

## Dems may take control of House, Senate

By Dana Owens  
Community News Editor

For the first time in 12 years, democrats have won the majority in the House while the Senate, one seat is left to determine the majority, and the results may not be called for some time.

Anyone who watched the race Tuesday night knows that it was close, not just in Tennessee, but nationwide. Though the democrats did not reach the magic number of 218 in Congress until after midnight, votes are still creeping in to give the democrats an easy majority. At press time, 196 seats went republican while 229 were democratic with 10 still undecided.

Surprisingly enough, the real race is

turning out to be in for U.S. Senate. It was the early hours of the morning before the last two seats of the Senate were split to determine who would hold the majority.

What is even more impressive is the fact that the majority of the races, for both House and Senate, came down to only a percentage point or two. And even more interesting, two independent candidates have claimed seats in the Senate.

For a conservative southern state, Tennessee proved to be a decisive battleground for the Senate. What was a hot race at home became even more heated on a nationwide scale.

Just after midnight, the Senate race was dead even at 48 seats claimed for republicans and 48 for the democrats, with one seat going to the independent Joe

Lieberman. The only states yet to report all precinct votes were Missouri, Montana, Virginia and Tennessee.

The race turned from one that was too close to call weeks before the election to one that was leaning in favor of Bob Corker the day of – all things considered, it turned out to be a rather unsurprising win for Tennessee conservatives.

Despite this loss for democrats, the race pressed on for the last three seats. First to go was Missouri, with 99 percent of the precincts reporting a win to democrat Claire McCaskill. This state was also a hot race, not just for Senate, but the ballot issue of stem cell research that received national and celebrity interest.

Though it was decided that stem cell research would continue in Missouri, it

reflected Tennessee's own ballot issue of an amendment that would ban same-sex marriage, which passed with the overwhelming majority of 81 percent.

By about 1:30 a.m., the Senate seats held at 49 to 49. Virginia was ahead by just over 11,000 votes for James Webb, a democrat, and a dwindling audience of political junkies held their breath.

Virginia law states that when a candidate loses by less than 1 percent of the vote, they are able to call for a recount. In this case, independent Glenda Parker won by only 1 percent, or roughly 25,000 votes. Had this margin gone to either the democrats or republicans, they would have potentially won an easy majority. But in a race harkening back to the 2000 presidential elections, Virginia was in a

standstill.

At 1 p.m. Wednesday, republican George Allen called for the recount, which will not even begin until Nov. 27 and could stretch well into December. Though Virginia held a narrow democratic majority, only the recount will tell.

With Virginia a toss-up, eyes turned to Montana, whose precincts proved sluggish in reporting results.

As it stands Wednesday, the winner of the state, democrat Jon Tester, will be ahead by less than 1 percent of the vote. Like Virginia, Montana could require a recount. Republican candidate Conrad Burns has stated that he will not concede

See Election, 2

## Student waives early hearing for evaluation

By Jaz Gray  
Staff Writer

Elartrice "Marcell" Ingram, who is charged with nine counts of attempted murder in Cordova, Tenn., waived his right to a preliminary hearing on Friday, Oct. 27.

Ingram was arrested July 21 for stabbing nine of his co-workers at Schnucks Grocery Store in the Memphis suburb. Since the incident, Ingram has undergone a psychological evaluation by Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute, which determined that he is competent to stand trial.

William Massey, Ingram's attorney, said the mental evaluation was conducted in lieu of the preliminary hearing.

According to Massey, the recent evaluation addressed Ingram's current state of mind. There will be a separate evaluation to address Ingram's condition during the stabbing.

Jennifer Donnals, the District Attorney spokeswoman, said although she could not comment on the defense's reason for skipping the preliminary hearing, it may be a device used by Massey to retain information until the case is presented before the grand jury.

Theresa Howard, a Schnucks employee who was stabbed four times by Ingram, said Ingram

"needs some attention," but thinks Massey should not use his evaluations to postpone the trial because Ingram endangered the lives of his co-workers.

"I'm happy that they are evaluating [Ingram, but] they shouldn't use that as a way for him to get a lesser charge," Howard said. "I want him to be punished."

Ingram has been charged but not indicted by a grand jury, according to Donnals. She said Ingram's case will be presented before the grand jury to determine whether he should be brought before a court of law and if he is indicted, his case will move from General Sessions to State Criminal Court.

The results of the indictment could take six to 12 weeks to be released, Donnals said.

"If indicted, [it could be] 12 to 18 months before the trial," she said.

Before an indictment and a grand jury trial, however, Massey and his legal team will attempt to get Ingram's \$1 million bond reduced at a bond hearing later this week.

"The system has trouble telling the difference between a criminal crime and psychological problem," Massey said.

Massey said he believes that Ingram is the perfect example of a good person being treated unfairly by the criminal court system.

"Do you remember 'Alice in Wonderland'? The Queen said, 'Off with her head! First the punishment, then the verdict.' That is [the example] we intend to put before the court at the bond hearing," Massey said.



Photo courtesy of yotophoto.com / Photo Illustration by Blake Arnold | Art Director

By Christin Pepple  
Staff Writer

Eating adequate amounts of fish outweighs the health risk of ingesting mercury or other toxic materials, reports a new study from Harvard University.

"Fish and shellfish, as part of a well-balanced diet, can contribute to heart health," said Lisa Sheehan-Smith, assistant professor of nutritional and food sciences. "These protein-rich foods are low in saturated fat and contain omega-3 fatty acids."

Most types of fish and shellfish do contain mercury, but the risk is mostly a concern to unborn or small children, said Sheehan-Smith, who is also a registered and practicing dietitian.

"The only concern of mercury poisoning is in women who might be pregnant or

are nursing young children," Sheehan-Smith said. "Also, until they have a higher body mass, children should be careful of how much fish they are fed. But this does not mean it is toxic in any amount."

At MTSU, mercury is not much of a problem, but the fear is still there. When questioning students at the Keathley University Center, most were unaware of mercury in fish.

To date, no mercury-related complaints have been made to Health Services at MTSU.

"We haven't seen any cases here that could be related to mercury poisoning," said Richard Chapman, director of Health Services. "It is mostly toxic in infants and small children who eat fish like tuna every day, but it can be toxic to adults in high amounts."

