for the days ahead, none sleeping, all energized. Shouts rang out through the campsite for 15 minutes. For an instant, the anticipation seemed a real, tangible thing, evident in the clockwork yells. Friday, the wait proved itself warranted. G. Love and Special Sauce set the tone, cracking out a pristine cover of the Beatles' "Why Don't We Do It in the Road," which faded into the hot summer day classic, "Cold Beverage." As temperatures climbed into the '90s, G. Love's delivery put the crowd on ice.

ten said "Chk Chk Chk") caught many fans off-guard. Frontman Nic Offer did it all, from stage diving to dryhumping the front row (actually, dry-humping just about everything), to stealing water bottles from the crowd and emptying them in an altogether overhead frenzy. His female backup vocalist couldn't resist the mayhem, diving headfirst into the photo pit at one point, finishing her number from the crowd.

Friday night's veteran headliners, the Beastie Boys. truly blew the roof off the Everglades. Who could've predicted the trio's sheer musical chops? If you expected raps and an absence of instruments, you were dead wrong. MCA played a five-string bass for most of the show, switching at times to a full-standup bass, walking up and down the strings in a baritone undercurrent. Mike D spent most of his time on vocals, but occasionally left center stage to bang around on his own drum-kit. AdRock absolutely subdued a six-string electric guitar for the show's duration.

Downs, a first-year attendee who rode a Grevhound bus from Connecticut.

Turns out, the Beasties were a punk band in the beginning. They improvise live, and at one point, a 30 minute jam session broke out. Fau Favorites like "Flute Loop" and "Intergalactic" kept the crowd moving, but the encore of guitar-driven "Sabotage" proved once and for all that the Beasties don't just rhyme. they flat out shred.

Further into the night, Bassnectar dropped his tech nically flawless beat matching, brilliant mash-ups, and iconic songs reworked. A primal "quasi" Deejay, Bassnectar, real name Lorin Ashton, works with caveman beats so animalistic they sound B.C. He remixed everything from the Beatles' "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds" to Steve Miller Band's "Time Keeps on Slippin." Mid-set. when Bassnectar let down his hip-length hair, it seemed to stand-up straight, electrified in a frenzied current atop the absolutely revved-up deejay. "So they tell me a big storm is on the way, maybe even a tornado," Bassnectar warned the crowd at the set's beginning

Photo by Jeff Kravitz/Madison House Publicity

YEAAAAaaaaa!!" came the only decipherable answer.

"You crazy bastards want a tornado, don't you?" chuckled Bassnectar, before his massive subwoofers roared to lite

Over the last few years, the "sure-thing" show at music festivals has slowly but surely become Sound Tribe Sector Nine. Flawless, pristine sets complete with a DJ, drumme bass and guitar players, synched in time, stew like a swamp of electronica. Zack Velmer, the drummer, hammers his kit with the speed and consistency that a hummingbird flaps her wings. If it's possible to out-drum a drum machine, Velmer would be the one to do it. Spinning spotlights in everchanging colors punctuate the lightshow, unfurling faster and faster as the music demands.

So fans did just that: Go.

"Honestly, what didn't I do this weekend? I began my Thursday dancing to Les Claypool beside this guy in a full-blown yellow banana suit, and wouldn't you know, I ended up next to him for Phil Lesh on Sunday, too," says Jarred Rosen, a Pennsylvania student on spring break. "Two encounters with a dancing banana? That's a full-circle festival, my friend."

The gates opened Thursday

Rockers !!! (pronounced by repeating any monosyllabic sound thrice, most of-

"The Beastie Boys can play instruments? They must have nothing to do these days. Crazy old men," says Brad

"WHOOOO00000

Picture a jailbreak on Mars, and oull almost be there.

"We feel this is just the beginning. We've just now truly found our sound," says bassist David Murphy when pressed about STS9's newfound fame.

The highlights came in droves, punctuated by num-

LANGERADO, PAGE 5



By JASON GRISSOM **Contributing Writer** 

Sometimes reality is stranger than anything a writer can dream up.

For example, in 1971 a gang of thieves equipped with walkie-talkies bored a tunnel into the safe deposit box room of Lloyds Banks in London, a robbery that was so similar to a number of heist-movie plots that it has been begging for its own film adaptation. However, taking reality and translating it into a compelling film isn't always an easy proposition and, in the case of "The Bank Job," can pro-

duce mixed results.

"The Bank Job" hobbles out of the gate by introducing us to something like seven separate yet intersecting stories in an incredibly disjointed fashion, complete with jumps in time to further confuse the audience.

A drug-dealing pimp/black revolutionary named Michael X (Peter de Jersey) is skirting arrest by blackmailing the British government with pictures of naked royalty engaging in most un-royal behavior. Meanwhile, an upscale brothel is taking similarly compromising photos of high-ranking government

officials for much the same purpose. Meanwhile, some branch of the British secret service is hatching a plan to covertly snatch these photos from their respective safedeposit boxes using petty thugs and, at the same time, planting a mole in Michael X's circle to destroy any copies. Meanwhile, a model with a coke habit and an absurd number of convenient connections in both the government and the criminal underground is tapped to employ the aforementioned thugs to pull off the black-ops bank job. Meanwhile ... well, you get the idea.

It's only after the audience is dragged through a myriad of different plot paths that the movie is finally allowed to begin-almost 20 minutes in and without a hint of forward momentum.

Jason Statham ("Crank") as Terry Leather must then assemble the standard crew of specialist thieves and pull off a bank heist like no other amidst a web of knotted stories and motivations.

Few films that claim to be "based on a true story" do more than give lip service to the actual events, but, in the case of "The Bank Job," accuracy seemed to be a para

Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais. Names, locations and events surrounding the life of Michael X and the actual 1971 Baker Street bank robbery are dead accurate. For example, one early scene depicts Michael X leading a white slumlord named Marvin Brown (Mark Phoenix) around by a slave collar and chain exactly as he did to the real life Mr. Brown. Even shops that appear in the film are the same that were present during the actual robbery.

One major exception to this dedication to truth, however, is the role of the government

mount concern for writers and the alleged existence of nude photos of royalty and parliament members. These elements were tied together from a number of conspiracy theories stemming from the actual crime. For instance, in both the movie and the aftermath of the actual event, the British government put a gag order on all media relating to the robbery. While the government never admitted to a hand in the robbery, both the film and conspiracy theorists claim this was a black-ops job and an attempt to cover it up.

In all, the script tries to

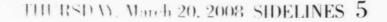




Photo by Michael Weintrob/Madison House Publicity

### **"BANK JOB"** FROM PAGE 4

do too much. While it's refreshing to see someone experiment with the standard heist-film formula of "assemble, plan, steal and getaway," "The Bank Job" ends up being a cluttered mess that could have easily been split into two different movies.

