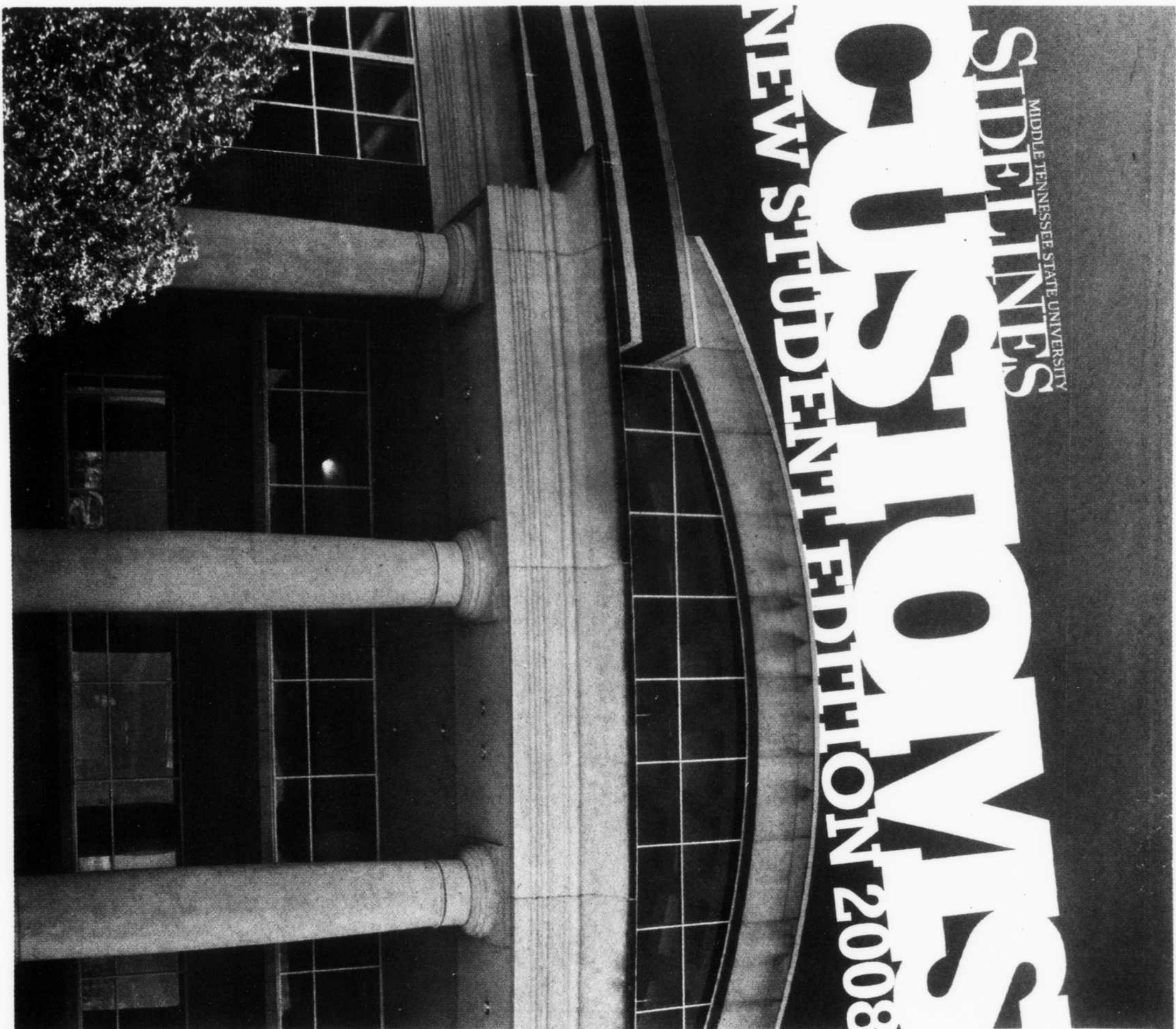


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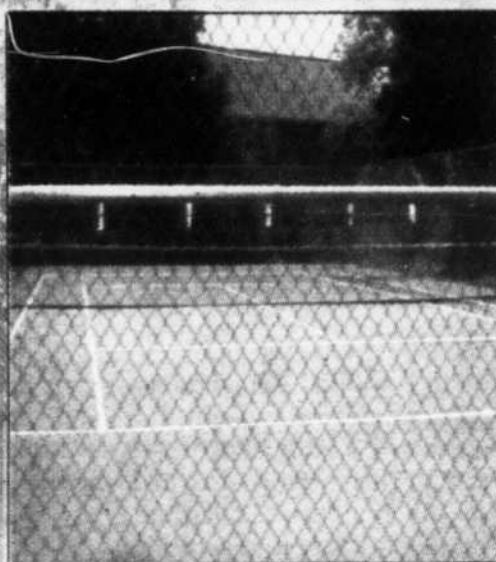
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The Blue Raiders will have to replace some key players, but next season looks bright. They pulled in a top recruiting class and will once again be playing on ESPN2.

