





# THE OFFICIAL REPORT

With Mayor Tommy Bragg



*The Murfreesboro Mayor is a part time job, serving four year terms with six council members elected at large across the city.*

*My first term began May 1, 2002, and I was re-elected to a second four-year term in 2006. My previous background was commercial printing and graphics. I am an U.S. Air Force veteran, and returning to Murfreesboro, joined the TN Air National Guard, retiring as a Colonel at State Headquarters in 1997. My wife Jeanne and I have three children and two sons-in-law, Beth and Alex Jennings, Anne and Chris Warren, and John Bragg, III.*

1. How has the increase of students at MTSU affected Murfreesboro the last few years? There has been a population boom in the city since 2000. What have been the pro and cons of this?

The popularity of MTSU, its programs, resources, faculty and Murfreesboro location and surroundings have been a pleasant surprise to most residents and certainly to educators across the state and region.

We have a tremendous advantage with the MTSU presence economically and culturally in our city.

The additional student population has continued to occupy older and newer residential property. Student purchases have fueled the growth of our local service and light entertainment venues, restaurants, and retail shops. All our residents benefit from these services being in our city. In turn, this economic growth has assisted job creation allowing many of the students to accept and create other jobs locally.

2. What changes have you made since you took office?

My platform focused on three areas: Creating and maintaining a strong local economy; fostering cooperation and partnerships with the city and MTSU; and providing the best city school system in our state, the Murfreesboro City Schools and their now 11 campuses.

The first challenge was to promote the development of Class A office space and commercial retail development in what is now known as the Gateway area. All of this has been accomplished after the acceptance and public input of residents, our local businesses through our Chamber of Commerce and Council support.

The council has committed financial resources to partner with MTSU administration and staff in upgrading MTSU athletic facilities to attract statewide and regional sporting events to the campus.

Finally, I have committed to sharing responsibilities across our Council to protect and preserve each neighborhood as an attractive place to live. Our Council demands that city services provide our taxpayers with the best possible service, based on the tax dollars provided.

3. What has been the biggest improvement since you took office?

As a Mayor and Council, we have insisted all residents have access to the Council and city staff through public hearings. We follow a long line of elected officials who have served our city well and we want to continue that effort.

Considering all points of view, we are committed that any and all should be heard when decisions are required affecting our residents. We also want the best and most detailed information available to aid our residents in making choices in their government. The Council challenges our city staff to be thorough in providing reasonable and prudent solutions to the issues facing our city.

4. Rover has recently expanded. How has the system helped the community? Has it cut down on traffic?

First of all, Rover has been an outstanding success based on those who use the service. It was designed to give transportation to those who needed a mode of transportation alternative to the traditional two-car family.

Students, medically challenged, senior citizens, and employees of our medical, retail and commercial districts living along the six routes have been well-pleased with the service availability. Ridership exceeds 400 riders on a daily basis, and route expansion and convenience is a constant topic of discussion. It has allowed local riders to access services which necessarily would have been provided by private users or other social service agencies. Those seats are now free for other users.

5. What future plans do you have for Murfreesboro?

As a community, I believe we should continue to expand economic diversity, further lowering our reliance on traditional revenue streams, such as the property tax. This will be favorable to both residential and business taxpayers.

I also look to expanded governmental presence in the areas across I-24 from our traditional downtown area. Police, fire and emergency services, as well as administrative presence would add convenience to many new and old residents choosing to live in our fast growing new neighborhoods.

A primary effort should focus on providing new and maintaining existing infrastructure. Utility, transportation, solid waste, parks and recreation as well as many other areas are important aspects which keep Murfreesboro attractive to investment dollars.

6. What do you think is the biggest problem with Murfreesboro right now? Are you planning on changing it?

In any city, the primary focus should be in providing as much information and service to our residents, businesses and visitors. A well-informed taxpayer, resident and business provider is critical to understanding the issues, providing the motivation and paying the cost of "city live," whether urban or rural.

Taxpayers must know why their dollars are required and what information is taken into account when decisions are made affecting our city.

7. Is there anything else you'd like to mention to MTSU students?

"Welcome to all students, their parents and friends. We are proud you have chosen MTSU as your education choice. We recognize you as new friends and neighbors and hope you will succeed, enjoy academic and personal success, while making Murfreesboro a future choice as a great place to live, work and raise a family." ♦

## Execution: Lawyers petition

Continued from 1

degree burns, similar to what you see with a severe sunburn."

The Tennessee Department of Corrections execution manual says that the electric chair delivers shock that lasted 15 seconds. He was pronounced dead at 1:25 a.m.

Levy said inmates can also suffer broken bones when the muscles clench violently during the shock. But Holton had no broken bones, Levy said.

Levy is waiting on additional blood tests to determine if Holton was sedated before the execution as some witnesses suggested.

When Riverbend Maximum Security Institution warden Ricky Bell asked Holton if he had any final words, he mumbled inaudibly. Bell asked him to repeat what he said and he replied, "Two words: I do."

Dorinda Carter, spokeswoman for the Department of Corrections, said Holton started to hyperventilate prior to entering the execution chamber and was

given time to calm down.

Hours before Holton's execution, the Tennessee Supreme Court rejected a petition by 80 Tennessee lawyers saying the execution method should be declared unconstitutional because it is cruel and unusual punishment.

The lawyers said the high court should follow a Georgia Supreme Court decision declaring the electric chair unconstitutional. The Georgia court found "undisputed proof that those electrocuted are to some degree physically mutilated," according to the filing.

Levy said high voltage shocks of electricity are believed to cause a person to become unconscious almost immediately.

"If the person is not rendered instantly unconscious, it could be painful but we'll never know for sure," Levy said.

Additional tests on Holton's organs will be performed to look for existing disease, Levy said. Holton's body will be returned to the family. ♦

## Texting: Alerts campus

Continued from 1

University of Mississippi, neither of which have this option for students.

"It'd be nice to have it at U of M because it's in a high crime area," Warner said.

As of Thursday morning, only 2400 students have registered for the new alert system.

MTSU is using the Rave Alert system where students can register with their information and personal cell phone numbers.

Tozer wants to assure students that their information and personal numbers will be kept pri-

vate. The phone numbers will be used specifically for this purpose and no other.

Bradley said that even if students don't give the school their cell phone numbers, the school has other ways of getting in contact with students.

To register, everyone can go to [www.getrave.com/login/mtsu](http://www.getrave.com/login/mtsu) and proceed through the easy 5-step registration process. The university is encouraging students to use this new alert system because as more people begin to use the program, the alerts will be more effective by reaching a higher number of students. ♦

## Fence: Residents upset

Continued from 1

Campus Planning and residents of Ragland in May to inform and receive input from the neighborhood.

"It was really a 'here is what we are going to do' meeting," Steven Lund said. "[MTSU] basically made it sound like it was a done deal."

The Lunds began sending e-mails concerning the fencing issue to multiple university and community officials, including Sidney McPhee, Tommy Bragg, Murfreesboro mayor, and John Cothern, senior vice president of Campus Planning.

The first was on Sept. 2, sent by Steve, inquiring on the material to be used for the privacy fence. Cothern responded immediately on Sept. 2, saying he would reply later in the week with the answer.

On Sept. 5, Cothern responded to Steve stating the university would go with the original plans.

"The fence will be a black chain link 6' fence," Cothern said. "It will be installed on the perimeter."

Steve's response addressed a DNJ article, in which the university stated that the chain-link fence was being reconsidered.

"After further consideration of possibly changing from chain-link to wood fencing, we have decided to stay with the chain-link fencing for safety and security reasons," Cothern said in a Sept. 12 e-mail.

Steve and Jeanne questioned the reasons of safety and security.

"How can a chain-link fence be safer than wood or brick?" Jeanne Lund said. "It is absolutely nonsensical."

In his Sept. 12 response, Cothern also expressed the university's intent to provide "appropriate and desired security visibility for anyone in the area, including Murfreesboro Police and MTSU Public Safety" with the chain-link fence.

"We feel that MTSU has shown consideration for the neighborhood relative to improvements to University properties," Cothern said in his e-mail. "Additionally, in this specific case, it was decided not to provide parking lot access to or from Ragland Court and not to allow the contractors to use Ragland Court during construction when opposing alternatives could have easily been decided."

The Lunds said the "sacrifice" of an alternative plan for parking lot access through Ragland and construction equipment on their street implied other motives.

"Basically, the underlying message is 'we could make it worse if we wanted to,'" Jeanne said. "This is just an example of the consideration for our neighborhood."

"At this point, we are just looking at them to throw us a bone," Steve Lund said. "We have not been given a final date for when the fence will be put up." ♦

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# OPINIONS

## From the Editorial Board: Text-based alerts faulty

That sound you hear is MTSU's collective sigh of relief. Now that our long-awaited text message alert system is up and running, we need no longer fear a massacre-a la-Virginia Tech, because we will be informed, via text messages.

Has anyone thought this through?

As if in-class text messages weren't already distracting enough, we're about to have more. The pristine, intellectual, Harvard-like calm in our fair university will be punctuated by button-punching and obnoxious ringtones. With the text message alert system active, no professor will have the authority to tell students to silence their phones. It will become literally a matter of life and death that students have their phones not only turned on, but set to ring during every class. Any incoming phone call or text message, from Mom, the dry cleaners, or one of those daily joke lines will be loudly announced from everyone's phone. Has anyone asked a professor if they would like to lecture over this cacophony?

Some people, in the effort to be good students, turn their phones off or leave them in the car so that they do not distract others. From now on, they will be forced to carry them into classrooms, let them ring and make themselves appear rude, just so they'll be able to know if there is a gunman in the Keathley University Center.

Besides the obvious classroom difficulties, the new system will be effectively useless to any student without a cell phone. It will also be problematic to students who do not carry text messaging on their cell plans. To those students, an alert message will either be costly, or simply not be delivered.

Worse still, the program is a quick fix. It essentially voids MTSU of the responsibility of its students' safety. If a student does not sign up to receive alerts, it will not be MTSU's fault if they don't hear about the rampaging gunmen, the gas leak, or the building fire.

