

### Abortion images on campus

#### By Valerie Nutt Staff Writer

The topic of abortion was impossible for students to ignore this week as trucks covered in graphic images and the word "choice" circled campus and other highly visible routes in Murfreesboro.

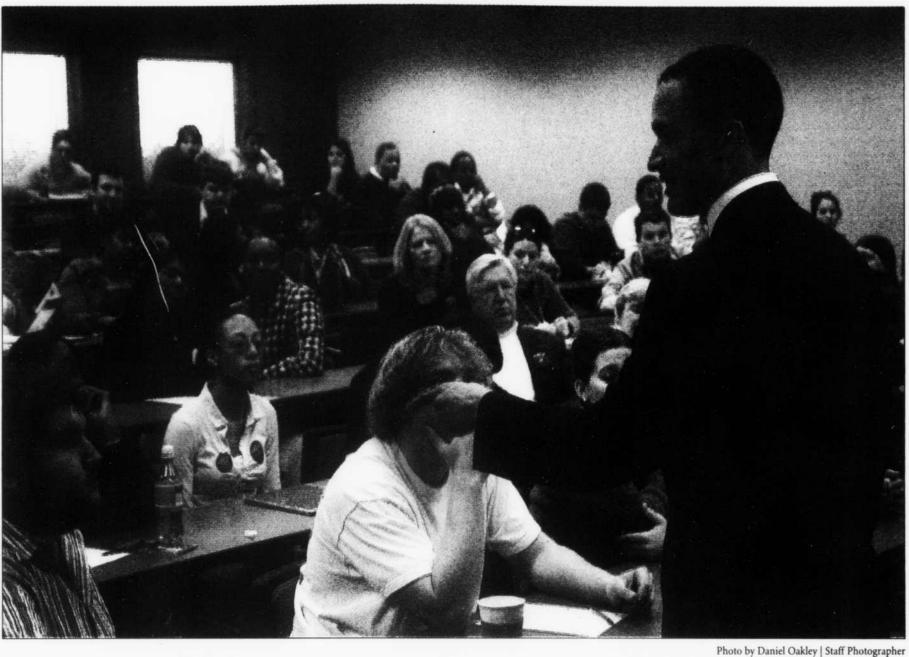
The trucks are just one branch of the Reproductive "Choice" Campaign (RCC), a national campaign from the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform (CBR).

Each truck displays "high-resolution images of first-trimester aborted fetuses juxtaposed against the word 'choice,'" or other shocking pictures, the CBR announced in a press release.

Reactions from students on both sides of the issue have been strong.

"It's very grotesque," said Michalina Goolsby, a junior recording industry major, after seeing one of the rolling billboards driving on campus. "Their hearts are in the right place, but they're trying for shock value, not trying to change people's hearts or minds about abortion."

In their press release the CBR said their RCC tactics mirror those of other social reform movements, referring mainly to the shocking photographs used by Martin Luther King Jr. to educate Americans about racial acts



Harold Ford Jr. speaks to students Wednesday in the Cason Kennedy Nursing Building. Ford emphasized the importance of the state budget and health care during his speech.

# Ford focuses on health care,

of violence.

"The picture itself is vile," said Stephen Soule, a senior recording industry major, who saw one of the trucks drive by Monday on Greenland Dr. "Besides only the woman who's dealing with abortion is affected. It's not anyone else's issue to decide"

This isn't the first time the CBR has been to Murfreesboro. In September 2000, the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) set up informational displays and similar shocking billboards behind barricades on the Keathley University Center knoll.

"We had a GAP display a few years ago, and we're wanting to do that again," said John Stair, SE region RCC coordinator. "We're shooting for this spring but have a lot of schools to visit."

The CBR is a nonprofit organization and funded by private donations. Their visit in 2000 was sponsored by the Baptist Student Union. However, the trucks driving on campus this week were a voluntary visit.

"We were in Nashville this Sunday," Stair said, "and hadn't been to Murfreesboro for a while."

On their website the CBR stated "the university campus is a marketplace of ideas," and that free speech is the last outlet for their message. They believe media outlets are biased against their message, and cling to the first amendment rights that make their campaigns possible.

"We don't like having to drive these pictures around," Stair said, "but we feel it's necessary to dispel misconceptions about abortion."

The CBR is no stranger to

#### See Abortion, 2

college tuition for military

By Jessi Torres

#### Staff Writer

"Everybody wants to talk about my family; I just want to talk about the issues."

Congressman Harold Ford Jr., D-Memphis, did exactly that when he spoke to a group of students Wednesday in a town hall meeting sponsored by MTSU College Democrats.

Ford referred to his family's long history in Tennessee politics, which has been overshadowed by corruption. Many have focused on Ford's family, but Ford is trying to distance himself from the negative connotations associated with the family name.