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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Web site educates students nationwide

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

Four students have created a Web-based community called 'Schoology' to encourage academic collaboration and offer financial incentives for posting helpful and elaborate notes online.

Schoology was created by Jeremy Friedman, Tim Trinidad, Ryan Hwang and Greg Mervine, all of which are students at Washington University of St. Louis.

"With new innovations in technology and the Internet, the world is becoming more and more digital [and] we believe education is reaching a turning point," Hwang said. "Our platform is the next logical step in the education revolution."

The Web site's purpose is to help students improve their academic understanding and grade point average through an online community that allows students to collaborate and share information.

"For me the idea came from my relationship with my freshman year roommate. He was almost an idiot savant

in math while I struggled in calculus," said Mervine, junior economics and political science major of Washington University and co-founder of Schoology. "By helping each other out in our weaker classes we gained an understanding of the topics beyond what we could have learned from class."

Mervine said that Schoology allows students to profit from their strengths and seek help for their weaknesses. However, he considers both sides beneficial to increasing academic understanding.

The idea for Schoology was thought up in the spring of 2007 and went through several drastic redesigns until finally being launched on Feb. 25, 2008.

Schoology offers online notes that are free and can be downloaded by anyone nationwide. A tutoring program is also provided by the site to help explain the notes.

"We believe that as time goes on, the tutoring part of Schoology will become our most valuable feature," Mervine said. "It's a very simple yet effective service, sim-

ply an instant message platform allowing one student to tutor another for a set price."

According to Jeremy Friedman, junior at Washington University and co-founder of Schoology, tutors set their own per-minute rate; however, all of the sessions start completely free.

"At this point, the students have unlimited time to determine if the tutor will be able to properly assist them," Friedman said. "When the student is comfortable, they can then click a 'hire' button within the chat program, begin the paid session, and receive additional help."

For assignments or projects that cannot be completed in a short amount of time, students can set a fixed rate project.

"If I wanted someone to read my resume and edit it, I could hire a tutor," Friedman said. "The tutor could then specify a rate, and I could fill out a Job Request, specifying the fee."

"Once the job is accepted by the tutor, we hold funds in our own account to insure that both parties are satisfied

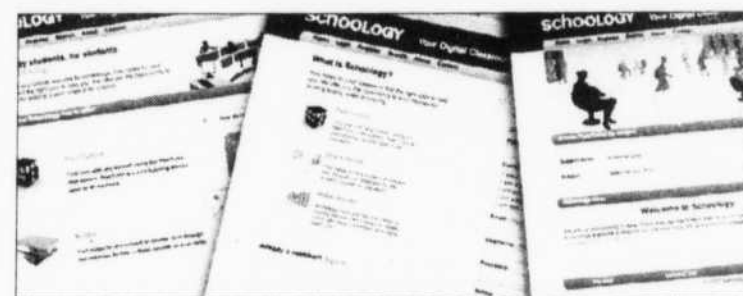


Illustration By Eric Shuff, Production Manager

before funds are transferred," Friedman said. "In this sense, we provide an extra block of security for both students and tutors, so that no one can ever be ripped off or cheated."

When distributing the earnings of helpful notes, Schoology also provides a fair transaction to the provider by measuring the number of times the notes have been downloaded.

"A proprietary algorithm then divides our ad-revenue and distributes over 90 percent back to the community according to download quantity," Mervine said.

With a large majority of notes being downloaded and posted online, Friedman believes that Schoology will encourage students to take better notes in class.

Friedman also said that Schoology is not a concern for teachers and educators.

"We believe that Schoology will actually create a disincentive for plagiarism and cheating, since a teacher can log in at any time and look through material free of charge," Friedman said. "With our model, we encourage teachers to come online."

Friedman said the Schoology Web site is a Beta version and he plans to add features that assist both teachers and students.

"We value academic integrity greatly, and encourage educators to contact us if they feel there are any problems, as we are extremely willing to work with them to insure that there are no violations of academic code," Friedman said.

Campus bus modified to use alternative fuel



Photo by Daniel Potter, Community News Editor

A bicycle modified with a two-stroke engine from Jeff Hartley's collection stands on display outside the Keathley University Center for Earth Day, April 22.

By DANIEL POTTER
Community News Editor

This summer a bus modified to run on alternative fuels is expected to join MTSU's fleet of vehicles.

The bus has three fuel tanks: one for petrodiesel, one for biodiesel, and one for used cooking oil, said Charles Perry, who holds the Russell Chair of Manufacturing Excellence with the department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Studies.

"Almost a year ago, we proposed to the Student Clean Energy Fee Committee to

take one of the old buses to convert it to run on used cooking oil," Perry said.

"That conversion has been completed."

As a result, the chemistry department became involved in order to conduct a unique emissions tests on the vehicle. Normally such tests take place in a controlled, simulated setting rather than on the road, but in this case it was possible to gather emissions data "in real time," Perry said.