How do we know that the system won't be used to tell us to "go Greek," attend a football game or join ROTC? Can cell towers support 23,000 simultaneous messages? Is there cell reception in all campus buildings? These are the questions everyone should be asking.

## Women should decide; men should support

"Well aren't you glad your mother didn't have an abortion?"  
"I suppose, but it isn't like I would be complaining if she did."

The above dialogue was held between a die-hard "Pro-Lifer" and myself. An interesting fact about the speaker—it was a male.

Of course the Constitution allows and encourages the right to free speech and religious beliefs without the fear of prosecution.

As intelligent individuals, we are allotted the abilities to form our own beliefs about subjects. The issue isn't about having an opinion, but rather forcing an opinion in a battle where men only have a three-legged dog fighting.

Now, as a friendly reader warning, this is will not be a discussion on the "rights" and "wrongs" of abortion. Abortion is classified as a legal, medical procedure.

The question is why is it acceptable, even viewed as correct, for a man to tell a woman how to manage her body? It's like taking a car to a mechanic and telling them how to fix the problem.

Reversing roles, would a man rather have a woman picket and protest in favor of required vasectomies or support his decision to have or not have a medical procedure performed?

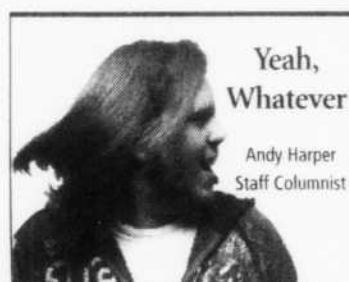
The problem exists when men are the forefront of the "Pro-Life" movement. The fact remains that men are unable to conceive; therefore we are unable to properly sympathize with a woman's reproductive biology.

Switching social subjects, can a heterosexual person identify with the issues faced by the Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender community? Absolutely not, because a heterosexual person does not feel discriminated against for their sexuality.

Can a straight person be a supporter and advocate for the GLBT community? Absolutely.

Again, it isn't about opinions, but about place within a social issue. Men would do well to remember that it is a woman's body entangled within a complicated web of religion and politics. Sadly for The Center for Bio-Ethical Reforms, this is not the case.

Of the seven directors for the CBR, four are men, including the executive director, the Midwest



Yeah, Whatever

Andy Harper  
Staff Columnist

regional director, the southeast regional director and the northern California director.

I wonder when the last time any of them were pregnant and had to make a decision not just based solely on faith, but on what would be best for their physical well-being. You can't know how to work a computer without ever using one in your life.

Chances are good that the men of CBR have never looked at a staircase and thought "this is the only way out." A rusty coat hanger is nothing more than trash, but to a woman it can symbolize a barbaric, bloody method that has been substituted for a clean, medical procedure.

The only other argument to be made is in the case of a man voicing an opinion about his fetus. A man should have his opinion taken into serious consideration in the case of a fetus he helped produce.

However, this goes to the age-old argument of contraception. If the man wanted children, why isn't he with a woman who wants the same? If a man wants doesn't want children, why isn't he using protection? Accidents and unexpected circumstances arise, but for the most part prevention of children is tremendously easier in our modern day of medicine.

"You can have a rule-making opinion about abortion when you are able to carry a child for 10 months," sage advice that every mother should bestow on her son.

These are the bodies of women, the bodies of our mothers, sisters, aunts, friends and the only gender capable of perpetuating our species.

Men are not pro-life, nor pro-choice. Men should be pro-woman and support her decision, whatever it may be.

Andy Harper is a senior journalism major and can be reached at sah3u@mtsu.edu.



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

## Security versus the miniskirt

Southwest Airlines Co. has issued an apology to a young California woman who was told her outfit was too skimpy to fly.

To continue with the mundane facts of this story from Foxnews.com would be a mistake because the proper time should be taken to let this statement sink in.

An airline actually told a woman that her skirt was too short to fly on their airplane. Go to the website, view her picture and see what a fallacious accusation this was.

It has taken people years to lose all faith in the complicated systems of our airports, but this has finally put the proverbial last nail in the coffin.

The last time I checked, it was a free country and we had all graduated high school; the last outpost of the truly strict dress code.

These flyboys are not high school principals. Their job is to make sure no one brings dangerous toys into our society. They make sure that everyone can travel from one place to another without incidents. They protect the sanctity of national and international travel. The have power over what and how much we pack. They have the power over how we package our dear Mr. Bojangles The Cat for travel.

Notice how it was not said that they have the power to dictate the specific details of how we choose to express ourselves physically.

The woman met the standards of dress that is appropriate in public. She was not naked, nor was she simply wearing undergarments. Her attire included a skirt, a shirt, and shoes.

A Southwest employee had the audacity to tell her that she was underdressed to sit in an uncomfortable chair for several hours.

Shouldn't they be more concerned with



A Rough Trick  
Named Jim

Christin Pepple  
Staff Columnist

people smuggling drugs or dangerous weapons onto their airplanes? It would be thought that after Sept. 11, 2001, that airport security would be tedious and treacherous to wade through, but honestly, does that necessitate having a skirt that we can touch with our fingertips when our arms are straight down and parallel?

Everyone always references George Orwell's novel "1984" when speaking about the loss of personal freedoms, but the message and implications of that story still hold true in this case: the American people should have the right to think, speak and express themselves however they see fit within the parameters of our constitution.

It can be argued that Southwest Airlines is a private company and they have the right to control the environment in which they conduct business. This is true, but because the accusations of inappropriate displays of skin were raised towards a woman, it calls into question gender discrimination.

The fact that it was a woman who was judged on her personal taste in clothing does matter in this situation.

We all know that if a man were wearing

ridiculously short and tight pants, as some unfortunately do, causing everyone to be uncomfortable, no one would say one thing about it. His genitals could be hanging out and the bigwigs at the airline would look the other way and not say anything from sheer social awkwardness.

This is a double standard that we apply every day. When a woman wears articles of clothing to be more comfortable, she is terrorizing us and scarring our children for life. When a man wears something that shows too much leg and otherwise, he is an embarrassment to society, but not turned away in public.

This is disgusting because if Southwest says that a woman's skirt is too short, then soon, they will tell someone that their T-shirt is offensive, or their dye job is distracting. It is high school: Episode Two.

This situation was a prime example of petulant, pompous, preposterously stodgy businessmen who use their power to project their pre-conceived notions on what is appropriate and acceptable in public.

In a country where freedom of expression is paramount, it is disturbing to see a corporation repress a paying customer.

We should not be able to censor what people wear if they are not breaking the law of indecent exposure. Southwest Airlines may have had the legal ability to repress this woman's fashion sense, but they did not have the right.

Christin Pepple is a sophomore journalism/English major and can be reached at cnp4e@mtsu.edu

## Letters to the Editor

### Pro-choice arguments weak at best

To the Editor:

The neutrality of Sarah Lavery's article ["Anti-abortion demonstration shows student body's passion," Sept. 13] was laughable.

Lavery writes that Genocide Awareness Project volunteer Hardin stoically responds with "a seemingly levelheaded, carefully prefabricated response." Oh, I get it. Hardin is parroting the pro-life agenda while the socialist pro-choicer is impassioned and valiant with his cheers.

"Their fists are raised up high and their voices are straining to reach those standing behind the barricade set around the exhibit," she writes. What a dramatic description of people yelling in a country where abortion is legal. This description was a subtle jab at the pro-life position. Not a single student was quoted who agreed with the comparison of abortion to genocide that the GAP presented.

Personally, I found the chanters more offending than the horrible pictures. While the claims made by the GAP along with these images were far reaching and possibly offensive to groups, every person I saw representing them was kind and level-headed. They would talk to someone for hours, even though many of the other side would rather scream at them from behind a yellow line.

"Stop the violence, stop the lies; abortion is not genocide." It sounds great until I stop and try to recall what violence the GAP was advocating. They weren't advocating violence at all; their literature and displays clearly condemn association with such groups. Sensationalism was the driving force behind most pro-choice and Solidarity literature and signs. For example, one flier claimed that GAP offers no alternative to raising a child. They were advocating adoption in huge print on one of their displays!

What takes the cake though, was one of the posters on the first day. It pictured a swastika emblazoned above "Hitler," a hammer and sickle drawn along with "Stalin," and then you see "GAP: Worse than Hitler and Stalin combined." I hope I don't need to explain to anyone the idiocy of that. You want to talk about disrespecting the millions upon millions of people that those tyrants had killed?

This is what it boils down to. I am aware of the societal and economic and personal reasons for having an abortion. Women want to have lives unimpeded by the, admittedly, enormous responsibility of raising a child. Pro-life individuals believe that this unborn child is a person 100 percent and deserving of opportunity just as much as any other fetus, baby or adult, regardless of difficult circumstances. This personhood outweighs any societal and environmental circumstances, as unfortunate and serious as they might be.

I hope for debate's sake that the opposing side will be more organized and abandon sensationalist name-calling in the future. I fear that chanting and yelling wins few people over to their ideology, but maybe that's a good thing.

Daniel Rogers  
Senior, Pre-Physical Therapy and Psychology

### GAP's display, behavior inappropriate

To the Editor:

Sarah Lavery's article ["Anti-abortion demonstration shows student body's passion," Sept. 13] attempted to remain neutral but missed the mark. Lavery clearly believes that the Genocide Awareness Project's takeover of our campus was beneficial to our student body. As she stated, it's better than apathy, right?

By this logic, bombing abortion clinics because you're a crazed vigilante is better than just walking by and letting people make their own decisions? Here's what she and a lot of other shock-jocks need to know: just because a group offends people, does not mean that group is creating a conducive learning environment for discussion.

Chances are, the people standing around countering each other over these issues would have done so, dead baby or not. Students, as well as the rest of the world, begin to care about an issue because people they respect and admire lead them to this conclusion; you won't win any long-term serious interest in a cause because Bob came out of biology and saw a mock slave hanging from a tree. There is no excuse for the behavior of this group and it should not be tolerated. You can get your message across without disrespecting other people in the process. If you can't, then maybe you should rethink how convincing your message really is.

Andrea Hinch  
Senior, Liberal Arts

### Why is there no internet in Cyber Cafe?

To the Editor:

Can someone explain to me the point of having a Cyber Cafe with no way to get on the internet? I used to like to grab a sandwich and eat lunch while surfing the internet on one of the Cyber Cafe's eight or so computers, but it's getting harder and harder.