If the script is overly busy, then it's up to the editor to make the many threads wind smoothly. In this case, the film, edited by John Gilbert, fails utterly. There is rarely any logical transition from one aspect of the story to another. The film cuts away too early on several occasions. leaving the audience to piece or the what happened and whener or not it was iniportant. On other occasions, whole subplots are allowed to languish to the point of for getting about them altogether until far later in the film. Partnerses reductionald go

to costume and set designers Odile Dicks-Mireaux and John Bush, respectively. The 1970s have been caricatured for years in films as an explosion of tie-dve and Beatles imitators, often resulting in tiresome stereotypes and allto familiar palettes. However, Dicks-Mircaux and Bush have managed to balance the psychedelic styles with the more honest prevalence of leather jackets, suits and ties that pervaded '70s England, as well as accurate period use of colors and design.

Acting throughout is solid, although rately notable. The sheer number of characters in the film prevents anyone from really outshining the rest. It should be noted, however, that because this cast consists entirely of British actors and is set in London, American audiences might have trouble penetrating the heavy accents and foreign slang. One can hardly fault a British film from being... well, British, but it is something to consider before seeing this film.

It seems director Roger Donaldson's biggest fault is simply putting too much on his plate-too many actors and an overwhelming script. However, it's also evident that Donaldson wasn't quite sure how to frame the famous robbery, as the film seems constantly unsure as to whether it's an action movie, political thriller or comedic heist film in the vein of the "Oceans" franchise.

Poor editing and lackluster pacing also do much to harm the final product. Quality acting and design and a pervasive care for accuracy help to patch flaws in the production, but though "The Bank Job" still doesn't live up to its ample potential. Even so, it manages to be a wholly entertaining and interesting take on a genre too long dominated by the likes of George Clooney.

### LANGERADO FROM PAGE 4

bers like "Hi-Key," "Rent" and "Tooth." If such controlled chaos is only the beginning, be on the lookout for future STS9 mayhems. It took a late-night rainstorm to drive them from the Langerado stage.

Despite the solid set from STS9, the Disco Biscuits threw down the best set of the weekend. Kick-starting the performance with 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Heart's Club Band," the Biscuits tore through "Crickets," "Rock Candy" and Svenghali," before book-end ing the set with "Sgt. Pepper's Reprise." When the Disco Biscuits cover the Beatlesnot once, but twice - believe it's something special

In the early morning dark, thousands of tiny, luminescent bubbles swirled up through the air, blown sky-

ward, shimmering in a thousand colors through a maze of white spotlights. A stick-figure girl built entirely out of glowsticks (complete with a neonred heart) danced unabashed atop the crowd. Just as the song "Resurrection" began to peak, a torrential downpour of more glow sticks began. Neon arches of every color imaginable streaked through the sky, overwhelming in the best way. With guest spots from Matisvahu, who rhymed overtep of "Temmorow Never Enows" and David Murphy from STS9 on "Caves of the East," Bisco churned out furnace puffs of heat while the temperature waned to ten degrees.

To be fair, Phil Lesh and friends mesmerized those in attendance on Sunday Ever since 27-year-old lackie Greene joined the lineup, Lesh's sets have new life. Greene can play the parts of Boh Weir, croon Bob Dylan songs with all the pomp of their creator, and even throw in a few of his own tunes for good measure. With virtuoso Larry Campbell in tow, playing everything from a guitar to a fiddle to a mandolin and back again, Lesh truly is in good company these days.

"Phil Lesh is absolutely on fire right now. I've got my fingers crossed for a Grateful Dead reunion this year, but even if it doesn't happen, Jackie Greene and Phil together is a ready and able substitute," says Josh Beckham, a carpenter from Lake Tahoe.

At a time when all-too-many festivals opt for what's "mainstream," opting to schedule bands that can sell instead of ones that can play, Madison House Publicity sticks to its guns, booking tried and true improvisational acts year-in and year-out.

Because alligators or no, annually, Langerado has some teeth.



FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS OF 'THE GRUDGE' AND

'THE RING'

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# SHUTTER

PG-13 Approximate and the second seco

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# **OPINIONS**

# We're in a water war with Georgia Tennessee's neighbor is in a drought; they want our state's resources

By PRESTON MACDOUGALL **Guest** Columnist

The Peach State is in a parched state and is trying to poach from my state. This is not a playground tonguetwister, but a developing news story involving the state legislatures of Georgia and Tennessee.

Unless you're watching The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, you don't normally associate state legislatures with playgrounds. But there's a gigantic water fight going on right now between the states of Georgia and Tennessee.

Instead of throwing water balloons, legislators are lobbing resolutions concerning the relative locations of the Tennessee River and the Georgia-Tennessee borderline.

You can see what all the political splashing is about by taking a quick trip in cyberspace. If you go to mapquest. com, enter TN for the state, then click "search" for maps, you'll see why Tennesseans

COMICS

try to be good neighbors -we have eight of them.

If you drag Chattanooga so that it is just to the right of the center of your computer screen, and zoom-in until you can see street names, you'll see that the borderline separating Tennessee from both Alabama and Georgia is as straight as a geodesic arrow. It was planned that way. The problem is, it isn't where it's supposed to be.

After South Carolina ceded territorial claims in 1787, the 35th parallel (north) was decreed to be the borderline between Georgia and North Carolina.

In 1796, it also became the border between Georgia and the new state of Tennessee, which was an integration of North Carolina's western territories.

National and state boundaries are like lines of latitude and longitude in that they didn't exist until politicians and geographers decided they had practical value and invented them.

The difference is that drawing lines of latitude and longitude is an act of geometry, whereas drawing boundaries often constitutes an act of war.

In a sense, mathematics can still have a role, since war can be avoided if the diplomats involved are skilled geometers, and can bloodlessly "triangulate" the interests of all parties.

Hopefully, the borderquestioning resolution introduced by David Schafer, state senator of Georgia, won't lead to any Southern hostilities off the football field, but why risk it?

This is where the Tennessee River flows into the picture, since, as you can see on your Mapquest screen, it doesn't flow into Georgia. It comes darn close, though.

You could also say that it comes dammed close, since the dam that created Nickajack Lake was just high enough for the high-water mark to lie within a stone's throw of Georgia.

Again, math had a couple of roles to play in this plentiful supply of freshwater being tantalizingly close to a state that is in the middle of a historic drought and forced to impose strict water restrictions.

Most recently, in the 1960s, engineers with the Tennessee Valley Authority seem to have accurately surveyed the surrounding topography, and calculated how high the dam could be without flooding even a single acre of Georgia.

Parched Georgians are now wishing that 19th century surveyors had been as mathematically adept as the 20th century TVA engineers. That's because, while the 35th parallel seems to be just shy of the original shoreline of the Tennessee River, it skips right across the fat part of Nickajack Lake.

A team of surveyors, back in 1818, set in stone the now disputed borderline about one mile south of the 35th parallel.