"We went back for a second proposal," Perry said, this time to incorporate biodie-

sel. Even with three different fuel tanks, the bus will be able to "switch on the run," Perry said.

"Eventually, our plan is to take the used cooking oil on campus and filter it - it doesn't take much processing for used cooking oil. Then we're going to run the bus on it," Perry said.

"Once we get the graphics on it," the bus will be displayed, Perry said. "I'd say it's going to be another month or two."

"I just wish it would go

Campus construction concluding soon

Baseball field, recreation center, roundabout all complete by fall

By ALEX MOORMAN
Staff Writer

Several construction projects on campus are expected to conclude this summer, including the new baseball field on Faulkinberry and the expansion of the Recreation Center.

"The date set for completion of the Recreation Center and the Student Health Care Center is around Aug. 1, and late July on the new baseball field," said Tom Tozer, director of news and public affairs on campus.

"Construction will continue into the summer but hopefully be done by the beginning of fall semester," Tozer said.

"We would love to say that all of these new projects will be finished by the estimated

date but, just like everything, things can come up. Weather plays a big factor in the date we finish, but hopefully we can keep on schedule," Tozer said.

Additionally, a roundabout is under construction on MTSU Boulevard, which is also being widened to include a bus lane. In the meantime, traffic entering campus from Rutherford Boulevard has been detoured to Alumni Drive.

"[Roundabouts] are considered much safer than a traditional four-way stop. A study actually said that there are about 40 percent less vehicle collisions," Tozer said.

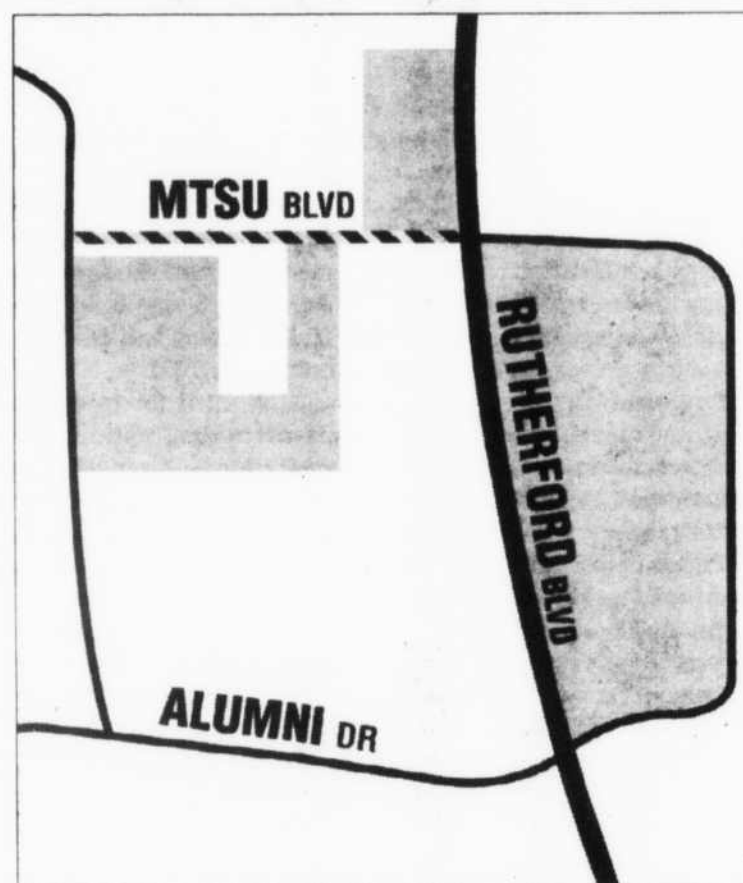
Administrators are always trying to make driving on campus safer, Tozer said, and this represents another

effort to that end. While the construction inconveniences many, ultimately the changes will benefit both the campus and students.

Among the benefits of these projects, the Recreation Center will gain an additional 4,000 square feet, thereby increasing activities and work-out areas.

"We will be adding a lot of new stuff," Tozer said. "There will be a group meeting room, health assessment room, family changing room, cardiovascular room and much more. It really is going to be a great thing for the Recreation Center."

The new Student Health Care Center will also be beside the Recreation Center,



CONSTRUCTION, PAGE 7

Illustration By Eric Shuff, production manager

Book stores rent out textbooks via Web

By NATASHA SMITH
Contributing Writer

MTSU students can now rent textbooks as an alternative to purchasing them.

Blue Raider Bookstore of Greenland Drive and Beat The Bookstore of Middle Tennessee Boulevard have partnered with mybookhead.com to offer three-day textbook rentals to students.

MTSU alumni Stephen Watkins and Ronald Atkins developed mybookhead.com in hopes of helping to curb the financial stress college students have when purchasing textbooks each semester.

"It's not a substitute to buying, but in some instances a class might not require the use of a textbook all the time and it is just a waste of money," Watkins said.

The rental service allows students to rent textbooks and use them when needed, Watkins said, instead of paying full price and not getting their money's worth from a book they hardly use.