Ford, known simply as "Junior" on the campaign trail, is vying to replace Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist. Ford spoke of his "new covenant with Tennesseans," which has five principles that make up the platform of his campaign.

He said he hopes to pass a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, make healthcare more affordable, pass a campaign ethics law and guarantee college tuition for students willing to serve their country.

"If a student in high school wants to go to college," Ford said, "they're probably going to have a better chance of finding a job and supporting themselves and being less of a drag on the federal government."

He said if students work hard throughout their education and have good grades, he wants them to go to "the best school their mind lands them, not the best school they can afford." Ford said that according to his proposal, the government would pay full tuition for deserving students on the condition that "you have to give back in the form of service to your country."

Ford envisions the creation of several service corps as a way to facilitate that process.

"Teachers corps, nurses corps - people can give back at hospitals, senior centers, rehabilitation centers, emergency rooms," he said.

Another issue that Ford concentrated heavily on was national security. He said that for America to win the "war on terrorism," we need a strong military, and we need to depend less on foreign oil.

He also said that Americans need to understand the rest

See Ford, 2

# Lambda Theta Alpha supports St. Jude

#### By Jason Everett

Staff Writer

The Interested Ladies of Lambda Theta Alpha, a Latina sorority on campus, successfully raised money with a mini carnival to fund leukemia research for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

"In the past we have been doing bake sells, but this time we wanted stand out with a carnival theme," said Interested Lady Tatiana Steven.

Cotton candy, caramel apples, popcorn and balloons were all a part of the festivities held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first floor of the Keathley University Center. The prices ranged from 50 cents to \$1 so everyone could afford to have a part in helping raise money for leukemia research.

Everyone that donated received treats, which were freshly prepared the night before.

"This junk is straight," said contributor Jose Becton, after biting into a caramel apple.

The Interested Ladies have been actively involved with many other community service activities since their beginning 3 and a half years ago. The interest group formed to lend experience in being a part of an organization, with possibility of becoming an official sorority on the MTSU campus. The group is currently up to 10 members.

"We may be small, but we do big things" said member Maryin Chavez.

Since their beginning, the Interested Ladies have hosted awareness forums, cared for children at the Boys and Girls Club, raised money for Up 'Til Dawn, supported Hispanic Celebration, donated to tsunami victims with book and clothing drive and hosted a bucket fundraiser for the Hispanic education fund.

Sheila Perolina Umayam has been an Interested Lady for 10 months and is very proud of their accomplishments.

"I became interested in the Interested Ladies of Lambda Theta Alpha because I saw that the ladies in both of the interest group and the sisterhood are classy and intelligent role models," Umayam said. "I felt like it was a group I could relate to culturally and interest wise. They focus on diversity and community servicetwo of my passions."

Umayam is one of many who commented on rea-

sons to becoming an Interested Lady.

Analicia Harris joined because she liked their goals and standards along with the inclusiveness and openess to other ethnic groups.

"It makes us different, the potential to be a part of the first nationalized latin sorority, and the diversity within it," Harris said. "Shows people can work together without any racial issues."

Luisa Padro liked the sisterhood within the group although it is not officially a sorority yet.

"We like to have a good time and even though we aren't a sorority we are one of the closest groups on campus," Padro said.

There are no GPA requirements and the group is not committed to obligations, however when it becomes an official sorority, the minimum GPA will be 2.5.

"A lot of things look the same. We want to bring something different to MTSU," Padro said. "We only have a few members, but we're doing more than some sororities with hundreds of members. Trust that we'll be noticed."

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#### NEWS PG 2

#### Vol. 81 No. 03

# Anime expanding activites

By Dana Owens Staff Writer

The MTSU Anime Club will be celebrating its one-year anniversary this February, making it an official MTSU club.

The club, which consists of about 60 members, shows short anime films every Wednesday night and other forms of Japanese entertainment every other Saturday.

Megan West, committee member of the anime club and sophomore computer science engineer, said the group is trying to recruit more members through flyers and other means before February.

The more members the group has when it becomes an official club, the more funding it will receive from the school, West said. "We'll come up with a stable budget and focus on not just ourselves, but the future of this club."

The committee hopes to expand the group's activities to incorporate different aspects of Japanese culture like holidays, West said. In February, the club plans to celebrate Valentine's Day with the Japanese tradition of men and women exchanging homemade chocolates.

Nicholas Qualls, committee member and undeclared sophomore, said since so many new members have joined, the group is experimenting to see what works out and what does not.

He said as the group expands, it is becoming more difficult to define a typical member. According to the committee, the most common trait is a good sense of humor and an open mind.

"Most members are obsessed



The Anime Club watches a film during its meeting Wednesday night. The club is recruiting members to bring its status to an official MTSU organization. The group is also trying to add more activities to attract new members. The group currently meets every Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. in the Business and Aerospace Building room \$268.

with everything Japanese," said Tyler Smith, committee member and freshmen recording industry major. "While only two members speak fluent Japanese, many are taking classes or simply interested in the culture."