Today not one—not one—of the computers was available to use. Why? They're not broken. They're not occupied by other Web surfers. The stupid problem is that nobody knows the password to log on to the computers. Nobody. The employees say it's MTSU's responsibility, not theirs. Your Pipeline login doesn't work, and there isn't any other way to log on.

Come on, MTSU. This is ridiculous. This should be easy and free to fix. Please give us a chance to actually access cyberspace in the Cyber Cafe. I've brought my laptop in there a few times to try, and, of course, the great irony is that it's impossible to get a wireless signal in the Cyber Cafe.

Andrews, Jayne  
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# FEATURES

## Miyakawa brings hip-hop to MTSU

### Musicologist professor shows an academic side to hip-hop

By Sarah Lavery

Features Editor

"You guys want to sing?" Felicia Miyakawa asks the students of her Hip-Hop and Culture class, noticing most of them already tapping their feet, drumming their desks and mouthing the words to the song that's blaring through the speakers.

Before Miyakawa even finishes asking her question, the entire back row bursts into the chorus, singing with a mixture so full of harmony and soul that it almost sounds rehearsed.

The class discussion flows from hip-hop to epic poetry, yo-mama jokes to African mythology, funky beats to Langston Hughes. Every few minutes, Miyakawa plays a song to demonstrate a concept, and the students just can't seem to control themselves from joining in.

What goes on in Felicia Miyakawa's Hip-Hop and Culture class is like nothing else at MTSU.

From the moment students began filing into the door, the conversation turns immediately to music. Discussion of recording sessions over the weekend, new technology to save songs on a computer — it seems the moment they step foot into room 303 of the Saunders Fine Arts Building, everything non-music related is left in the hallway.

Hip-Hop and Culture is one of those classes that lets its students kick back, the kind that, even disregarding an attendance policy, students just can't get enough of.

When Miyakawa asks for someone to read the lesson off the board, students don't just mindlessly regurgitate the information back to her; instead, a few join together to lay down a beat and someone else repeats it in rap-form.

The lecture Miyakawa is giving her students focuses on the musical and aesthetic roots of hip-hop. Academic terms and explanations are given for concepts taken for granted ("signifying" is the scholarly word for rap battles, "dozens" for yo-mama jokes).

While at Linfield College for her undergrad, Miyakawa had not yet dabbled in hip-hop studies. At first, she spent her time immersed in 19th century music history, a century she says is so filled with personality, "nearly every composer you talk about could be on [Jerry] Springer."

Having already been interested in languages, Miyakawa fell in love with music history during her first semester of college.

"It combined music, theater, language skills, an understanding of how music works in culture — everything I loved," she says. "So I went to my [music history] teacher and said, 'I want

to teach music history. What do I have to do?' It changed everything."

When she went off to graduate school at the University of Indiana, she intended to continue her studies in 19th century music. After taking a class on Feminist Musicology, though, Miyakawa's plans started to change.

"We read all these articles about images of women in hip-hop," she says. "At the time, I was married, and my husband was really into rap. I listened to it half-heartedly with him, but it wasn't my favorite thing to do. But even the little bit I knew, I read this article and said, 'she doesn't have it right.' All it said was that women in hip-hop are bitches and hoes and that's it. But even just listening to Tupac, you get more nuanced than that."

She immersed herself in her husband's CD collections and became hooked.

"It was a very gradual process, but along the way, I became a huge fan," she says.

Miyakawa's dissertation focused on the "5 per-centers," an offshoot of the Nation of Islam that has strong roots in hip-hop music.

The dissertation was later turned into a 200-page book called "Five Percenter Rap: God Hop's Music, Message, And Black Muslim Mission," an effort that exemplifies Miyakawa's "infectious fondness for her controversial but stimulating subject," according to Publisher's Weekly.

Now in her fourth year at MTSU, Miyakawa has become a musicologist with multiple — and diverse — hats. She teaches undergrad courses in History of Rock and Roll, Hip-hop Music and Culture, Music History IV (Antiquity to the Renaissance), 17th and 18th Century Music and 19th Century Music, seamlessly flowing from Schuman to the Wu-Tang Clan, Franz Liszt to Tupac, Beethoven to Nas.

Miyakawa is a musicologist through-and-through. To her, there's equal merit in a complicated Bach harmony and hip-hop beats that make you want to get out of your seat and move.

Nearing the end of the class period, Miyakawa begins to rush through her power-points, trying desperately to cover, at least, the basics of the complicated linguistic roots of hip-hop.

There is one thing, though, that she makes sure there is time for.

She's about to play a complicated beat for the class to demonstrate an explained theory, but before she does, she has to make sure her students are getting an authentic hip-hop experience.

"If you guys feel like you have to get up and dance," she says, "just stand up and do your thing." ♦

"I read this article [that claimed] women in hip-hop are bitches and hoes and that's it. But even just listening to Tupac, you get more nuanced than that."

—Felicia Miyakawa

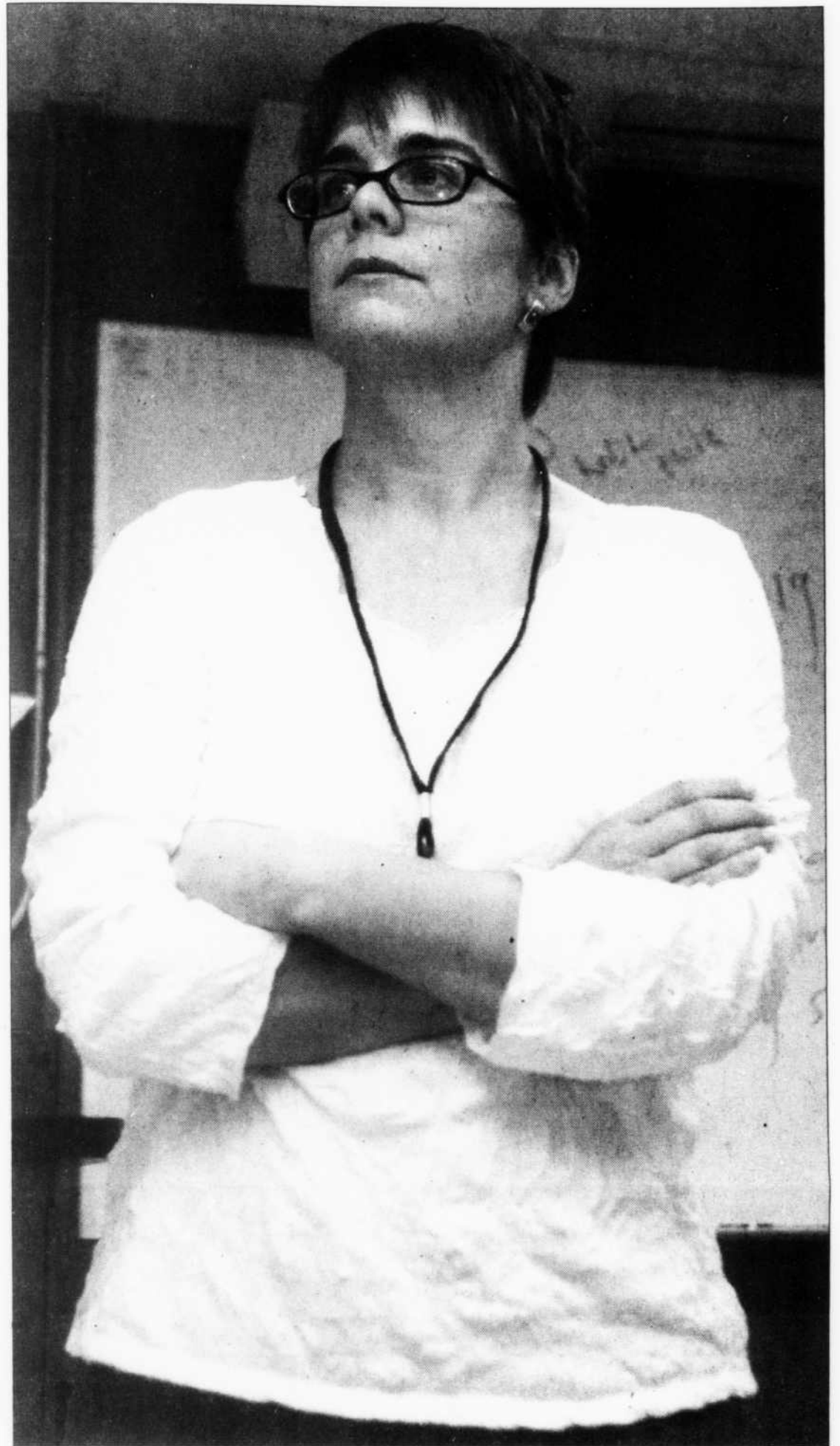


Photo by Justin Keoninh | Photography Editor  
Professor Felicia Miyakawa stands in front of her Hip-Hop and Culture class. Now in her fourth year at MTSU, Miyakawa teaches classes in hip-hop, popular American music, 19th century music and the history of rock and roll.

## Murfreesboro not such a small town anymore

By Rachel Nutt

Contributing Writer

Twenty-two thousand, five hundred and fifty four. That's how many students were enrolled here in 2005.

I don't know about everyone else, but I am from a town that only has just over 10,000 residents.

So, one could say that walking around the campus of MTSU is like walking around in over two of my hometowns crammed together.

Nevertheless, attending MTSU doesn't overwhelm me in terms of size — or anything else, yet.

I have actually heard that some people don't consider Murfreesboro a large city at all. But it's definitely the largest I've ever called home.

Back in the 1800s, Murfreesboro was briefly the state capitol. Even though Nashville gained back the title as Tennessee's capitol, Murfreesboro continued to grow. Unlike my hometown, it became more than just a basic farming community. According to Murfreesboro's city Web site, the city's population has more than doubled in the past 15 years.

Since the town's incredible growth, many new businesses have appeared. Sadly, I must admit that in my town, Wal-Mart is a major attraction. Not only is it the most popular of few places to shop, but more importantly, it is where all teenagers hang out.

