

*The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper*

Monday, January 12, 2004

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE



RESERVED
AT ALL
HOURS
FOR THE
PRESIDENT

What happens now?

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Dickerson resigns, starts new path in life

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

Most students who've met John Dickerson have unfortunately met him in the process of his duties as assistant dean of Judicial Affairs.

However, Dickerson's approach to the delicate task of mediation is one he has learned from his own mistakes.

"There are still consequences for mistakes I've made in the past," he said. "That's the kind of philosophy I approach this job with."

"Good people will make bad mistakes sometimes," he said. "The key is to learn from it."

And what Dickerson learned just recently is that his path in life, which has up until now been largely academic, will take a sudden detour.

Over the Christmas break, Dickerson resigned from his position at MTSU and became the minister of adults at Northside Baptist Church in Murfreesboro.

"Late last spring I started to feel like God was calling me to full-time ministry, to devote everything I do to strictly what he wants," Dickerson said. "Basically, it's God's plan for my life."

Dickerson's connection to his spirituality started in 1996 when he was getting his undergraduate degree in psychology.

He said was saved in college and has spent the past eight years in higher education administration in order to help other students make college a positive place to learn and grow.

"There are times when people don't learn from their mistakes, but that's their choice," Dickerson said. "All I can do is provide that educational opportunity."

Being the person students see when things seem at their



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

John Dickerson starts his new job as the minister of adults at Northside Baptist Church in Murfreesboro. The administration hopes to fill his position by April.

worst isn't an effortless job.

"It's never easy to tell a student you're recommending that they be suspended," Dickerson said. "It's never easy knowing that people get mad at you sometimes."

One of the biggest challenges for Dickerson has been the busy caseload he's had to juggle during the more than two years he's been at MTSU.

"It's tough for just one person, but you do what you have to do," Dickerson explained. "Great people and a supportive workplace have made it a lot easier."

Clint Hall, a master's candidate, will serve as the interim assistant dean until a permanent replacement can be found.

Hall was hired in December

and followed Dickerson around during his last weeks at MTSU.

"He is a tremendous man of faith," Hall said. "And through that, he's very comfortable with himself."

Hall works under Gene Fitch, assistant vice president for Student Life, and John Hays, associate vice president and dean of Student Life. Both Fitch and Hays have held similar positions in judicial affairs at MTSU.

"They are tremendous resources for me," Hall said. "They've gained the knowledge I hope to get."

The administration's goal is to secure a permanent replacement for Dickerson by April 1. ♦

President attempts to look forward after scandal

By Jason Cox
State and Local News Editor

Fall 2003 was a long semester for university President Sidney McPhee.

Allegations of sexual harassment from a former assistant, coupled with ever-present budget concerns and the everyday job grind have taken their toll on the Bahamas native.

However, despite his suicide attempt when the news broke on the sexual harassment complaint, McPhee maintains he's moving forward, both personally and professionally. *Sidelines* sat down with McPhee shortly before school began and discussed this matter as well as others pertaining to the progress and well-being of the university.

Regarding tuition, what kind of increases is the university anticipating for next year, and what kind of funding decreases, including any cuts?

On the tuition matter, it's yet too early to really speculate tuition increase. We have had some preliminary discussions with the [Tennessee Board of Regents] at our December meeting here with regards to tuition, but it was in the context of the 5 percent proposed budget cuts for next year that the governor has asked us to take a look at. The discussion dealt with, if we reduced our base budget by 5 percent, what percentage increase in tuition we'll need to just make up that 5 percent so that we could take care of our fixed needs: utilities, health insurance and things of that sort.

I think that from what I'm hearing about, at least the early revenue numbers from Finance and Administration, we are relatively in better shape as a state this year than we were last year this time. And I don't think you will see the kind of numbers we've

seen in the last couple of years.

If cuts have to be made, where will they be made?

I understand that newspapers are in the business of selling and getting attention in their headlines, and I had a discussion, I don't know if it was with you or perhaps another reporter during the December board meeting, and the title that came out was "Academics will be cut" ["Academics face chopping block" Dec. 4].

The point I was making was that during last year's time when we had to do two separate cuts: the reduction in current year and the permanent reduction. We went to great lengths — we did not do a one-time reduction on academics, and that's because we're in the position to put a heavier load on the non-academic areas. The academic areas did get cut during the 9 percent reduction, but then we reduced that again because I tried to really have my words really reflect my actions in terms of the importance of academics.

This year will be the same. This year, with the 5 percent, and that's going to be about \$5 million. All units will participate in the cuts. We will continue, however, to find ways to minimize the impact on the academic area, because that is what we are all about. But keep in mind the academic area makes up close to 70 percent of the budget. Academics is a huge area that involves everything from teacher salaries, faculty positions, administrative positions in the academic areas, administrative costs to instruction. What we're trying to do is really keep down the impact on teaching, the instructional part, course offerings, quality of our academic programs, but there are other administrative pieces in academics we'll be looking at.

The university has been



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

President Sidney McPhee returns from a 20-day suspension in time for the spring.

attempting to limit enrollment. But this year MTSU is the largest undergraduate academic institution in the state. Does this seem kind of contradictory to you?

Absolutely not. We actually could have been the largest university in the state of Tennessee if we had not limited our enrollment in the last two years. We have turned away over 1,800 students the last two years in my administration who otherwise would have been accepted at this university. So there is no conflict there. We've been consistent. We just have the wonderful problem of many, many students wanting to come to MTSU, and it's because of a lot of things that we're doing.

In September, the Board of Regents approved the only institution in the system that increased its admission standards from a 2.8 [grade point average] to a 3.0 high school GPA, and from a minimum of 20 on the ACT to a minimum of 22. The national average is around 19, and the state is just below that. And there are university presidents that are coming to me and calling me and asking me

See McPhee, 5

Complaint details released to public

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

During Winter Break, the Tennessee Board of Regents released the details of the sexual harassment complaint against university President Sidney McPhee.

On Dec. 11, Sumner County Chancellor Tom E. Gray ruled in *Jane Doe v. TBR* that the complaint and the complainant's name were public record, almost one week after TBR announced McPhee's punishment.

On Dec. 18, the TBR released the 10-page complaint filed Oct. 2, 2003, by Tammie C. Allen, McPhee's administrative assistant, now employed in the development office. In addition, TBR released their investigative report and conclusions and McPhee's response to the allegations.

According to Allen's complaint, many of the sexual harassment incidents, which date back to August 2002, occurred while

Allen and McPhee were playing golf or were at social events off-campus.

"I also felt that getting to know Dr. McPhee on a limited social basis in this type of setting outside the office would help develop our professional rapport," Allen wrote.

Allen stated that in the beginning McPhee requested that Allen kiss him, attempted to kiss her without consent and put his hands under her shirt and shorts.

In one particular incident after the Neill Sandler Golf Tournament in October 2002, Allen stated that McPhee drove her back to campus and put his hand on her thigh as she sat in the passenger seat.

"Dr. McPhee then tried to move his hand through the leg opening of my shorts," Allen explained. She said that she kept her hands in her lap to prevent him from moving his hand any further up her leg.

See Complaint, 4

Franklin press revived

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

Alan Boehm has wanted to build a printing press for 20 years. With the help of a special projects grant, it looks like Boehm will finally see his dream come to fruition.

Boehm, who works in the Special Collections section of the James E. Walker Library, teamed with fellow faculty members Janet Higgins and William Black last year to propel an 18th century wooden press project forward, though the group had toyed with the idea off and on for several years.

"What we heard was, 'You know, when I first looked at this proposal, I thought this was really peculiar,'" Boehm said. "And then as I read it, it became very interesting."

Higgins said she and Boehm were able to draw together such a viable proposal because they had visited a few public schools in the region with a 50-pound tabletop parlor press, and they had seen the public reaction to the press. They agreed that interest in the mechanics of printing was always vigorous.

"People see this thing and they just zone in on it," Boehm said.

The press, Higgins said, will be a functional unit that can be used by classes and faculty. The press is also equipped for disassembly, and can be transported to various sites, such as schools and festivals, for the public to see and use.

"The importance of literacy ... has become a really major component of what we're working on now," Higgins said.

Boehm said it helps students understand the history of the written word if they can see how letters must be set in order to print texts.

"What the press really can help us do is to highlight the importance of printing and print technology," Black said.

Boehm found the building plans for the press in a book by Elizabeth Harris and Clinton Sisson, *The Common Press: Being a Record, Description and Delineation of the Early Eighteenth Century Handpress*

in the Smithsonian Institution. The authors of the book examined the printing press used by Franklin in London in the 1720s and developed makeshift blueprints based on their observations.

Boehm said that he supplied Keith Jenkins, MTSU's master cabinetmaker, and Jeff Henderson, a blacksmith, with the plans from the book, but that some details had been left out of the plans by the authors. Jenkins and his team had to sit down and decide how to proceed, even though they had never built a wooden printing press before.

"When we first started to put this project together ... the idea of talking to Facilities Services and seeing if we might be able to work with some of the skilled craftpeople over there was a very big part of our thinking," Higgins said.

Jenkins, who began applying a dark stain to the wood Friday morning, said the project wasn't especially difficult for him. The hardest part, he said, was securing the right type of wood. Jenkins, via an Internet search, located an outfit in Virginia with large hand-hewn chestnut timbers from an old house and some smaller sections of white oak. The wood is estimated to be at least a century old.

Boehm and Higgins estimate that the completed press will cost about \$20,000. The grant they received covers \$7,000, and a local orthodontist, Dr. Tracy Pack, matched the funds. Higgins said they are looking for another donor to help with the remaining costs. She estimates that there will be additional costs to consider — a vehicle to transport the press, money to pay a student assistant to help with the press, type cases, etc.

Higgins said Stan Nelson, who has worked for the Smithsonian Institution, will come to do two public lectures and to help with the press sometime in April. The press should be complete sometime this summer.

"There are very few universities across the country that have something like this," Black said.

The project's progress is chronicled online in a work journal. Visit <http://pressproject.mtsu.edu> for more information. ♦

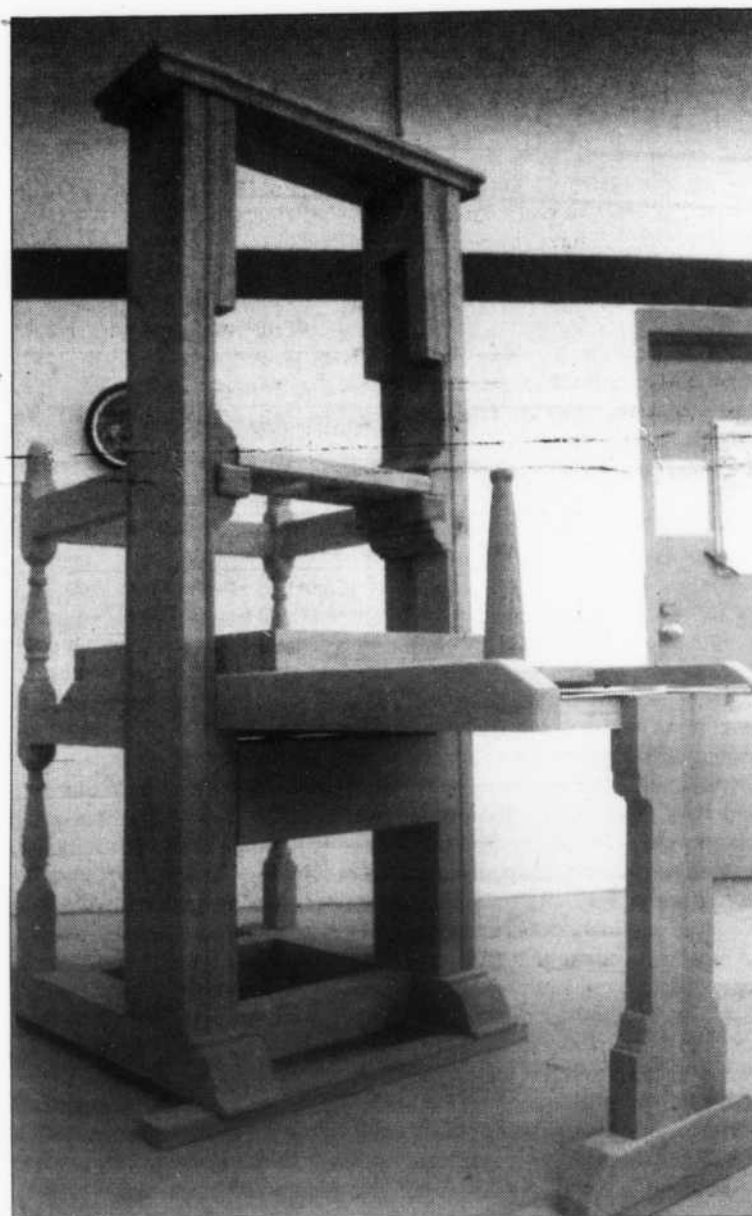


Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

A grant and private donations have allowed MTSU faculty and staff members to recreate a functional Benjamin Franklin-style printing press.

Complaint: McPhee suspended over holidays, takes \$10,000 pay cut

Continued from 3

On Saturday, Feb. 15, 2003, McPhee called Allen into work and where she said he repeatedly asked her to slow dance with him in his office, which she did. The next day, Allen was again asked to report to his office and was again asked to slow dance. She claimed he had an erection at that time.

After the dancing episodes, Allen claimed that the work environment was very tense and that McPhee treated her coldly.

During August 2003, McPhee and Allen played golf on several occasions during which, she said, he asked her very personal and embarrassing questions.

Specifically, she stated that he asked if she masturbated, how frequently she had sex, if she liked oral sex, if she "liked them big" and if she thought he was "big."

Allen responded to these questions by either ignoring them or answering them in

a non-personal manner. When she did answer the questions, she said she felt humiliated.

"I became afraid not to answer and wanted to stay in his good graces," Allen reported.

At one point, Allen said that McPhee wanted them to say encouraging things to each other during the golf game to improve their scores. According to Allen, McPhee said to her, "Tell me that you want me to f--- you." When she said no, he responded by saying, "I will get you to say it before it is all over with."

On Sept. 8, 2003, during another golf game, Allen said that McPhee took her hand and placed it on his pants so that she could feel his erection. According to her account of the events, McPhee told her that he had measured "it" and that it was 7 inches and 9 inches when erect. On another occasion, Allen reported that McPhee told her he had come up with a nickname for his penis:

"seven wood."