Qualls said there are people who attend the meetings that he would not even expect to be anime fans.

"[Anime] is way more important to us than anything in reality," West said.

An important aspect of the club is that is allows anime fans to be themselves and share their interest. According to the committee, many members are "closet" anime fans.

"We love to have new closet fans to come by so we can drag them out and throw them into the living room," said Qualls.

Aside from showing the animated films, the group also meets to play Anime-inspired videogames, watch live-action Japanese television shows and attends anime conventions.

The club plans on having it's own booth again this year at an anime convention in April,

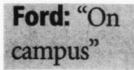
West said Anime is a form of animation that is modeled after American animation but differs in content and plots, said Daniel Bean committee member and freshmen recording industry major. Anime characters are typically depicted with light skin, big eyes and unnatural hair colors - a sharp contrast from Japanese society.

"Most of the films the club shows are in Japanese with English subtitles, though a few are dubbed in English," said Qualls.

However, Bean said, "There is an on-going debate within the anime community of subs versus dubs."

Qualls said different committee members run the meetings each Wednesday, all having different tastes in anime that helps to keep the films diverse. Though the group shows three regular series, club members have the opportunity to vote on what to watch.

The Anime Club meets every Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. in the Business and Aerospace Building Room S268.



#### Continued from 1

of the world better.

"We don't speak their language," Ford said. "We don't eat like they eat, don't worship like they worship, don't live like they live. Frankly, we don't understand them and yet we have decided we want to help them by giving them freedom."

While Ford said that he agreed that Saddam Hussein had to be stopped, he disagreed with how President Bush handled the situation.

"I get so angry with Bush sometimes because I think he screwed things up in a lot of ways, but the mission is right," he said.

Ford said that he believes in giving Iraqis the freedom to make choices because "they will make different choices about terror."

Ford does not believe in setting a timeline to withdraw U.S. military troops from Iraq. He believes the insurgency would get more resistant and that Iraqis would be less willing to adapt to changes if the United States set such a date.

"I think the way to do it is to have a conditions-based timetable," he said.

He said that once Iraq writes a constitution, establishes a unified government, has a police force able to patrol the country and has a military able to defend the government, "then we begin to pull back."

"We will have a presence there for a while," Ford said.

Ford also stressed his desire to work with both Republicans and Democrats. He admitted that his policies and ideas often cross party lines.

"As long as I keep the real right-wingers mad and the real left-wingers mad, I think I'm probably doing a decent job," he said.

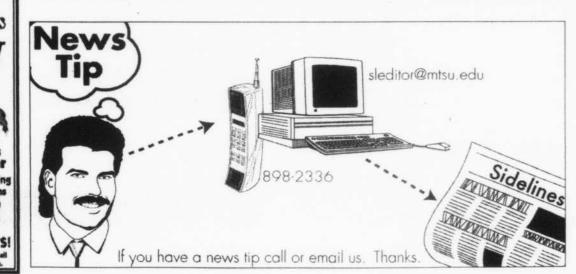
When asked if he planned to run for president, Ford simply said, "I hadn't thought that far ahead. I need to win this race."



# **MTSU students give blood**



Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor The Red Cross held a blood drive in the Keathly University Center Tuesday. The drive was in response to a critical need for donations, according to Linda Decker, Rutherford and Bedford County donor resource develoer.



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### Aportion: "Shocking images"

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strong reactions like those of MTSU students.

"We're willing to not be liked, to be hated, by some people," Stair said, "and to be liked by some."

Although other pro-life advocates sometimes consider their message too harsh, Stair said the organization has many loyal supporters who believe their work is necessary and has to be done to spread awareness.

The gentleman driving for us this week is a pilot from Memphis, and he's given us a week of his time and volunteered to drive," Stair said. "We have people who are very devoted and volunteer a lot of their time to us."

For more information on the CBR, articles from across the country about their work, praise and criticism from individuals and their policy on children viewing their public displays see www.abortionNO.org.

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#### Vol. 81 No. 03

Thursday, January 26, 2006

# FEATURES

# Queens lose crowns, not glory

#### By Casey Phillips Features Editor

Normally, when a queen ends her reign, it's a bittersweet moment, but when the royal court loses two queens each year, the experience starts to lose its edge.

Danielle Coleburn and Myranda Howland, last year's recipients of the titles of Ms. MTSU and Ms. Middle Tennessee Blue Raider, respectively, will crown MTSU's 30th year of pageant-royalty and simultaneously lose their own.

"Giving up the title is going be exciting, but it's going be sad too," Coleburn, a three-time pageant contestant, said. "I've been involved in the pageant for the past three years, but I'm excited to pass it on to another girl so she can experience what I've gotten a chance to experience."

Both titles, Ms. MTSU and Ms. MTBR, which are awarded to the first and second highest scorers in the competition, have equal merit according to the event's guidelines.