Various excuses have be-

come legendary, from a faulty compass to fear of local Native Americans. Perhaps the dog ate their slide rule.

But the one that holds the most water is simple mathematical error, somewhere between decrees on paper and degrees on the ground.

There is no vaccine against making errors in mathematics, nor is there one for chemical errors. For instance, sugar is a high-energy molecule, and sugar dust is explosive no matter how sweet and harmless it seems.

The key to lowering the impact of technological misfortune is raising the standards in mathematics and science education.

Preston MacDougall is a chemistry professor at Middle Tennessee State University. His "Chemical Eye" commentaries are featured in the Arts and Public Affairs portion of the Murfreesboro/Nashville NPR station WMOT (www. wmot.org).



Do you feel that your time spent in high school challenged and prepared you for college academics?



### Kamel

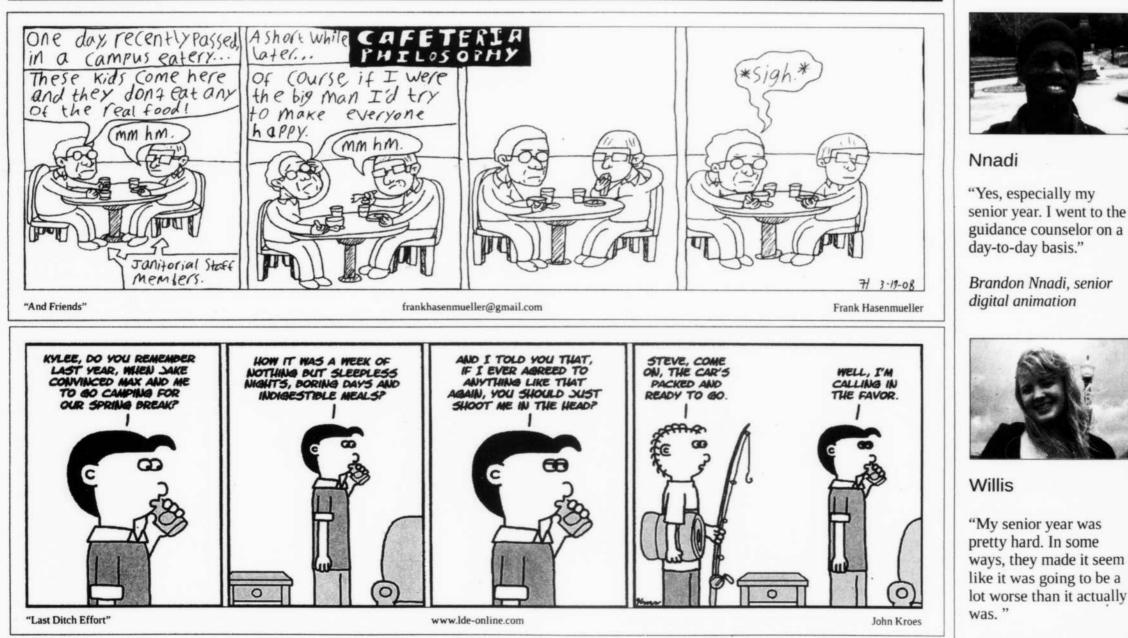
"No, not at all. They need to prepare students more with homework, especially for international students."

Mary Kamel, junior public relations



Nnadi

"Yes, especially my senior year. I went to the



### FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD Red-light cameras will do some good, despite drawbacks

By July, a lot more drivers who barrel through red lights here can look forward to receiving \$50 citations in the mail. This spring, the city of Murfreesboro is installing red-light cameras at seven major intersections around town.

Well, technically, a company called Traffipax is doing all the heavy lifting. Interestingly, the city isn't even spending any of its own funds on this project; Traffipax just collects a cut of the revenue the automated enforcement generates.

The Tennessean reported Traffipax's slice to be \$32,000 monthly. At \$50 a ticket, that amounts to 640 tickets each month, or over 20 a day, roughly three at each intersection. Keep in mind that's just the contractor's cut, not the entire city's take.

Funny how profitable our safety becomes when we outsource it to private industry.

Funny also how certain nightmare intersections

around town were passed over, including Memorial and Clark, and Broad and Old Fort Parkway.

It's no joke, however, to say that it's definitely high time red lights came under control around here.

Drivers are constantly rolling through lights long after they've turned red, risking grave injury and property damage to themselves and others - and for what? An extra two minutes at home?

Here's a tip: If you're really

that desperate to free up a little extra time in your schedule, quit watching television. It's 2008; just download your favorite shows later.

Or better yet, incorporate public transportation into your travel routine so you can get some reading or homework done while you wait for your stop.

With gas projected to hit \$4 per gallon this summer, getting acquainted with the bus schedule around here seems a sound investment anyway.

the law" deserves to be cited for forcing oncoming traffic to brake abruptly despite way.

greater importance.

Anyway, everyone who feels entitled to run red lights or is otherwise "above already having the right of

This to say nothing of all the police who will find themselves with more time to spend enforcing laws of

We should all be able to see the good in that.

"Not for the major I wanted. My high school

Lauren Willis, junior art

did not have any audio classes or anything like that."

Scott Ferguson, senior recording industry



**Middle Tennessee State University** 1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8

Murfreesboro, TN 37132 Editorial: (615) 904-8357 Advertising: (615) 898-2533 Fax: (615) 904-8193 www.mtsusidelines.com

**Editor in Chief** Andy Harper\* sleditor@mstu.edu

slfeatur@mtsu.edu

slphoto@mtsu.edu

Photography

Rvan DeBoov

Features

Sarah Lavery

sidelinesmanager@gmail.com Sports

**Richard Lowe** slsports@mtsu.edu

**Managing Editor** 

Mary Rose Fox\*

Production **Eric Shuff** sl4ads@mtsu.edu

**Campus News** Tiffany Gibson\* slnews@mtsu.edu

Assist. News Johnathon Schleicher slcopy@mtsu.edu

Online Bryan Law slonline@mtsu.edu **Comm.** News Dan Potter\* slstate@mtsu.edu

Assist. Features Katey Coil slflash@mtsu.edu

Adviser Steven Chappell schappel@mtsu.edu Opinions Jessica Laven\* slopinio@mtsu.edu

Assist. Sports Chris Martin slsports@mtsu.edu

Advertising Jeri Lamb jlamb@mtsu.edu

Business Eveon Corl ecorl@mtsu.edu

\*denotes member

of editorial board



THURSDAY, March 20, 2008 SIDELINES 7

# SPORTS

# Lady Raiders maul Catamounts in WNIT

#### **B** Chris Martin ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Middle Tennessee started its WNIT Championship hopes with a 9-0 lead, defeating the Western Carolina Catamounts 104-69 to secure a berth into the second round.

After its initial run, the Lady Raiders had established a 15-3 lead at the first media timeout. They went on another run to make the score 26-8 with 9:41 remaining.