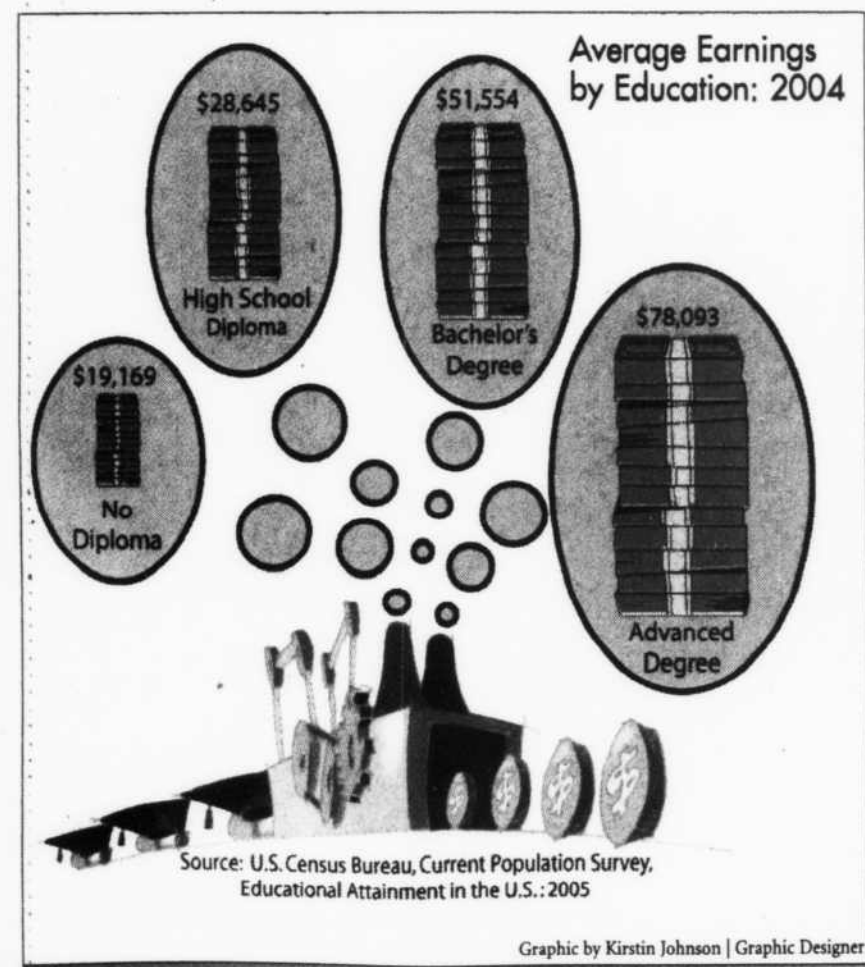
Fish is very high in protein and low in

fat, calories and cholesterol, which means it can reduce the risk for cholesterol or heart disease. Any healthy adult is encouraged to eat fish that is steamed, grilled, or baked and to avoid fried fish, as frying increases the amount of fat digested.

"I have eaten fish every day for seven years and I feel fine and healthier than I ever have," said John Aye, a worker at the sushi bar at the KUC.

According to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, consumption of fish in 2004 amounted to 16.5 pounds per person. Tuna was the most popular, accounting for 20 percent of all consumption. Due to high levels of mercury, pregnant women are cautioned to only eat about six ounces of canned tuna per week by the department.

See Embrace, 4



## College does pay off

### New report shows degree raises grads' salaries significantly

By Faith Franklin  
Staff Writer

A report released by the Census Bureau found that 18-year-olds with a Bachelor's degree earn more money than adults in the same age bracket without a Bachelor's degree.

On Oct. 26, the United States Census Bureau released a report about the education of adults in the United States in relation to their salaries.

The report displays the economical advantage to having a degree and clearly outlines earnings for 2004.

Adults with no diploma, not having completed their high school education, earn a reported average of \$19,169 yearly.

Adults with a high school diploma

average \$28,645 a year, which gives those with a high school diploma a \$9,476 yearly advantage over those without a diploma.

Those individuals with a Bachelor's degree earn a reported \$51,554 yearly. This is calculated to a \$22,909 yearly advantage over those with a high school diploma and a \$32,375 advantage over those without any diploma.

Individuals with an advanced degree earn a reported average of \$78,093 yearly. They average \$26,539 over those individuals who only have a Bachelor's degree and \$49,448 over individuals with a high school diploma alone. They also average a reported \$58,924 over those individuals with no diploma.

In addition to the national census, MTSU has its own way of accessing the earnings of its graduates. The Career and Employment Center on campus produces an annual report.

Martha Turner, director of Career and Employment Center, said she agrees with the Census Bureau's findings, but said their report is very reli-

able and about the best measurement available on the subject as it relates to MTSU students.

Through eRecruiting, which is a Web-based student registration and referral system.

"Our survey is for new graduates," Turner said.

The census Bureau averages will be higher than MTSU Career and Employment Center because they are reporting on people who have experience in their field, Turner said.

The average starting salary for MTSU graduates was \$32,367 for the 2004-2005 school year. This average was an increase over the 2003-2004 starting salary of \$31,277.

The MTSU Career and Employment Center report gives averages for each of the university's colleges. The average for graduates for Basic and Applied Science was \$34,935, Business College \$33,903, Education and Behavioral Science \$29,639, Liberal Arts \$26,596 and Mass Communications \$25,871.



# Three months later, damage from lightning nearly repaired

By Andy Harper

Campus Life Editor

Construction at Raiders Ridge apartments in Murfreesboro are coming to an end after lightning struck Building 8 nearly three months ago.

The lightning caused a fire to breakout on the third floor of the building, forcing the management of the complex to relocate some residents. Some were moved into a different building while others took up residence in a local hotel.

"The damage resulted in a delay of 42 beds, half a million [dollars] in damages and horrific, major structural damage," said Marisa Parker, property manager for Raiders Ridge.

The first and second floors of the building were repaired by late August, however the third floor, which sustained the most damage, will be fully completed and up to city codes by Nov. 19, Parker said. Currently, two apartments on the third floor remain in the process of repair.

Edward Williams, senior computer science major and resident of the damaged building, said he was moved temporarily to another apartment unit while his building was being repaired.

"Since then everything has been fine and looks decent," Williams said. "Nothing other than the normal technical issues."

When Williams moved back into his repaired

apartment, he said the apartments left him a "welcome-back" basket and waived his rent for October.

"Some residents were also put up in a hotel," Parker said. "We paid for all expenses, food, gas and the cost of hotel. Also, the entire time period has been rent-free."

Parker also said residents were offered a chance to cancel their leases without financial penalties.

In an attempt to control tenant property damage, Parker said when the fire broke, the apartment emergency team responded quickly and cut the sprinkler system, as to not set off the sprinklers in all the apartments.

"It was an unfortunate incident and we've tried to be fair," Parker said. "We have made every effort to try and overcome all inconveniences."

Many of the residents now living in the building moved into the apartments after the fire and completion of repairs to the first and second floors in late August.

One resident, Kevin Carmichael, freshman concrete industry major, said he was supposed to move in on Aug. 1 into Building 4 but was delayed due to the damages and eventually moved into Building 8 because other residents had filled Building 4.

"I only had to pay a little bit of August and my lease still ends the same time," Carmichael said. "The worst has been the construction dumpster that was sitting in front of our apartment building – it just didn't work."

Carmichael also said construction workers frequently entered and exited the building, but said neither he nor his roommates have had a problem with the workers.

"The building has definitely improved," he said. "The only problem is that we have a lot of flies, even though the dumpsters gone."

Some residents of the damaged building seem pleased with the results of the repairs, such as DJ Lipscomb, freshman recording industry major, who lives on the third floor, in one of the recently repaired apartments.

"The office is doing well, although a little slow. You just have to frequently visit them and stay on them," Lipscomb said. "Overall, though, they are really nice."