Teens "riding the strip" use the Wal-Mart parking lots as a turn-around point. On a weekend night, honking horns and blaring rap music can be heard for hours. Murfreesboro, however, has two Wal-Marts — and so much more!

There is Stones River Mall, which has basic stores like American Eagle, PacSun, Victoria's Secret, Buckle, Hot Topic and others. Even the mall, however, is growing, with an entire interior renovation and a new food court on the way. And then there are all the places outside the mall to visit, like Target, Old Navy and PetSmart, to name a few. Commercial and industrial growth is expected to continue for quite a few years to come. But not everyone seems to appreciate this.

Walking down the halls of the Learning Resource Center, I overheard a conversation between some students. They were complaining that the Starbucks on campus did-

n't offer one specific kind of drink they wanted.

I couldn't help but laugh.

I understand the frustrations of not getting one's caffeine fix in the flavor desired, but maybe the girls could settle for something else during the day and later go to one of the many other Starbucks stores after class. I know of three in Murfreesboro.

My hometown has had a coffee house in the past; there is a place on our town square that has attempted to be a coffee house more than once.

But it was no Starbucks.

In Murfreesboro, there are several to choose from. How many more could a person need?

I think the main reason anyone might consider Murfreesboro small is because it somehow preserves the feel of a small town while still being home to thousands of people and offering its residents many shopping and job options. College and elementary students alike can be seen walking or biking home in the after-

noons. Pieces of history can be viewed throughout the town, including some late 1800s to early 1900s homes on East Main Street.

A visitor to Murfreesboro can feel truly connected to the town simply by cruising down its streets. So while Murfreesboro is, according to the statistics on its official Website, the sixth largest city in the state of Tennessee, it can still feel small at times due to its friendly community atmosphere.

Luckily, I knew how to do my own laundry and cook my own meals before moving out of my parents' house, but if I was in a different city, I might still feel overwhelmed. Instead of feeling weighed down by all the new responsibilities, however, I feel a lot like I'm still at home—just with major advantages, like having places to buy jeans that are only a few minutes away, as opposed to the minimum drive of an hour that I have experienced in all the previous years of my life.

Maybe Murfreesboro can feel like a small town at times, but I'd like to suggest that it only has those qualities of small town life that are good.

And Nashville is less than thirty minutes away. ♦

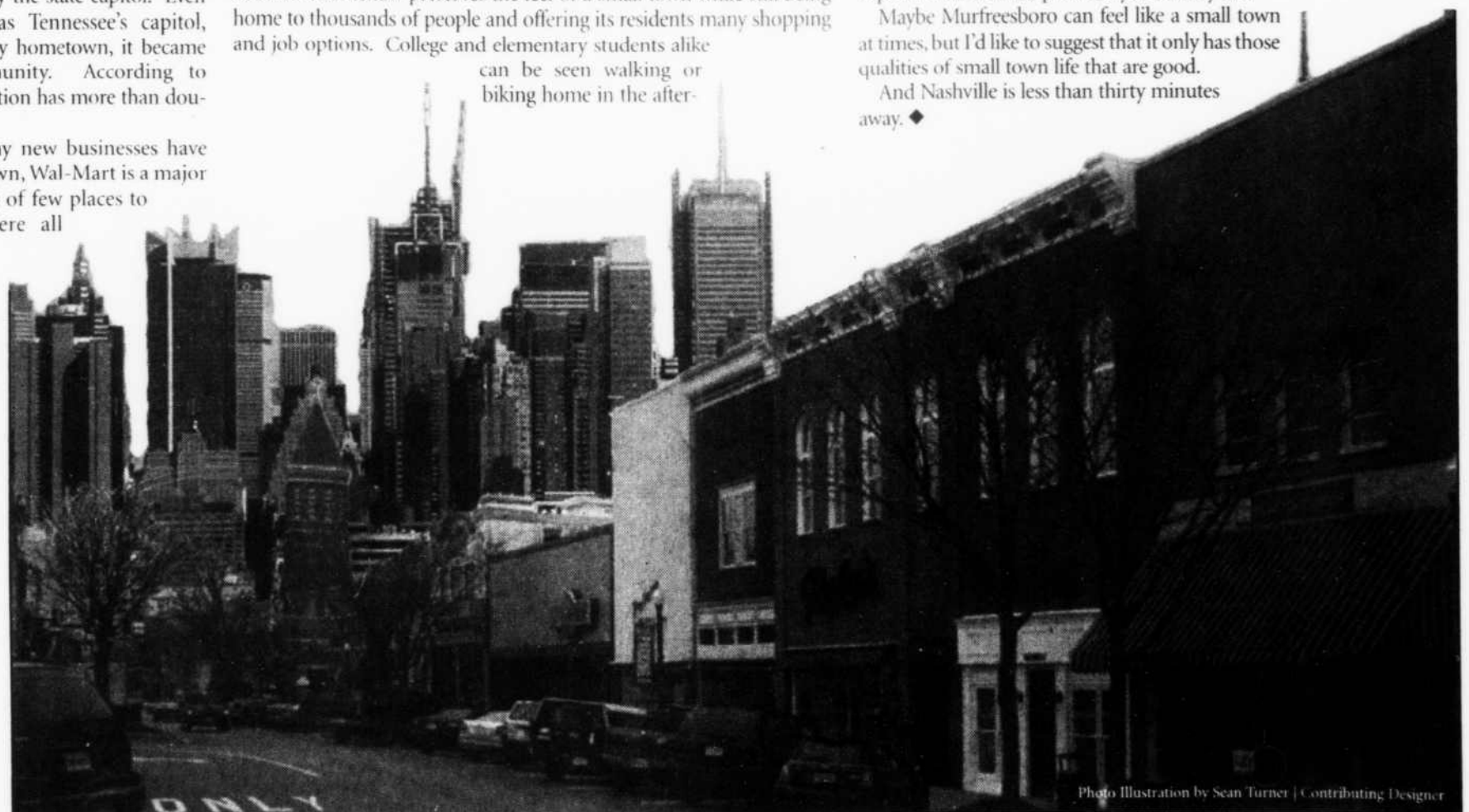


Photo Illustration by Sean Turner | Contributing Designer



# SPORTS

## Wonderful weekend for football



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley  
Sports Editor

It's three in the afternoon on Sunday. Our internet connection is down, we can't work and I don't care.

The internet is a big part of what I do. Typically, it is impossible to write a good sports column with no stats. Without quibbling over the fact that I don't normally write sports columns, let me tell you why this weekend is an exception.

Lately, I've been so busy with two time-consuming jobs, school, and a long-distance relationship that I have had to assign the kind of stories I became a sports writer to write to other people so I could focus on page layouts and paperwork.

It's been about as fun as singing of "O' Canada" at a pee-wee hockey game with Rosanne Barr on harmony.

I miss having the time to watch whatever games I wanted and not having to worry about stats.

It's been a blast being Sports Editor but a man needs his alone time. Luckily, so many things went wrong this weekend that I had no choice but to sit around and watch games for fun again. As always I have a lot to say about what it meant to me.

For starters, I'd like to give a big shout out to my Gators fans out there. Let me get one thing straight. I don't like you. I don't like your team. I'm an MT fan.

But I do like watching Phillip Fulmer squirm on national television. Am I the only one who noticed that he just signed a three-year contract extension? Everytime Fulmer's head gets that much closer to the chopping block, I hear angel's sing.

Beyond the excitement of watching my least favorite coach in college football sweat five pounds off of his jowls alone, I was genuinely impressed by Tim Tebow for a National Champion Florida Gators. The SEC is in for a major shock.

The Gators are young – few seniors, and most star players are sophomores or juniors – and good. If UT was any indicator than the National press made a serious error in assuming that LSU or USC were the teams most likely to make the National Championship game.

After the Gator game I had the "pleasure" of listening to the LSU game while Richard Lowe sent me updates via AIM. We argued about what it would take for MT to leave LSU on a high note but one thing we agreed on is that we seemed to be hitting them harder, making them work more, and hurting them more than anyone has all year.

There are only three teams in the country as good as the one MT just played. One slaughtered UT and the other played Nebraska. If you had to ask who MT played more like on Saturday, I would argue Nebraska. They didn't beat USC but at least they made them work for it.

The Blue Raider defense hit hard, tackled well, made some huge plays. They forced the no. 2 team in the nation to kick field goals over and over. The Blue Raiders just didn't have the offense to match and that can be expected against one of the biggest, meanest, fastest defenses in the country.

It would be easy to say that the game was a blow out and nothing more but remember who MT plays on Thursday. After forcing UL and LSU to play hard or risk losing the Raiders have shown that they are a different team than we saw in week one. I still like their odds to win the SBC.

Still after a crazy Saturday, I woke up today wondering what the heck my column would be about and when I got to work the internet was down. I didn't know what to do but then the Titans game started.

I never rule the Titans out when it comes to the Colts. Indianapolis has a great chance to get a repeat win at this year's superbowl and yet they sweat when they come to Nashville. Maybe it's because of Manning's continued hero status in the state where he led the Vols to – Oh, wait. Yeah, that was Tee Martin.

The way I see it, we don't need to know why. All that matters is the Titans played a great ball game and kept it within the closing seconds. Once again, big defensive plays – on third down when it matters – kept Indy from getting into rhythm.

While the Colts may have left with the win, I feel like the Titans earned a lot of respect by playing such smart tough football.

I was still in shock over how good of a game that was when I looked down and saw that Cleveland had scored 51 points against a decent Cincinnati defense. Even more shocking than Cleveland scoring 51, was that the Bengals were right behind them.

What bizarro world have we entered into here? The Bunches and the Clowns scoring over 100 points? Derek Anderson winning a game with the second highest point total in NFL history? My brain hurts.