According to Allen, the sexual harassment declined in September 2003 when he told her he would no longer ask her to golf games and that she would have to ask him. She said that McPhee told her he was not going to be "fooling around" with her any longer.

McPhee responded to each of the individual accounts of sexual harassment and disputed most of Allen's accounts. He confirmed that there were incidents of hugging and slow dancing, but that they were not sexual in nature and that Allen asked him to dance with her, not the other way around.

"At no time did I direct work away from Ms. Allen or treated her coldly or restrict professional interaction with her as a result of the claims she alleges," McPhee responded.

McPhee said that Allen was the one who initiated sexual conversation on the golf course. He said that the allegations "demon-

strate the lengths Ms. Allen has gone to paint a picture of me as a sexual deviant."

McPhee wrote that he considered the main reason for the charge of sexual harassment was the decline to invite her to 2003 Neill Sandler Golf Tournament.

"She was visibly upset and said that she thought that playing in the tournament was one of the perks of being an employee in the president's office," McPhee wrote.

McPhee further stated that he had witnessed Allen drink too much at university functions and that she had hugged or touched him too often in public.

Although TBR didn't substantiate any of the alleged incidents, Chancellor Charles Manning gave McPhee a 20-day suspension over the holiday break and a \$10,000 cut in pay.

Allen has been transferred to the MTSU Development Office with a promotion and a raise in pay. ♦

McPhee: President declines to comment on complainant's allegations

Continued from 3

to 'send me the students you're turning away at MTSU.'

I want it to be made very clear: Our enrollment management plan is working. We, two years ago, said we wanted to have a percent increase of about 2 to 3 percent. We're there.

How do you plan to deal with a possible influx of students due to the HOPE scholarship?

We have actually put together a large task force report. It was chaired by professor Bill Ford.

The committee worked for about seven months in putting in some recommendations, findings to deal just with that issue. I can't give you that answer now because we don't know. But we do believe by increasing our admission standards, what it does is opens a gap for high-ability students.

Do you know the number of students that have applied so far for next fall?

We're actually up 37 percent in applications [from this time last year]. That will settle down. A good bit of it has to do with, which is good news for MTSU, because we moved up our scholarship deadline to apply for scholarships and because of the HOPE scholarship ... more students are applying earlier. So we still anticipate that there will be a problem where we're going to have to say no to large numbers. We're still going to try to stay around that 2, 3, 3 and a half percent in the final analysis.

Last year, for the first time, we enrolled three National Merit

Finalists. This year, I just got a report from our admission folks and we have eight that applied to MTSU.

And indeed, we're going to be going after them like we go after a top-rated quarterback.

Speaking of quarterbacks, when we talked in the fall we talked about a lot of things that would need to happen for us to succeed at the I-A level, but the main thing that you mentioned was we had to win. That didn't really happen. What could be done to improve the team, get us more wins and ultimately achieve the goal of putting more fans in the stands, which is what we need to do?

I have expressed both to our coach and to our [athletic director] my disappointment in this year. I think we all are, and the need for improvement is imminent and urgent, and that the reality is while I have never taken the position of winning at all costs, if we're going to be competitive at this level, and I think we can, we have to win. And we have to win games we're supposed to win. And we have to get fans in the stands. I am on the 18-member board of directors for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I, and it would be very, very embarrassing not only to the university but to a member of the board not to meet that requirement.

So what we're doing are a couple of things. In fact, in a week we're putting together a high-level task force of community members and university folks starting right this month, to begin putting

together an initiative and strategies to meet that attendance. We can't wait for June and July to start that; we need to start that now.

And we need to be more innovative. We can't do the same things and expect a different result. And I'm not the AD, don't plan on being the AD, but I expect to take a more active role in getting accountability reports as to where we are in both of those areas.

Do you think an overhauling of the way the football team operates could be necessary?

That would be dangerous ground for me to enter because I have no idea about coaching. My only evaluation and knowledge of coaching is looking at whether or not they're disciplined and the wins and losses. I have confidence at this point in Coach [Andy] McCollum. He's made some changes already in his coaching staff, and also I have confidence in Coach [Boots] Donnelly. But that confidence obviously connects to the end result, and I think they both have gotten the message from me.

What have you done with the board and what have you picked up from that to bring back here?

It's been a wonderful experience, a very short experience. This is my first year of a five-year appointment on the board, and I'm one of 11 permanent members of the board, and it includes a CEO, a president from each of the conference. This is the first time the Sun Belt [Conference] has had a representative on the board.

And my first meeting there I obviously was observing the dynamics and the way they do business there, and the nature of the discussion was improvement of academic performance of athletes. They're very serious about that. I had an opportunity to have an extensive one-on-one discussions with Myles Brand, the new president of the NCAA. As a result of that experience I came back to the campus and put together a group of academic and athletic people to talk about how can we strengthen the academic requirements of our athletes at MTSU, and they're working on that as we speak.

How are the campus construction projects, particularly the Honors College and the Todd Building, coming

along?

Quite well, actually, I am pleased to report that, next Monday, the classes will be open for business in the Honors College. In fact, just before the holidays I took a tour of the Honors College with the dean, and most of [the furniture] should be in place.

Todd construction is moving quite well. That was one I had some disappointment in early on in getting it started. It was just going through the bureaucratic process. But you can see the activity level there.

I'm still working very hard, and I want the faculty to know that we still are working very hard on the science building. If I had a magic [wand] and I could use that for something to occur, it would be for that to occur.

Part of the good news we're hearing from the governor's office is that, for the first time in three years, the governor's budget may include money for capital construction. And what that means is they can begin chopping down on [the TBR's capital improvement list]. Our science building is No. 15. They typically take the top seven or top five in one year, and if they do take the top five or seven this year, this new fiscal year, then next year there's good hope that we'll be in the next batch.

I've read both the complaint and I read your response, and it wasn't only a general denial. You categorically denied every accusation that she made in the complaint. I'm assuming you maintain this stance, but do you maintain this stance and what would motivate to accuse you of what, from your position, are false charges?

I cannot speak to the motivation of others, and will not even attempt to do that. This has been a very difficult issue for everybody involved, and a distraction. As the chancellor indicated, they have looked into it extensively, a thorough investigation. The governor's office was involved in reviewing the chancellor's recommendations in the report. They have made the decision. We're moving forward.

What have you done to ensure (the victim) was treated fairly in her job transfer?

Obviously whether the charges were found to be true or not true,

whether it's the president or any other university employee, there's a very specific policy that talks about no retaliation, so that process has been made smooth. The individual, who still wants to remain anonymous and I respect her right in her identity, has moved and are settling in.

Is it routine in investigations of this type for a punishment, for lack of a better word, to be handed down by one's former superior?

I don't know, I've never been in a situation like this. The chancellor and the board; obviously, the chancellor has to consult with the board and the governor. They've made the decision, they have looked at everything to make a decision. I accepted that to move this university forward on and I'm not looking backwards.

Why didn't you take a leave of absence following your hospitalization for the suicide attempt?

There was no need for me to take a leave of absence. I'm fine. I'm doing great.

Your case aside, what do you think of the procedures related to dealing with the sexual harassment complaint, just the structure that's set up in general, and what changes would you make?

I think the university has a very well-developed, well-outlined structure internally and with the board process. I would have no suggestions for changes to that process. It's very extensive, it's very thorough, it took a very long time, but they wanted it to be a thorough review and they followed their guidelines.

What do you think needs to be done, and what do you plan to do, to work on the university's image and your personal image?

Frankly, I am not as concerned about this university image being so severely damaged, or my image being so severely damaged in this process. Obviously, there are people who don't know the university and heard about this case and might have questions and people who know Sidney McPhee will have questions and there will be broad ranges of opinions on that,

See Image, 6

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Image: McPhee anticipating future at MT

Continued from 5

and that's understandable.

The institution, first, is bigger than any one individual or any one person, and this is a great institution.

We accomplished quite a bit last years, in the last two years. I'm excited about continuing here at the university.

I have no plans of going anywhere. I'm looking forward to 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007.

When I first came here, people were saying, 'Oh, McPhee's going to be using it as a stepping stone.' And indeed, yes, I do get a lot of headhunters, and amazingly even during the controversy and, you know, it was published everywhere. We like Tennessee. We like Murfreesboro. We're moving in quality. We're growing in quality.

Last year we doubled the number of external funds. It was a major goal of ours in our Academic Master Plan. We wanted to move from \$5 million - 6 million to \$10 million in three years. But we've really accomplished that in a year.

What does 'external funds'

mean?

External grants; faculty getting competitive grants from outside and bringing them to the university. From \$5 million to \$10 million, close to \$11 million. We've raised our admission standards.

You know about what we've tried to do with the aerospace program, the 12 new planes and facilities. There was the Steinway gift [of pianos to the Robert McLean School of Music]. We just got \$1.7 million and we're getting another \$1 million within the next couple of weeks.

Even during this controversy, I've been working on three major initiatives that we're going to be announcing very shortly.

We'll be announcing a major curriculum educational expansion for the university. We're in the very sensitive stages of that negotiation. I'm working with a major donor.

The week before I went on my unpaid leave [we received] a major gift to the university that I hope we can announce very shortly.

We're working with another agency that the university will be designated a major focus for economic activity for the state of Tennessee.

Those who want to look and stay in the past and continue to hash over old news, that's their problem. I'm moving forward. This university's moving forward.

In regard to the president of Tennessee State University, it seems like every time I come in here we've got a university president taking money from the school. Will you be attending Super Bowl XXXVIII?

No. If I do I will be attending with dollars paid by Sidney McPhee.

\$3,600 a pop. Have you got that?

No, I don't, but I'm considering attending the Final Four. I do have the benefit, of course, of being on the board of directors for NCAA basketball. And I will tell you this: Even though I had an opportunity, and it's legal and would be quite appropriate for me to use university dollars, that I'm paying for that out of my own pocket. ♦

CRIME LOG

Dec. 12 - 4:30 p.m.

Theft

Mass Comm Building
Stolen equipment under \$500

Dec. 14 - 3:37 a.m.

Public intoxication
Champion Way at Greenland
Returned intoxicated individual to apartment but not allowed entrance so arrested for public intoxication

Dec. 14 - noon

Unlawful drug paraphernalia
Corlew Hall
Requested an officer to pick-up drug pipe

Dec. 14 - 2:56 p.m.

Traffic
Greek Row
Subject called and advised someone hit his car, a green Ford Explorer

Dec. 15 - 2:41 a.m.

Warrant
Greek Row
Suspicious individual with active warrant

Dec. 15 - 4:44 a.m.

Vandalism
Beta Theta Pi on Greek Row
Called and said somebody vandalized Beta house and several others on Greek Row. Stated had description and video of subject

Dec. 15 - 12:58 p.m.

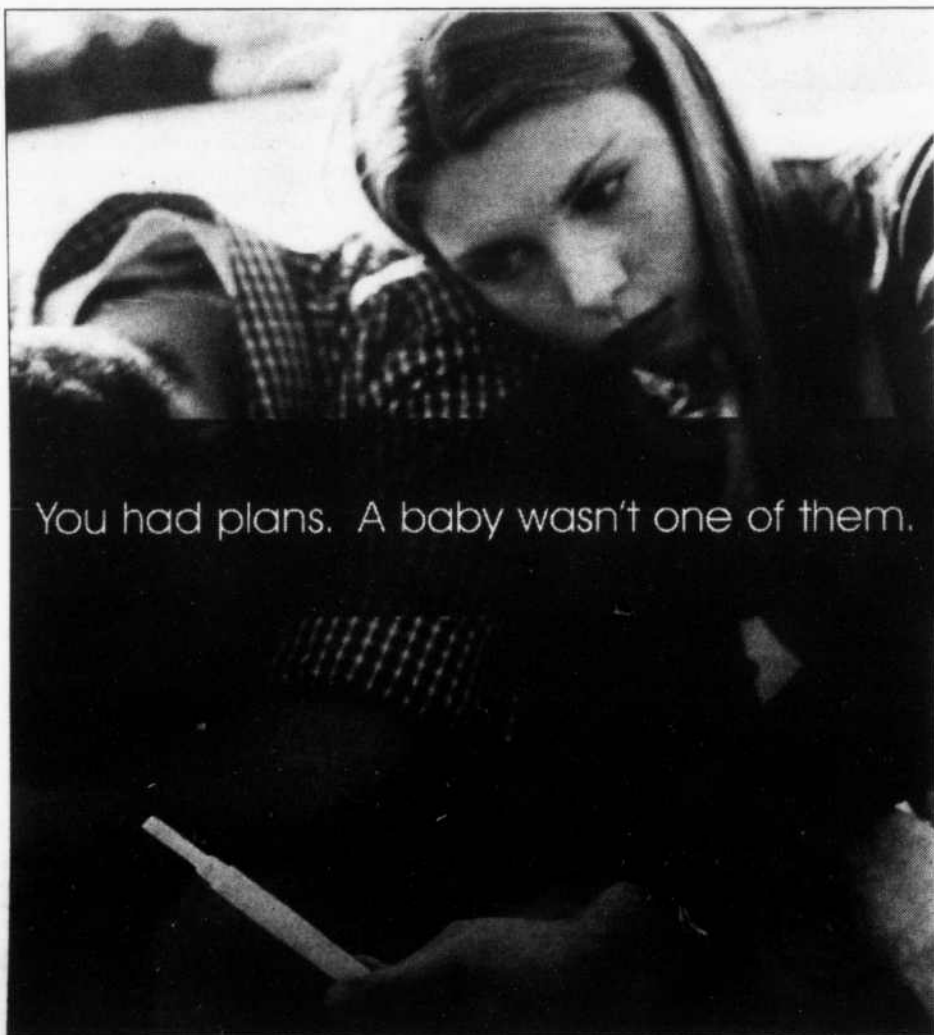
Theft
Business and Aerospace
Victim stated that her credit card was stolen from BAS room N347

Dec. 17 - 2:59 a.m.

Driving while Drunk
Davis Market
Angie Marie Thomason of Murfreesboro was arrested for driving while drunk, her fourth DUI offense.

Dec. 18 - 1:28 a.m.

Traffic
Rutherford Blvd.
Britney N. Hooper of Murfreesboro was driving on a suspended license.