Though their titles are officially equal in prestige, the two "Ms." titleholders had neither the same reaction to winning nor the same backgrounds coming in to the pageant.

"I was definitely shocked when I won because I didn't expect it," Howland, Ms. MTBR, said.

Last year was Howland's first time competing, though she said she represented her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, by default more than out of desire to participate.

"[The sorority] did try hard to convince me, but we didn't really have any other people that had a talent that we could use to compete," she said.

Unlike Howland, Coleburn had prior experience competing in the pageant, but last year was the first time her efforts won her the tiara.

"It was really cool to win because it was my third time doing Ms. MTSU," she said. "The first time, I was third runner up, and the second time I was first runner up, so it was really a great experience to finally win because I put so much time into this."

For 30 years, funding and organization of the pageant have fallen on the shoulders of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, the pageant's sponsors. Alumni Advisor and former Pageant Director Rob Patterson said the event is the only student-sponsored Ms.

Tennessee preliminary in the state.

"The fraternity has to raise all the money for the pageant, they normally give out \$3,000 to Ms. MTSU, Ms. MTBR and the runner ups," he said. "The school does not donate any of that money."

Although most pageants of this type are assumed to be beauty contests, according to the pageant's scoring system, the vast majority of points awarded come from private interviews and the display of talent rather than from exhibitions of beauty.

"When you're on the outside looking in, you don't see the behind the scenes with judges where they ask questions you need to be intelligent to answer," Coleburn said. "You could be the most beautiful woman in the world, you could be Angelina Jolie, but if you don't have the brains to back it up, you're not going to win.

"Whatever your talent might be, that's where the second most points come from. You've got to come up with your game ready to compete. Every MTSU pageant has really good talent, so you want to practice your talent and be able to perform well."

The talent portion of the event is a test of each girl's unique qualities. Last year, Coleburn performaned the Italian opera "Virgin tutt amor," and Howland said, for her, performing Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" on piano was her favorite part of the competition.

Both girls expressed significantly less enthusiasm for the swimsuit portion of the pageant.

"The swim suit competition had me at the rec center pretty regular," Howland said. "Beauty is an element [of the competition], but it's such a small part of the event. The combined score of all those elements is maybe 15 percent, but I think that's the part that sticks out in people's minds."



Ms. Middle Tennessee Blue Raider Myranda Howland will be passing her crown to the next recipient Saturday at the Ms. MTSU Pageant in Tucker Theater.

research a realistic social problem to work toward solving.

'My platform was domestic violence awareness, so I did a lot of research on that, and made sure I was ready for the on-stage questioning and interview,"

Howland said. "You have to study up on your platform and make yourself aware of events both local and national," Coleburn said. "You also have to remember that if you become Ms. Tennessee, that's a job that's paid for by the state. You would be the spokesperson for a drug-free Tennessee."

As part of her commitment to pursuing her work against domestic violence, Howland said she recently started working with the Nashville Young Women's Christian Association.

"I got to do some things with the YWCA in Nashville as part of my platform," she said. "I spent most of my time doing things associated with that-I've defibecause after you've spoken in front of an audience like that, you'll never be afraid to again."

Howland said other aspects of the competition were beneficial to her as well.

"The whole purpose of the Ms. America organization is to help young women to go to college, but beyond that, I've learned some skills that I'll use for the rest of my life," Howland said. "One of those things was private interviews, and after having done those, I know a job interview will be a piece of cake. You can't have any more confidence than walking across a stage in front of so many people in a swimsuit and heels.

Neither Coleburn nor Howland made it to the finals of the Ms. Tennessee competition, but both expressed their gratitude at being able to compete, and for Coleburn, a second title means a second chance at the crown.

you can't go again," she said, "but in August, I was crowned Ms. Southeast Tennessee."

Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor

After becoming MTSU royalty, life isn't all charity work and public appearances. With younger crowds, those tiaras are a magnet for attention and admiration.

"We would be out in the community and see all these little girls," Howland said. "What will always stick with me is that while I wore that crown on my head, I could be a role model for all those little girls."

"When you wear the crown, little girls think you're a princess," Coleburn said. "To you, you're just a college kid, but to them, you're like a celebrity."

To the all the hopefuls to the throne, Howland had only one thing to say.

"I'd just like to encourage the girls that are competing this year to relax and be themselves. That's what the girls are expected to be-themselves. It's going to be a



Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor

Ms. MTSU Danielle Coleburn must relinquish her crown Saturday, but she still has a chance at the Ms. Tennessee title after recently becoming Ms. Southeast Tennessee

# Many diverse religious groups on campus

#### By Mark Bell

Staff Writer

We walk among them on campus, though we seldom know they're there. They're quietly recruiting, though seldom do we hear about it. They're presented with new challenges everyday, and they rise to meet new needs.