"We just came out hungry," said Amber Holt, MT senior. "We just came out relaxed."

The 104 points is the most MT has scored in a non-exhibition bout this season, topping the 95 it posted on Austin Peay on Dec. 15. It is also the first time the Lady Raiders have scored 100 or more points since they scored 103 against Louisiana-Monroe on Dec. 17, 2006.

Six MT players scored in double figures and everyone that entered the game for the Lady Raiders scored at least six points.

Holt led all scorers with 29 points on 10 of 13 shooting. She also added nine rebounds, four assists and two steals. Sophomores Chelsia Lymon and Brandi Brown were second on the team

with 13 points each. Lymon also contributed five assists and four steals while Brown chipped in four rebounds and four assists coming off the bench. Freshman Emily Queen narrowly missed collecting a double-double with nine points and 10 rebounds. "We've never come out this relaxed and enjoyed it as much as we did tonight," Brown said. "Hopefully we

can do it again next game." The Lady Raiders went into the half with a 51-26 advantage - the second-most points they have scored in a half this season. This falls behind the 58 they put on Tennessee Tech in the first half of that game.

Little went wrong for MT as they outrebounded WCU 34-29 and hit 59 percent of their shots compared with the Lady Catamounts 40.3 percent. The Lady Raiders also made 13 of their 25 3-point field goals, good for 52 percent.

The Lady Raiders also passed the ball well, managing to put up 23 assists on their 36 made field goals.

"We share the ball," said Rick Insell, MT head coach. "Amber [Holt] gets most of the shots, but she shares more than she should. Sometimes we're too unselfish."

The teams had played earlier in the season, with the Lady Catamounts taking a 77-71 victory in the Murphy Center.

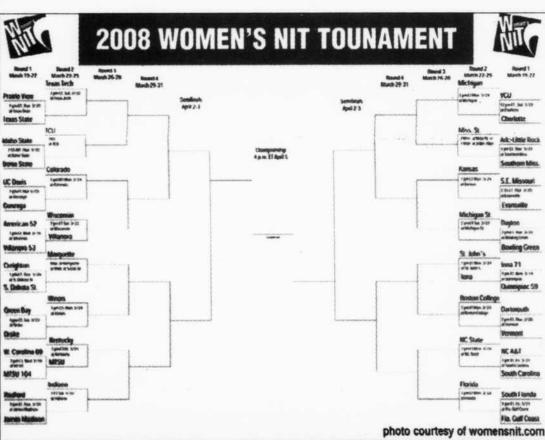
"They're a rival," Holt said about the earlier defeat. "It hurts to lose to them but it just motivates us to play harder."

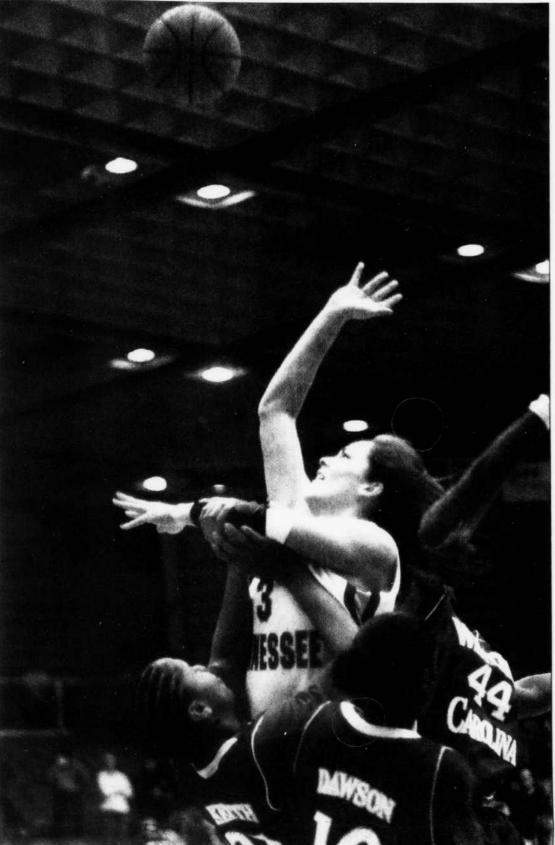
WCU was playing without its best player, Brooke Johnson, due to injury. Johnson pulled down 20 rebounds in the teams' previous meeting. She has missed most of the season, playing only 11 games. Before her injury, she was averaging 11.9 points and 6.4 rebounds.

Monique Dawson led WCU, scoring 18 points and dishing out four assists. Freshman Emily Clarke also put up 18 points to go along with her four rebounds.

MT will return to action on Friday when they take on Kentucky. The game will take place on the Kentucky's home court and tip-off is set for 6 p.m.

"I don't think we'll be intimidated," Insell said. "They've got a good team, they're big, but we won't be intimidated. They've got a good team and they're probably disappointed they didn't go to the NCAA [tournament] like we are."





Freshman Emily Queen (3) battles for a rebound. Queen finished with nine points and 10 rebounds.

Today marks the beginning of the NCAA Basketball Tournament. It is also the beginning of the Sidelines Invitational. Starting next Thursday, you will be able to see how well the editors at Sidelinesfare in picking the winners of the Big Dance. You can even compare the editors' results to your own. The winner get bragging rights. The losers eat crow.



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, Staff Photographer Sophomore Jackie Pickel (10) was one of six Lady Raiders to score in double figures. She scored 12 in the win

## Blue Raiders start shaping up for upcoming football season

### **By CHRIS MARTIN**

Assistant Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee's football team got back on the field for spring practice on March 17.

On offense, the Blue Raiders are returning six starters: offensive linemen Mark Fisher, Jamal Lewis and Mark quarterback Thompson, Dwight Dasher and wide receivers Desmond Gee and Patrick Honeycutt.

The Blue-Raiders will be second-leading without rusher DeMarco McNair, who exhausted his eligibility, All-Sun Belt first-team left tackle Franklin Dunbar, who left the team after his junior year to pursue an NFL career, and leading receiver Taron as the starter, but was injured Henry.

On the defensive side of the ball, seven starters return: safeties Anthony Glover

and Jeremy Kellem, defensive tackles Trevor Jenkins and Wes Hofacker, linebackers Lonnie Clemons III and Danny Carmichael and cornerback Alex Suber.

Defensive ends Erik Walden and Tavares Jones, linebacker Derek Shropshire, cornerbacks Roy Polite and Bradley Robinson as well as safety Damon Nickson were all seniors and are therefore no longer eligible.

One of the chief position battles to be decided on the practice field is quarterback. Last season, freshman Dwight Dasher and redshirt junior Joe Craddock each started six games apiece.

Craddock began the season after only the third game of the season at LSU. Dasher filled in admirably for a freshman throwing nine touchdowns compared with three experience, but freshmen Wes interceptions. He also led MT in rushing with 530 yards.