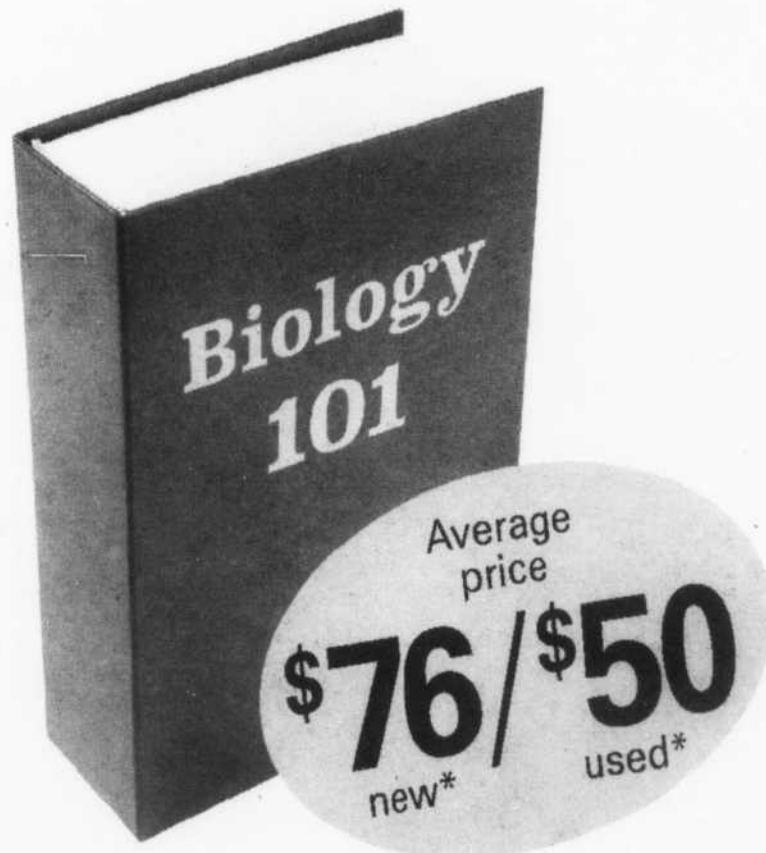


You had plans. A baby wasn't one of them.

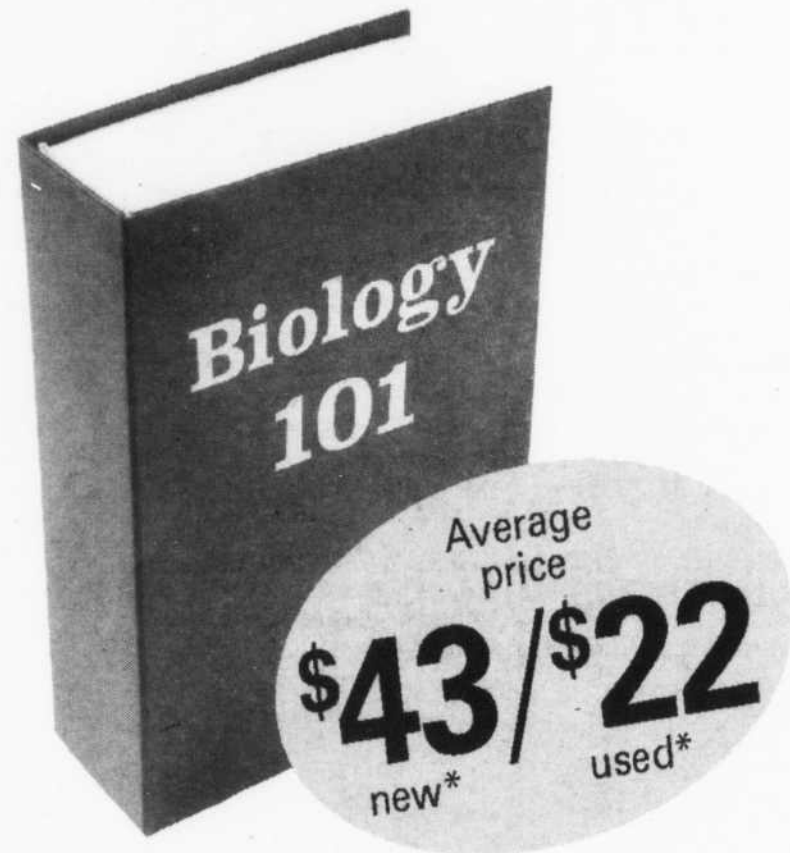
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STATE AND LOCAL

8 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, January 12, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Camp Forgiven short-lived

Homeless in Murfreesboro find help through city officials

By Linda G. Selby
Staff Reporter

A notice to vacate was given to homeless transients last week. They had built an encampment on city-owned property south of Old Fort Parkway named Camp Forgiven and was well-known to many Murfreesboro residents.

Following a meeting of the Homeless Task Force Jan. 7, the notice was sent to the camp giving them a week to vacate and also advising anyone who was interested in getting help that there are services available to them through Room in the Inn and the Salvation Army.

"The city's position throughout the Camp Forgiven episode has been that the camp violates a city ordinance," assistant City Attorney Wendell Dawson said regarding the camp. "However, we are working through the Homeless Task Force so that appropriate help could be found for those wanting to find permanent living conditions.

"At this time, there are only one to three individuals still remaining, but we are still working aggressively trying to find a solution to the homeless problem in Murfreesboro."

The city does not want to cite the homeless in order to resolve the problem. Dawson said the Homeless Task Force working with the city has worked in a compassionate and diligent manner to resolve

the problem and to find placement for those wanting it.

"We are concerned and aware and don't want to criminalize these people just because they are homeless. However, we have to handle this matter and not ignore that they are trespassing on city property," Dawson said. "We are working with the task force to find a solution to this situation and place these people in better circumstances."

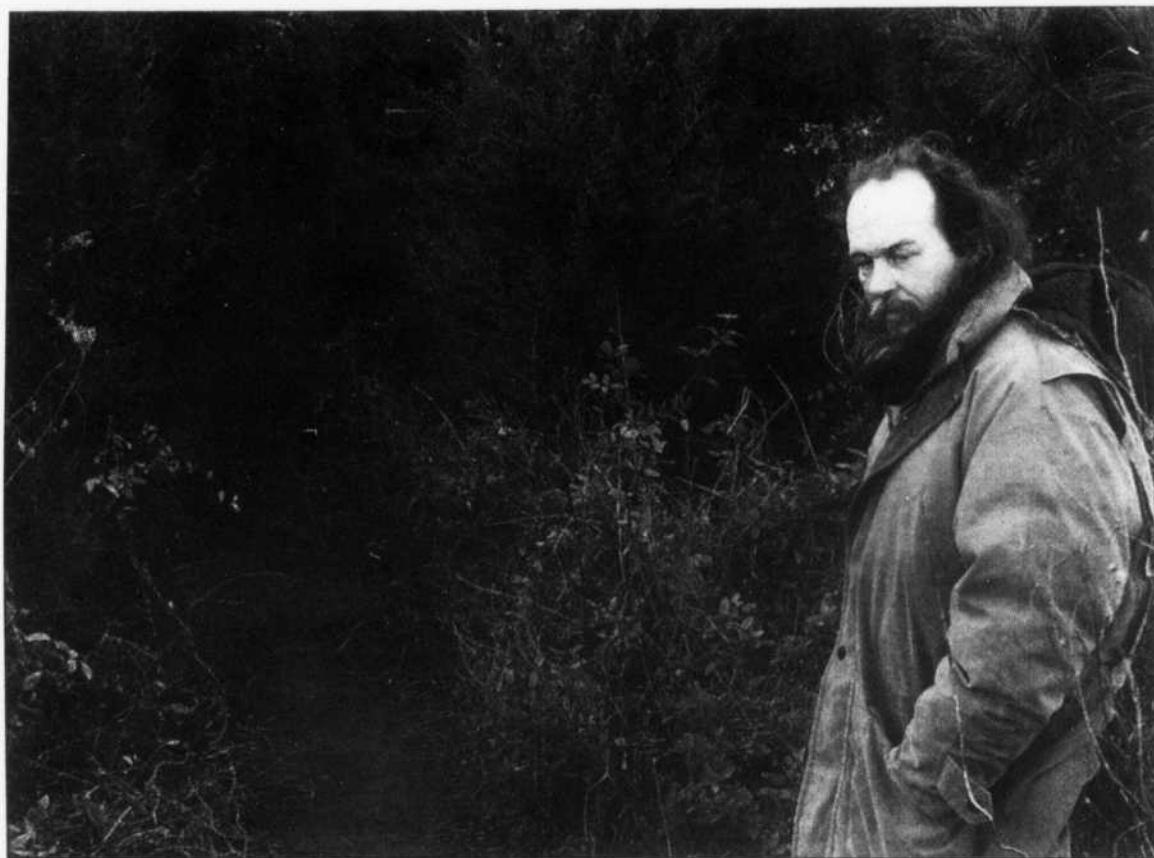
The Murfreesboro police will serve the final notice Jan. 14, but feel that with the work that the task force has done with the homeless there will just be an abandoned lot.

Maj. Roy Fields of the Murfreesboro Police Department is the department's liaison to the Homeless Task Force.

"I like the guidance of the task force," Fields told *The Daily News Journal*. "I've been very pleased with the benefits everyone has received. From our perspective, we'll have to make sure no one is left there once the city serves notice to vacate."

The causes of homelessness are difficult to define. The common perception is that a majority of the homeless are men and women who abuse drugs or alcohol. But it's not really that simple. People get evicted from their homes because they cannot afford the rent. People lose their jobs and wind up on the streets. Single mothers and their children

See Homeless, 9



Photos by Jamie Lorange | Staff Photographer

(Above) Roy stands by the entrance to Camp Forgiven south of Old Fort Parkway. Roy, a well-known homeless man in Murfreesboro and until recently a fixture at the Mapco gas station near the MTSU campus, had been collecting donations for the camp for several months.

(Left) Roy brings in donations from Compton Road Church.





Photo by Jamie Lorange | Staff Photographer

Residents of Camp Forgiven gather around a fire pit in November. Roy assembled the camp and had even been helping campers get work in lawn care, pet care and painting. However, the number of people staying at the camp has dwindled to about three and city officials expect to find it empty upon enforcing a notice to vacate the premises.

Homeless: Task force seeks assistance for camp dwellers

Continued from 8

show up at shelters because the mother can't afford to work and pay for day care.

Other people are homeless because they are too sick to work or were forced to flee an abusive home. Some are children who have run away and can't afford to live on their own. The problem is widespread.

And it's not just happening in the big cities — it's everywhere.

According to a recent report issued by the U. S. Conference of Mayors, the plight of the homeless in America has attracted a lot of attention during the past 20 years. But despite a dramatic expansion of programs and services during the unprecedented prosperity of the 1990s, homelessness remains a highly visible and stubbornly persistent problem.

Homelessness is dramatically increasing in the United States. Requests for emergency shelter among families have increased by 20 percent in the past year, and 38 percent of all requests by families went

unmet due to lack of capacity.

A national organization committed to the goal of preventing and ending homelessness, the National Low Income Housing Coalition, is deeply concerned with the House Appropriations Committee's decision to cut \$938 million from the president's budget for the Section 8 housing voucher program in the fiscal year 2003 Veterans Affairs-HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill.

NLIHC said this drastic cut will result in a significant reduction in the number of families provided vouchers, possibly as many as 125,000 vouchers, increasing the risk of homelessness among families already struggling to find and maintain affordable housing.

The federal voucher program is especially important given the tightening housing squeeze on low-income families at risk of homelessness.

Census data show that in 1999 more than 5 million low-income renter households who didn't receive housing assistance either paid more than half of their income for rent and utilities or lived in severely

substandard housing.

The tenant-based Section 8 program, which provides housing choice vouchers to qualified families, is a vital part of the country's housing policy and a central element to any effective strategy to prevent and end homelessness. Nearly 1.6 million families rely on this program to help pay rent every month.

The National Housing Trust Fund Campaign is working to establish a National Housing Trust Fund that would build and preserve 1.5 million units of rental housing for the lowest income families over the next 10 years.

However, according to NHTF, there is currently no market in the United States wherein a full-time, minimum-wage-earning worker can afford the median rent for the area.

On average, families across the country must earn a minimum of \$15.21 an hour, almost three times the minimum wage, to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent.

In contrast, over the 1990s, 14 percent of the rental hous-

ing affordable to the poorest people has disappeared from the housing market. In many places, affordable housing has been demolished to make room for luxury housing, a large problem where the average wage is \$8 or \$9 an hour.

It is true that some homeless people suffer from addictions, some are mentally ill or want no ties for one reason or another.

While people with the lowest incomes face the greatest difficulty in finding available and affordable housing, many people across the income spectrum are experiencing affordable housing problems. There is nearly a 2 million unit gap in housing that is available and affordable for the lowest income people and the number of people needing housing.

In addition, a recent study found that 4.8 million low-to-

moderate-income working families, earning between the full-time minimum wage and 120 percent of the area median income, had critical housing needs in 2001, spending more than half of their income on rent or living in substandard housing.

One automatically thinks of the working individual with families when studying the low to moderate income families, but there are people with disabilities and senior citizens using their entire social security check each month to pay rent on a modest, one bedroom apartment.

Six times as many seniors needed housing assistance and were not getting it because 324,000 existing subsidized and affordable housing units were at risk of being lost to the private market. ♦

Local shelters accepting donations

Room at the Inn	896-7016
Salvation Army	895-7071
Crisis Intervention Center	269-HELP
First Call for Help	907-1114

HOPE scholarship meetings at high schools today

By Jason Cox

State and Local News Editor

High school seniors and their parents will have an opportunity to learn about the HOPE lottery scholarship in two meetings being held today.

Siegel High School and Blackman High School will be holding meetings at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., respectively. Representatives from the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation will be present to answer questions about the new program for parents and students alike. The meeting is free and open to the public.

"We've had a great response, a great turnout for all the meetings that we've had," said Courtney Dillard, Tennessee educational lottery scholarship marketing representative for Middle Tennessee.

Dillard said one of the most common questions parents have is whether the new scholarship requires any paperwork in addition to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. She said the FAFSA form is the only form needed to determine eligibility for and award the Tennessee

HOPE Scholarship.

Current high school seniors and the high school class of 2003 are eligible for the HOPE scholarship. To qualify, students must have a cumulative 3.0 high school grade point average, a 19 on the ACT and must have been a resident of Tennessee for at least one year. They must also enroll in a private or public Tennessee college or university that is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Those who graduated in 2003 and are currently freshmen in college must have completed at least 24 credit hours and have a 2.75 cumulative GPA during that time.