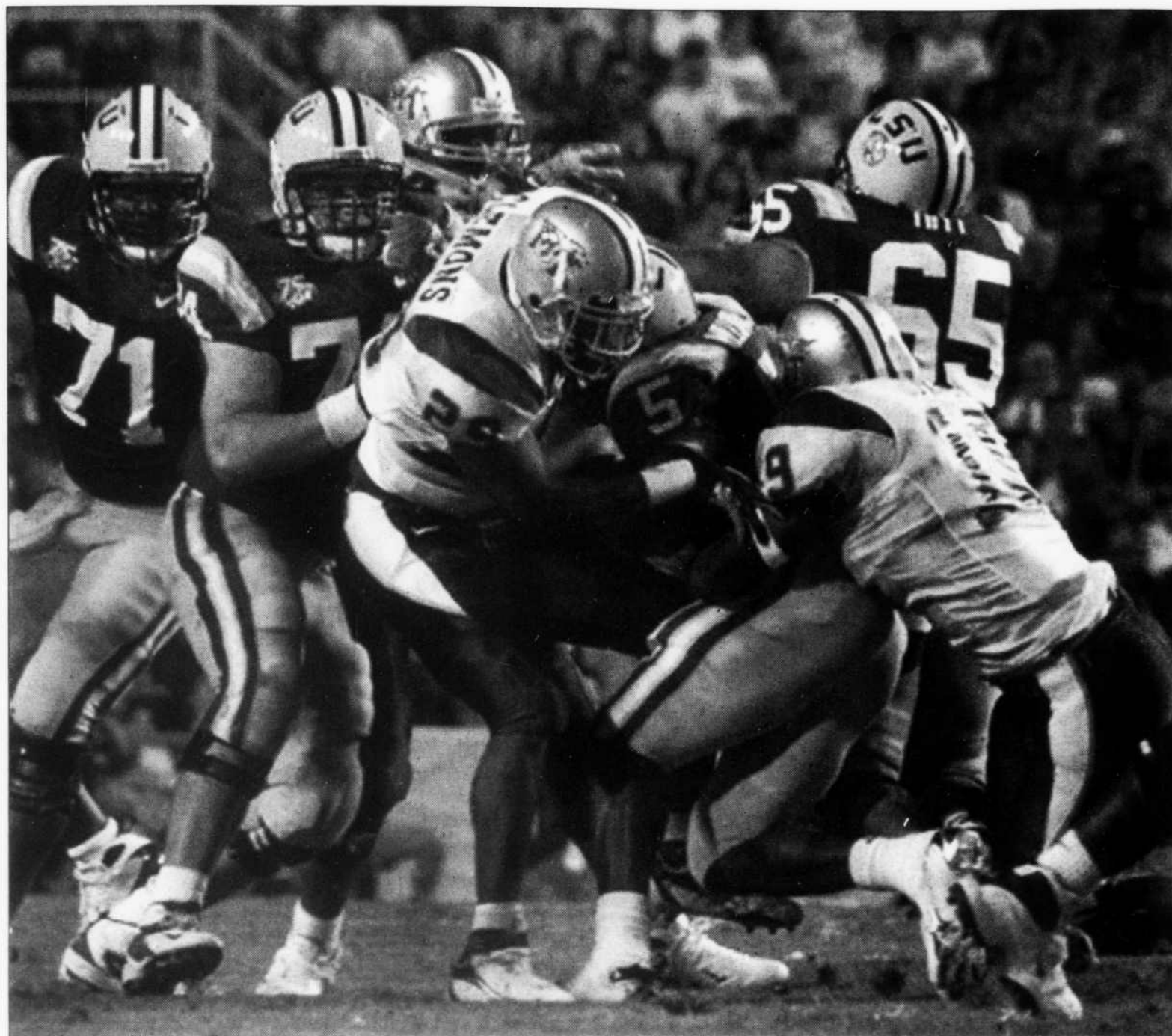
This has truly been a wild weekend for football. With San Diego and New England facing off tonight after deadline I know the excitement isn't over.

I have no idea how to tie this all together. There is no moral, no cute ending. All I know is that I am thankful that for once I didn't have to read about all this on Monday morning.

If you hadn't already gathered, this entire column is actually a thank you letter To Tim Tebow for doing everything but drop-kicking Fulmer, to Bradley Robinson for having the biggest hit of the week (again), to Derek Anderson, Vince Young and Dallas Clarke and everyone else who made the plays that made me squeal like a 12 year old at a J.T. show.

Most of all, thanks go out to downed server which saved me from having to get back to work. There should be a rule against working on Sundays anyways.

J. Owen Shipley is a senior english major at MTSU. He can be reached at Myspace.com/lamsportacus.



The Blue Raider defense made LSU fight for every yard but couldn't match those yards with their own offense. The Tigers were held to their lowest score of the season.

## LSU records second shutout MT ready to begin SBC play LSU continues their quest for a BCS championship bid

By Chris Martin  
Staff Writer

Despite committing twice as many penalties and giving up its first two turnovers of the season, No. 2 LSU was able to shutout the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders 44-0 in Baton Rouge, La., Saturday.

The Tigers (3-0, 1-0 SEC) overcame their mistakes thanks to the play of their smothering defense. The Raiders (0-3, 0-1 Sun Belt) never entered the red zone.

"You have to play perfect against a team like LSU, and we had some early chances to score," MT head coach Rick Stockstill said. "But give their defense credit. They swamped us. They stuffed us. We just couldn't sustain drives."

LSU took the opening kickoff and drove all the way down to the Raiders four yard line before freshman Gary Tucker sacked LSU quarterback Ryan Perrilloux on third and inches to force the Tigers to settle for a field goal. MT forced LSU to kick three field goals in the red zone continuing to show teams have

to earn touchdowns at the goal line. Louisville was similarly flustered with the goal line defense of the Raiders last week as they kicked three red zone field goals as well. Opposing teams have scored ten touchdowns in 19 trips into the MT red zone.

Perrilloux, filling in for the injured Matt Flynn, completed 20 of 25 passes for 298 yards and three touchdowns. He was also able to gain 37 yards rushing. However, Perrilloux did commit LSU's first turnover of the season when senior Dana Stewart intercepted a pass in the second quarter. The Raiders were unable to capitalize on the turnover, playing four quick downs that ended on an incompleteness from quarterback Joe Craddock.

"We got off the field and got turnovers, and of course, it was a frustration that we went back out there so quick," Suber said. "But that's our job on defense. We have to be able to go right back at them."

The Tigers, starting from their own 38 yard line, needed only one play to score when Demetrius Byrd took a Perrilloux pass 62

yards to the end zone.

Two possessions later, MT got another break when junior cornerback Alex Suber recovered a fumble by tight end Keith Zinger at the MT 49. On the ensuing possession, the Raiders were unable to gain one positive yard and were forced to punt when Craddock was sacked by Danny McCray on third down for a 16 yard loss.

"Once we got those turnovers and got on their side of the field, (LSU) really turned up the heat on defense," Craddock said.

After completing 14 of 26 passes for 290 yards against No. 9 Louisville last week, Craddock was only able to complete six of 11 passes for 59 yards. He was replaced by freshman Dwight Dasher in the fourth quarter.

MT played a clean game, penalty-wise. The Raiders committed only three penalties compared to the Tigers' 10.

The Raiders were able to gain only nine yards on the ground, mainly as a result of giving up six sacks. Dasher was MT's leading rusher with 30 yards despite the fact he entered the game in the fourth quarter and only played two series.

"Regardless of where we got the ball, it was hard to move the ball," MT offensive tackle Franklin Dunbar said. "Whether it was 50-in or in the minus yardage on our side of the field, it was hard to move the ball all night. This was a pretty good defense, probably the best in the country and the best we'll ever see."

The Tigers have scored at least 44 points for the third straight game now and have given up only one touchdown all season. The Raiders, on the other hand, have yet to hold an opponent to less than 27 points.

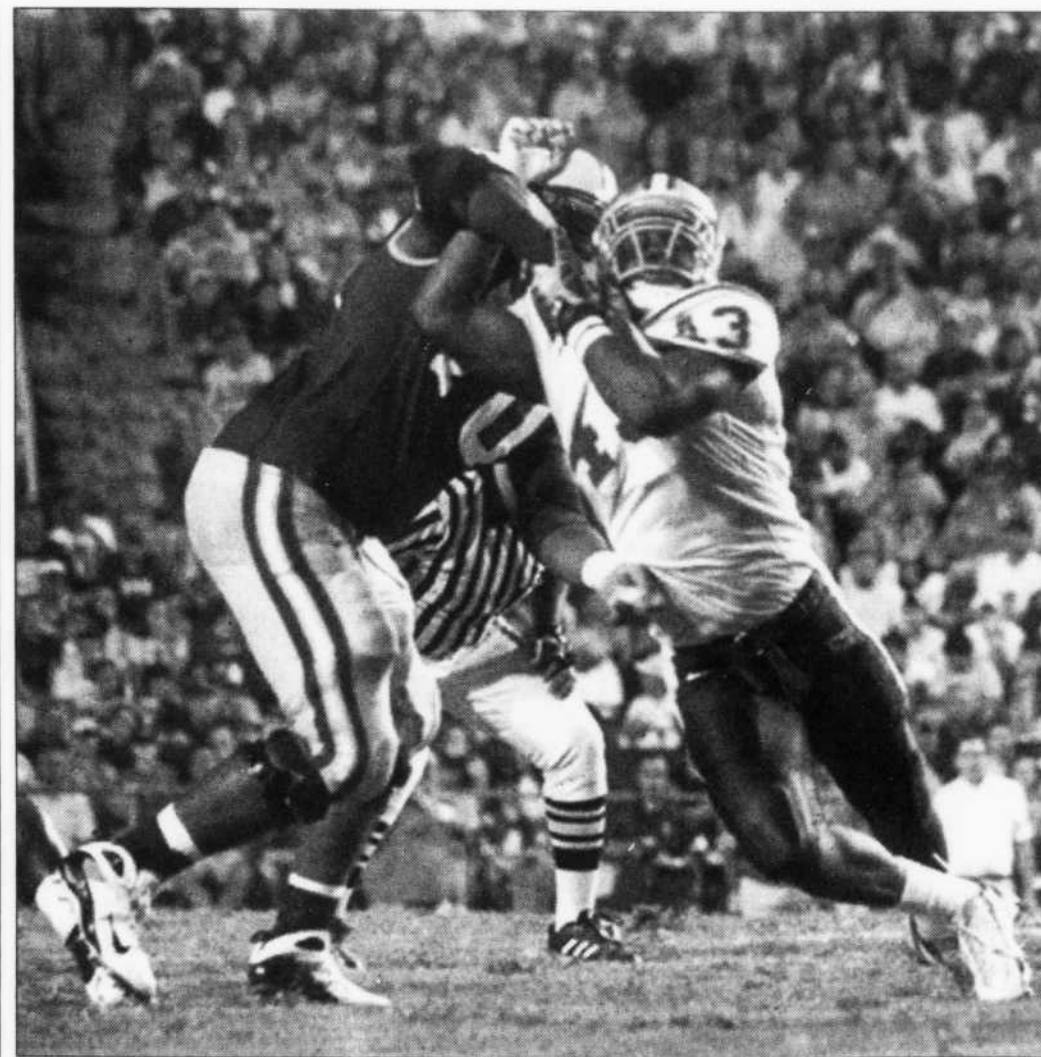
MT was only able to rack up nine first downs, three of which came on their opening drive. The Raiders also had trouble converting on third downs against the LSU defense, they were only able to turn four out of 14 third downs into first downs.