Students looking to rent textbooks from mybookhead.com can go on the Web site and sign up to see if the book they need is available at either of the two bookstores. The student may reserve the book by debit or credit card and pick it up within 24 hours at the chosen location.

"It's almost like Expedia or Orbitz where you get to choose which place will offer a better price," Watkins said.

If the textbook the student needs is not available online, they may also try to contact

the bookstore or walk in and rent books. Textbook rentals usually cost between 5 and 20 percent of the retail value of the book.

Books that are not returned within the three-day rental agreement are automatically charged for another rental period. Students that rent books will either get used or new books depending on what is available, but the rental price will remain the same regardless of the condition of the book.

Arkansas State and Georgia State University have also partnered with mybookhead.com since the Web site began in January. So far, 105 books have been rented, with 60 to 70 of those from MTSU students, Watkins said.

The difference between

mybookhead.com and other textbook rental services is that other sites are strictly online, meaning students have to wait for the book to be shipped to them before they can use it.

Mybookhead.com is currently the only site that has partnered with colleges to allow students to pick up the books they need in person.

"It's generally only utilized by people that just need a book for a few days," said Horace Smith, owner of Beat The Bookstore.

"If there is an instance where a student only needs [a book] for a couple of days for one particular test, then it might be useful for them."

"As a general rule, most students are going to need the book for the whole se-

mester," Smith said.

Rather than presenting competition to textbook sales, Smith said renting textbooks out seems to complement his business.

"If we have it in inventory, it wasn't sold at the beginning of the semester," Smith said.

Watkins and Atkins hope to branch out their business by the end of the year and affiliate at least 15 to 20 more universities with the Web site. They are also hoping to eventually offer long-term rentals on books as well.

The business is currently offering MTSU internships to help with programming, marketing, and public relations.

New scholarship aids students studying abroad

By SARAH SILKWOOD
Contributing Writer

MT Study Abroad office offers a new international education scholarship to help students extend their academic opportunities in different locations.

This new scholarship is designed to help alleviate the cost; however, students must apply and be accepted into a study abroad program and have at least a 2.75 GPA in order to be eligible.

Brandon Fisher, a coordinator at the MT Abroad Office, said that financial issues are the primary reasons why most students at MTSU don't even consider studying abroad.

"Even though it is a valuable experience, it can be expensive," Fisher said. "We're

trying to make it available to everyone [by helping] with the finances, any financial aid that a student uses at MTSU can deduct [from] the final price of studying abroad."

The MT Abroad office has worked hard to get faculty members involved so students can be sure the classes they take overseas will transfer to credit at MTSU.

"I think a lot of students have a misconception of how education credit counts over," Fisher said. "You have to be determined if you can make it through the application process, then you can definitely live in a different culture."

On average, 30 to 35 students are sent to another country each semester, and every summer 300 students are sent with the help of MT

Abroad.

Ginger Warf, a senior public relations and Spanish major, reminisced on her time in Segovia, Spain.

"I taught my Señora's 10 year-old granddaughter how to salsa dance," Warf said. "We watched their version of 'Dancing with the Stars' every Monday, and one week we took the evening to have our own dance time."

Students applying for the scholarship or study abroad program are required to fill out an application, which consists of a participant profile, a copy of the student's passport, the place requested to study abroad, a language proficiency report, personal essays, academic references and a course request list.

Students also need to visit the Web site of the college

they wish to study with to find the appropriate courses to take.

After the application process is complete, students are required to go through an orientation designed to prepare them for the culture shock of being immersed in a completely foreign environment.

"[The application process was] long [and] it took a while to complete the application," Warf said. "I studied with KIIS (a study abroad program), so you had to pay in full before scholarship came in. So, that whole process was time consuming and hard."

The experience of studying abroad comes highly recommended by those who have experienced it such as Warf and Fisher.

"The culture shock is really

a roller coaster," Fisher said. "You start out happy, then scared, then anxious, then you start to improve."

Phillip Peck, a recent MTSU graduate with degrees in art history and Spanish, said the language barrier can pose a significant obstacle to adjusting.

Studying in Murcia, Spain last summer, Peck said he experienced feelings of isolation early in his stay.

"Once you get a little more familiar with your surroundings and realize it's not that big a deal," Peck said, "then it opens back up to you."

Peck said despite the expense, the experience abroad was invaluable to his education.

STUDY ABROAD, PAGE 7

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Red Cross raises funds to aid disaster victims

By JOHNATHON SCHLEICHER
Assistant News Editor

The Heart of Tennessee chapter of the American Red Cross raised \$180,000 for disaster victims with their annual fundraising campaign.

"We have actually just completed one of our biggest events, our annual fundraising campaign," said Beth Ferguson, financial development director for the Heart of Tennessee chapter. "Last year was our first big annual campaign and we raised \$150,000. This year our goal was \$200,000. As of right now we are sitting at \$180,000."

"A lot of people think that we are a government agency, but we are not," Ferguson said. "That is why this fundraiser is very important for our funding, so we can help victims with flood, fire and other disasters."