Jesse Grant, junior geography major, said the building was struck just a few days before the Aug. 1 move-in date.

"My friend's little brother was supposed to move into Building 4 but since he's a freshman he got moved into the crappy building," Grant said.

After all damage calculations, construction and frustrations, Parker said the apartment still has a successful ranking and satisfactory relationships with tenants.

"We support our college students and realize that this was a difficult event, especially for freshmen just coming into college," Parker said. "We sympathize and have tried to make all inconveniences as less inconvenient as possible."



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

Building 8 was damaged after lightning struck it in late July.

## HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2007 / SPRING 2008

The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2007/Spring 2008 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are requesting to move to a different location on campus next year, as new assignments are made by application date.

Students requesting to remain in their same location on campus next year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and \$300 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The reapplication deadline with priority for the 2007/2008 academic year is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2007 at 4:00 PM.**

Students need to complete a reapplication form available in the Housing and Residential Life Office, pay the \$300 prepaid rent at the business office cashier windows in the Cope Administration Building, 1st floor, and return the reapplication form stamped "paid" to the Housing and Residential Life office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at [www.mtsu.edu](http://www.mtsu.edu). The \$300 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, MasterCard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$19 nonrefundable service fee charged by the third party for processing the payment online. Please note that the amount of the prepaid rent deposit has increased to **\$300** for the Fall 2007/Spring 2008 academic year.

To obtain a **HOUSING REAPPLICATION FORM**, please come by the Housing and Residential Life office during office hours, 8AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday, in the Keathley University Center, Room 300.

**\*\*Summer '07 Housing Applications** are also available in the Housing Office. Reserve your summer space now by completing the housing application and submitting it with the \$125.00 prepaid rent deposit. It is not too early!!

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# Sigma Chi creates Krystal commercial

Brothers' story started out as a joke, but soon landed them on national TV

By Christin Pepple  
Staff Writer

It's not uncommon to flip on the television and see some fast-food enthusiast recounting their fondest Krystal commercial. From now until January, MT students who find themselves listening to a "Krystal Story" between segments of *Lost* or *Desperate Housewives* may see a few familiar faces.

Sigma Chi fraternity member Justin Lane, freshman recording industry major, narrates a commercial, which also features Sigma Chi's Ryan Richards, Braeden Kehoe, Josh Wilson, Allan Ownby and Jeff Gabrell.

"Basically, I saw on Krystal's Web site that you could submit a story in, so I sent in one about a tradition my brothers and I have," Lane said. "We drive to Krystals and buy a Steamer pack, and see if we can eat them all before we get back to the house. If you didn't win, you had to buy for everyone next time."

"Apparently they really liked it, so we went in for an interview and we got to film the commercial," Lane said.

Kehoe, freshman aerospace major, said the filming took six hours and which guys got to appear in the commercial was the "luck of the draw."

"The people who got to do it were the people who were able to go into the preliminary interview with Krystal," Kehoe said.

The brothers who participated each made a quick \$100 for their participation.

"It's really funny because in classes recognize you, because I forget it's on TV," Lane said. "But the most awesome thing was the fact that it aired three times during the World Series."

"It's really funny because the thing started out as a whole big joke. We laughed about it but then it snowballed and we got to actually do the commercial. We aren't models, we are just some frat guys doing our frat thing."

The Krystal Corporation took some liberties with the story and instead of placing Murfreesboro in the bottom corner of the screen, they simply put Nashville, Tenn.

"To be honest, they changed our story around a lot," Lane

said. "Looking back on it, the commercial is really cheesy because they changed it around so much. They wouldn't let us wear our fraternity letters while we filmed. The guy's car we used actually got scratched up a little but they did pay to have it detailed."

Lane and the other Sigma Chi brothers in the commercial have had a lot of responses from the campus and from friends and family.

"I've had a ton of phone calls from people I knew from high school and relatives," Lane said. "One guy I know who lives in Canada saw the commercial and called me - it was wild."

"I have had so many people call me and Facebook me about it," Kehoe said. "It's especially funny since the whole thing was just a big joke."

Krystal is bringing back previous people who starred in their commercials for cameo appearances on new "Krystal Story" commercials, so the brothers of Sigma Chi might make a return appearance.

"We all enjoyed it and it was pretty awesome when I was sitting in Mellow Mushroom and it came on," Lane said. "We might get to make a cameo later and that will be awesome as well."

# Faces in the Crowd

Anna Manley, senior political science major and director of Amnesty International MTSU Student Group was on the KUC Knoll yesterday talking with students about the death penalty.



you are to oppose it. Then they should act; write letters to the legislature, governor and representatives.

4. Do you think that a lot of people are educated about the death penalty?

I am actually very impressed with the knowledge that people have on the death penalty, especially college students with the society that we live in today.

5. Is the death penalty racially biased?

It is racially biased. That is an absolute fact. The racial component comes in when a crime against a white person is committed by a non-white person.

Compiled By: Faith Franklin

1. What type of student response have you been getting?

We have been getting a very good response from students. The majority of students are interested in hearing Amnesty's position on the death penalty.

2. What are most of students' positions on the death penalty?

Many people today have said that they are anti-

death penalty except for people like Saddam Hussein, who was sentenced to death two days ago, even though his trial was plagued with inconsistencies.

3. What can students do about the death penalty?

Educate themselves because it is a proven fact that once educated about the death penalty and its fallacies, the more likely

## Embrace: Healthy or toxic?

Continued from 1

Forty tons of mercury are released into the United States every year. Most of it is absorbed into the atmosphere, which in turn goes into the water and accumulates in fish, according to the Environmental Working Group.

Mercury ingestion can cause severe neurological damage and in pregnant women, can cause their children to have even more problems.


The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's study of mercury blood levels found that roughly 10 percent of

women in the United States have a high mercury level in their blood, which could potentially cause problems for their unborn baby.

Women who are nursing or pregnant should stay away from shark, swordfish, goldenbass or snapper and king mackerel, and eat only up to 12 ounces of a variety of fish every week, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Based on research, if you are a healthy adult, there is no problem with eating fish," said Sheehan-Smith. "In fact, it is encouraged because it is such a good source of protein."

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Continued to next column



# OPINIONS

## From the Editorial Board

### Campus nationally recognized with the help of hungry fraternity

There is no such thing as bad publicity, as the phrase goes, even if that publicity is for the ability to consume Krystal burgers with the force of an industrial power-vacuum.

Caps off (of the Pepto-Bismol bottles) to the gentlemen of Sigma Chi for their recent display of Krystal-conquering in the nationally aired "Krystal Story" commercial. And while this is an exciting plug for them personally, the recognition for MTSU is even better.

Assuming people across the country do not view our university as being home to kids cramming Krystal burgers down their throats, a national spotlight until January for the campus isn't that bad. It could almost act as a decent recruitment tool – though the quality of students recruited by this commercial might be a little questionable.

The only problem is that it seems the guys were ripped off. They did not get to wear their fraternity letters, they only got paid a measly \$100 to appear in a nationally aired commercial and, to top everything off, the driver's car sustained damage. A detail job is nice, but it is still damaged goods underneath the band-aid.