At running back, Philip Tanner has the starting job with Gee serving as his backup. Last season Tanner rushed for 299 yards in nine games with an average of 4.7 vards a carry.

The competition at receiver is one of the most wide-open. Henry, Bobby Williams, Jonathan Grigsby are no longer with the team. Also, Mc-Nair was one of MT's biggest receiving threats last year, catching 22 balls for 321 yards and four touchdowns. Throw in the fact that last year's top tight ends, Stephen Chicola and Clinton Corder, were seniors and the Blue Raiders have lost 1,308 receiving yards and 15 touchdowns.

Honeycutt, Gee and Michael Cannon have the most

Caldwell and D.D. Kyles will be in the mix as well. However, the competition should heat up in the summer when MT's much-hyped recruiting class comes into town. Fourstar prospect Anthony Jones and three-star prospects Malcolm Beyah and Eldred King will get their chances to compete for starting positions when they hit campus.

The offensive line is another area that was hit hard with departures. Dunbar and starting guard Brandon Nix are gone. Their departures will cause some shuffling on the line. The lead candidate to take over Dunbar's left tackle position will is redshirt sophomore Mark Thompson, who played mostly at center last season.

Freshman Mike Williams, Jake Padrick and Chris Hawkins will be competing for the two open spots on the offensive line.

The biggest position battle will occur at defensive end. Walden and Jones left MT with the most and third-most career sacks in school history. On one side, Chris McCov is the early favorite to take one of the end positions while the other end should be a little more hotly contested. Gary Tucker, who is still injured from last season, and Emmanuel Perez appear to be the top candidates, but that could change if someone steps up.

Carmichael and Clemons III both have starting spots more or less locked down in the linebacking corps. Andrew Harrington and Ivon Hickmon should contend for the other spot. Both Harrington and Hickmon saw playing time last season and

they will probably rotate in the lineup.

Photo by Alex Blackwelder, Staff Photographer

Losing Polite and Robinson will test the Blue Raiders' depth. Robinson leaves the school as one of the most decorated defensive backs in school history. He finished his career with 14 interceptions, tied for second most at the school.

Suber has one starting spot secured, whereas freshman Rod Issac will be a favorite to take the other starter at corner.

At safety, both of last year's starters return in Kellem and Glover. There will probably not be too much of a battle for either spot as Kellem and Glover started a combined ten games, splitting time with Nickson and Polite.

The Blue Raiders' next practice is scheduled to take place today.

### www.mtsusidelines.com

# Mount St. Mary's plays into NCAA tournament

#### By JOE KAY AP Sports Writer

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) - The Mount finally got The Win.

Mount St. Mary's, a Maryland school known for getting drubbed in its previous two appearances in the NCAA tournament, got this one started with a nice-looking win Tuesday night in the opening game.

A 69-60 victory over Coppin State set up a daunting second game for the Mountaineers (19-14), who immediately started preparing for their next opponent.

Anybody up for playing North Carolina? In its own backyard, no less?

envisioned playing "I against them when I was little," said guard Jeremy Goode, a Carolina native who led the way with 21 points. "To play against them means a lot.'

It means a season that seemed to be a lost cause only a few weeks ago can go on for at least a few more days.

The Mountaineers won their last five games to shed their losing record and make the tournament, then got the one victory that's always been well out of reach. In its two other NCAA games, Mount St. Mary's lost to Kentucky by 46 points in 1995 and to Michigan State by 23 in 1999.

"It's a relief," said Kelly Beidler, who had 15 rebounds. "It just felt good to say we've actually won an NCAA game."

agonizingly spun out. "We had a lot of opportunities," said Tywain Mc-Kee, who had a team-high 15 points. "We just couldn't put

them in." Goode, a 5-foot-9 sophomore who knows a little about Carolina blue because he grew up in Charlotte, was the spark for Mount St. Mary's up-tempo offense. He did it all, driving to the basket and hitting fadeaway jumpers over much taller players.

He also supplied the final touches, hitting four free throws in the last 27 seconds.

Perhaps no other openinggame winner enjoyed it so much and complained so little. Unlike previous years, there was no grousing about having to start the tournament in Dayton.

Not from Mount St. Mary's, the Northeast Conference champ that had a losing record before it got on that late run. The only complaint was from some folks who didn't even think the Mountaineers deserved to be in the tournament at all, given their RPI of 159.

"Me and Chris (Vann) were in the hotel watching ESPN and a guy says this game shouldn't even be played," Goode said. "He said neither team deserved to be in the tournament. That kind of got us ready to play."

Coppin State complain? No way.

Marooned at 4-19 in early February, the Eagles sneaked into the tournament for the first time since 1997 by winning the Mid-Eastern Athletic title.

### **SPORTS BRIEFS**

### **Durham leads golf** team in Hawaii

Senior Taryn Durham led Middle Tennessee with an eight-over 80 in the final round of the Dr. Donnis Thompson Invitational and finished the event tied for 24th with a 21-over 237 for the three-day tournament at Kane'ohe Klipper Golf Course.

Middle Tennessee finished 13th as a team with a three-day total 972 against a strong field. Oklahoma State captured the team title with an impressive 16-over 880 to easily outdistance Arizona (893) and Arizona State (897).

Durham was steady throughout the tournament, opening with a 77 and following with consecutive rounds of 80 to close the event. Fellow senior Jamey Dillard turned in a 241 and finished tied for 41st in another impressive showing for her at the start of the spring season.

Leigh Wilkins (64th, 246), Clara Leathers (72nd, 249) and Mallory Bishop (75th, 251) followed Durham and Dillard in the scoring column.

### **Baseball, Softball** games canceled

MT's baseball game scheduled for yesterday against Austin Peay was postponed due to inclement weather in the Clarksville area.

The game has been rescheduled for Monday, May 5 at 4:30 in Clarksville, Tenn.

The Blue Raiders' next game is Friday when they face off against the Owls of Florida Atlantic in Boca Raton, Fla. First pitch is set for 6 p.m.

MT's softball doubleheader with Tennessee State scheduled for Wednesday afternoon were also postponed because of inclement weather. The teams will play on Thursday, April 3, at Blue Raider Field at a time still yet to be determined.

MT and TSU will play either a single game or doubleheader on April 3. The number of games and start time will be determined in the next week.

MT continues Sun Belt Conference action this weekend with a three-game series at South Alabama. The Blue Raiders and Jaguars play a doubleheader Friday at 4 p.m. and then a single game Saturday at noon.