American Red Cross also hosted "Save A Life Saturday" on March 29, at five different locations including the MTSU Recreation Center and the Murfreesboro Athletic Club. The event included trained instructors and personnel located on both sites.

The community-wide event was organized to provide training and education in adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation to local residents free of charge. In order to receive certification, the participant had to stay the full length of the course.

"I think [Save A Life Saturday] was a major success because it was just a great value for the people," Ferguson said. "The classes normally run about \$45, but we offered it for free that day. It



PHOTO COURTESY BETH FERGUSON, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
Participants of Save A Life Saturday perform CPR on mannequins

is expensive, but it is a very important course. I wish we could keep it free all the time."

"Save a Life Saturday is an excellent opportunity for anyone to come and get trained in adult CPR to be able to feel confident and empowered should an emergency arise that would require this vital skill," said Laura Sanchez-Slate, in a recent news release located on the Heart of Tennessee chapter's Web site.

The American Red Cross covers an array of disasters despite being known predominantly for blood drives and tornado relief.

Fundraisers such as Save A Life Saturday help shed light on this fact, but Ferguson believes that the public needs to be more aware of the American Red Cross's efforts.

"Throughout the year, we are always preparing for

disasters. It is too late after the disaster hits because you have to have agreements already in place," Ferguson said. "The more that we get our name out there and the more education we give to people, the more people realize that we do not just do blood or help people through major disasters like tornados."

"We also help victims of single family fires or minor disasters that happen daily through the community," Ferguson said. "We do everything such as providing shelter for those who have lost their homes. These are the stories that are never told."

The Heart of Tennessee chapter serves Rutherford, Bedford, and Cannon counties in Tennessee.

Ferguson said that despite the constant preparation for disasters, there is always room for improvement.

CONSTRUCTION FROM PAGE 5

with 22 new exam rooms, an expanded laboratory, a central nursing station, a conference room, travel medical clinic, office of health services and a pharmacy that will provide students and faculty with an easier way to pick up prescriptions.

"I think that the pharmacy is going to be amazing to have on campus. It's a great thing for the students to have that kind of access. So we're really excited about it," Tozer said.

Tozer said the new baseball stadium will be similar to the football stadium, as it will feature a new elevator and

tower.

Tozer said that funding comes from such sources as fees, university funding, state money and grants.

"We can only get a certain amount of funding a semester so we have to pick and choose what we do, but we feel like these things are really important."

To the extent that the remaining construction may interfere with traffic on campus, students can look to Parking and Transportation Services for updates.

"We try to get information out to the students as soon as we know it," said Nanci Weatherly, manager at parking services, "so that everyone can be prepared as to what's going on."

STUDY ABROAD FROM PAGE 6

"I used financial aid loans," Peck said.

"It was definitely worth it. We learned probably more in that one month than you can typically learn in a summer class - a lot of things that you can't learn in a classroom."

Preston Nalls, freshman

economics major, is looking forward to studying abroad this fall at Kansai Gaidai University in Japan.

"From a professional aspect, it's going to make my resume look a lot better, and also open a lot of doors for me," Nalls said.

To this end, Nalls received a scholarship.

"It's definitely helped me out a lot," Nalls said.

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Photos Courtesy of Carrie Youell

Greek Affairs is divided into three governing councils: the Interfraternity Council, National Panhellenic Council and the National Pan-Hellenic Council. Above is the NPC.

Greek Life teaches leadership, friendship

By **ANDY HARPER**
Editor in Chief

Coming to college is a major change for any student and can be a confusing time to figure out alone.

Fortunately for new students, the Office of Greek Affairs can provide an opportunity to join organizations that will help a person excel academically and socially by involving the student in leadership and volunteer experiences.

"Being Greek allows you to develop meaningful relationships that last far beyond your college years," said Carrie Youell, coordinator for the Office of Greek Affairs.

The Greek community centers around four ideals that

include scholarship, leadership, friendship and service, Youell said. Everything that Greek life and the community does focuses on promoting the above characteristics.

"The Office of Greek Affairs focuses on being student-centered and placing a strong emphasis on student empowerment," Youell said. "Through teaching the students the skills necessary to succeed, we empower them to make decisions that promote positive change to the MTSU and Greek community."

One of the most important aspects of Greek life is the attention to campus tradition. Becoming involved with a sorority or fraternity instantly connects you to the university and its traditions,

Youell said.

"Being involved in a fraternity or sorority allows you to be exposed to different areas of campus life while growing as an individual," Youell said. "You learn networking skills, develop leadership skills, give back to the community and share a common bond through the adherence to a set of shared values."

Recruitment to become involved with Greek life begins in fall. An online recruitment registration form for the Interfraternity Council Rush and National Panhellenic Council Rush will be available on the Office of Greek Affairs Web site at the end of August. NPC Sorority Rush begins Sept. 10 and IFC Fraternity Rush begins Sept. 15.



For more information on the Office of Greek Life and to see a schedule of the Fall 2008 Rush, please visit www.mtsu.edu/~greeks or call 898-5812.