All in all, the commercial, despite its over cheesiness and the "fratty" characteristics, turned out decently, representing the quality of the campus well.

The guys played up their tradition and got enough monetary compensation to sustain another trip and a half to continue their munchies legacy. The only question left is, if what Lane said is correct, and Krystal does return for a follow-up, how will the brothers top their recent adventure?

Our suggestion, perhaps a drag race to Krystal to pick up two Steamer Packs. The cars, holding one pack each, then race back to the Sigma Chi house, tossing burgers between the vehicles. The car to eat the most burgers out of the other car's Steamer Packs wins. In case of a tie, the opposing teams would then asked to repeat the process while driving in reverse.

We are sure Krystal would be unable to resist that story; they might even bring in Joe Rogan to narrate.

### Star's decision to adopt praiseworthy, not wrong

The Queen of Pop, Madonna, is once again making news around the world. This time, though, it is not for her risqué outfits or song lyrics. The rumors began a few weeks ago that the star was in the middle of a adopting a child from an underdeveloped country. It was soon confirmed by Madonna that she indeed was going to adopt a baby from Malawi.

The baby boy that Madonna and her husband, Guy Ritchie, fell in love with was a 13-month-old boy named David who had been living in an orphanage since he was just a few weeks old. When she and her husband met David, the baby was extremely sick with pneumonia.

"I wanted to go into a Third World country – I wasn't sure where – and give a life to a child who might not otherwise have had one," Madonna said on "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

I am not sure why so many people are criticizing the Material Girl. By adopting the 13-month-old baby boy, she is able to save him from a life full of poverty, illness and hardship. However, it seems the media would much rather put down Madonna and her family than applaud them for the life they are going to change and possibly save.

I am all for adoption. I believe that it is a great thing, whether it takes place within the United States or in another country. Taking in a child that someone did not want or could not provide for adequately is an amazing gift to give to a child. By adopting, you are able to save a child's life, in a way.

Adopting a child is one of the most unselfish things that a person could do in their life. Taking on a child that is biologically not yours and agreeing to love, nurture and provide for that child like it is your own flesh and blood is an amazing thing. Not many people want to adopt a child because they feel like it is really not theirs, since it is not made up of their gene pool.

To me, that is ridiculous. There



Lucky One

DeAnn Curry  
Staff Columnist

are hundreds of thousands of children spending their lives in orphanages because no one will adopt them.

For the parents that put their children up for adoption, I can not imagine how difficult it would be to allow your child to be raised by another family. On the other hand, I commend those who do know that they could not possibly provide for the child like they know they should. They know that putting their baby up for adoption is far better than letting them suffer from not having the basic needs of everyday life.

With all of the controversy swirling the Ritchie family involving the adoption of the baby boy, I applaud Madonna and her family for sticking up for what they believe in.

It has been reported that the baby's biological father did not know that he was giving up all custody rights of his son when Madonna offered to support the child. Not many people would be willing to provide for a child who is not there.

I believe that the father would be doing the right thing if he allowed Madonna and her family to keep the baby. I know that is a hard thing to do, to give away your own flesh and blood, but it seems like the baby would have a much better life and chance of surviving if he was taken out of such horrific conditions.

If more people would consider adoption, then there would be fewer children who are in dire need of a home and someone to provide for them.

DeAnn Curry is a senior mass communication major and can be reached at jdc3v@mtsu.edu.



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

### Buying big to boost your ego foolish

Close your eyes, and imagine a time, long, long ago. Think back to the grey days of August 2005, when a wild woman named Katrina gutted our coastline. Think back to the fuel shortage and \$4 a gallon in some places, for several weeks. Yes, those were dark times.

Now, back to the present, and think about how bad your memory is.

Recent statistics reported by AFX News in Detroit show that the large domestic automakers have had a surge in sales as the weather cools. According to the report, General Motors' sales were buoyed by a 33.2 percent increase in the sales of SUV's and light trucks, largely attributed to the decrease in fuel prices.

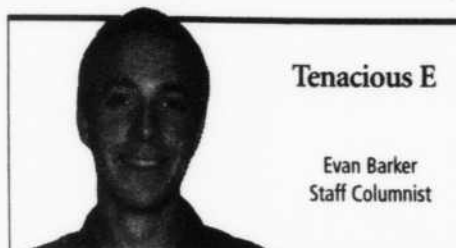
Doesn't this strike anyone as a little bit odd?

Don't get me wrong. I'm thrilled that some of the largest employers in the United States are posting sales gains. It keeps our workers on the job, productive and earning much-needed money. The statistic that worries me is the rising sales in large, gas-guzzling vehicles.

During the months following Katrina's steamrolling of the Gulf Coast, we heard stories of Joe Citizens rendered destitute by the skyrocketing prices in fuel. We heard about price gouging, \$6 fuel, cars left by the side of the road. Chances are, if you're reading this column, you were there.

Why, I ask, do we seem unable to remember this phenomenon?

The people out there buying these giant



Tenacious E

Evan Barker  
Staff Columnist

hulks of metal are just thrilled that gas prices are low enough to make it barely affordable. These buyers would do well, however, to remember that gas prices spike every year as spring turns to summer, and sink as summer turns to fall and fall to winter.

Why would anyone in their right mind drop a huge wad of money on something that could wind up costing them dearly in the long run? This sort of selective amnesia is partially to blame for the skyrocketing bankruptcy rates in this country.

This is, of course, the United States. You can drive whatever you can afford in this – free? – country. Just because you can, doesn't necessarily make it a good idea, though. It's as simple as this: Driving a gas-guzzling vehicle is like burning money. The absolute minimum that will get you where you need to get, when you need to get there, is all you need.

You can, however, compromise. I like the idea of supporting American workers, if at all possible. It's true that these increased SUV

sales will certainly benefit the hard-working United Auto Workers union members in Detroit and elsewhere, but possibly at the detriment of your wallet. You can purchase a domestically built car that will save you gas, but also haul the kiddies to soccer practice.

Last summer, when it came time to trade in my ailing vehicle, I shopped around, and found a good deal on a domestically produced two-door car. It's small, not more than I need, easy on gas and fun to drive. I got a low interest rate, and, hopefully, kept some assembly line workers in a job.

No, I don't have a massive hunk of metal to push around Murfreesboro, but I also don't feel compelled to compensate for deficient manliness with one. My parents in suburban Nashville are probably the only people in the neighborhood who opt for the minivan over the gas-hog SUV, but they're laughing all the way past the pump.

Swallow your pride, look yourself in the mirror, and ask an honest question. Do you really need three tons of Detroit iron to get to Gentleman Jim's, or are you just compensating for deficiencies to the south of your waistline?

You'll never need to wonder about the guy that drives the small car.

Evan Barker is a junior music performance major and can be reached at ehb2d@mtsu.edu.