The Tennessee HOPE Scholarship provides \$3,000 for a four-year institution and \$1,500 for a two-year college or technical school, Dillard said. She said TSAC estimates nearly 60,000 graduating seniors will be eligible for the scholarship, although she points out that some of these students will choose to go out of Tennessee for school, where they can't receive the scholarship.

Students who do not meet



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

Siegel High School seniors Derri DePriest and Eric Little will be among some of the first Tennessee students eligible for the HOPE scholarship.

the academic qualifications for the HOPE scholarship may be eligible for the HOPE Access Grant, according to the TSAC Web site. The student has to have a minimum 2.75 unweighted GPA, have completed certain collegiate core classes, a score of 18 on the ACT and parents with an adjusted gross income of \$36,000 a year or less.

This award, which is for \$2,000 at a four-year institution or \$1,250 at a two-year school, is non-renewable, but students who receive it may apply for the HOPE scholarship the following year.

Derri DePriest, a senior at Siegel High School, is eligible for the scholarship and points out the benefits of having a lottery in Tennessee.

"I think the lottery is an excellent idea to promote higher education, especially since education always needs an extra hand," she said.

DePriest said she will more than likely attend the University of Tennessee, but that she has applied to schools in Tennessee, Texas and Georgia. ♦

New section wants your input, ideas

Welcome to the first-ever edition of the State and Local News section of *Sidelines*. Over this semester, we aim to grow this fledgling operation to provide information and a certain amount of perspective on local issues as well as comprehensive coverage of stories relevant and interesting to the MTSU community.

In addition to news of the day, we also want to highlight the fascinating, the bizarre and the overlooked stories, places and people that add color to the local culture through features and magazine-style writing.

However, when attempting to pioneer such a concept in



Jason Cox
State and Local
News Editor

Middle Tennessee, one question kept popping into my head: What, exactly, does the MTSU community want to read about? What makes you pick up one of the local papers or stop and watch a news report? What makes you stop, look and listen?

So to summarize, you, the reader, have a unique opportunity to help shape the kind of

news coverage you'd like to see and the stories you'd like to read. Is there something going on around town we're overlooking? Is a person you know doing something fascinating? Tell us about it.

While we'll be covering everything we've thought about, there's always something interesting happening that isn't getting due coverage from any news source. Please don't hesitate to send me any suggestions for story ideas that you might have. After all, this is your newspaper – be a part of it.

My e-mail address is slstate@mtsu.edu. I look forward to hearing from you. ♦

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Rutherford County broke by 2007?

Staff Reports

David Penn, director of the Business and Economic Research Center at MTSU, said Rutherford County could go broke by 2007 if the County Commission can't find alternate sources of funding. Other county leaders said that some of Penn's recommendations have been tried but have failed.

According to a Jan. 8 *Tennessean* article, his recommendations included implementing new taxes, such as a local realty transfer tax and adequate facilities tax, which is levied on new development.

According to the article, some county officials are looking for options they had not previously considered. They

want to try options that do not include increasing property taxes or cutting services.

"I think we've pretty much covered all of the bases," Commissioner Anthony Johnson told *The Tennessean*. "That's our apprehension and worry: What are we going to do?"

Penn came to his conclusion after spending four months examining the county's revenue sources, trends in revenue collecting and demands on the county services between 1997 and 2002. He then estimated that Rutherford County's revenue would grow 31 percent from 2002 to 2007 and county expenses would grow 35 percent during that same time.

"Under the best conditions, they won't have enough for needs," Penn told *The Tennessean*. "Under the current tax structure, will they be able to meet the must-need expenses? The answer is no."

According to the article, the county receives revenue from several taxes, including property and local-option-sales taxes, and from fees, fines and forfeitures, charges for services and state and federal funding.

Penn delivered his recommendations to members of the county steering committee on Monday. The steering committee then approved forming a 13-member task force to examine the options. ♦

SIDELINES

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

Got something to shout about?

Sound off!



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Winter movie roundup

'Stuck on You' not usual Farrelly brothers film

Matt Damon and Greg Kinnear play Bob and Walt, extremely well-adjusted conjoined twins. They run a restaurant on Martha's Vineyard, but Walt wants to try his luck in Hollywood (while Bob gets panic attacks at the thought of performing). Soon they make it big, starring in a TV show with Cher and finding love.

Written and directed by Peter and Bobby Farrelly, the brothers have a genuine affection for their characters that separates this film from other gross-out comedies. They seem almost a little too kind. A few more cheap shots would have been welcomed. Big laughs come from stars such as Meryl Streep, Cher and Frankie Muniz, who prove themselves very good sports. —William Fancher

★★ 1/2

Cold Mountain

Ada (Nicole Kidman) and Inman (Jude Law) fall in love in 1861 after a handful of awkward exchanges and a single, albeit passionate kiss. Inman goes off to fight for the Confederacy and Ada loyally waits for him as her world crumbles around her. After their brief rendezvous, the film follows their two stories: Ada's survival with the help of a rough-and-tumble country girl named Ruby (Renee Zellweger), and Inman's Homeric journey home from the war.

It's gritty and sometimes gruesome, although Kidman remains gorgeous and made up like a movie star, no matter how bad her situation gets. Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Giovanni Ribisi, Natalie Portman and Jack White (of The White Stripes) turn up along the way. —W. F.

★★

Flash Ratings Guide

* There are better things you could do with your time than see this movie. For example, you could stab yourself in the face.

** Well, this movie isn't absolutely crap. It might even creep past mediocrity. If the movie is in a genre you're particularly keen on, maybe you should check this movie out. Then again, maybe this movie got two stars because the genre you're particularly keen on sucks.

*** This movie is actually good, at least our reviewer thinks so. But what does (s)he know? Remember, there's no accounting for taste.

**** If you don't like this movie, you're probably lame. Perhaps you'd prefer a simpler movie with more explosions.

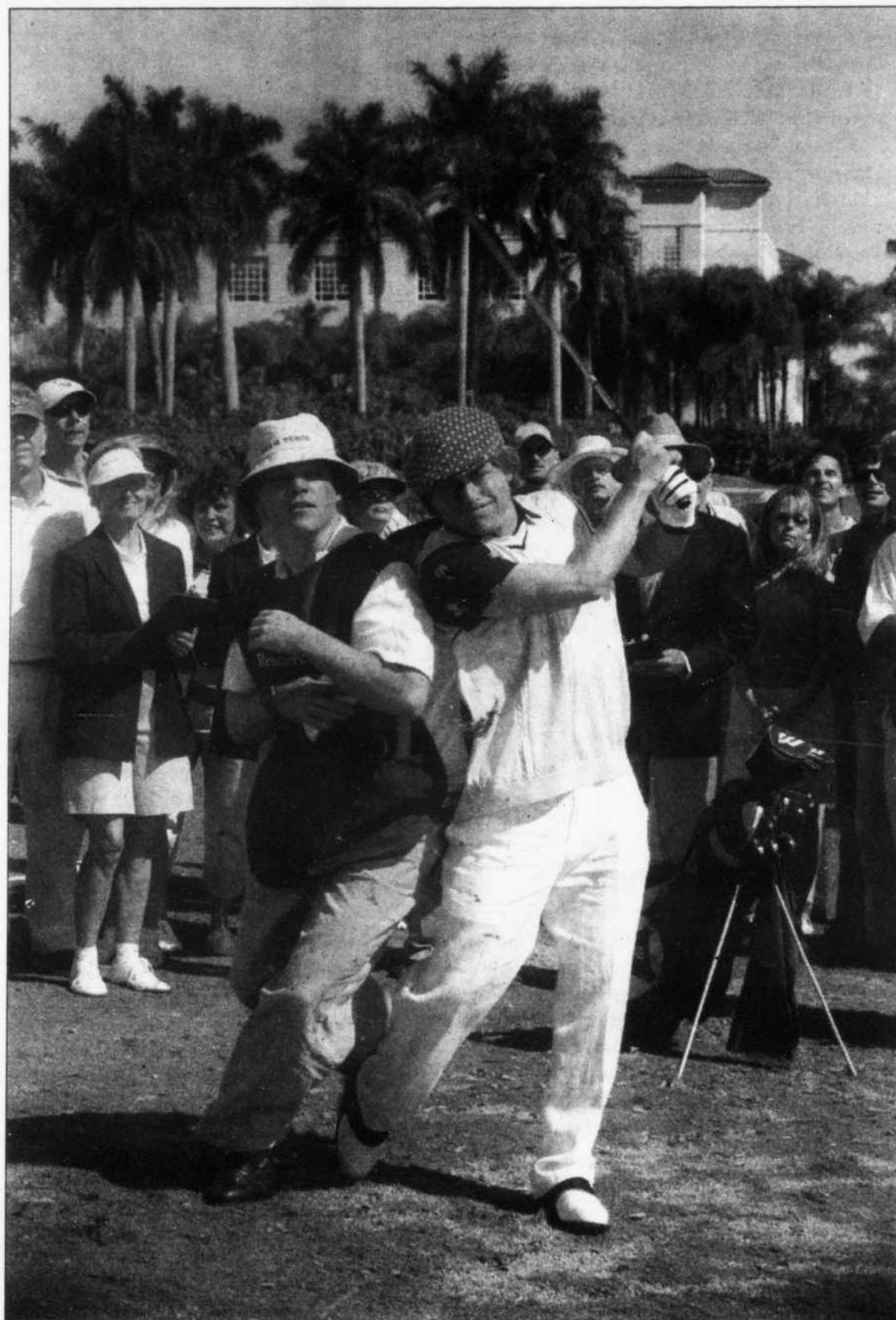


Photo by Glenn Watson | Twentieth Century Fox

Walt Tenor (Greg Kinnear, right) takes to the links with brother Bob (Matt Damon) close behind. *Stuck on You* is the Farrelly brothers' latest comedic endeavor.

Jack and Diane make a movie for your parents

Something's Gotta Give

Harry (Jack Nicholson), a ladies man in his sixties, has a heart attack during a romantic weekend and is stuck with his young girlfriend's mother, Erica (Diane Keaton). As romance blossoms between the two, mom is also attracted to Harry's doctor, a much younger man (Keanu Reeves). I was intrigued by this unconventional setup and stellar cast, which includes Amanda Peet and Frances McDormand, but was let down by the conventional way this romantic comedy plays out. There are some wonderful scenes between Keaton and Nicholson, but writer-director Nancy Meyers (*What Women Want*) felt the need to finish every one of them with a romantic cliché. Stick around for Jack's rendition of "La Vie en Rose" at the end credits. It's not bad. —W.F.

★★1/2

21 Grams

Amores Perros director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu negotiates the tricky English language debut with *21 Grams*, a satisfyingly convoluted arthouse scabbler. In the film's first minutes, Inarritu disperses the chronology of plot threads, leaving us with only intermittent salvos into the abrasive realities of the main characters—a heartbreakingly human drug addict (Naomi Watts), a guilt-ridden convicted felon (Benicio del Toro) and a womanizing mathematics professor (Sean Penn).

While their connections unfold with episodic assurance, Inarritu waxes philosophically on the undercurrents that bind these complete strangers. —Joey Hood

★★★★

Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

In this third and final installment in the Ring trilogy, the Hobbits Frodo and Sam (Elijah Wood and Sean Astin) continue their adventure in hopes of destroying the One Ring, while Aragorn (Viggo Mortensen) and the other members of the fellowship prepare to battle the army of Sauron. This is by far the best film of the Ring trilogy and also the longest. The special effects are absolutely breathtaking. It is well worth the time to see. —David Lawrence

★★★★

The Last Samurai

Beautifully filmed and completely engrossing, *The Last Samurai* is one "Best Picture" contender that's never too pretentious to appeal to the general audience. Director, producer and screenwriter, Edward Zwick (*Glory*, *Legends of the Fall*) makes sure that all the bases are covered by peppering his film with a poignant sense of humor to contrast the thrilling



Photo by Bob Marshak | Columbia Pictures

Diane Keaton, Jack Nicholson and Amanda Peet star in Columbia Pictures' sophisticated romantic comedy *Something's Gotta Give*. The movie was written and directed by Nancy Meyers.

swordplay scenes. Tom Cruise headlines the cast of fine performers as a character who has his share of demons, but is all the more believable because of his flaws.

A top notch production on all counts, *The Last Samurai* was not only a highlight of the holiday movie season, but of 2003. —Forrest Sanders

★★★★1/2

Cheaper By the Dozen

Loosely based on a 1940s children's book (which has also been adapted as a stage musical and 1950s comedy), this 21st century *Cheaper By the Dozen* stars veteran movie parents, Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt, as they bring up the twelve most chaotic children outside of juvenile hall. The tots repel from rooftops, plant axes into doors and chuck darts into each other's skulls, though all the mania adds up to little hilarity.

However, *Cheaper By the Dozen* does deserve some commendation for not bombarding its audience with an onslaught of bodily function gags. This is passable family entertainment, at best. —F.S.

★★

Peter Pan

Director P.J. Hogan's wildly imaginative visuals are a perfect compliment to the beloved children's story in this 2003 incarnation of *Peter Pan*. Indeed,

there are sentimental scenes that may prove too sweet for older audience's taste, but *Pan* balances itself out with some surprisingly dark moments. Among the most notable aspects of the new film include a more fleshed out relationship between Peter and Wendy and an explanation for Captain Hook's madness.

The film doesn't quite achieve the cross-generational appeal of last year's other swashbuckling epic, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, but *Peter Pan* isn't a chore to sit through either. —F.S.

★★★

Paycheck

After staging a fairly intriguing premise, *Paycheck* dissolves into another generic thriller, sacrificing suspense in the second half of the film for things that blow up. Of course, no audience member is going to expect a "thought provoking" experience out of *Paycheck*, but even on a shallow action film level, *Paycheck*'s multitude of explosions and car chases lack visceral impact.

What's most surprising about this cinematic dumbing down of Phillip K. Dick's 1953 short story is that even director John Woo's trademark eye candy is rather sparse. This *Paycheck* is only worth picking up at your local video rental store. —F.S.

★★

Vacant Cage showcases local talent

By Leslie Carol Boehms

VC Comp 1.0

For those of you new to the Murfreesboro local music scene, you will soon be initiated into the fact that most everyone you meet is in a band. And if you're still trying to get them straight in your head, what better way to categorize than with a local compilation disc.