They're the non-Christian student organizations of MTSU.

Imagine you are a new student at a new school in a different state. To some, feelings of alienation might come to mind. Few individuals can understand these feelings better than a non-Christian living in the middle of the "Bible Belt."

Hillel Organization President Kalin Bluestone said the social stigma surrounding Jewish and other non-Christian people in this area makes it difficult to recruit members, but he said using Facebook has made doing so easier.

"Being a non-Christian student organization presents special challenges, but makes us a tighter knit group," Bluestone said.

Camaraderie in the Hillel Organization seems to be helping their cause.

"We have been working with the community and growing," Bluestone said. "We're even

attempting to get a place of worship on or off campus."

Muslim Student Association President Roxanne Jenkins said that there are some major publicity problems concerning MSA and other non-Christian groups.

"Most of our members are Muslim students on campus," Jenkins said. "Although we do have the occasional non-Muslim student who is trying to find out what it is we do."

A voice in the community is what these organizations are striving for. Overcoming the difficultly of being known is their greatest challenge.

Events like Islamic Awareness Week are aimed at shedding light on these organizations.

Hillel Organization also sponsors events aimed at helping people understand the Jewish community.

#### More Resources for Non-Christian Organizations

There are many resources available to people looking to learn more about other religions or exploring religious possibilities on campus. A good place to start is the MTSU student organization page located at http://www.mtsu.edu/~camporgs/

For more info on Hillel, e-mail them at hillel@mtsu.edu or visit their Facebook group "Hillel." More information regarding MSA can be found by e-mailing msa@mtsu.edu or by visiting their Web site at http://www.mtsu.edu/~msa/

"There's a swimsuit competition that every girl dreads,' Coleburn said, expressing similar feelings toward the part of the show male attendees are likely to enjoy the most. "But you work out because it's not so much looking good in the swimsuit, it's looking confident."

The misconceptions about pageants extend to the work each girl proposes to do if they secure the crown. Goals like ending world hunger or bringing about world peace won't fly in this competition-the girls must

nitely gotten hooked with being part of that organization."

Thinking on the fly and learning to deal with pressure are aspects of the pageant both girls said they would use later in life.

Coleburn said the on-stage interviewing involved many of the same skills she used as a broadcaster for MTTV, MTSU's campus news station.

"Competing has definitely been a benefit because you'll never be afraid of an interview again," Coleburn said. "It's definitely a confidence builder

"Once you win [Ms. MTSU],

great experience for them.

### Pageant Info

When: 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28

Where: Tucker Theater

Price: Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. Golden Patron Reserve Seating is \$15 for one or \$25 for two.

Ticket questions can be directed to P.J. Mecoyia at (615) 308-6205 or Michael Callonas at (901) 485-9347. For information about the pageant call Rob Patterson at (615) 898-2454.

For students who are hopeless film buffs, there is a new organization on campus this semester.

Classic Film Fanatics is a club where appreciators of classic movies will be able to gather for film showings followed by discussion.

Club president, Jacque Moss wants to bring new light to the classics.

"[Classic Film Fanatics] is for people who appreciate what you can't see at the theater," Moss said.

He said he wants to put an emphasis on older films people aren't likely to have been exposed to. The first showing will be of "Sunset Boulevard," a film noir classic that Moss said he chose as a dark contrast to the sugary-sweet holiday movies of this past season.

"It's a movie a lot of people under 25 really haven't seen before," he said.

"Sunset Boulevard" is currently ranked 12th on the American Film Institute's list of the top 100 movies of all time.

"Sunset" is perhaps best recognized for its classic quote, "I'm ready for my close up Mr. Demille," from late actress Gloria Swanson.

"Sunset Boulevard" is a classic film that has never received as much exposure as other classics like "Gone With the Wind" or "The Wizard of Oz," both of which are played several times a year on television.

Moss defines classic films as movies that are at least 20 years old, and he said he won't be displaying



films that many might consider classics in the making

"We won't be showing 'American Beauty," he said.

Moss said he has received a lot of feedback for the new club.

After announcing the showing of "Sunset Boulevard," Moss said he is getting feedback to show movies such as "Casablanca" and "Citizen Cane," and he said he's completely open to any suggestions for appropriate film choices.

Moss said he intends to have guest speakers at certain showings during the semester and also expressed an interest in finding different people from the Nashville Film School where he has attended lectures

At a typical club meeting, the group has a 15 minute intro, reviews club business, shows the film and then has a follow-up discussion.

Moss plans to have a showing every two weeks in Room 103 of the Bragg Mass Communication Building.

After the first meeting, there are plans to relocate to a coffee house for the discussion following the showing.

Moss said students can expect to see advertisements designed as old movie posters on campus to promote the organization. He also plans to make announcements to several classes within the next week.

Anyone who loves films is encouraged to join. There are no dues, and the first showing is Jan. 31 at 7:00 p.m.