BIODIESEL FROM PAGE 4

faster, but we'll get there."

In a way, the bus itself is recycled.

"It was actually one of our old shuttle buses," said Ron Malone, assistant vice president of Events and Transportation Services on campus.

"When we bought some new buses, we agreed to turn one of our old buses over to those folks so they could modify it to run on biodiesel fuel," Malone said.

The bus is just one example of recent projects geared toward alternative-fuel vehicles on campus, said Carl Caum, junior computer science major and member of Students for Environmental Action.

Cliff Ricketts, a professor of agricultural education here, has undertaken the

modification of numerous vehicles to utilize such fuels, Caum said.

Among the cars in Ricketts' collection recently displayed outside the Keathley University Center for Earth Day were a pair of Corvettes modified to run such fuels as biodiesel and used cooking oil.

"He's also got a hydrogen truck, and that one runs off just sun and water," Caum said.

Also on display for Earth Day was a collection of vehicles brought by Jeff Hartley, an honorary SEA member.

Hartley's collection included a modified bicycle with a two-stroke engine capable of speeds up to 40 mph while traveling up to 150 miles on a single gallon of fuel.

He also demonstrated a Mercedes modified with less than \$500 worth of parts to run on used cooking oil.

Critical Mass rolls into summer



Photo by Daniel Potter, Community News Editor

Local cyclists gather at the park on Bell Street for April's Critical Mass, "Murfreesboro's mobile celebration of bicycles," which meets there at 6 p.m. on the last Friday of every month.



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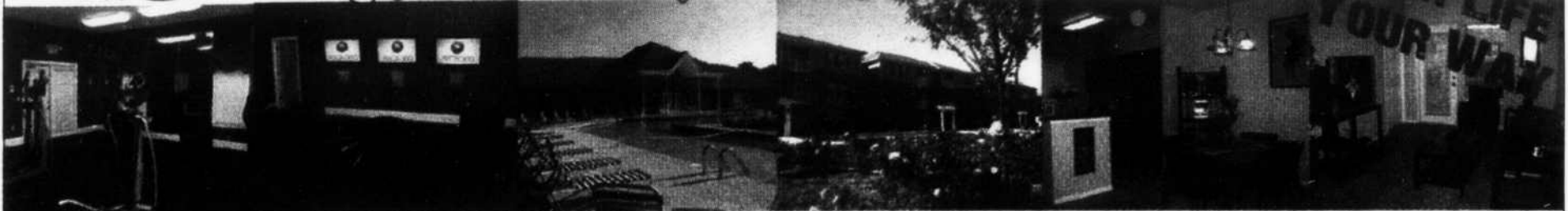
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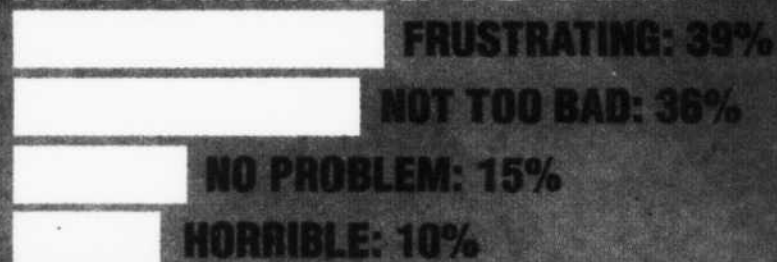


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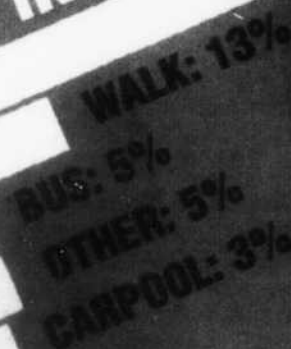
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Let's get existential here for a minute. Let's take a close look at MTSU students—by the numbers. Who are we, really? What do we do with our time? What do we care about? How happy are we with our college experience? There's no easy way to respond to these questions, but *Sidelines* has attempted to find even the smallest glimmer of an answer. So here's a look at a day in the life of MTSU students—who are, as it turns out, a complicated breed.

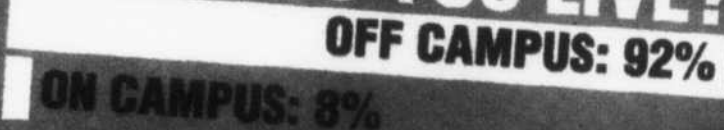
I FIND MY COMMUTE AND PARKING TO BE...



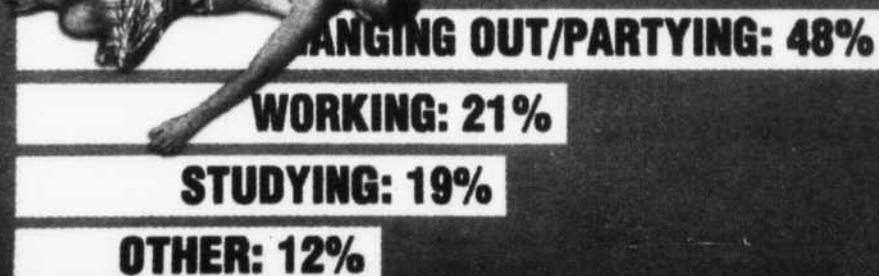
HOW DO YOU GET TO CLASS IN THE MORNING?