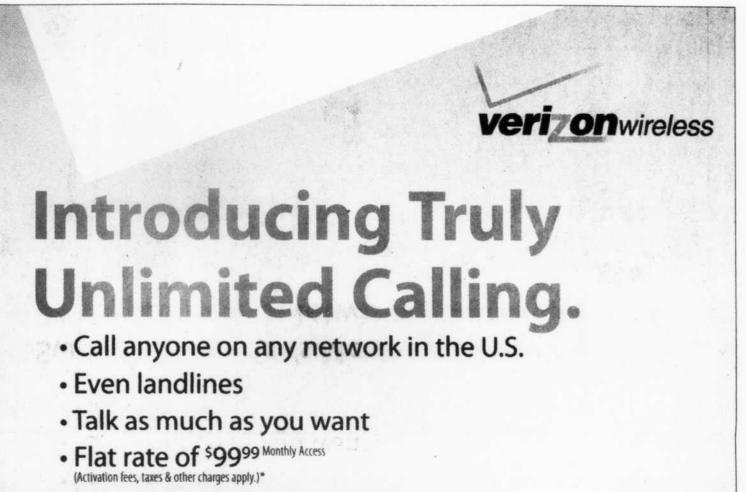
### Holt voted First Team All-American

MT's Amber Holt has been named a First Team All-American by CBSSports. com after leading the nation in scoring for more than half the season and helping the Blue Raiders to a 21-11 overall mark. She is the only First Team All-American in program history.

Holt is averaging 27.1 points per game heading into last night's WNIT contest versus Western Carolina. She has posted a dozen 30-point games in 2007-08, a Blue Raider single-season record, and has eight double-doubles this year. The Duluth, Ga., native ranks 97th nationally in rebounds (8.1), 74th in steals per game (2.41), 53rd in field goal percentage (.516) and 93rd in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.52).

Of the 13 games nationally this season with 40-point scorers, Holt is the only player with a pair of 40-point showings. She scored 41 points in an upset of No. 8 LSU in December and broke a 21-year-old school record for points in a game with 44 at Louisiana-Monroe in January.

Holt leads the Sun Belt Conference in scoring and ranks second in FG percentage and assist-to-turnover ratio, first in steals and offensive rebounds, third in rebounding, fourth in free throws percentage, and eighth in assists. Eight of her 30-point efforts have come versus SBC competition.



No time to savor it. lournament reality hits on Friday, when the Mount plays the top-seeded Tar Heels in Raleigh. Fans in the crowd of 8,464 at University of Dayton Arena held up signs calling on the play-in winner to "Bury N. Carolina."

Tough chance for that. A 16th seed has never taken down a No. 1.

But, that's something for later. For a few sweet minutes on Tuesday night, Mount St. Mary's got to savor its breakthrough over another Maryland school, located about 60 miles away.

Coppin State (16-21) became the first team to reach the tournament with 20 losses, and the Eagles played as if they were in over their heads during the closing minutes. With the pressure on, they went five minutes without scoring, allowing Mount St. Mary's to break it open.

Sensing the enormity of the moment, they missed eight straight shots and a pair of free throws. Several times, the ball started to roll in, then

"This was a great opportunity," said Antwan Harrison, who scored 14 points. "What we came through to get to the NCAA tournament, you can't take that away. So we appreciate the opportunity to be here."

No one could grouse about the game, either. For the most part, they didn't play like teams with a combined 35 losses. Coppin State used its quickness, going inside for dunks and layups. Mount St. Mary's trio of dangerous guards did most of the damage.

Coppin State was ahead the entire first half, leading by as many as nine. The Mountaineers' guards changed the tone after halftime, when Vann's three-point play put Mount St. Mary's up 39-34.

It went back-and-forth until Coppin State went cold at the end.

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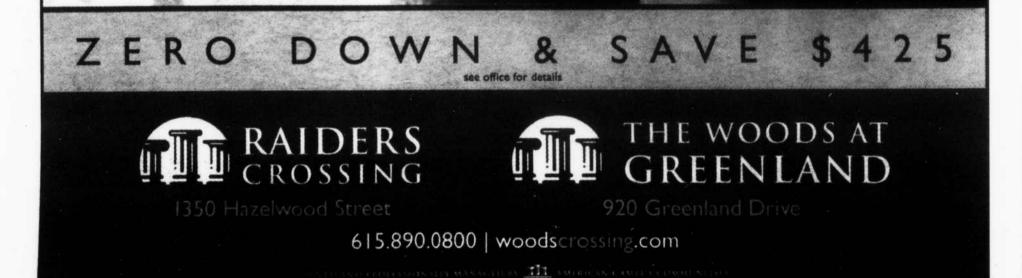
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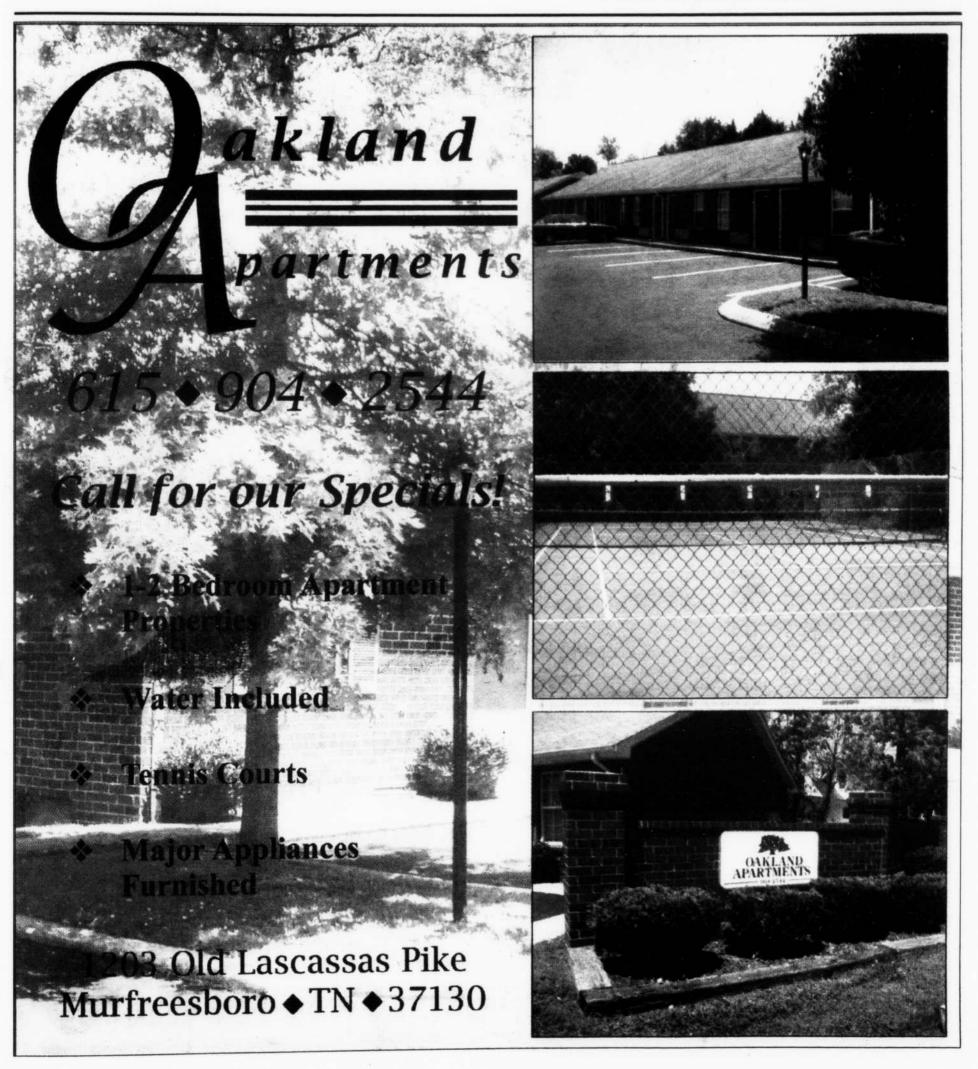
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THURSDAY, March 20, 2008 SIDELINES 3