### Film lampoons, dissects society's flaws

Sasha Cohen is a bona fide genius. In a society that takes themselves way too seriously, in a country that – naively – considers itself to be some moral compass for the rest of the world, Cohen lampoons some of our oldest social tradition, i.e. religion, patriotism, Southern pride. If you're not already nodding your head in agreement, or chuckling at some terribly vulgar sketch you might recall, then you haven't seen his new film "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Most Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan." The main character began as a skit in the underappreciated HBO comedy, "Da Ali G Show." However, what remains the constant through all of his humor, what truly gives it redeeming value, is how genuinely offensive he can be.

By offending most everyone in attendance, Borat reveals that each of these traditions he mocks, long standing as they may be, were created by men, and are therefore fallible – naive in their very nature. We accept them as social rituals, as odes to our never-ending greatness. Yet, in reality, they are just hand-me-downs



Polishing Brass On The Titanic

Brandon Bouchillon  
Staff Columnist

made by men like you and me, accepted by men who never think to question why.

During one scene, Borat goes to a Pentecostal camp meeting, and yes, it's everything it should be. The guy standing next to him, crooning some awful contemporary hymn, eventually convinces Borat that he can't live without Jesus. So of course, Borat heads to the pulpit and the preacher leads him in prayer.

The preacher teaches Borat how to speak in tongues. Watching him repeatedly stick out his tongue while making a high-pitched "la-la-la" perfectly conveys the absurdity of this religious practice. For something as fake and mundane as polyester, far too many chomp at the bit to join in.

During scenes of the movie that may ring too true, people around me huff, stand up and leave the theater. I couldn't possibly know

their religious or political beliefs, but I noted similarities in their times of departure. The offense usually came when the onscreen mockery was of church, or of patriotism. Borat tells a rodeo crowd he hopes President George W. Bush drinks the blood of Iraqis. They respond with rabid applause and catcalls. Deductively, these early-exiters must be simpletons. They define themselves through cultural tradition, and get offended by satire that clouds their 'assumed' identities.

One thing Cohen curbs very well is patriotism. He interviews these small-minded, red white and blue-blooded, "real" Americans and they come off as morons. Sheep, told what to think by politicians and how to feel by Pharisees. They take their cues from government and her institutions, but, to the ones in the crowd, seeing their whole world criticized onscreen is too much. Forget the \$8 they paid for the ticket, blissful ignorance means far more.

Unlike them, Borat is genuine. He gives in to his baser instincts, his lower urges, and in this way, he's more courageous than all the

archetypes he meets. Seeing someone like Borat, they instinctively assume he's simple and confused. "He doesn't know how things work here."

Yet Cohen mocks these Americanites by making himself look stupid. He plays the innocuous jester, and some of us empathize, while others, like the ones onscreen, reveal their true selves. The audience laughs at the condescending people and institutions made to feel awkward around such a genuine viewpoint. By leading them on, making them think he's a foreign twit, Borat opens them up. They, unknowingly, show their real personalities – cruel, cold-hearted, tiny. Like little Napoleons. Overcompensating for one shortcoming – they can't love themselves.

Instead, these generic folk create their identities via group dynamic, by way of pointless and man-made hegemony, through traditional authority. However, Borat would ask, "What fun could ever be had that way?"

Brandon Bouchillon is a junior mass communication major and can be reached at bcb2r@mtsu.edu.



"The Horse Trough"

David Norris

## SIDELINES

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# FEATURES

## More than just a 'fun run'



More than 50 runners participated in the "Journey of Hope" 5 Mile Walk/Run at Alvin York Veterans Facility on Nov. 4. The event raised nearly \$4,000 for the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center.

### Participants join together to benefit local Rape Recovery and Prevention Center

By Andrew Johnson

Staff Writer

As more than 50 participants walked, jogged and ran outside the Alvin York Veterans Facility on Lebanon Pike on Saturday, Nov. 4, there was more at stake than a bake sale.

The "Journey of Hope" was the latest fundraiser for the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center, a nonprofit organization in Murfreesboro designed to help victims of rape.

"We seek to empower the victims of rape and help them regain control of their situation," said Ruth L. Howard, executive director of the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center in Murfreesboro. "Victimization is all about power and control. Someone who is raped loses their safety, and they are never the same again."

Howard and Billie Joe Josovitz, a paralegal and registered nurse, respectively, founded the nonprofit Rape Recovery and Prevention Center in 2003. It is located at 826 Memorial Blvd., on the second floor.

After working for the Domestic Violence Center in Nashville, Howard realized that rape victims, especially those who live in and around Murfreesboro, were not getting the care and attention that they needed to help them recover.

Howard explained that rape victims in Murfreesboro and surrounding areas would call the Domestic Violence Center, and from there they would be referred to the Rape and Sexual Assault Center in Nashville. That system wasn't working, however, because Nashville was too far away for many victims who needed help in their own communities.

As a result, Howard decided to form RRAPC, which covers rape cases in Rutherford and Cannon Counties.

"It is quite an undertaking to start a new organization, especially one which is nonprofit," Howard said. A board was set up to oversee the RRAPC and to provide checks and balances to regulate the center. The board works to ensure legitimacy for the organization. Board members, which include Elizabeth McPhee, wife of university president Sidney McPhee, must not be employed by the RRAPC.

The RRAPC offers several services, including a 24-hour crisis hotline staffed by volunteers (see accompanying story). RRAPC also provides possible victims with an examining tool called a "rape kit," which allows them to collect forensic evidence against their offender, including fluid specimens and through hair combing and swabbing for DNA samples.

Howard said that a rape kit should be used within 72 hours of the offense, or else the evidence might disappear.

"It's important that the doctor or nurse who is dealing with the victim has experience with a rape kit," said Howard, who was instrumental in initiating the use of rape kits to use on sexual assault and rape victims at Middle Tennessee Medical Center and other hospitals. Nurses who have experience with sexual assault cases are known

as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, or SANE nurses.

Howard said that MTMC will soon have access to a "colposcope," a digital instrument that allows doctors and nurses to detect bruising and lacerations on a rape victim that they might otherwise miss. The evidence gathered with from the colposcope will be added to that collected with the rape kit.

Of course, victims can choose not to use the rape kit, but it is necessary if they want to prosecute. MTSU student volunteer Justine Biola stressed that in many cases, the RRAPC finds out about rape cases after the police and the hospital.

"I visit the rape victims when they are at the hospital and talk to police when it is appropriate," Biola said. "Sometimes police will come into the office. However, we have a legal right not to disclose certain information."

Despite this fact, RRAPC executive director Ruth L. Howard stressed that the organization has a positive relationship with the Murfreesboro police, but they don't work with the police.

RRAPC also provides each victim with a "victim pack" which includes basic personal hygiene items such as deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste as well as sentimental items like a teddy bear.

RRAPC has created a team called a Sexual Assault Response Team made up of four members, which includes include an advocate to help the victim through the legal and medical process, a SANE nurse who has experience with a rape kit, a law enforcement official to collect evidence and a member from the District Attorney's office. While the advocate will be focused on the victim's best interests, the law enforcement official will be more interested in justice.

SART teams allow victims to exercise power in the recovery process.

"The types of questions asked by the law enforcement official of the rape victim are important because they should not want to appear to be judgmental," Howard said.