Local record label Vacant Cage (www.vacantcagerecords.com) has just released their first compilation disc simply entitled *VC Comp 1.0*. The CD features some of the best up and comers of Murfreesboro/Nashville. The sampler also includes every act from the Vacant Cage line-up (many of which hail from all across the country).

Some of my favorite tracks include "Paperweight Machine" from Fluid Ounces, "Agushi Myth" from Juan Prophet Organization, "Progressive Democratic" from Character and "Gemini" from Ups and Downs of Industry.

The wonderful thing about this compilation is that it spans genres. Sure, it's predominately indie rock, but it also includes a track from the electro-pop Casio Casanova, and a track from Boro metal outfit "The Tony Tap Dance Extravaganza."



'VC Comp 1.0'

Vacant Cage Records



(three of four stars)

Ani DiFranco

It shouldn't be much of a surprise to any diehard Ani fan that she's back again this year with another brilliant album. The tremendous deviations for *Educated Guess* are the vintage reel-to-reel recording techniques and overall thematic bareness to the album. The first track is Ani solo singing/stating lyrics. Which brings me to another point: *Educated Guess* has some of the greatest lyrics I've heard out of Ani

DiFranco in awhile. Each word is pertinent and pressing — giving off an urgency and frequency to the barren nature of the actual recording. That is to say that the music overall is slower than your typical Ani album. There is less of a push to be fast-paced and more of a melancholy fervent praise. I believe this would be a good learner album for those in the market for genuine, artistic fem-rock.

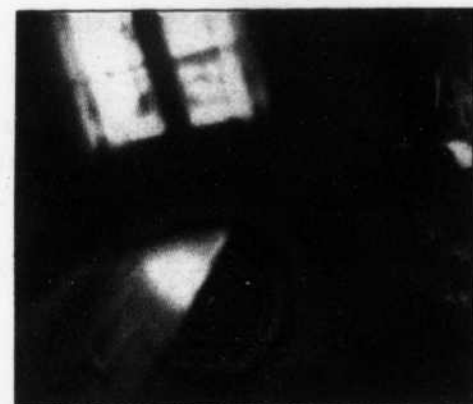
Sufjan Stevens

Michigan
Asthmatic Kitty/Sounds Familyre
Records
★★★★

I want to calmly and rationally direct you to the rather large amount of amazement in Sufjan Steven's newest album *Michigan*. I was having the most wretched day when a couple of my friends poured the album into my ears. Stevens' work completely altered my mode of thinking. Everything wasn't quite as bleak.

Michigan is an ode to Stevens' home state. Yet even if you've never seen the only state in the union with two peninsulas, you can still appreciate this album for its sheer musical bliss and lack of formality.

Stevens is a singer-songwriter whose voice is impeccably sullen and fixated. His lyrics echo of a simplicity



Ani DiFranco Educated Guess Righteous Babe Records



(three of four stars)

not uncommon to many of his greatest predecessors (see example: Nick Drake). However, it is the overwhelming sense of fragrant warmth I received from *Michigan* that made me fall in love with this album (something I rarely do and haven't done since Damien Rice's *O*).

The music is calm, filled with layered renderings of flute, banjo and a slew of other delicate sounds that are what truly makes each note of this record stunning. ♦

Looking for a good time?

3rd & Lindsley: 818 3rd Avenue South, Nashville, 259-9891.

12th and Porter: 114 12th Avenue North, Nashville, 254-7236.

B.B. King's Blues Club: 152 2nd Avenue North, Nashville, 256-2727.

Belcourt Theatre: 2102 Belcourt Avenue, Nashville 383-9140.

Bluebird Café: 4104 Hillsboro Road, Nashville, 383-1461.

The Boro Bar & Grill: 1211 Greenland Drive, Murfreesboro, 895-4800.

The End: 2219 Elliston Place, Nashville, 321-4457.

Exit/In: 2208 Elliston Place, Nashville, 321-4400.

Flying Saucer: 111 10th Avenue South, Nashville, 259-3039.

Inferobar: 527 West Main Street, Murfreesboro, 217-1212.

Kijiji Coffee House & Deli: 1207 Jefferson Street, Nashville, 321-0403.

Lipstick's Lounge: 1400 Woodland Street, Nashville, 226-6343.

Mercy's Lounge: 1 Cannery Row, Nashville, 251-3020.

The Muse: 835 4th Avenue South, Nashville, 251-0102.

Red Rose Coffee House and Bistro: 528 West College Street, Murfreesboro, 893-4000.

Rocketown: 401 Sixth Avenue South, Nashville, 843-4000.

The Trap: 201 Woodland Street, Nashville, 248-3100.

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Monday, January 12, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS



Students resolve to change lifestyles

By Adam Parker
Staff Writer

MTSU students return to school after winter break with new classes, new experiences under their belts and New Year's resolutions.

At the start of 2004, millions of people vow to quit smoking, lose weight or save money.

Many college students add getting better grades to their lists of New Year's resolutions.

Since their professional futures are largely determined by their present day academic performances, students are motivated to take their work seriously.

Mike Wilder, a senior biol-

ogy major who once held a reputation for being less than studious, shifts his focus back to the books.

Wilder intends to graduate in May and continue his studies in graduate school until he can call himself Dr. Wilder.

"Really, how I apply myself for the next couple months will decide the quality of the next two or three years of my life," Wilder says.

Katie Oaks, a senior music education major, thinks the key to success is to realize her capabilities and limitations to find a resolution that is realistic.

"I try not to make really harsh standards for myself," Oaks says.

Oaks' New Year's resolution is to save enough money to travel to Europe this summer.

Business administration graduate student Tara Ross would like to quit smoking this New Year.

"I enjoy it too much so it would be unrealistic for me," she admits.

With challenges and distractions abound it is no surprise that so many New Year's resolutions are retired before they are completed.

"You'll always notice the [MTSU] Rec Center," says Wilder, "the first couple weeks of school it's always a little more crowded, then you'll see people taper off by February."

But not everyone buys into it.

"After a month most people either forget [about their resolution] or they don't have the willpower," Alex Barnes, a junior recording industry major, notices.

Some people see Jan. 1 as no more than superstition.

"You shouldn't have to change because it's a New Year," says Nic Faddy, a senior recording industry major. "You should want to change because you desire a change and not necessarily because it's a new era or it's the end of one year or the beginning of the next."

"I think it's more of an excuse to get drunk," he adds.

Others think the signifi-



Photo illustration by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

Of the 48 million smokers, 70 percent want to quit, according to the Center for Disease Control.

cance of New Year's resolutions have become watered down and turned into a commercial holiday.

"Look at all these exercise machines for sale because they know that most people's New Year's resolutions are to lose

weight," Ross says.

Everyone wants a better future, the challenge is doing something about it. The new year is an exciting time to synchronize watches with the calendar, make promises and fulfill those promises. ♦

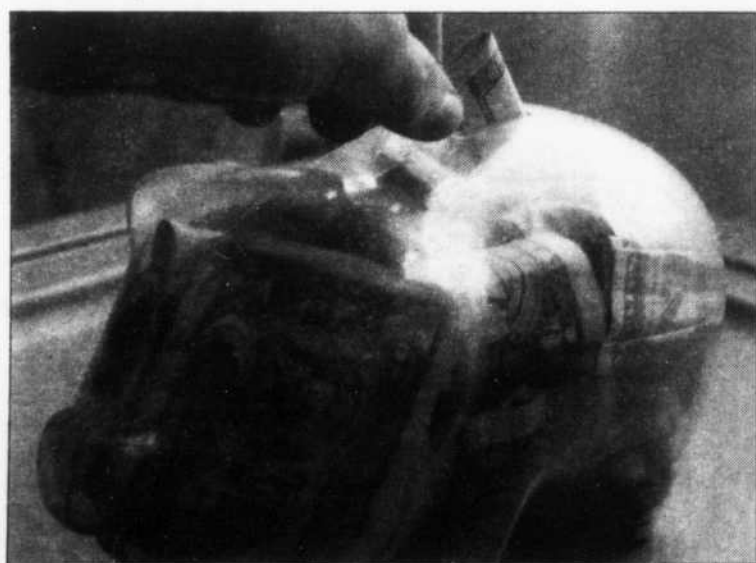


Photo illustration by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

According to a survey by Entertainment Publications, saving money makes up 40 percent of resolutions.

New Honors building opens doors

Classrooms ready after months of construction

By Juanita Thouin
Staff Writer

Honors College Dean John Montgomery's eyes dance with excitement as he shows off the new Paul W. Martin Honors College Building.

"This is our [MTSU's] commitment to academics," Montgomery says.

Engraved above the windows are the attributes of an honor student — discipline, character, faith, integrity, commitment, honor, curiosity and creativity.

Seemingly absent from this list is the word intellect.

"We take that for granted," Montgomery says with a smile.

Though minor details, such as technical repairs on lighting and late-arriving furniture, keep the Honors Building from being 100 percent operational, the \$4.5 million complex is complete. The staff has moved in and it will be open to students Jan. 12.

"Hallelujah, we're actually here," Kathy Davis, Honors College secretary, says.

The Honors building encompasses 19,000 square feet and two floors.

A tower rises from the top of the building. In April, it will become home to a set of four, computer operated, carillon bells. These bells, currently being crafted in Belgium, will chime the hour.

The walls are covered with butterscotch-colored wallpaper and cherry wood paneling. The doors to each room are also made of cherry wood. The floors are either carpeted or tiled, depending on location. Additionally, the computer lab is furnished with classic wood rolling desk chairs rather than those made of metal and upholstery.

Montgomery says the architecture and furnishings were chosen to elicit an aura of excellence.

He should know. Montgomery was instrumental in moving the honor's building project forward and in its design.

"It was a great experience," Montgomery says of the opportunity to participate in all facets of the construction.

"The only thing they didn't give me," he says grinning, "was a moat."

Montgomery is especially excited about the layout of the



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

The tower will house four computer-operated bells.

patio and gathering rooms.

"Our goal was to build an honors neighborhood where students can hang out and share with each other," Montgomery says.

Two large, gas fireplaces — one located in the student commons area and the other in the conference room — give the building a homey feel.

"We wanted to make a home for Tennessee's best and brightest," Montgomery says.

In addition to the commons area, conference room and offices, the building contains two master classrooms with state of the art equipment, a science demonstration room, a mini-kitchen complete with a microwave and popcorn machine on wheels, study area, an amphitheater that seats 60 and a library.

The library is named after Michael Martinelli, a former MTSU honor student who died in an auto accident.

"Our people mean a lot to us and we remember them," Montgomery says.

students will find a real sense of community and a highly credentialed faculty and staff — at one-third the cost of Vanderbilt.

Montgomery says the Honors College is committed to its students and seeks a diverse community of race and age.

The new building was completely funded by donations. Students, faculty and members of the community all pulled together to raise the necessary funds.

One nontraditional honor's student even donated stained glass from a castle in Toronto, Canada.

To encourage a sense of community among honors students, Montgomery has hired Georgia Dennis as the Honors College events coordinator. Dennis is not new to the university; she used to work under Harold Smith in Student Programming.

The Honors program began in 1973 with less than 100 students. In 1998 the Honors program gave way to the Honors College which had a fall 2003 enrollment of 1044 students.

Montgomery is proud of the Honors College growth and especially about the new facility. He encourages honors students to come by and "rearrange the furniture, get comfortable and make suggestions" for their building. ♦



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

New columns adorn the Honors College sidewalk.

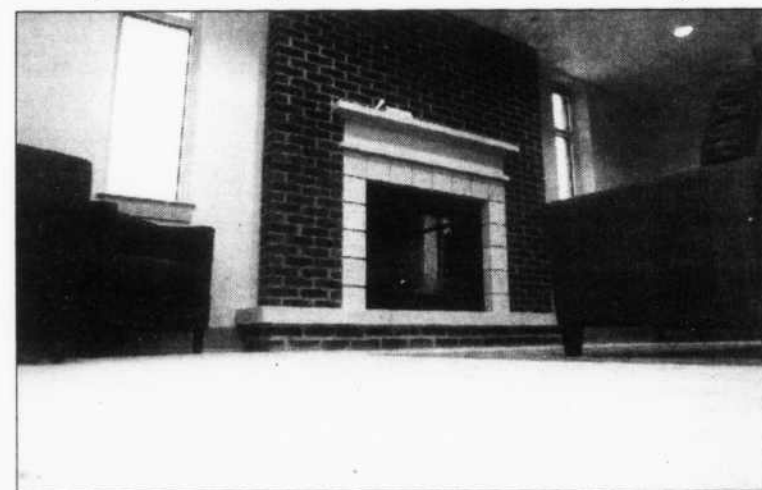


Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

Two gas fireplaces give building comforts of home.

Community outreach opportunities abundant around Murfreesboro area

By Laura Beth Jackson
Staff Writer

The little building is full of bustling bodies. As the front door brings people in and out of Greenhouse Ministries in Murfreesboro, a woman at the front desk answers phones and talks to everyone who comes in.

Because it's a busy morning, she's doing both simultaneously, without missing a beat.

"Hey, I'm here. What can I do?" one of the volunteer workers breezes in.

Her arrival is greeted with enthusiasm and she's soon set to work stuffing mailers with four other women. Two of the women are in wheelchairs, but all chat and laugh as they busily stuff, seal and address envelopes around a large table.

Since it's Friday, food distribution day, a young man sits at one of the other tables and fills out a form for getting groceries from the ministry's pantry.

When he's finished with his form, he talks with one of the center's pastors about getting a job. He leaves with a couple of bags of groceries under his arms and a big smile on his face.

Greenhouse Ministries, run by Cliff and Jane Sharp, is one of many centers that serve the Murfreesboro area. Because

most of them are small and independently run, such outreaches offer individuals a way to plug in with their talents and gifts.

While opportunities abound on campus for the college student, these local community centers are also wide open spaces for college stu-

Don't have any talent? If you breathe, you qualify.

"Really just having someone here to consistently answer phones is a big help," Sharp says. "I often times just need someone to organize the food pantry because I get too busy with other things."

Centers such as the Boys and Girls Club of Rutherford County provide a practical way for many college students to get involved in the community while getting academic credit for their major.

Dea n Deacherage, the recreation director of Boys and Girls Club of Rutherford County, noted that many of the center's volunteers were college students working on an internship or practicum hours for areas of study like recreation.