The Blue Raiders return home to play their home opener against Division I-A newcomer and old rival Western Kentucky Thursday at 6 p.m. Western Kentucky is coming off a 26-6 win over in-state rival Eastern Kentucky.

The game will be the first ever game at any MT facility with a video display. Construction on the Floyd Stadium "Jumbotron" wrapped up this week.

The Murphy Center will be the next facility to get a make over. The home of Blue Raiders basketball will have two video displays installed prior to the start of the basketball season.

Fans are encouraged to buy their tickets in advance, as a large crowd is expected with the unveiling of the new screen.



Sr. Eric Walden had yet another big night of big plays, but found consistency hard to achieve against LSU's superior size and strength.

MT Media Relations



# MT wins Toyota Classic

Blue Raiders stay ranked, collect another trophy

Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee volleyball won their third straight tournament title this season by sweeping the University of Connecticut Toyota Classic.

The Blue Raiders closed the tournament by beating host UConn 3-1 on Saturday.

Ashley Adams nearly tied a career high in kills with 25 and had an attack percentage of .351.

She was one kill away from matching her personal best of 26.

Adams was named Tournament MVP and along with teammates Izabela Kozon and Ashley Asberry she was also named to the All-Tournament team.

Kozon and Asberry had 15 kills and a combined

nine block assists for the Blue Raiders against the Huskies.

As a whole the team finished the game with 75 kills, a hitting percentage of .302, 13 blocks and 60 digs.

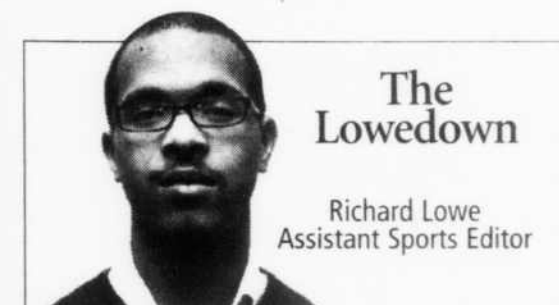
The Blue Raiders also defeated Hofstra 3-0 Saturday and Long Island 3-1 on Friday.

MT was impressive in Saturday's early match, managing to out-block Hofstra 13-6.

In the Hofstra match, Asberry collected seven block assists with 13 kills, while Adams relieved 19 kills and four errors.

The Blue Raiders finish their non-conference schedule with a record of 13-1 going into this weekend's series against Sun Belt Conference foes South Alabama and Troy. ♦

# It could be worse



The Lowdown

Richard Lowe  
Assistant Sports Editor

The worse case scenario has taken place. The Blue Raiders are 0-3 and are last place in the conference heading home for the first time this season. Cases like this in the past have found MT not only beaten on the field but mentally beaten as well. We can make the excuses of "they played two Top 10 team in the first three weeks" but the rankings do not matter. No team likes to lose three in a row.

In college football, you only have 12 opportunities to get a victory and losing once can almost guarantee not having a chance at the national championship. No other athletic competition has such few opportunities to obtain the apex of their sport. This was not a Blue Raider team making plans to play in the Sugar Bowl this year. In fact, this was a Blue Raider that just last year saw what one loss can do to a season. MT finished 7-6 last year while going 6-1 in the conference. That one loss was the last game of the season against Troy. Last year's dream regular season ended on a sour note because Troy defeated the Blue Raiders and earned a share of the Sun Belt title and went on the New Orleans Bowl. If that one loss changed the viewpoint of a season, imagine what three could do.

Here is the good news; these are not the Blue Raiders of the past. Let's look past the coaching for a

second and look at the guys in the uniform. It's easy to say Rick Stockstill is a miracle worker but it takes more than a good coach for a team to be motivated. I think at times we, as fans and media, give so much credit to the coaches that we indirectly insult the players. It was as if Stockstill put on the uniform himself and led the Blue Raiders to a share of the Sun Belt title and an appearance in the Motor City Bowl. Many praised the work of Stockstill and his staff without giving credit to the players themselves. The players practice the game plan that was given to them by Stockstill but it is up to them to execute it. It sounds simple but it never turns out that way.

There was a game plan put in place for both Louisville and Louisiana State games but they both came off the field with losses. Instead of being of having the team's ego battered and bruised, they came off the field as if they wanted to run to the practice to get ready for the next game. There is no quit in this team. I have never felt this confident about a 0-3 team. I have no faith in Michigan winning the Big 10 this year but I have all the faith in the world in Middle Tennessee running the table and finishing the season 8-3.

It won't be an easy task. On Thursday, they will take on a Western Kentucky team who is thirsty for their first Sun Belt competition and looking for an upset of their basketball rival. Virginia and Memphis, both, come up in less than a month and neither team will lie down. In the end, we still must face Troy but this time it will be at Movie Gallery Stadium. Many will view this as the beginning of a new season but this team knows where they have started. They intend to finish it totally different.

Richard Lowe is a junior broadcast journalism major, and can be reached at [rlowe@mtsutv.org](mailto:rlowe@mtsutv.org)

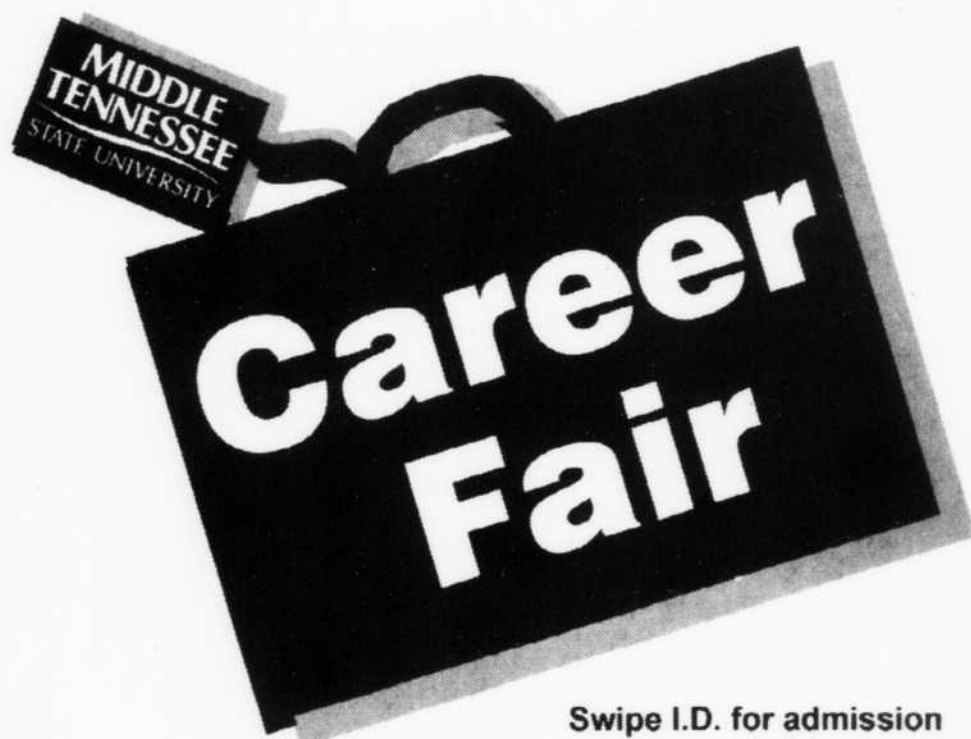
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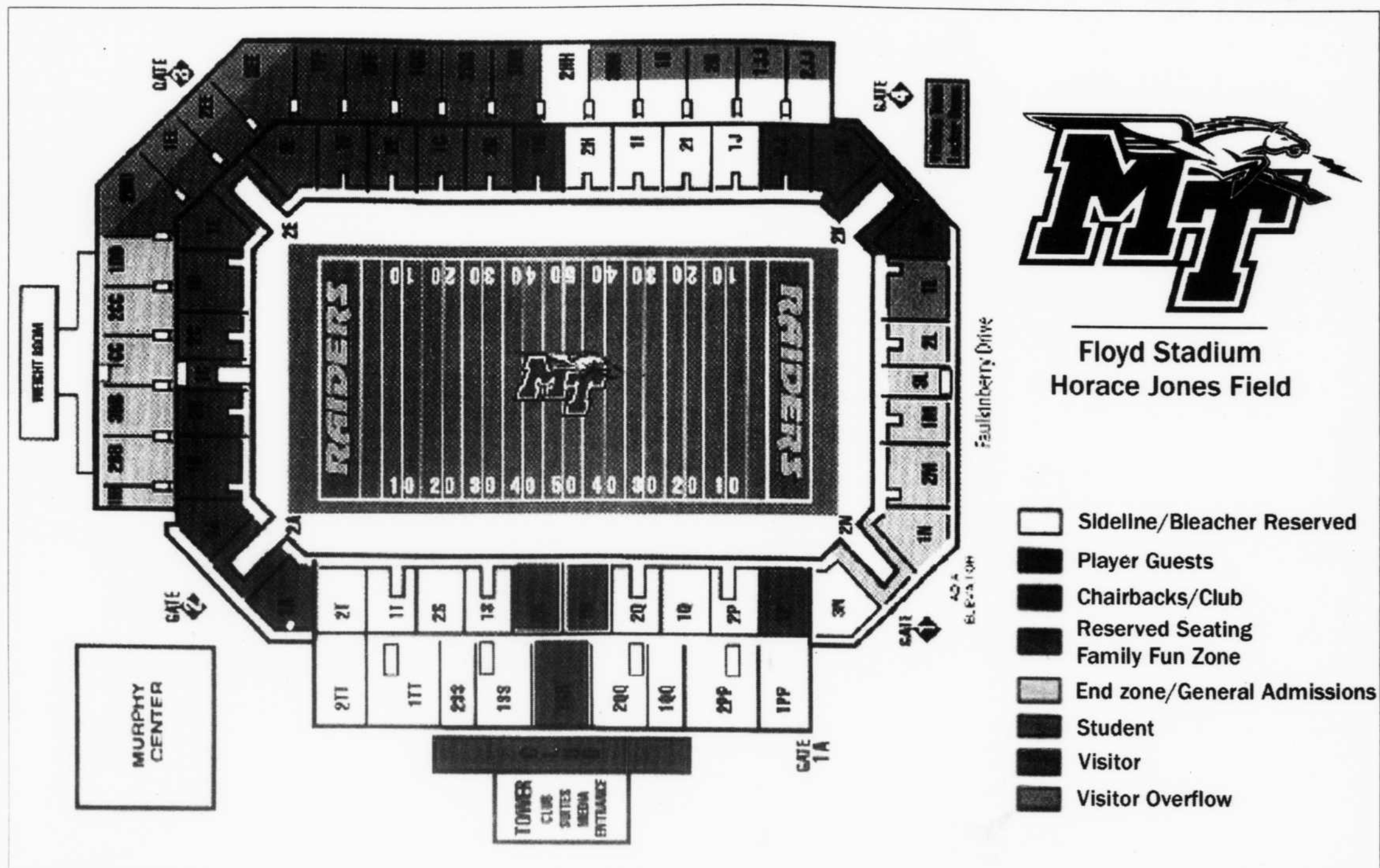
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# Student seating switched at Floyd