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## Stylish student decor possible on a budget

### By SARAH LAVERY Features Editor

Stark white walls and a thin, firm mattress do little to curb the inevitable stress encountered by a college student.

Whether you're living in the dorms, you just ventured out on your own, or you're still shacked up in your pinkwalled, stuffed-animal ridden room at your parent's house, it's up to you to get those creative juices flowing and redecorate your living space.

A lot of people succumb to boring design because they don't feel up to the task – maybe interior decorating just isn't your thing, or, if you're like 99 percent of your fellow college students, you don't have tons of disposable income to waste on duvet covers and wall hangings.

However, it doesn't have to be that difficult. Taking small steps toward a hip, comfortable living space is all you need to walk in the door after a hard day and feel thankful to be home.

First, and most importantly, invest in a mattress topper and some amazingly soft sheets. The secret to happiness lies in a welcoming bed. Cotton jersey "t-shirt" sheets are incredibly soft, inexpensive and come in a wide variety of colors at your local Bed Bath and Beyond or Linens 'N Things. Mattress toppers – the best are the fiber filled kind – will run around \$50, but are definitely worth the investment.

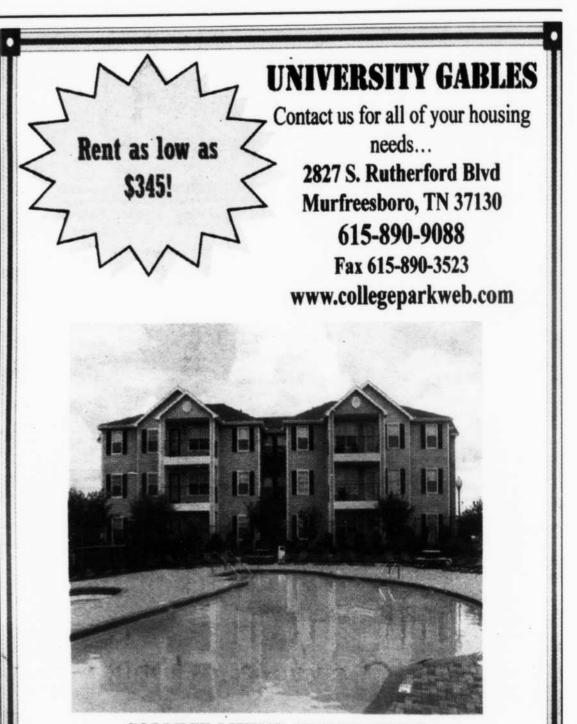
Next, make your furniture your own. One day, maybe you'll have the salary to go to Ashley Furniture and pickup the cherry-wood bedroom set, but probably not today. Instead, check out Salvation Army or any thrift store and pick up some unique, well-loved pieces. Anything wood can be easily sanded and re-stained – just go to Home Depot, it will only cost around \$15. If you're feeling extra artsy, buy some paint and go at it.

If you're lucky enough to have inherited some furniture from your family's pad, don't stop there. Even if your clunky wood nightstand and black armoire appears to have no cohesive design, you can easily change it. Remove the knobs to the drawers, spraypaint them the color of your choice, and add a little creative flair to the furniture.

When you first rent your own place, you're usually happy to have any sort of couch, be it plaid, puke green or bloodstained. Instead, try making your own slipcover – it's not as difficult as you may think.

First, measure your couch from its lowest point to the highest and then measure the width. When picking out a fabric remember, the thicker it is, the harder it will be to work with, and to double your measurements. At home, place the fabric over the piece of furniture evenly, being sure to let out enough fabric to reach the floor, plus a little extra allowance for a hem. Tuck the fabric around curves and corners with a pleating or fold and pin the folds in place. At this point, you have the choice to leave it as is - not many of us are sewing aficionados - or, you can hold the pleats in place permanently with a tacking stitch, being sure that the fabric is held securely in place while making the pleats around the whole piece.

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### Surviving Roommates Helpful hints for students conforming to, surviving stereotypical roommates, woes

### By ANDY HARPER Editor in Chief

Whether you are moving out on your own or staying at home with the parents, most college students will inadvertently find themselves in the

presence of roommates. Exploring the world of cohabitation with others, one will find many different species of creatures to exist with and will learn the different adaptation skills needed to survive. Below is a list of the types of roommates encountered on the journey of college living along with some helpful hints to surviving with a happy and healthy relationship.

### My house, my rules

For the college students who cannot afford to live outside their family's domain or feel better about staying at home, parents can and will become much like roommates. The major difference, however, is you are living in their house, under their rules, no matter what your age – especially if your stay is rent free.

Sneaking in at 3 a.m. is still as deplorable at 22 as it was at 16. Unless a garage apartment or pool house is the primary sleeping grounds for a student, stomping in at all hours of the night is enough to upset any house owner.

Just because a student lives with family does not equate them to the rank of child either. The best way to form a working adult relationship between the college student and parental landlords is to establish the fact that you are an adult and, while not completely independent, should hold some respect as an adult. Work out a standard set of rules. While it may seem juvenile, a curfew is not about restriction but respect. Families do not want students clamoring around the house at all hours of the night. In exchange, the student could volunteer to help around the house or maybe even pay rent. If you act like an adult, you will be treated as such.

### Silence is golden and noise is platinum

When moving out into an apartment with friends, acquaintances or the occasional stranger, two of the extremes one will find are the loud partiers and the meek bookworms.

The partiers are the late to bed or the early to rise, always bringing with them a vibrating aura of music, laughing, talking or rustling of kitchen pans. The meek bookworm keeps a lower profile, wanting quiet-time to study or relax and never needing an obscene amount of clatter.

Since these are extremes, most find a common middle ground between the two. Have the loud keep their music down and make sleeping habits of all apartment or housemates clearly known. Remind the meek that they do not live alone and a little noise is expected, but include them in the festivities. No one, even the quiet, wants to be by themselves.