RRAPC co-founder Billie Jo Josovitz helped to set up systems to aid rape victims in the legal process. With help from the Domestic Violence Center, RRAPC has been able to attain orders of protection for victims. Through RRAPC, victims are prepared to go to court against their offender by learning how the process works.

"Victims can be reimbursed for any costs incurred during the victimization, up to \$3,000," Howard said. "But in order to be reimbursed as well as prosecute, they must file a police report."

In addition to seeking legal advocacy, RRAPC encourages rape victims to participate in peer-led support groups. These groups are not led by any particular person, but instead encourage victims to talk amongst themselves and share their experiences.

"The peer-led support groups give people a sense that this [rape] happens to other individuals," said Shelly Wright, director of services and counselor at RRAPC.

Wright worked for Mothers Against Drunk Driving for eight years before deciding to work for RRAPC. As state director of victim services for MADD, she provided services to victims of drunk driving including training victim advocates in different counties and providing support for those who lost loved ones. Victim advocates would go to court and assist drunk driving victims with prosecution of the offenders.

Wright is known for her ability to deal with victims in a one-on-one setting and helping people to heal. She believes that certain services should be offered free-of-charge to victims of rape and drunk driving. She wanted to volunteer and liked the idea of staying in the Murfreesboro community, which is why she started working for RRAPC.

Recently, RRAPC and the Women's Center at MTSU have agreed to sponsor a peer-led support group for students at MTSU who are rape victims. Wright will be attending the meetings, which will be held once a week on campus, although she will not be the facilitator. Meetings will begin this week.

"Most of my clients are MTSU students," Wright said. "It was the idea of an MTSU student to start this peer-led support group."

Besides setting

up peer-led support

groups, MTSU has also

placed emergency

beacons around

campus that

allow students to

get help quickly

by simply press-

ing a button.

Lighting has also

been improved to

make sure people

can feel safer and

see where they

are going when

walking on cam-

pus after dark.

But despite

these improve-

ments, Howard

says it's not

enough.

"There is no

campuswide pro-

cedure to deal with

someone who is

sexually assault-

ed," Howard said. "A committee needs to be set up in order to determine this protocol, but MTSU has not made this a priority."

Howard also said that the focus for rape cases has always been on the victims, but there has been no effort to change the way men behave toward women and the way they view women in general. The emphasis for rape cases has always been on the victim, and something that victim should do to prevent the rape.

RRAPC educates the public about these societal problems, as well as their services, through presentations at high schools, colleges including MTSU and community gatherings.

"A rape victim has a multitude of needs," said Howard. "We try our best to meet these needs through our services."



Photo submitted by Ruth Howard | RRAPC alumna and RRAPC board member Kelli Burton welcomes runners at Saturday's event.



Photo submitted by Ruth Howard | RRAPC Advertising major Justine Biola, right, and runner Moriah Salter of Chattanooga pose after Saturday's run.

### Students volunteer with hotline

By Andrew Johnson

Staff Writer

Because the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center is a nonprofit organization, it often relies on the help of volunteers for many services, including its 24-hour crisis hotline.

Those volunteers, who work 12-hour shifts, include MTSU students like Justine Biola.

"Sometimes people call the crisis hotline with simple problems like needing food to eat or a place to stay," said Biola, a volunteer coordinator and program assistant for RRAPC and an advertising major at MTSU. "I think that people see an advertisement for a crisis hotline and they think about any general crisis, but we don't turn these people away. We help them find what they need or we refer them to someone who can."

Victims can call in and talk to volunteers from RRAPC, who help the victims attend to their needs at the time. These needs include legal advocacy, medical help, counseling, access to peer-led support

groups or sometimes just listening to their experience or anything they may want to talk about.

RRAPC has a total of 23 volunteers who answer calls for the 24-hour crisis hotline. On average, the volunteers receive two to three calls a week. There are two 12-hour shifts, one from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and another from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. The center offers three training sessions a year to train their volunteers.

"While 23 volunteers seems like a lot, it's not really that many and RRAPC certainly needs more volunteers," Biola said. "We have problems arranging shifts because many times, volunteers want to work during the same times of the day."

Biola is kept busy at RRAPC. She answers incoming calls at the center, contacts businesses to be donors for fundraisers and contacts branches of media whenever RRAPC distributes its press release. Biola also writes the newsletter for RRAPC, which is distributed quarterly to about 300 people.

"Anyone wishing to contact the 24-hour crisis line can call 494-9262. Those interested in volunteering for the RRAPC can call 494-9881.

### RRAPC In The Community

Saturday's "Journey of Hope" 5 Mile Walk/Run raised nearly \$4,000 for the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center, which holds several fundraisers throughout the year. The organization also recently held "An Evening of Dancing and Drumming" at MTSU's Wright Music Hall. 200 people attended and \$8,000 dollars were raised for the organization.

RRAPC recently received a Victims of Criminal Acts grant for \$60,000 that helps fund its counselor and volunteer programs.

RRAPC encourages women to learn self-defense in the case they need to escape a sexual assault, rape or instance of domestic violence. Police officer David Smith teaches a self-defense class, Rape Aggression Defense Systems (RADS), at MTSU for which students can receive credit.



# SPORTS

## First annual Sportacus fireside chat



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley  
Staff Columnist

When this goes to print on Thursday, I will be frantically trying to get myself ready for an exam I haven't prepared for and a six-page paper I don't want to write. As usual, somewhere in the back of my mind dreams of basketballs and bowl games will be dancing in my head like so many sugarplums.

This week's basketball kick-off coincides with yet another historic game for the MT football program. MT football gets plenty of coverage in my mind and so my only mention of the Arkansas State game will be my prediction of a win. They are on a two-game losing streak and MT continues to look strong. Next weekend's game at South Carolina will get more coverage, scouts honor.

But what's amazing to me, is that as the football team arrives at Arkansas State for the next-to-last conference game of the season, the men's hoops team will be warming up in Knoxville to face the new look Vols, as the women's basketball squad simultaneously prepares to face defending champs Maryland.

The preceding 53-word beehemoth of a sentence should go to show just how hard of a time I would have giving the proper coverage to all three teams in under 700 words. So instead, I have decided to take a moment to show how schizophrenic my column might be for the remainder of the season.

With both basketball teams projected to do well and with the football team already doing great, I'm going to have to focus on a game to game basis according to what I find most poignant. At my current pay rate (which is somewhere above zero but not enough to force a recount) and level of busyness it would be impossible to catch, cover, or even mention every game played by MT sports teams in my allotted space. Luckily, that's not my job.

I am a columnist; my job is to be entertaining and informative. So expect the unexpected sports fans and classmates. Even

I'm not sure how I'm going to pull this off. But I am confident that the mad dash will be entertaining. To kick off Sportacus' Sleepless Semester 2006, I will be attending the women's game on Friday. Saturday morning will be devoted to catching up on men's basketball while listening to the football game.

Luckily, this is how my brain works. I don't just like multitasking, I thrive on it. My living room entertainment system holds two TV's, two VCR's, two DVD players, and six game systems. After setting up this entertainment monstrosity the other night I told my girlfriend the whole endeavor was for her. I said I wanted to be able to play my games while she plays hers. A way to ignore each other AND spend time together. I'm anything but impractical.