To assist our readers Sidelines will rerun this graphic for Thursday's gameday paper. Remember students get in for free, kick off is at 6 pm.

graphic provided by MT Media Relations

## Chris Massaro speaks on student seating in Floyd Stadium, WKU on Thursday

Interview by Richard Lowe

Assistant Sports Editor

**Sidelines:** So, explain the switch in the student sections.

**Chris Massaro:** At the end of last year, we really felt like the student body did such a good job, and our football team wants to recognize that and its hard with them being on the opposite side of our locker room. We wanted to move them closer to our locker

room and then also to give our students a better view of the video board. I think it's going to be a really great chance for our student body.

**SL:** Where exactly is the shift taking place?

**CM:** Basically, instead of being on the south side of the fifty yard line, they're going to be on the north side of the fifty yard line. So really, it just sort of flips, so they're going to run from the fifty yard line all the way around to the tunnel to our locker room.

**SL:** How do you think the students will react to the shift?

**CM:** I hope it'll be great. In my mind, they are much better seats. With the video board being there, you get a much better view. They can be a greater impact there with our team coming on and off the field. So, it's going to be a great change.

**SL:** They are actually shifting over to near where the family fun zone is located, correct?

**CM:** The family fun zone is still about two or three sections away from where the student body ends. I think we'll be OK there. The other benefit is we put the visitors section right by their tunnel where they go on and off the field.

**SL:** What other changes have been made?

**CM:** A lot of painting, a lot of sprucing up. We put some outdoor boxes in the north end zone. The stadium's looking really, really good.

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# SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

## Career Fair Special

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Push the right buttons to get your  
future started on the right track



# Social sites may hurt career options

By Christin Pepple

Campus News Editor

Communication Web sites like MySpace and Facebook could help or hinder recruiting for college students who are looking for a career.

In a poll by the National Association of Career and Employment, more than a quarter of employers polled stated they 'Google' candidates for hire.

"I don't think employees should be judged on the amount of work and how well they could perform, based on their MySpace and Facebook profiles," said Megan Holt, sophomore journalism major.

MySpace and Facebook allow personal photographs, descriptions and journals that allow any subject matter to be displayed for the public to read. More and more companies are finding

these forums to be harmful to their public relations images.

"The presumption is that anybody can see it," said John Palfrey, executive director of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law. "It's not hard to get into Facebook no matter who you are."

In a recent survey from CollegeGrad.com, 47 percent of job-seeking college graduates have changed their personal profiles or intend to in order to better their chances of landing a job.

"It would help employers when looking at candidates," said Michael Dezotell, sophomore public relations major.

The networking possibilities for the Web sites are endless in obtaining information about potential job offers. However the information obtained by employers could bring either negative or positive attention

to possible candidates.

"Employers shouldn't do it because it is just for fun," said Beshoy Nady, a chemistry graduate teaching assistant.

Facebook has photos updated 1.5 million times daily. It is the seventh most trafficked site in the United States and is available to over a thousand corporations.

"It is unprofessional of employers," said Jamie Robertson, senior English major. "It is your personal life."

"What qualifies them for a job cannot be based on what movies or TV shows they watch," Robertson said. "That doesn't determine the person's ability to complete a job."

A survey by Careerbuilder.com, reported that 35 percent of employers polled have either reprimanded or fired someone for something posted on the Internet.

Subsequently, students may find themselves on the other end of an electronic microscope if employers get curious about what their hires, or potential hires, do in their free time.

Many students and employers, though, are speaking out against this use of personal Web space.

Kevin Stokes, an assistant manager at Starbucks in Murfreesboro, said it is absolutely not ethical for employers to

check applicants' Internet profiles before hiring them.

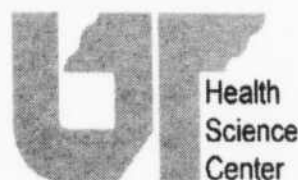
"MySpace is an expression like [a] Letter to the Editor is an expression," he said. "America prides itself on freedom of speech. Employers have no right to take that away from their employees."

Barbara Fuller, the managing attorney at the Legal Aid Society

See Sites, 5

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## Students find opportunities at career fair

By Micheala Jackson

*Sidelines Alumna*

Some students come to college to party. Some come to find a relationship. Some students' parents don't give them a choice. Overall, though, most students find themselves at college with the hope of launching a successful career.

That's how Karen Austin sees it, anyway. Austin is the assistant director of the Career and Employment Center on campus, and she sees job-hungry students coming through her door every day.

"We like to think that that's one of the reasons that people have chosen to come to college: To make themselves more employable in their field," Austin said.

This goal is met through a variety of means, but Austin and the rest of the staff at the Career and Employment Center work to make the road as straight and smooth as possible.

Using tools from Career Fairs to databases and everything in between, the career representatives are here for a singular purpose: to find students jobs.

"This is a service you're paying for with your tuition," Austin said. "Take advantage of it."

### Career Fair pairs students with employers

Career-seeking students: update your resumes, don your blazers and make the trek to Murphy Center Thursday for MT's annual Career Fair. This event, which will bring together students with representatives from business, industry, governmental agencies and professional schools, is pivotal for students preparing to graduate, Austin said.

"Please come to the fair. Come prepared [and] present yourself as a viable candidate, which means please dress appropriately," Austin said. "We know you're between classes, but govern your dress. And bring your resume, by all means. These people, that's why they're here. That's why they paid money to have a booth at the fair. They're looking to meet you."

Employers will be on hand to network with students seeking internships and part-time work, in addition to full-time jobs.

"[You can find jobs] anyway that you just about can define employment, from internships to part-time work," Austin said. "But I think [the employers'] ultimate goal is to brand themselves to the MTSU students so when MTSU students are looking for employment, that's who they're thinking of."

In addition to employers increasing their visibility, the goal of the career fair is making contacts for the future.

"The whole point of the fair is to network, to get you to the interview," Austin said. "Rarely do people get a job specifically from the fair. What they do is make the contact."

When students are preparing for the fair, they should come with a little bit of background information under their belts.

"Do a little bit of research," Austin said. "I talk to recruiters all the time, and there's nothing that turns them off more quickly than somebody who says, 'Oh, Cheney Industries. So what do you do?'"

"Know a little bit about them. No, you don't have to know their whole product line — that's not necessary. But if you convey that you have done a little bit of

See Fair, 5



# Be in print:

Work for MTSU's editorially independent, student newspaper:



*Sidelines* is currently hiring staff for Spring 2007. Students who wish to obtain hands-on experience in journalism, or to develop a portfolio of materials to present to prospective employers, or who have an interest in participating on campus are welcome to apply.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Minors: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Classification: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Cum. GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

List computers and software have you used:

\_\_\_\_\_

Positions interested in: \_\_\_\_\_

Other current employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Other major involvements: \_\_\_\_\_

List any related classes or experience: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List names and numbers for three references:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Return applications to:

*Sidelines*

PO Box 8

1301 E. Main St.

Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Or bring to:

John Bragg Mass Communications Bldg.

Room 269

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicates you have read and understood fully the above instructions. Students interested in paid staff positions must fill out the appropriate employment forms in the *Sidelines* office, John Bragg Mass Communications Building, Room 269, prior to or your first day of work. Please see the editor-in-chief or business manager for these forms. *Sidelines* is an equal opportunity employer.

## Guidelines

1. Applicants must have and maintain a 2.0 grade point average or better.

2. If hired for a paid position, applicants must fill out all appropriate employment forms in the *Sidelines* office prior to or on the first day of employment. You cannot be legally employed until such forms are filled out.

3. Applicants should be prepared to bring samples of writing or a current photography portfolio if called for an interview.

Applicants who are hired will initially be employed as a contributing staff member for a trial period of three articles or photo assignments. Staff who submit timely work of a satisfactory quality will be paid beginning with their fourth submission.



## Sites: May hurt careers

### Continued from 2

Middle Tennessee, described a similar policy. "We only base employment on a written reference check and interview," she said. "We don't use the Internet."

Among the student workers, who are often those most affected by employer searches, many express frustration with what they believe is an unfair use of a medium that doesn't lend itself to secrets.