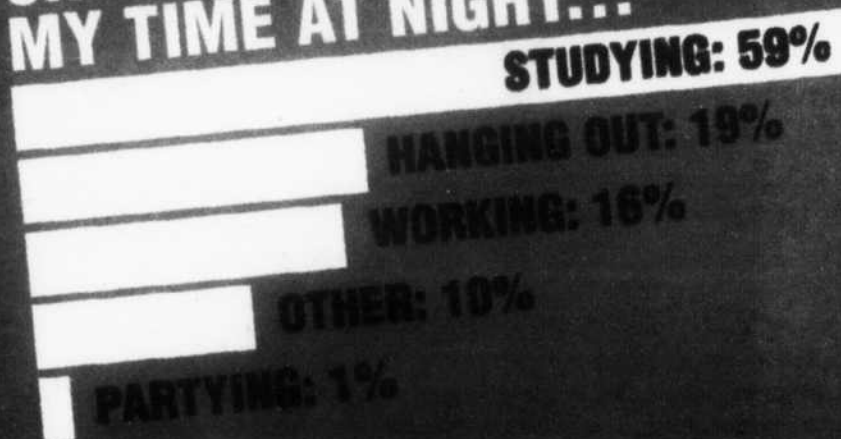
WHERE DO YOU LIVE?



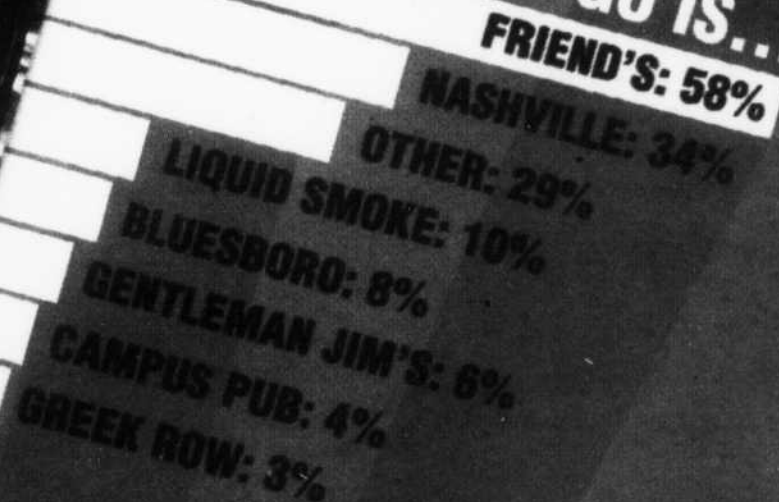
ON WEEKENDS, I SPEND MY TIME...



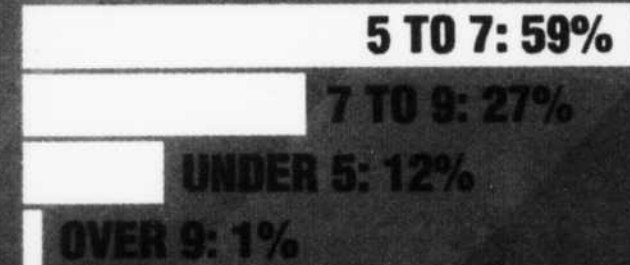
ON WEEKDAYS, I SPEND MY TIME AT NIGHT...



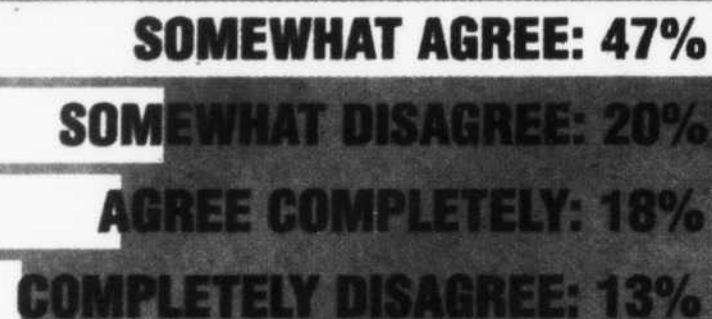
**WHEN I GO OUT, MY
FAVORITE PLACE TO GO IS...**