"Volunteers can come in and do anything from help out with homework, coach basketball, work with groups of kids, anything," he says. "We like to have a pretty regular schedule of our volunteers because that helps us with staffing."

Other local centers can use a hand with cooking, cleaning or just being available to people who need help.

Room at the Inn in Murfreesboro is the only shelter in Murfreesboro that houses men, single women and families.

Those being housed may stay up to 45 days in the shel-

ter. The shelter can hold up to thirty people.

Chris Huddleston, founder and director of the shelter, admits that in such a setting, there's always something to be done.

"We need volunteers at night, and help with serving meals. We need folks on weekends and people just to fellowship with these folks," she

laughs. "There's always something to do."

Greenhouse Ministries is located at 410 W. Lytle St. and can be reached at 494-0499. The Boys and Girls Club of Rutherford County is located at 820 Jones Blvd. can be reached at 893-5437. Room In the Inn is at 640 W. Main St. and can be reached at 896-7016. ♦

"I often times just need someone to organize the food pantry because I get too busy with other things."

Jane Sharp
Staffer at Greenhouse Ministries

dents to try their hand at doing new things, getting different experiences and putting innovative energy to work.

"We do have volunteers that often come in and have something specific in mind for how they want to help," says Cliff Sharp, founder of Greenhouse Ministries.

"If someone has an idea we'll do everything we can to help them. We're a not-for-profit organization, but we rent out this building, so we want to help other people use it too."

Greenhouse offers free computer, GED and reading classes every week to whomever needs them. They have a food pantry and offer counseling and networking for people who need jobs.

They also work closely with other outreach groups in town to help those in need. Anyone is welcome to help.



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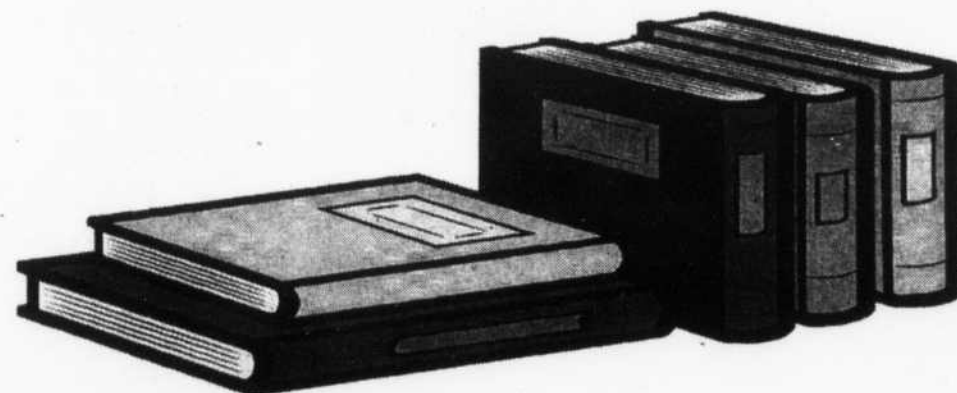
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SPORTS

20 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, January 12, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Over Tide in overtime

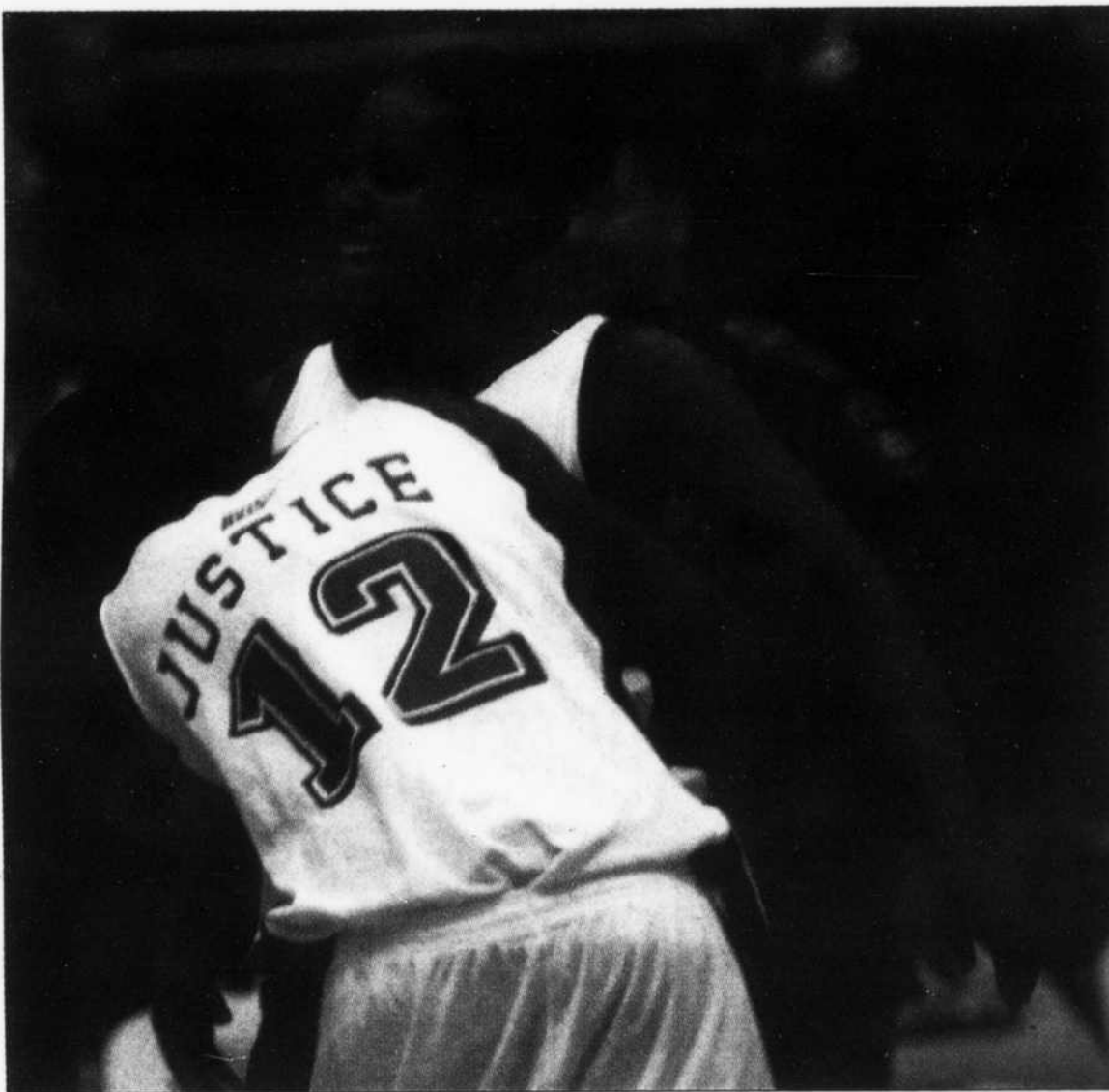


Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

Jennifer Justice and Keisha McClinic celebrate the Blue Raiders' 65-61 victory.

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders (10-3) pulled off a victory against a Southeastern Conference member University of Alabama (8-5) with a 65-61 overtime win last Thursday night.

It was the first victory in seven tries against the Crimson Tide. The Lady Raiders did it in front of a crowd of 1,508, the largest of the season at Murphy Center. MT is 5-1 at home

Keisha McClinic hit a free throw to tie the score 53-53 with 58 seconds left. Neither team scored in the rest of regulation. However, a Patrice Holmes long distance three-point prayer almost fell in as time ran out.

In the extra period, UA's Kate Mastin scored on a layup to open the scoring. Mastin was filling in at point guard after regular starter Manisha Redus missed the game because of a death in the family.

The Lady Raider defense

forced Mastin into 13 turnovers, half of her total for the game.

MT's Tia Stovall hit a couple of free throws to tie the score at 55. Tawana Freeman put the Crimson Tide back ahead on a putback.

After a Jennifer Justice free throw with 3:34 left in overtime, Holmes stole the ball and gave the Lady Raiders the lead for good on a layup with 3:15 remaining. The Lady Raiders ended the game on a 10-4 run.

See Women, 24

Turnovers, free throws doom Crimson Tide

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

University of Alabama head coach Rick Moody was speechless.

His team had a better shooting percentage and more rebounds than Middle Tennessee. His defense limited Patrice Holmes to 10 points, her third lowest total of the season. His team led for all but 2:43 in regulation.

Yet the Crimson Tide lost in overtime.

And Moody knew why.

"There are two things you can't defend against: turnovers that turn directly into layups or points off of turnovers," Moody said. "The other thing you can't defend against is 38

free throws."

Alabama finished with a season-high 26 turnovers, 17 of which came after halftime. The Blue Raiders converted those turnovers into 19 points.

"When you're on the road, you've got to take care of the ball," Moody said. "That's just the bottom line, and we didn't do that."

Four of Alabama's five losses have come when the Crimson Tide have turned over the ball 20 times or more.

Foul trouble plagued Alabama throughout the second half and into overtime, especially after freshman Lauren Hill fouled out with four minutes remaining in

See POV, 24



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

Alabama head coach Rick Moody disputes a three-point call Thursday night against Middle Tennessee.

Blue Raiders post 5-4 record over break

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

After opening their season by winning two out of three games, the Blue Raider basketball team had a Christmas break full of ups and downs.

The team, which now stands at 7-5, picked up their most recent victory last Tuesday, battling back to defeat Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne 72-65.

"During the second half, I commend our guys," head coach Kermit Davis said. "We held them to 32 percent shooting and 25 points in the second half, and that's what won it for us."

In addition to this victory, the Blue Raiders picked up four more over the break while losing four games along the way.

Dec. 6, the Blue Raiders traveled to Cookeville to take on in-state rival Tennessee Tech University.

The home team shot 64 percent from the field in the first half. The visiting Blue Raiders lost 87-63.

A week later, the team had revenge in mind as they hosted the Tennessee Wesleyan College Bulldogs.

Led by Tommy Gunn and Mike Dean, both of whom scored 21 points, the team achieved their revenge with a 94-51 victory.

"Mike Dean brings a new skill level to our team," Davis said. "He is going to make Tommy Gunn so much better, because teams can't just key in on him now."

With the victory, the Blue Raiders now lead the all-time series with the Bulldogs 8-0.

Four days later, the team traveled to Montgomery, Ala., to take on the Alabama State Hornets.

After defeating the Hornets at home Dec. 4, the team found itself in a fight

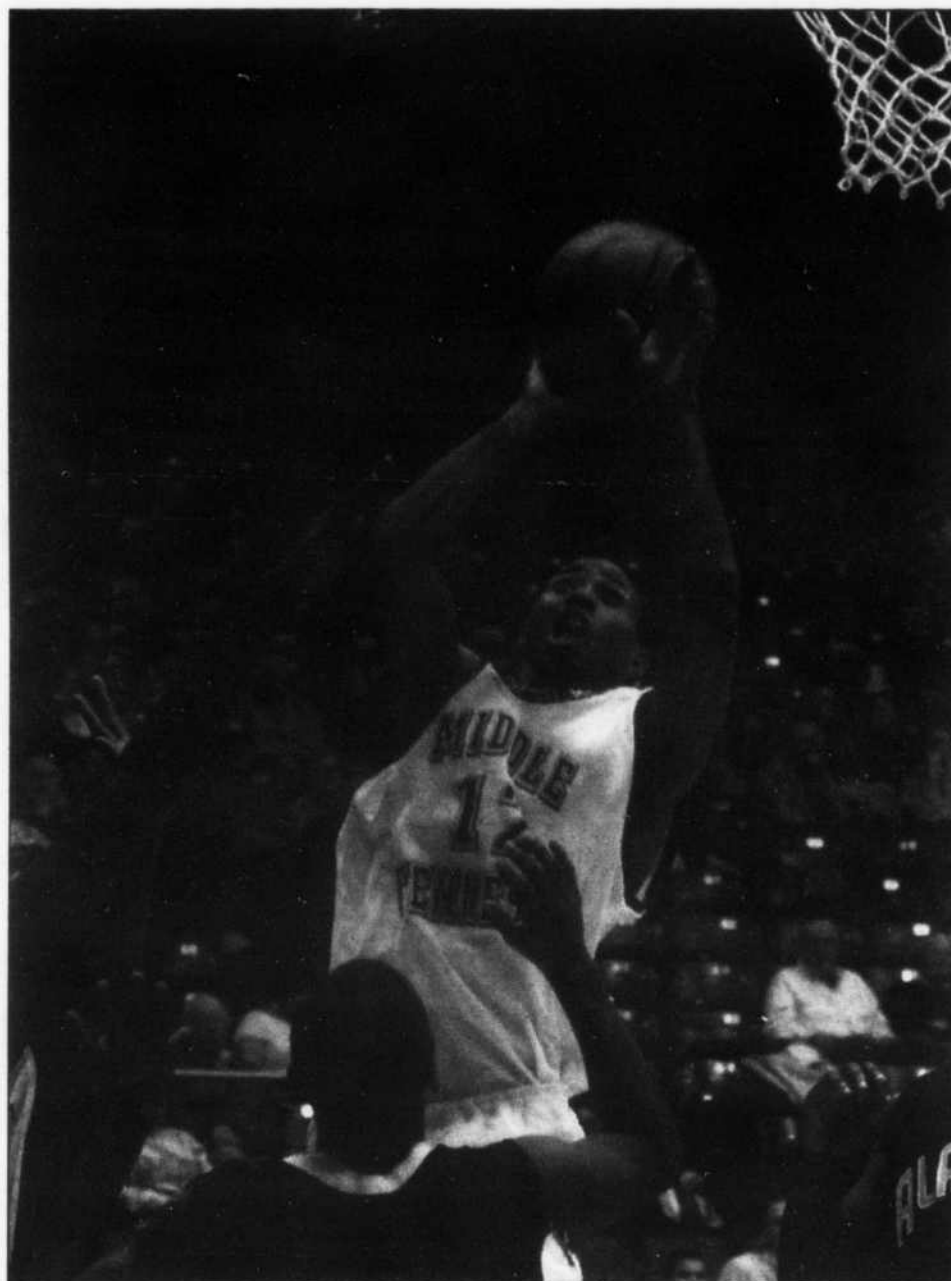


Photo by Megan Vaughn | Staff Photographer

Marcus Robinson pulls up versus Alabama State University Dec. 4.

for the victory.

In the end, the Blue Raiders used

victory.