"Everything on the net needs to be taken with a grain of salt. It doesn't need to always be taken seriously," said Sarah Catlett, Spencer's Gifts employee.

Chris Suttor, an employer of Buckle, echoed that sentiment. "[Your boss] shouldn't be able to 'Google' you and fire you for it," he said. "Personal and professional lives are separate."

Brandy Gibbs, a general manager at Hastings, expressed a middle-of-the-road view on the subject, putting the debate in terms of what's best for the company. She said she agreed with an employer's right to fire someone for what they post on the Internet, but only if it is directly harmful to the company in question.

"If [employees] talk about customers or use names, for Hastings, it's a breach of contract,"

Gibbs said. "We have a contract that we sign that says we can't let out sale information. So if it's a breach of contract, sure, they can be fired."

In addition to photos and comments posted on Web sites like Facebook and MySpace, many students put themselves on display through personal Web logs, or blogs.

John Merchant, a graduate student for recording industry arts and technology said he had no sympathy for students who experience consequences for something they post in a blog.

"It is a publicly viewable document," he said. "It's like posting something on a wall and saying 'I have a reasonable claim to privacy.'"

Caution is the name of the game where the Internet is concerned, said Anantha Babbili, dean of the college of Mass Communications.

"Whenever you have a leap in technology, you have to see the positive and negative aspects of it," Babbili said. "The positive is that your expression is seen and experienced by many people. The negative aspect is that it invades your privacy, and it is the latter that will have an effect on how you will be shaped."

"My true advice is, don't be vulnerable to information about you in the public arena. Be cautious." ♦

## Fair: Student opportunities

### Continued from 3

homework on that company, you know a little bit about them, that will excite the recruiter. That will make them want to engage you, and make them maintain a contact for you with regard to an internship or a full-time position later."

One development in the job market is that much of the process leading up to employment takes place online, Austin said. The critical step in connecting with employers is to follow up after the initial contact, Austin said.

"The point of the fair is to network. . . . So yes you're going to have to go to the Web site and fill out their application, but also, you handed them a resume, you made the personal connection and you got the business card. Don't feel put off."

### Employment Center can aid in job hunt

In addition to the highly-publicized events like Thursday's Career Fair, the Career and Employment Center digs in and gets their hands dirty throughout the day-to-day process of finding and landing a job.

Students have access to a free database called eRecruiting that makes their resume available to employers seeking help, much like services like Monster.com and CareerBuilder.

"The thing about our [database] is employers know that they don't have to pay to have access to you, so we're going to have a more broad base of employers," Austin said. "We're going to have a good variety, the majority of which are going to be here in Middle Tennessee."

Job opportunities are also available across the country, though, as eRecruiting is a national database.

Students can sign up for an account in eRecruiting on the Career Services Web site at

mtsu.edu/~career, but they will have to sign a form in person at the Career Center to comply with privacy laws.

"From that point on, after we have that, you can never come into the office again and that's fine," Austin said. "Everything can be done electronically."

The real keys to making yourself a stand-out job candidate are to start preparing early, and don't settle for a mediocre position, Austin said.

"Ideally, the thing you want to have been doing your whole college career is to understand that when you left high school to come in here, that this is the 13th grade," she said. "You have started in your profession when you start college, and to take some kind of ownership attitude toward it, rather than just, 'Oh, I've got to go to class.'"

"You're going to spend tens of thousands of dollars to make yourself employable in your profession, so . . . make sure that you're an employable candidate at the end of your college career. And that goes by being involved in organizations and taking on leadership roles."

Austin spoke specifically to non-traditional students, encouraging them to get involved in their communities.

"If you've got family obligations, if you've got adult obligations, you may not have the opportunity to be as involved on campus as you want to," she said. "That's OK. Then be involved in your community. If you're driving here from Columbia every Tuesday and Thursday and your class is all day long and then you leave, then you need to be involved in some things Columbia."

Finally, students can't expect to get a stellar job right off the bat. Patience is of utmost importance.

"It's normal [to wait two months], if they're waiting for a career-kind of position," Austin said. "The rule of thumb, and I say that loosely, is one month for every \$10,000 you want to make." ♦

### 2007-08 Student Health Insurance Plans Developed for Middle Tennessee State University Students

#### Approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents Student Insurance Committee

#### Features include:

- ✓ Covered charges at the Student Health Center paid at 100% with no deductible.
- ✓ Coverage for inpatient and outpatient hospital expenses such as: surgery, physician's visits, diagnostic testing, prescriptions and other services.
- ✓ Coverage: 80% in PPO & 60% Non-PPO; \$100,000 maximum benefit
- ✓ Reasonable premiums - see brochure and enrollment form for coverage & payment options.

#### Brochures & Enrollment Forms available at the:

- Student Health Center
- [www.healthbenefitconcepts.com](http://www.healthbenefitconcepts.com) or calling 1-800-463-2317
- on-line enrollment at [www.gmsouthwest.com](http://www.gmsouthwest.com)

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



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## Find your next job at eRecruiting

Visit <http://mtsu.erecruiting.com> and sign up today to  
share your resume and search for jobs

*Hey December and May Grads!*

## YOUR MOTHER CALLED!

She wanted to know if you had applied with us yet. Told her I didn't think so. She said that this was your last year and she was looking through the websites and we looked like a good place to start a career. I told her that was true and that Knoxville was a great place to live. I told her she could find more information about Knoxville by visiting these sites:

[www.knoxvillechamber.com/](http://www.knoxvillechamber.com/),  
[www.knoxville.org/](http://www.knoxville.org/),  
[www.knoxvillechamber.com/index.php?/kc/main/visitor\\_relocation/setting\\_up\\_shop\\_home](http://www.knoxvillechamber.com/index.php?/kc/main/visitor_relocation/setting_up_shop_home).

I told her that Knoxville is not a well kept secret. The area has been recognized by national lifestyle and business magazines as a fantastic place to live and work. Some of those rankings include:

- *Forbes* magazine, Best Places for Business & Career – **ranked #5**
- *ERI*, National Salary and Cost of Living Survey -- ,  
Best Place for Graduates to Start a Career – **ranked #1**
- *Expansion Management* magazine, America's 50 Hottest Cities for Business Relocation &  
Expansion – **ranked #9**
- *Places Rated Almanac Millenium Edition*,  
Best Place to Live for cities under 1 million population – **ranked #1**
- *Sperling's Best Places*, Best Places for Affordable Living – **ranked #8**
- *Money Magazine*, Best Places to Retire – **ranked #10**
- *Inc.* magazine, Top Mid-Size City Boom Towns (for Job Growth) – **ranked #24**
- *Hotwire.com*, America's Most Affordable Travel Destinations – **ranked #4**

She was also inquiring about the recent turmoil in the mortgage industry. She was afraid you might get in an industry that isn't stable. I let her know the mortgage industry was struggling because other mortgage companies couldn't find investors willing to finance their loan portfolios but because our company is owned by Berkshire-Hathaway we didn't have to worry about that. I told her to check out Warren Buffett by going to <http://www.berkshirehathaway.com/>, and look over the financial statements. I told her anyone with \$57,000,000,000 (yes that billions) in cash didn't have to ask anyone to loan them money to support their business operations and we expected to be around a long time. Actually our business is growing more than ever and that creates great career growth opportunities in our company.

I let her know that she could find out even more information about us by going to  
<http://www.myspace.com/21stmortgagerecruiter>, and she said she would try to look there.

Well, I told her I would tell you she called so there you have it.

We're now interviewing and making offers to Students who will graduate in December '07 and are also interviewing students who will graduate in May. All majors are considered. We have some part-time positions available if you would like to work a few hours while completing your degree.

So stop by and talk to me at the Career Fair on September 20<sup>th</sup> or go to our website and apply at  
[www.21stMortgage.com](http://www.21stMortgage.com).

Your mother will be glad you did.

21<sup>st</sup> Mortgage Recruiter





Swipe I.D. for admission.  
Register for door prizes!

## FOR ALL STUDENTS

Opportunities available with employers in **business, industry, and government agencies**,  
as well as with **graduate and professional schools**

**Thursday, September 20, 2007 • 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Murphy Center Track Level**

Bring resumes for employers. Business casual attire; no short shorts or flip-flops. Register for door prizes.

For more information or to view a roster of attendees, go to [www.mtsu.edu~career](http://www.mtsu.edu~career)

Sponsored by the MTSU Career and Employment Center



# Raiders Ridge

## Message:

You'll love it!  
I worked there  
last year and  
the staff was  
super nice and  
helpful. I learned  
so much about  
the business  
world..

~Jenna~

Pay Rent U  
\$409.00

Call campus  
career center!

- ✓ Put finishing touches on resume
- ✓ Call advisor about internship
- ✓ Appointment: Tuesday 2:30 pm
- ✓ Check into Raider's Ridge marketing dept.

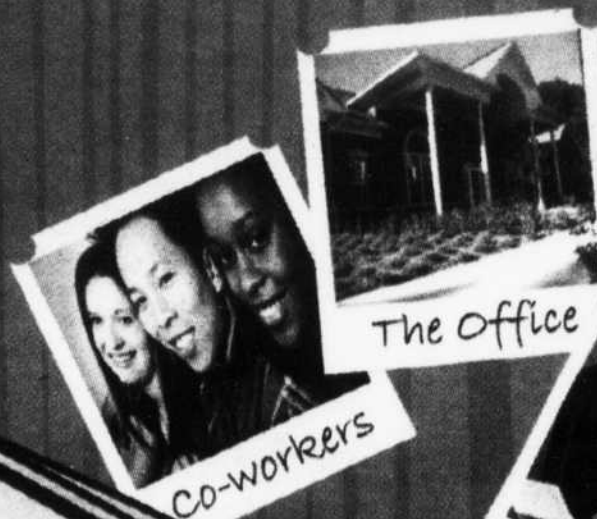


Prospect



office: 615-907-1870  
Call Raider's Ridge  
about marketing  
internship!

Ask for Jane!



Co-workers



The Office



Management

Professional Resume

## Raiders Ridge

- Fully furnished apartments
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- Washer/Dryer included
- Gated Community
- All utilities included
- Free Comcast internet and cable

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APARTMENT HOMES  
Jane Fox

AMBER  
COMPANY