### Who ate the last slice of cake?

A mooch is one of the worst roommates one will encounter. They eat the last piece of bread, use the last clean dish, never replace the laundry detergent or toilet paper and never share. Talking is always the first step to solving a problem, but if a problem persists, as it might, a few extra steps can be taken to make both the mooch and the mooched coexist peacefully.

Sharpies are extremely useful for marking territory and letting roommates know what does and does not belong to you. Of course, a thin layer of ink will not create a mysterious and powerful force field to ward off any mooching, but it will help clearly define boundaries of what is and is not public property.

If marking fails and a student still finds the feeble remnants of food and cleaning supplies, alternative storage space should be found. Some apartments come with individual storage closets but, for those that do not, block off a corner in your bedroom for food and laundry detergent.

Miniature refrigerators are usually on sale at most major retailers around the start of school and plastic shelving can be inexpensive at places like Target, Wal-Mart and K-mart. Another solution is to provide the smooch with their share, not paying for it but splitting the cost. Buy necessity items like toilet paper, detergent, bread or condiments in bulk and split the cost equally, which keeps them from taking your items and leaves you feeling fully supplied.

Whatever the living situation, either with parents or fellow students, a peaceful existence can be found. Set boundaries, keep to rules, talk out problems like adults and remember sleeping in a bed is much more comfy than sleeping on the street.

### **STYLE** FROM PAGE 4

You can easily sew a hem around the bottom with a sewing machine or handsewn hem stitch, or, if you're lazy or just not keen on picking up a needle and thread, safety pins also do a decent job at keeping the slip cover securely attached to the cushions.

Finally, when it comes to adding pizzazz to your new space, always opt for creativity over design clichés. Sure, you could plaster your walls with inspirational posters.

Be original and check out a record store – Cat's Music on Middle Tennessee Boulevard, has a good selection – and frame your findings on your wall in rows with even spacing. Urbanoutfitters.com sells record frames at two for \$22. That Cyndi Lauper album might not be your cup of tea, but it'll sure look good framed and hanging on your wall. Viola – a self-made, completely unique decoration that screams urban college student rather than pornobsessed frat boy.

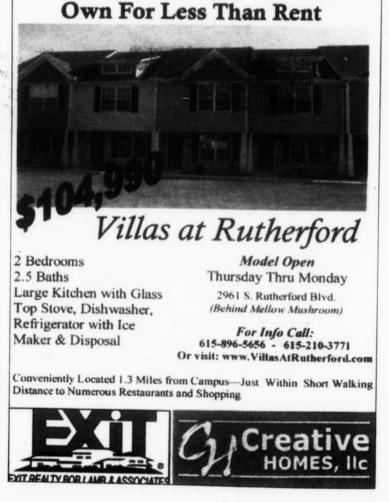
And for the ultimate in cheap and chic interior designing, you can never go wrong with a can of spray paint. Just make sure you use it outdoors with a mask – you probably won't pass the semester if you inhale half your brain cells away.

You'll find that this tip is a little addicting – once you see how awesome that \$3 lamp looks with a coat of gold spray paint, you'll be on an incessant search for your next victim.

Yes, most of us are broke.

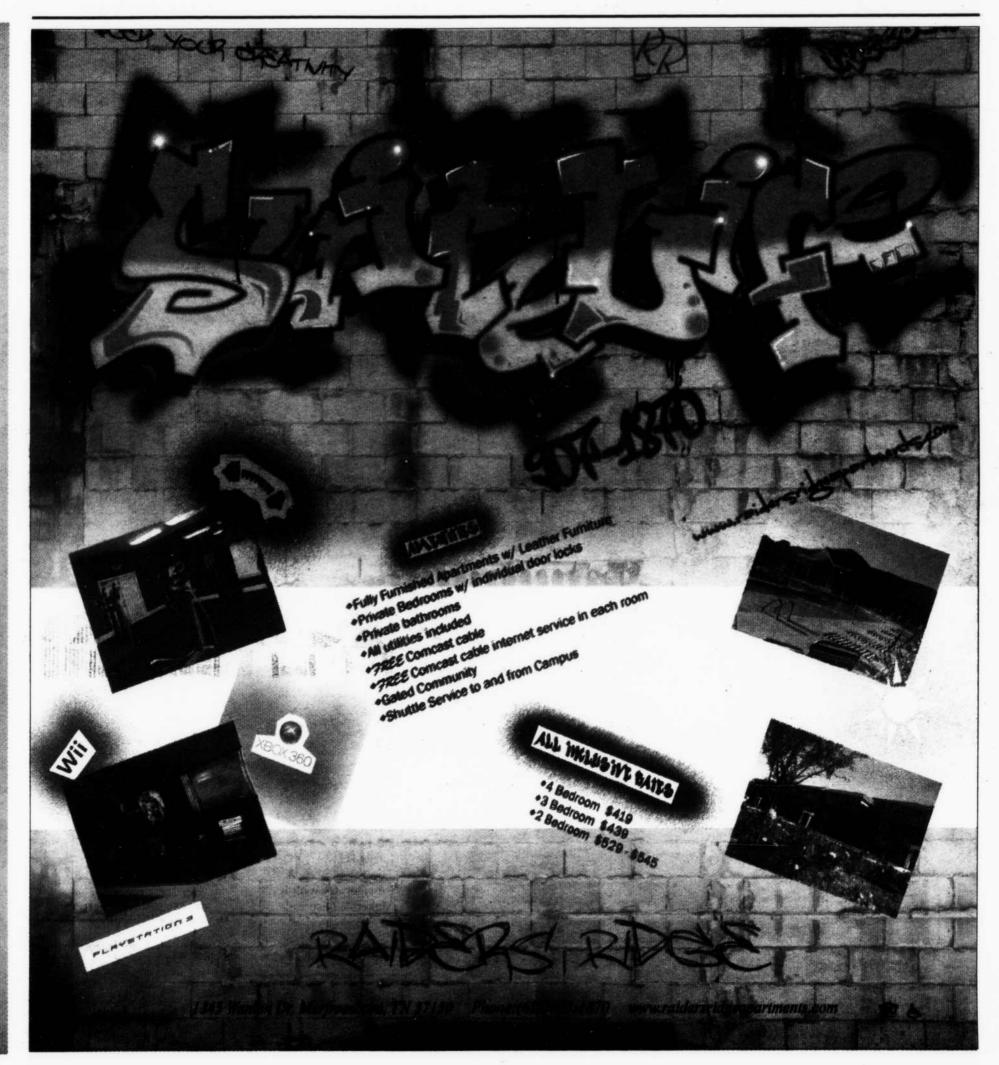
Yes, most of us don't know a thing about interior design.

However, does that mean we must feel satisfied with an ugly plaid couch, a plastic TV-stand and bare walls? No. All it takes is a little effort, a little creativity, a little bit of gas to get to the nearest thrift store and a lot of spray paint.



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