Three days later, the team faced perhaps the most difficult challenge for the

winter break, traveling to Cincinnati, Ohio, to take on the No. 16 Cincinnati Bearcats.

Despite 21 points from Dean, who was playing in his third game as a Blue Raider after sitting out a year after transferring from Georgia, the Blue Raiders lost 89-54.

In the final game before Christmas, the team hosted the Austin Peay Governors Dec. 23.

The game featured breakout performances from freshmen Bryan Smithson and Alex Weekes, who scored a season high 13 points and grabbed eight rebounds in the 70-56 Blue Raider victory.

"Austin Peay is a very good team," Davis said. "They are also a very physical team, so I am very pleased about [the win] tonight."

Dec. 29, the team traveled to Chattanooga to participate in the Dr Pepper Classic.

The Blue Raiders opened the tournament with an 82-75 loss to Chattanooga and then came back on the second night to defeat South Carolina State 86-76.

Gunn was named to the all-tournament team after averaging 19 points per game in the tournament, including a season-high 23 in the win over South Carolina State.

The team then traveled to Richmond, Va., to take on the Virginia Commonwealth Rams in their final non-conference road game of the season.

After being down by as many as 16 in the second half, the team fought back and turned the game into a close contest before eventually losing 66-61.

The Blue Raiders will start their Sun Belt Conference play Jan. 15 when they host the Arkansas State University Indians. ♦

Smithson scores 22, Raiders gallop over Cowboys 76-63

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

This time, the Cowboys were left in the dust.

Freshman Bryan Smithson led the Blue Raiders with a career-high 22 points, and Tommy Gunn added 20 as Middle Tennessee defeated the University of Wyoming 76-63 Thursday.

With the win, the Blue Raiders exacted revenge for an 84-63 loss Nov. 29 in Laramie, Wyo.

"The biggest turnaround was the maturity of our team," Gunn said. "Tonight we just wanted to get down there and show how our team improved and show the fans that we can win against a quality team."

Although Wyoming led 30-

28 at halftime, the Blue Raiders used a 19-4 run early in the second half to pull away from the Cowboys. A late flurry pulled Wyoming to within nine points with 54 seconds to play, but MT held on for the victory.

"I thought in the second half for us to shoot 56 [percent] and limit them to 29 percent was outstanding," MT

head coach Kermit Davis said. "That's a fine basketball team, well coached by Steve [McClain], and a very, very good quality win for us."

The game was almost a complete reversal for both teams from their previous meeting. In that game, Wyoming used a 19-8 run in the second half to pull away from the Blue Raiders.

"Like it or not as a coach, but conditioning was a factor up there [in Wyoming] with the altitude," Davis said. "It was a two-point game at the half, and they just wore us down the second half."

Jay Straight led the Cowboys (7-6) with 18 points, with 12 coming in the second

See Cowboys, 23



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Cowboys: 0-2 vs. Sun Belt

Continued from 21

half. Straight was the only player in double figures for Wyoming, however, compared to four players in double figures for MT.

The Blue Raiders shut down Joe Ries, who erupted for 29 points in the teams' earlier meeting. Ries finished with eight points and eight rebounds in 24 minutes.

"He [Ries] is a good player, but I think he had a great game [in the first meeting]," Smithson said. "Today we did-

n't give him that chance to pick and pop and didn't give him that open look."

Steven Jackson added 12 points off the bench for the Blue Raiders (8-5), who are undefeated at Murphy Center.

Wyoming, meanwhile, dropped 0-2 against Sun Belt Conference teams. The Cowboys lost 63-62 at the University of Denver Jan. 6.

The Blue Raiders open their SBC schedule at home against Arkansas State University Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. ♦

Women's team win five in a row

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

Over the winter break, the Lady Raider basketball team went 6-2, including a five game winning streak.

Middle Tennessee's first game was at Atlantic 10 member Xavier University Dec. 3. Patrice Holmes scored 29

Bulldogs picked up the 65-50 win. Holmes had 18 points, the most for the Lady Raiders.

A couple of days later, MT traveled to former Ohio Valley Conference member Tennessee State University. Holmes put down a career-best 31 points in the 82-63 win. The Lady Raiders shot more than 50 percent from the

points and Tia Stovall chipped in 10 points.

MT's winning ways continued at Austin Peay with a 61-46 victory over Austin Peay State University on Dec. 20. The streak was now at three. Krystle Horton had 13 points to lead the Lady Raiders over another former OVC rival. Stovall had 12 points, while Justice added 11. Holmes had a double double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

The winning streak went to four after defeating South Carolina State University 76-54 at the Murphy Center Dec. 22. Stovall led the way for the Lady Raiders with a season-best 19 points. Horton added 18 points, and Justice had 14. McClinic also scored 10 points.

"It is Christmas break, and everybody wants to get a win before they leave," Stovall told MT Media Relations.

The 8-2 record was the best start for MT since the 1995-96 season.

After having eight days off for the Christmas Break, MT was back in action at Lipscomb. The streak went to five with the 68-47 victory. Holmes had 15 points, tops for the Lady Raiders. Horton had a double double with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Ciara Grey came off the bench with 12 points. Ditte Jakobsen scored a career-best 10 points.

The University of Houston ended the winning streak Jan. 5 at the Murphy Center. The Lady Raiders fell behind by 16 with 13:58 to go. However, MT went on a 15-5 run to cut the lead to four points. That was as close as the Lady Raiders got in the 67-63 defeat.

Horton had 18 points to lead MT. Holmes had another double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds. McClinic chipped in 11 points.

The Lady Raiders begin Sun Belt Conference play at Arkansas State Thursday. ♦

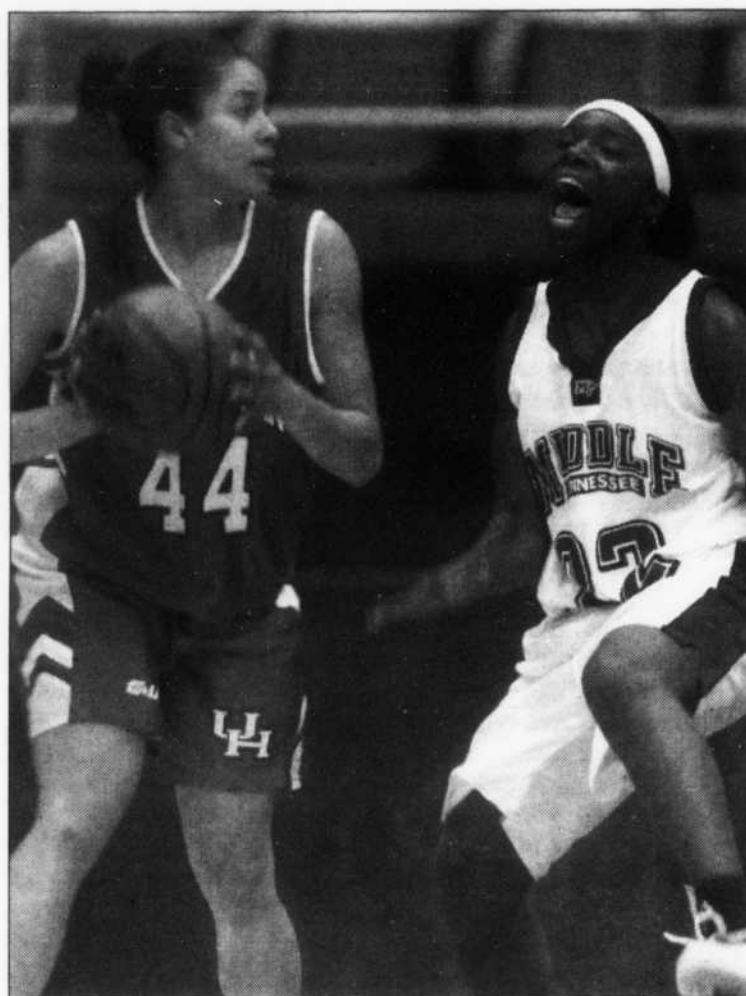


Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

MT guard Chrissy Givens defends against Nicole Oliver of the University of Houston January 5.

points to lead the Lady Raiders to a 67-65 victory. The Musketeers' All-American Tara Boothe had 24 points in the losing cause.

"A win like this is important for our team," MT Head Coach Stephany Smith told MT Media Relations.

After having 10 days off due to finals, MT was on the road at then No. 10 University of Georgia Dec. 10. In the second half, MT could get no closer than 12 points. The Lady

field for the game. The win began their five-game winning streak.

The Lady Raiders played a game in the Murphy Center for the first time since Nov. 24 when they hosted Chicago State University Dec. 17. MT won their second in a row with a 78-55 victory. Holmes led the way with 19 points. Three other Lady Raiders scored in double figures. Keisha McClinic had 14 points, Jennifer Justice added 11

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Women: Win in OT

Continued from 20

The Lady Raiders fell behind, 41-32 with 13:05 left in the second half.

MT cut it to one after a three-pointer by Ciara Grey to make the score 47-46 with 8:19 to go.

The Lady Raiders finally took the lead by a hook shot in the paint by Krytle Horton to make the score 52-51 with 1:53 remaining.

Horton led all scorers with 20 points, and Tia Stovall added 17 points. Holmes had a less than stellar shooting night, going 3-20 from the field.

However, Holmes had 10 points, eight rebounds, six assists and seven steals.

"It was frustrating at times. I just had to keep fighting and get my teammates the ball in position to score," Holmes said.

The Lady Raiders shot 32.8 percent from the field, the lowest since last season. That included making one of their first 15 shots in the beginning of the game.

"We were very stagnant offensively to start the game," Smith said. "We just couldn't get into an offensive flow, but our defense held tight, kept fighting and gave ourselves an opportunity to win."

The Lady Raiders begin Sun Belt Conference play Thursday night on the road against Arkansas State University. ♦

MT Men's team gets revenge on Cowboys

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee Men's basketball team has played the University of Wyoming twice this season. However, in the second meeting, the Blue Raiders learned from their mistakes.

MT lost to the Cowboys Nov. 29 84-63 in Laramie, Wyo., in only the second game of the season.

Last Thursday night's 76-63 victory over the same Cowboys was played in front of 3,508 fans inside the friendly confines of the Murphy Center. The Blue Raiders are now 6-0 at home.

"They ran out of gas and got tired on the road as we did in Laramie," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "That is a fine basketball team, well coached by Steve [McClain] and a very, very good quality win for us."

The win was the first for the Blue Raiders against a team from the well-known Mountain West Conference.

Two of the key pieces of MT's squad, Mike Dean and Michael Cuffee, did not participate in the loss. Dean was still ineligible due to his transfer from the University of Georgia, while Cuffee was out because of a knee injury that kept him out of three games.

Dean scored 10 points, and Cuffee hit two key free throws and had five rebounds in the win.

In the Nov. 29 win, UW shot 56 percent in the second half and 50 percent in the entire game, while MT shot 33 percent in the second half.

Thursday night, the Blue Raiders shot 56 percent in the second half and held the Cowboys to 29.5 percent.

Cowboy forward Joe Ries scored 29 points, including 16 in the second half in

the win. In the rematch, he was a nonfactor with MT allowing him eight points.

In UW's win Nov. 29, the Cowboys extended their lead by going on a 19-8 run in a 10-minute period in the second half.

MT had a run of their own in their victory on Thursday with a 19-4 run to break the game wide open in the second half.

"In Laramie, their home court advantage was definitely used to their advantage," MT guard Bryan Smithson said. "In the second half, we came out, and they just scorched us. We got winded because we just weren't used to the elevation. But I think today we just proved to ourselves that we play with anybody."

Smithson led all scorers with a career-high 22 points.

Their first SBC game is Jan. 15 when Arkansas State University comes to the Murphy Center. ♦

POV: Crimson Tide coach Moody speechless with loss

Continued from 20

regulation. Hill was six of seven from the floor and still finished as Alabama's leading scorer with 12 points.

To make matters worse for Moody and his team, the Blue Raiders willingly admitted they were fortunate to escape with their first victory over Alabama in seven tries.

"We didn't necessarily play well, especially offensively," MT head coach Stephany Smith said. "But we kept fighting and gave ourselves a chance. You always have a chance if you have heart and you fight."

Smith also credited the largest Murphy Center crowd of the season with keeping the team motivated when it was

down by as many as 12 points in the first half.

"What unbelievable fan support we had tonight," she said. "It was a great crowd that was completely behind us and gave us the extra energy that we needed to pull it out."

After the game, Moody, usually an energetic coach on the floor, simply had to stay quiet.

"I told my team the best thing I could say is nothing. There's nothing I could go into the dressing room and say that could change the situation," he said. "It would be best for me to just keep my mouth shut before I say something that I don't need to say."

"Life is not fair, and it wasn't fair to us tonight." ♦

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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Monday, January 12, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 25

From the Editorial Board TBR dropped ball on McPhee punishment

What do we do when a high profile university president is accused of sexually harassing his assistant for more than a year?

Slap him on the wrist and send him on his merry way, according to the Tennessee Board of Regents.

The TBR's reasoning for such a lenient punishment of a 20-day suspension and a \$10,000 pay reduction for university president Sidney McPhee rested on the fact that the TBR has no policy for reassigning university presidents.

Given the fact that this situation had never previously occurred at MTSU, we agree that we have to go on speculation about what should be done. However, we propose the TBR consider creating a more appropriate policy for doling out punishment.

If this harassment complaint had been filed against another university official in a lower position, according to TBR policy, the option to relocate the individual would

be considered. Because there is no other TBR university in Murfreesboro, an effort to relocate the complainant, Tammie Allen, was not an option. TBR essentially tried to remove the symptom but the problem remains.

Allen wrote clearly in her complaint that she wished to remain in her position in the Office of the President but felt that could not be achieved if McPhee was allowed to remain in his position as president.

The TBR clearly ignored these wishes because of the lack of policy, and instead Allen was reassigned to MTSU's Development Office with a promotion.

Maybe they think a higher position and an extra digit on Allen's paycheck will shut her up and erase her memory. This is a blatant misuse of the university's governing body to essentially sweep this incident under the rug.

The TBR should take out the rugs for a thorough spring cleaning. ♦

Enjoy higher education

The proliferation of anti-intellectualism annoys me to no end. I once heard Dave Ramsey say to his listeners, "Read a nonfiction book this year!" That about sums up the desperation I feel regarding this subject.

I just don't understand why so many people simply choose to be ignorant. Too many people just consume mainstream culture without ever really exercising much intelligent thought. They are mainly interested in self-gratification and could care less about making a difference in the lives of anyone other than themselves.