Being a non-Christian student organization presents special challenges, but makes us

group.

Kalin Bluestond Hillel Organization President

"We're always encouraging people to understand our culture," Bluestone said. "People who have questions should ask them."

### By Carmen Anderson Staff Writer What's old is new. a tighter knit

Vol. 81 No. 03

Thursday, January 26, 2006

# SPORTS

# **MT women host Ragin' Cajuns**



By Erika Davis Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee Women's Basketball team will play host to the University of Louisiana-Lafavette Ragin' Cajuns, tonight. The Cajuns are atop the Sun Belt Conference West Division (4-2), with a 14-4 overall record with the win at New Orleans Monday night.

The Lady Ragin' Cajuns completed the 2004-2005 season with an overall 22-9 record and finished with first place in the west division by going 10-5.

"They've got a real good athletic team, they are well coached, Kelley Hall does a good job, he's been in this business for a long time," MT head basketball coach Rick Insell said of the Lady Ragin Cajuns head basketball coach, J. Kelley Hall.

"This team can pose problems for a lot of teams because they are so athletic," Insell said. "It's going to be a great game."

In games against the University South

Alabama (Jan.19) and Troy (Jan. 21), Middle Tennessee won both competitions. The coach hopes with those wins this team will not lose their focus.

"What we are hoping for is a repeat of last week, just go in and get ourselves a win against Louisiana-Lafayette and get ourselves focused, so we can go down to New Orleans and get a win," Insell said.

Tip-off is set for 5 p.m. tonight.

Middle Tennessee will travel to New Orleans to play the Lady Privateers on Saturday night. New Orleans sits at the bottom of the West division of the SBC West, with a 2-16 overall record and winless in the conference at 0-5.

The Lady Privateers completed the 2004-2005, season with a 2-26 overall record and finished sixth in the West at 2-13.

"There have been teams this year that had lousy records that have beaten us, so we don't look at records, we look at personnel, strategies, philosophies," Insell said. "Records are the least of our problems."

With, the SBC known for its competitive nature, you can't judge a team by their record when the Sun Belt tournament rolls around.

"In our conference you can't look at a record, because with eleven teams in the conference, every team is capable of winning this tournament that is coming up in March," said Insell.

In the game against Troy, junior Chrissy Givens lead all scorers that night with 27 points, which is the eleventh

time this season she has had 20 points or more.

"Chrissy has been doing a great job for us, she's had a couple of games where she has won last second shots," Insell said of the junior guard. "More than anything she's playing great defense, and she's rebounding, but in the last couple of games she has cut down on turnovers."

Freshman guard Johnna Abney had a career high night as well against Troy. She connected on six three pointers and scored 20 points.

"Johnna had a great game Saturday night, we are hoping that with her breakthrough game on Saturday she can follow up her performance," Insell said. The UNO game gets started at 7 p.m.

on Saturday.

# Card sharks compete at Coconut Bay

By Ebony Pugh

Staff Writer

Looking for an ace on fifth street?

Every Sunday night, students and Murfreesboro locals participate in the Texas Hold'em Poker tournament at Coconut Bay Café. The tournaments are held every Sunday at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Many MT students go to the tournaments to hang out, meet new people and take a shot at poker.

Coconut Bay Café and the National Pub Poker League started the Texas Hold'em Sunday night poker tournament about six months ago. With the rapid growth of participation in the tournaments, the Sunday night poker tournaments at the café will continue to be a hang-out spot for MT students.

The players don't play for noney. They play for points



## MTSU's men's tennis team to face UTC

By Wade Neely

Staff Writer

The MTSU men's tennis features two of the most talented players in the entire nation, according the national rankings.

Juniors Marco Born and Andreas Siljestrom lead the roster for the team, which include seniors Greg Pollack, Rishan Kuruppu and Brandon Allan, junior Kai Schledorn, sophomore Marc Boiron and freshmen Morgan Richard and Joao Paoliello.

The team enters the season ranked 34th. Last season, the Blue Raiders posted an 18-7 record, returning to the NCAA Team Championships for the first time in three years, and the seventh time in school history. When asked about the possibility of a repeat as Sun Belt champs, coach Short said, "We can't just go in there expecting to win. We have to get out there and work just as hard." The team opens the 2006 campaign this Saturday against in-state rival, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. Kristin Silijistrom, sister of men's player, Andreas Siljistrom, looks to lead a team that did very well in a few tournaments this past fall. "We played in those tournaments to prepare us for the spring, and I think we will be well prepared when the season begins," head coach Alison Ojeda said.

The player with the most points at the end of the 6 p.m. tournament and the 9 p.m. tournament move on to the regional pub poker tournament.

At the end of the regional

tournament, the players with

the highest scores go on to the

national tournament. Holding

a spot at nationals could win

the players many prizes given

Photo by Daniel Oakley | Staff Photographer

Local poker players take part in a Sunday night tournament at Coconut Bay Cafe. These players, along with several others, recently finished competing for a chance to move on to the national tournament for pub poker

out by the National Pub Poker League.