But it's also so I can satisfy my every sports fix. Watch football and play Madden at the same time, watch two NFL games at once or play as Dwayne Wade against the 76ers while I watch Wade dunk on Iverson. Now that Sportacus' HQ is complete I promise I will be doing everything I can to satiate Murfreesboro's ever growing sports fix. An addiction I may have completely imagined, but work tirelessly to fill none the less.

I usually write my column as if I am the only one not in my family who will read it. My effect on the Homecoming game's attendance was a good example of why. I urged fans to come and attendance actually dropped. Still, I do want to say to anyone who may glance at this column while preparing a hamster cage, that MT sports shouldn't be ignored. They are fun, and whether anyone else decides to have fun with me is up to them. But as my friend Laura Dugger used to say "It's fun to have fun."

J. Owen Shipley is a junior English major and can be reached at [myspace.com/iamsportacus](mailto:myspace.com/iamsportacus).



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer  
Senior Marcus Brandon greets fans as he exits the tunnel to play against Florida Atlantic at last week's Homecoming game. MT won 35-14 over FAU on November 4th.

## MT looks to take the next step against ASU

By Casey Brown

Staff Writer

Blink, and you'll miss Middle Tennessee.

Last weekend the Blue Raiders celebrated Homecoming in style with a convincing 35-14 victory over Florida Atlantic, the first time MT had taken the field at Floyd Stadium in 51 days.

Now the Blue Raiders are back on the road yet again, this time heading to Jonesboro, Ark., to take on the Indians of Arkansas State.

ASU hopes to knock off first-place MT and keep hope of a conference championship alive, as the Indians currently sit in third in the Sun Belt Conference with a 3-1 record. The one loss came in an embarrassing 29-0 blowout at the hands of FAU.

The Indians won the SBC and advanced to the New Orleans Bowl last season, breaking what had been a North Texas monopoly on the conference's automatic bid. Still, MT hammered ASU 45-7 last season in Murfreesboro and leads the all-time series 6-1.

Along with Troy the 6-3 Blue Raiders sit atop the conference, having yet to lose a game in SBC play. With every game that passes,

MT appears to gain more confidence, despite the pressure that continues to accumulate as well.

Will the Indians jump into the mix by exacting revenge on the Blue Raiders? Or will MT clear another hurdle on the road to New Orleans?

### When ASU runs

Any effort by the Indians to move the ball on the ground will result in a battle between two superb units. ASU has averaged 153.8 rushing yards per game to rank 38th nationally, while MT only allows 113 yards per game, good for 37th.

Freshman Reggie Arnold, Sun Belt Offensive Player of the Week three weeks ago against North Texas, leads the Indians in rushing with 79.4 yards per game and four touchdowns. Arnold averages nearly five yards per carry, and ASU has two capable backups in Clarksville product Cedric Wilkerson and Chris James.

The Blue Raider run defense played well against FAU, holding Charles Pierre to 86 yards on 22 carries. MT has been solid without dominating, and to this point that has been enough.

Advantage: Even

### When ASU passes

Like many teams in the Sun Belt, the Indians rely heavily on running the ball. ASU ranks an underwhelming 108th, as the team only manages an anemic 141 yards per game through the air with four passing touchdowns.

After taking over the starting job for the Indians, freshman quarterback Corey Leonard has posted an above-average passer rating of 106.9, though many of his seven interceptions have come at inopportune times.

Junior Patrick Higgins is a viable deep threat, but ASU has little to offer in terms of short or mid-range weapons in the receiving corps.

Pass protection has been an issue for the Indians, so expect the defensive front to come hard and fast for MT, forcing Leonard to make a few costly mistakes, at least one of which will involve Damon Nickson or Bradley Robinson.

Advantage: MT

### When MT runs

Eugene Gross had a coming-out party in a big way on Saturday. The senior not only cracked the 100-yard mark, but

also broke two long runs, including a 56-yard TD strike as time wound down to finish with a career-high 208 yards on the ground.

The Blue Raider rushing offense has been nothing short of spectacular during the team's three-game winning streak. Over that span MT has averaged 195.6 yards per game and has scored eight touchdowns.

ASU is decent against the run, led by linebackers Koby McKinnon and Devrett Wade, who rank second and third on the team in tackles, respectively.

For MT, the combination of the grinding of Gross, the playmaking of DeMarco McNair and the speed of Desmond Gee has been more than effective so far. There's no reason to believe the trio won't continue their hot streak.

Advantage: MT

### When MT passes

Like the Indians, Middle Tennessee uses the pass as more of a compliment rather than a primary weapon. The difference is that the Blue Raiders typically have success when they do try to

See Preview, 8

## Lady Raiders gear up for Maryland

By Cody Gibson

Staff Writer

Since the buzzer sounded on the 2005 women's college basketball season, Middle Tennessee has been preparing for their first game of the 2006 season.

Little did they know, however, that they would be welcoming the defending national champion to Murfreesboro.

The Maryland Terrapins took home the national championship trophy against Duke 78-75 in overtime last season. This will be the biggest home game in the history of the Lady Raider basketball program, as Maryland brings back all of their starters from last season. Shay Doran, Melissa Coleman and Crystal Langhorne all are on the preseason watch list for the Women's Wooden Award.

Needless to say this will be one

of the toughest matchups for MT this season.

Lady Raider head coach Rick Insell said he believes that catching the Lady Terps this early in the season gives them a good chance to win. Additionally, the early season matchup will allow MT to test itself early and give the team a chance to showcase its talents on a national stage.

The Lady Terps compiled a 34-4 record last season while averaging 83.3 points per game. Stingy defense and solid direction by head coach Brenda Frese make the Terrapins a favorite to defend their crown.

The Blue Raiders had an astonishing 14-1 record at home last season. Offensively, Middle Tennessee averaged 72 points per game and have two returning players that averaged double-digits. Chrissy Givens, the preseason

Sun Belt Conference player of the year, averaged 21 points per game last season and looks to improve on a successful junior campaign. Krystle Horton averaged 11 points per game while being named an All-Sun Belt performer. Both are seniors who expect to leave MT as the first class to win four straight conference championships.

The biggest improvement last season, however, came in fan support. Insell's squad saw the largest increase in attendance in the nation last year as it skyrocketed from less than 1,000 in 2004 to an average of 2,559 in 2005.

Friday night will be the first of a number of tough games for the Lady Raiders, as they will also face No. 5 Tennessee and No. 9 Georgia later this season. Friday's game tips off at 7 p.m.