These people are easy to spot at universities because they complain about how much they hate their classes and instructors and talk about wanting to get finished with college as soon as possible. Some are only here because they think college will enable them to get a better job than they could get without a degree. Others are here for the parties and social life. Why is it so hard, at an institution of higher learning, to find lovers of knowledge?

I am taking one class this semester that I only signed up for because it is required for

Human, All Too Human



Eric Blevins
Staff Columnist

my major. All my other classes are ones I want to take. Last semester, all the classes I took were classes I would have liked to take whether I needed them for my major or not.

There are all kinds of classes outside of my major that I want to take but cannot due to time and financial constraints. My hunger for knowledge only grows, and I'm disgusted by all the apathy I see.

Is it really impossible for someone to find a subject he or she is interested in here?

There are so many majors offered and classes to choose from at MTSU, I'm sure anyone can find something to stimulate his or her mind and creativity.

I also wonder why so many students have such a hard time getting along with their instructors. I'm about to start my eighth semester of college

and have never had a professor whom I disliked as a person. I can only think of two whose teaching performance I was disappointed with, not because they were "too hard" like some students complain but because they were either not as knowledgeable about the subject as they should've been or didn't present the material as well as they should have.

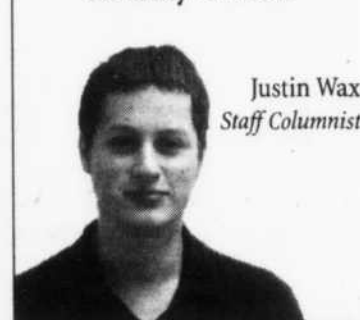
I have great relationships with most of my teachers, yet some students don't seem to get along with any of them. Could it be they just don't want to do any work? There's much to learn from your professors. They are providing you with a priceless service, and I hate to see them not getting the respect they deserve.

And why is everyone in such a hurry to finish college? This is probably the best chance to advance your knowledge and better yourself as a person that you will have in your life. Enjoy your time here while it lasts. You just might miss it when it's gone. ♦

Eric Blevins is a senior mass communications major and can be reached via e-mail at ericblev@hotmail.com

A country that meant nothing

Reality Check



Justin Wax
Staff Columnist

American soldier Mitchell Sharp was angry. Like most of his fellow soldiers, Sharp felt he was fighting for "a country that means nothing to us." Iraq 2003? No. France 1944. Most American soldiers in Europe believed they should have been fighting the Japanese, who had deliberately attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor, but after seeing

and smelling the mass graves at the Landsberg concentration camp, Maj. Richard Winters said, "Now I know why I am here."

"Saddam Hussein did not attack America on Sept. 11, 2001; bin Laden attacked us" is the rhetoric hurled at us by anti-war protesters and

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Put this down and go to class.

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Find joy in simplicity

The recent holiday festivities and woes really weren't that bad.

My boyfriend and I have been called old farts, party poopers and a slew of other "you're acting too old" comments. We like to think that we prefer life in the smart lane. Either way, we were invited to hang out with my parents and grandparents. This party's attendees were mostly people originally from Europe, like my family and me.

We arrived late at the scene because my mother (I love her dearly) didn't write down the directions, and at a four-way stop in what was not the best neighborhood, she tried every direction until she finally stopped at a gas station and had my father ask for directions. Of course, the first road she had tried was the right one.

The location wasn't exactly what we expected, to say the least. It was in the clubhouse of what were not the nicest apartments.

We all walked in wide-eyed, spoiled by previous years' parties, but the humble decorations were festive, though we saw no one on the dance floor at first. There was a table of food, and music was blaring from the speakers.

Not doing justice to the funkiness, most songs sounded like early 1990s MIDI ballads derived from classic Italian songs. Think the two-step to ballads.

Not far from the tartar and other cultural dishes, another table had disposable dinnerware and alcoholic delights. Being the designated driver, I had no buffer for the experience, which I now don't regret.

Aside from being unwillingly analyzed by the attendees, I had a lot of fun. I was asked nearly every question that has something to do with status, like when a very nice woman asked me what

On The Rocks



Klara Nizki
Staff Columnist

grade I was in.

Besides talking about my dreams and aspirations, what I'm doing in school and at work and how long I've been living with my boyfriend, my favorite confrontation was with an older man I had never met who wished me a happy new year.

He meant well, thinking I was not able to fully understand my native language (I left my country at three years old.), and proceeded to say his well-meant wishes in the same way a person would slowly say "We come in peace" to a tribe of aliens. I shot back (in my native language) a friendly, harmless "Oh, happy New Year's to you, too!"

People began to fill the dance floor. One of the most wonderful things I saw was my grandparents dancing together like they were gliding on air.

My grandmother loves to dance and danced with almost every man in the room, being the flirt she is. At her request, I finally nervously stepped out onto the dance floor and possibly had the most fun I've had all year.

The lesson I've learned is nothing material matters in having a good time. It's really about spirit and happiness generated from each other. I'm glad I went because I had a blast, and I'll have these hilarious memories to look back on. ♦

Klara Nizki is a sophomore business major and can be reached via e-mail at knizki@aol.com.

College has non-academic lessons

It is four years to the month since I entered college at 19. It doesn't seem like more than a week goes by without someone asking me when I'm going to graduate.

After all, people are supposed to graduate college in four years, right? This is a feat I'm not going to accomplish. In a way, that kind of seems odd because I had 30 hours after my first six months.

If I had wanted to take 18 hours a semester and a full load during the summer, I would have been able to graduate in three years. After that, I guess it would have been off to law school, finishing that as quickly as possible and starting a real job with some real money.

Somewhere along the way, I decided against this. I don't know if it was a conscious or unconscious decision.

Here I am four years later with graduation still approximately a year away.

The fact that I'm now 23 and don't have a degree yet was beginning to weigh on me last semester until I spoke with one of my professors, Clyde Willis, or Clyde to those of us who have had a class with him.

He reminded me it's not

Yesterday's Tomorrow



John Miller
Staff Columnist

always the destination but the journey that matters. I learned far more about life talking with him outside of class than I have from any paper or test.

In college I have studied abroad in France twice, done an internship in a French marketing firm and worked in Congress in Washington, D.C., as well as for Congressman Bart Gordon here in Murfreesboro. I am now beginning an internship with the Tennessee Legislature.

I have become active here on campus through different organizations, tutored inner city kids, rediscovered how important my best friends are, finally let go of the past and fell in love again, only to have my heart broken again.

None of these things are exactly spelled out in the schedule book or any packet we get when we enter college. These are the stories we write

along the way. I haven't chosen the most direct path, but I have chosen one I feel is more interesting.

Sometimes we learn more from failing than succeeding. Life is not something that is prescribed, nor can someone tell us every decision that will be best for us. However, here are some suggestions you may wish to try:

Make friends outside of those you came to college with.

Get involved on campus through the Greek system, any one of the numerous organizations or any group you think might be interesting.

Try writing for *Sidelines* or hosting your own radio show. Don't be afraid to take a class because it or the professor is difficult.

My biggest advice would be to study abroad. Traveling to another country will teach you more about the world and yourself in a semester or two than four years of college can. Just don't be afraid to try new things. Life is a journey, not a destination. ♦

John Miller is a senior political science and French double major and can be reached via e-mail at jcm2r@mtsu.edu.

Jail time should fit crime

A friend of mine is going to jail.

She failed to appear in court, so she is being detained in a Rutherford County jail for seven days.

She did something wrong, without a doubt, and she should pay something for her minor offense.

My friend did appear in a courtroom last summer. That time, she wasn't standing behind the defense table. Her husband was. The couple appeared in court because of domestic violence charges. To put it bluntly, he beat the crap out of her. My friend's husband was ordered to stay away from her, and he spent two days behind bars.

Four Shots Of Espresso



Alan Coulter
Staff Columnist

All of this rode on a deal with the district attorney that he had no previous offenses.

He spent his two-day sentence. However, the district attorney dropped the ball because there were other arrests in his history.

One agent found information on him, but because of a job transfer or complication,

the information was lost, and the criminal charges were never justified and pursued further.

In the end, my friend is paying more than three times as much jail time as her abuser. Perhaps I'm biased, but failure to appear seems like a far lesser offense than endangering the life of another human being.

I actually attended the domestic hearing this summer, and I was amazed at what I saw.

The room was loaded with women whose husbands hit them or verbally abused them. Some made me sick to my

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Country: Bush exhibits courage, strength in learning history lessons

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Democratic politicians. Nearly 60 Novembers later, American GIs smell and see mass graves that reek of Saddam Hussein's savagery, but back home, some Americans don't know why we invaded and liberated Iraq.

Saddam, like Hitler in World War II, committed genocide, didn't directly attack the United States and had a military pact with those who did directly attack the United States.

The Weekly Standard released a memo from the

undersecretary of defense to Senate Intelligence Committee members that provided evidence that Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden had "an operational relationship from the early 1990s to 2003 that involved training in explosives and weapons of mass destruction, logistical support for terrorist attacks, al Qaeda training camps and safe haven in Iraq and Iraqi financial support for al Qaeda."

The link was widely accepted during the Clinton administration.

As Hitler rose to power, he

concealed his Versailles Treaty violations. Saddam followed suit and attempted to conceal his violations, realizing Bill Clinton and the United Nations would not seriously punish him. Then Saddam removed U.N. weapons inspectors.

For more than 18 months Bush tried diplomacy through the United Nations.

His goal was to see the United Nations enforce its own rules and give Iraq a chance to cooperate with international resolutions.

Several violations later,

Bush offered Saddam a chance to avert war by leaving the country, but Bush had no intention of becoming a latter-day Neville Chamberlain. England and France could have crushed Nazi Germany for violating sanctions, but Prime Minister Chamberlain lacked the courage to confront Hitler.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill anguished the Allied defeat but refused to accept it as permanent.

Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair refused to capitulate to a dictator. With

international support, Bush set and enforced rules that could lead to lasting peace.

Bush's courage and strength led to a war decided in weeks, not years. Wars in this century must be fought on the terms of free democracies, not ruthless dictators and terrorists. Churchill would be proud Bush learned this lesson of history. ♦

Justin Wax is a freshman history major and can be reached via e-mail at jtw2n@mtsu.edu.

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

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Jail: Abused women must fight for rights

Continued from 1

stomach.

And this was only one day.

Any given day at the Rutherford County Courthouse, dozens of women file through the doors to fight for their right not to have to fight in their own homes.

These are only the cases reported.

I'm proud of my friend. She may start her new year behind bars, but she will experience more freedom than many

women across the United States.

The world was shocked to see how women were treated in Afghanistan because it was so public. Our women may not be stoned to death in the street, but abuse happens behind closed doors.

I encourage everyone to support laws that will enforce peace in the home and bring help both to the abusers and to the abused.

Do we want to win the war on terror? Our fight must

begin within our own borders, our own neighborhoods and our own homes.

To my friend, I'm proud of you. I respect you so much. You're paying the consequences for your actions even when the law didn't avenge you. Continue being an example for women in your situation. ♦

Alan Coulter is a senior English major and can be reached via e-mail at ajc2h@mtsu.edu.

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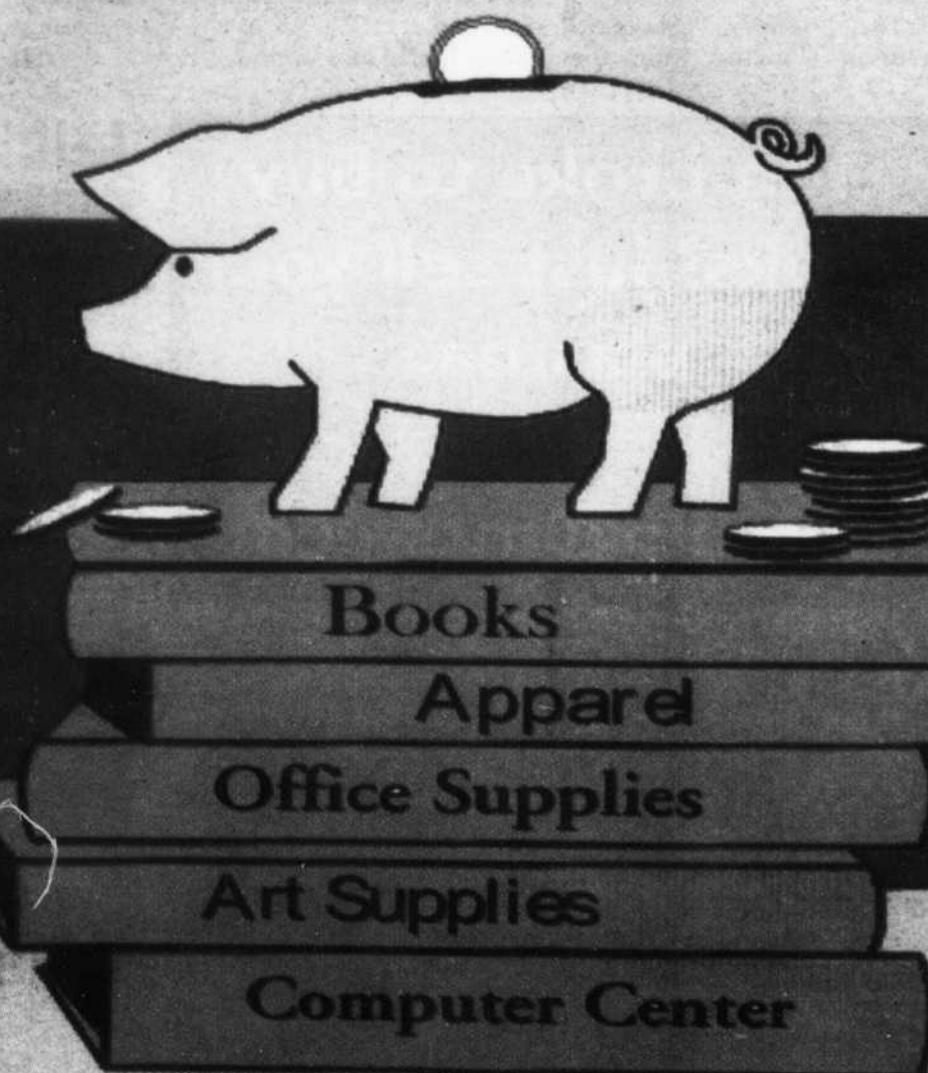
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