"The poker tournaments are a great way for people to enjoy the game of poker and meet

lifelong poker buddies in the process," said Thom Keel, a worker at Coconut Bay Cafe. "Many people come in just to play the game and leave with

new friends to enjoy poker with," Keel said.

The tournament is open to anyone who wants to participate. The only requirement is that the players sign in when they get there.



MTSU's duo of Michael Paul (left) and Kevin Green (right) recently performed well at the Denver Metro College Classic. Green won the singles' title, while Green and Paul captured the doubles' title

With several wins and a national championship title, the average person would think the team has been around for many years. Actually, the team was organized about three years ago. When the team first originated, the roster consisted of only 10 players. A new year must mean a new beginning for

the team as the 2006 roster has grown to 30 players.

Tuesdays and Thursdays. Thursday's practice is held at the Murfreesboro Athletic Center. The team also uses the Campus Recreation Center as a teams. way to stay physically fit.

The wheelchair tennis team

is not the only wheelchair sport on campus; MTSU also offers softbail, rugby and hockey. These sports are currently very low in number, and, just like wheelchair tennis, support is greatly needed for all of these

Ojeda believes the team has a real chance of making some noise this season, despite being very young.

"As long as these girls have someone to lead them, they will go above and beyond what they are supposed to do, regardless of their inexperience," said Ojeda.

The team's chedule has several key non-conference matches, including tilts against Vanderbilt and Ole Miss.

"As long as we have confidence going into our matches, we have a great shot at winning some of those big contests. We plan on doing some things that have never been done at MTSU in women's tennis," said Ojeda.

The women's team will begin play on a two-game road trip to Texas, taking on the University of Texas at San Antonio and UT-Pan Am. before playing their home opener Feb. 4 against East Tennessee State University.

# Green, Paul lead successful MTSU wheelchair tennis team in Denver

#### By Ebony Pugh Staff Writer

MTSU's wheelchair tennis team is one of the most competitive teams on campus.

The team has won national championships, played in several tournaments and just competed in the Denver Metro College Classic. With hard work and dedication the team has mastered the ability to be successful on and off the tennis court, according to Michael Paul, who won the wheelchair doubles event.

Since wheelchair tennis is not a NCAA sport, the team does not get funding or support from places on campus.

Although the team does have a sponsor outside of the school, gaining support on campus and finding a coach has been a little rough for the team. The team currently has a low support rate at matches and tournaments, and the players are looking for supporters and a

coach to help in the process of remaining victorious in years to come. Two weeks ago, the team

traveled to Denver to compete in the Denver Metro College Classic. The team was victorious in the classic, with a win by Kevin Green in singles and a win by Green and Paul in doubles.

The win in Denver is not the only accomplishment of the wheelchair tennis team. The team also won the national championship last year.

The team's two main goals this semester are to win another national championship and to gain support from MTSU students and faculty.

"We really want more media coverage and support," said Michael Paul, a player on the wheelchair tennis team.

The team will have a tournament hosted by Blaze Sports Feb: 18 and 19 at the Murfreesboro Racquet Club on River Rock Road.

The players practice on

#### Vol. 81 No. 03

### SPORTS PG 5

# MT prepares for UNO, ULL with much-needed rest



By Jared Hastings Staff Writer

After a tough road trip which saw the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team lose their third in a row, and fifth out of six games, head coach Kermit Davis decided that some time off was in order for the Blue Raiders.

"We gave them a couple of days off, and hopefully that will help them," Davis said. "We're going to back off of them a little right now. We're still going to compete and work hard in practice."

Davis admits that it is a far cry for his fiery, driven

style, but cited several factors, including the team's summer trip to Canada, as reasons for the change.

"I think we may have hit a wall," he said. "We may be a little tired right now. We noticed that Theryn Hudson, after a couple of days off, had the best legs on the team, and [Kevin] Kanaskie, coming back to practice on Friday, looked like a completely different player than anyone else on the floor after a rest. The Blue Raiders hope the rest pays off this week-

end in a two-game home stand against New Orleans and Louisiana-Lafayette.

New Orleans comes to town Thursday night in the midst of a trying season. Hurricane Katrina withstanding, the Privateers have had to overcome a season ending injury to preseason league player of the year Bo McCalebb, and the sudden departure of current leading scorer Wayne Williams this past weekend.

Though the Privateers are just 5-12 overall, they do have a better record in Sun Belt play (2-4) than the Blue Raiders (1-4). Even with this season's problems, Davis says they're still dangerous.

"They're a guard-oriented team and they still have three good guards that can score," Davis said. "Even without McCalebb they're more than capable of going out and being competitive every night."