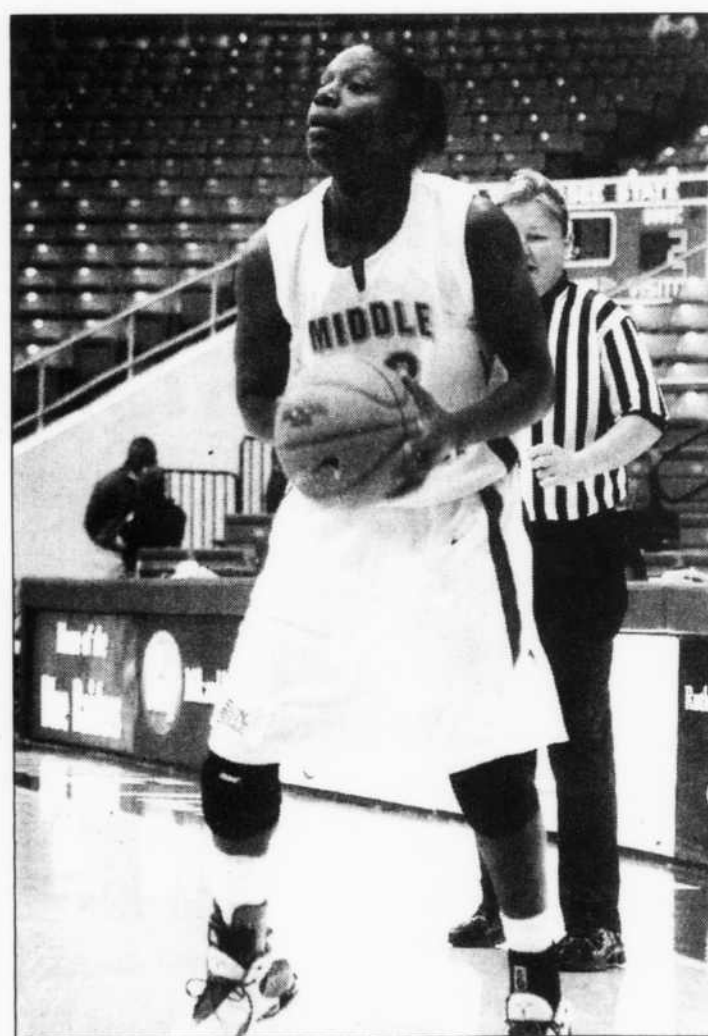


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer  
Freshman Angelique Burttis getting ready to throw the ball into play during practice.

### Women's basketball schedule

Nov 13  
South Dakota State  
7 p.m.

Nov 18  
Maine  
5 p.m.

Nov 19  
Minnesota/Princeton  
1 p.m.

Nov 24  
Chattanooga  
7 p.m.

Nov 26  
U. of Tennessee  
2 p.m.

Nov 29  
Tennessee Tech  
5 p.m.

Dec 4  
Austin Peay  
5 p.m.

Dec 7  
Georgia  
7 p.m.

Dec 14  
South Alabama  
7 p.m.



**Preview: MT to meet ASU**

Continued from 7

throw the ball.

Clint Marks is anything but flashy, but he is extremely efficient and a good fit for the offense.

Unfortunately for the Blue Raiders, ASU is remarkably stingy on pass defense. The Indians rank 14th nationally in pass defense to lead the SBC and have snagged 16 interceptions on the season.

If Marks sticks to the probable game plan and runs a West Coast-style scheme, MT might be ok. However, if he attempts to throw anything deep, the team may be in trouble.

Advantage: ASU

**Special teams**

One of the most surprising aspects of this year's Blue Raider squad has been its prowess on special teams. MT has been solid and at times dynamic in all facets.

Damon Nickson returned another kickoff for a touchdown last week and now ranks second nationally in kickoff return yardage. Don't be surprised to see an intentional out-of-bounds kick or at least a squib or two from the Indians.

Colby Smith missed a 41-yard field goal attempt early against the Owls, but has been steady otherwise.

ASU doesn't rank above 78th in any special teams category, and the kicking corps is young, with sophomore Brett Shrable and placekicker Josh Arauco handling those duties.

In a close game, special teams play usually factors into the equation, and Saturday's game will be no exception.

Advantage: MT

**Coaching**

What sort of coach allows his then-undefeated team to be shut out by Florida Atlantic? Meet Steve Roberts.

Still, ASU's head honcho has put a respectable product on the field after losing several starters from last season's championship squad, and Roberts has received plenty of praise in Jonesboro for the improvements that have been made to the program since he arrived in 2001.

On the other side, it currently appears that Rick Stockstill can do

no wrong. His coaching has been put through numerous tests and passed each one to date. The Blue Raiders have come from behind and have found ways to win despite not playing their best football.

Defensive lineman Trevor Jenkins remarked that the team now feels that in tough situations it can pull out a win, a sentiment shared by many of his teammates and an indicator of a good coaching staff.

Advantage: MT

**Intangibles**

Both teams badly need a win in this contest, though the Indians are certainly a bit more desperate than the Blue Raiders. A loss would all but eliminate ASU from championship consideration, while an MT defeat would force them into must-win mode against Troy.

The home-field advantage is probably good for three points or so, but the Blue Raiders have proven they know how to win on the road.

Momentum can be a powerful influence, and right now all the momentum rests with the Blue Raiders, winners of three straight SBC contests. The Indians, meanwhile, have spent the last two weeks getting blown out by FAU and Auburn.

Advantage: MT

**The skinny**

On paper, this matchup appears to favor the Blue Raiders all the way. Still, ASU is 3-1 in the conference for a reason. While the home team doesn't boast a game-breaker on offense or a defensive stud, the Indians don't beat themselves.

This game will be one of the biggest tests of the season for MT, and overtime shouldn't be all that unexpected. If ASU can make a game-changing play on defense, expect a nail biter.

Ultimately, the Blue Raider defense will stifle another Sun Belt opponent this week, and MT will score touchdowns rushing and on special teams to put the game away and set up an epic battle with Troy in two weeks.

The pick: Middle Tennessee 14, Arkansas State 7

**Tennis duo comes up just short at ITA Nationals**

By Casey Brown

Staff Writer

So close, yet so far away was again the theme of the International Tennis Association's National Indoor Championships for Marco Born and Andreas Siljestrom.

For the second year in a row, the Middle Tennessee doubles duo advanced to the national finals but fell short, losing in a tiebreak-

er 9-8 (4) to top-ranked John Isner and Luis Flores of Georgia in Columbus, Ohio Sunday.

MT appeared ready to engrave its name on the trophy when the tandem went up 4-3 on a mini-break in the tiebreaker. Georgia won both points on Born's serve, however, and Isner closed out the match for the Bulldogs.

Head coach Dale Short was positive after the match. Short said the only thing his team had to

be disappointed about was the score, and that Siljestrom and Born played very well.

The Blue Raiders advanced to the final by winning three matches in three days. On Nov. 2, the team opened tournament play with a shaky 8-5 defeat of Diego Camacho and Ross Cunningham of Tulsa.

The next day, Siljestrom and Born earned a spot in the semifinals with an 8-3 win over small-

college champions Julien Carsuzaa and Dennis Riegraf of Lynn University. Carsuzaa and Riegraf had upset powerful Pepperdine in the previous round.

In a tough semifinal showdown between two highly-ranked teams, Siljestrom and Born outlasted fifth-seeded Brian Hung and Matko Maravic in an 8-5 battle.

The tournament concluded the fall schedule for the Blue Raiders.

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