On Saturday, Louisiana-Lafayette, a perennial thorn in Middle Tennessee's side, comes to the Murphy Center. But this year's version of the Ragin Cajuns is a far cry from the team that has been dominant of late, winning the previous two Sun Belt Conference tournaments. The Cajuns limp in to Saturday night's match up with a 5-12 record and just one victory in the SBC.

While ULL boasts one of the league's best players in Dwayne Mitchell, the Ragin Cajuns have struggled all year due to a brutal non-conference schedule as well as chemistry issues due to the return of former all league player Michael Southall, who sat out the previous two seasons with academic and legal issues.

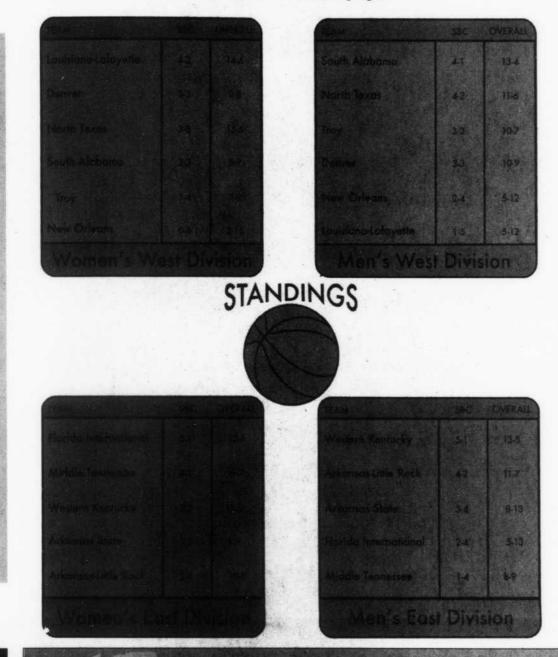
For the Blue Raiders to have a chance, they will

have to improve in all facets of their game, a fact not lost on Davis.

"We do not respond well to adversity right now," Davis said. "Hopefully we can get better about that; get a little bit tougher mentally. From a basketball standpoint, we just have to take better shots and hit them."

With the recent struggles of senior point guard, Fats Cuyler, Davis said a lineup change would probably be in order with freshman Kevin Kanskie likely getting a start, as well as the possibility of freshman center, Theryn Hudson getting either a start or increased playing time.

Senior Marcus Morrison, who has been the team's leading scorer in Sun Belt play at almost 17 points per game has rejoined the team after being sent home last weekend and suspended for the Troy game. For the season, the 6-6 swingman is the team's second leading scorer with 11.3 points per game while also pulling down a team-high 6.1 rebounds per game.



#### MT SPORTS BRIEFS

#### Two MT track stars selected Sun Belt Conference Athletes of the Week

On Wednesday, the SBC named Linnie Yarbrough Runner of the Week for the second consecutive week. Last week at the Blue Raider Invitational Yarbrough won the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 7.20, a new school record. He also finished fifth in the triple jump.

Juan Walker was named SBC Field Performer of the Week for his performance last Saturday with three wins and a second. He won the long jump, triple jump and a heat race in the 55-meter dash.

On Saturday the MT track team will host the Middle Tennessee Open.

#### Three former MT track members were named to All-Time Team

This week, the SBC selected the All-Time Indoor Track and Field Team. Mardy Scales, Godfrey Herring and Kim Freeman made that team. The trio combined for 12 All-American honors. Scales was the National Champion in the 100-meter dash in 2003. Herring excelled in the 400-meter event, while Freeman was known for her many wins in the triple jump.

### MT Baseball Team picked 5th in SBC preseason poll

The Blue Raiders are selected to finish the season in fifth. This was a poll conducted by the SBC coaches. South Alabama was picked for the top spot.

THERE'S NO GREATER ADVENTURE THAN TRUE LOVE.

#### Starting pitcher Matt Scott was picked preseason pitcher of the year.

Relief pitcher Allan Woodard, shortstop Jeff Beachum, outfielder Nathan Hines and designated hitter Todd Martin were named to the preseason All-SBC Team.

Dewon Brazelton and Josh Renick were named to the All-time SBC Baseball Team.

#### MT softball team selected 6th in SBC preseason poll

On Wednesday, the SBC coaches selected the Lady Raiders to finish last in the SBC preseason poll.

Outfielders Jennifer Grybash and Trish White were named to the All-SBC second team.

Cortney Mitchell and Jennifer Martinez made the All-Time SBC team. Mitchell was the SBC Player of the Year in 2004. Martinez pitched the first perfect game in the SBC tournament in 2002, and has every pitching record in MT history.

#### MT selects offensive coordinator

G.A. Mangus was named the new offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach by MT head football coach Rick Stockstill. Mangus comes from Delaware Valley, a Division III school. He was a quarterback at Florida from 1988 to 1991 for coach Steve Spurrier, who is now at South Carolina.

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