**ON AVERAGE,
I GET THIS
MANY HOURS
OF SLEEP A NIGHT...**



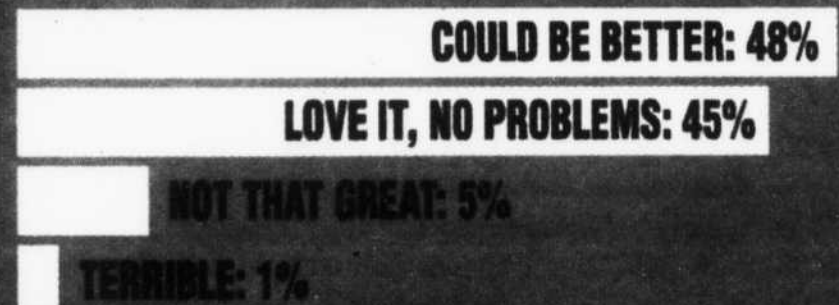
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STUDENTS IN LIBERAL ARTS AND MASS COMMUNICATION MAJORS REPLIED MOST POSITIVELY WITH 49% OF STUDENTS REPLYING "LOVE IT, NO PROBLEMS." BUSINESS EDUCATIONAL / BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE MAJORS REPLIED WITH THE MOST NEGATIVE RESULTS WITH 79% OF STUDENTS REPLYING "COULD BE BETTER" OR LESS.



DISCLAIMER: This is a non-scientific survey, conducted during the months of March and April. Over 200 students—sampled from the colleges of mass communication, business, basic and applied sciences and liberal arts—voluntarily completed the survey, which may or may not reflect the reality of experiences for any given student. The responses presented here do not represent the opinions of *Sidelines* or the *Sidelines* staff. Rather, this survey is simply a compilation of experiences sent in by various students. Experiences are personal experiences and are NOT related to the newspaper or university.

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BOOKBAG TO BRIEFCASE

Transitioning from college to the real world doesn't have to be scary

By EMILY STERRIE
Staff Writer

Few things are as unsettling to a college student as the idea of graduating. The thought of leaving school once and for all, entering the "real world" and beginning a career on one's own may leave students plagued with anxiety, apprehension and utter fear.

The phenomenon is known as "bookbag to briefcase," and it can be scary.

Certainly, the case is no different at MTSU, but would-be grads should be aware that the resources they need to help make the transition from college to the real world are right at their fingertips. So relax, seniors, because there are people on campus

here to help.

Karen Austin, associate director of the Career and Employment Center, notes that the biggest concern she hears from students is the belief that they are simply not ready—not ready to leave school, not ready to be independent, not ready to begin a career.

But Austin insists that they are ready.

"They have the knowledge and experience—it's inside them," she says. "They just have to pull it together."

Luckily, the Career and Employment Center, located in Room 328 of the Keathley University Center, is an excellent resource for help in finding your inner executive, or, at the very least, in helping prepare your resume.

"We want to do everything we can to ease their comfort level, and we do that by building confidence," Austin explains.

The Career and Employment Center is always gathering new information about employment trends and opportunities available in all areas, as well as building relationships with students' potential employers.

That way, Austin explains, "We can show the students what the employers are looking for and guide them through the interview process. They need to know everything about the market they're entering before they get to the interview."

The Career Center is thorough and is here for the benefit of students. But as with

most things in life, they can only help you if you first help yourself.

Chris Byrd, an art major at MTSU, says he never even thought about going to the Career Center until well into his senior year.

"I definitely wish I had gone in sooner," he repents. "They would've been able to give me a lot more direction than what I had. If I had gone back when I was a junior or something, I think I would feel a lot more prepared for graduation and the real world."

Likewise, Austin asserts that if she has one piece of advice for students, it is to visit the Career Center sooner.

"Definitely by sophomore year, you want to be actively engaging in your career path, which begins the first day

you set foot on campus." At the very least, she advises, don't go in as seniors in panic mode. "Don't settle. You paid for more, you worked for more, and you deserve more."

But Austin is careful to point out that the Career and Employment Center isn't the only resource on campus that can help guide you on your career path. There are your professors and academic advisers, of course, but also plenty of career and internship fairs, as well as career coordinators stationed in each college that are at your disposal.

Jesse Taylor, a mathematics major at MTSU, remarks that although he has never paid a

TRANSITION FROM PAGE 13

visit to the Career and Employment Center, he has made ample use of his professors' and advisers' expertise: "They've really told me everything I need to know."

Taylor, who plans to go to grad school next fall, says he feels fully prepared for the next step. "They've helped me decide which route would be best for me, where the best job opportunities are, and what I can actually do with my degree."

And that's what they're there for, Austin stresses. "Definitely use the professors as an outlet. They have an advanced understanding of their area. Students should ask them what their days are really like."

Other helpful outlets for guidance are the career and internship fairs that take place all the time in Murfreesboro and Nashville, and, Austin adds, students should always be checking with the Career Center on when and where the fairs are scheduled.

So, there you have it. If you've put in the hours, paid the money, and made the grades, then don't worry. You are ready for the real world. And if you don't think so, talk to someone who can help ease the pressure and anxiety and find the "grownup" inside you. The coordinators at the Career and Employment Center, your professors and advisers, and the career fairs are all here to help you feel ready. And if you're not about to graduate, then by all means, go to the Career Center now! You'll be glad you did.

Oh, and one last piece of advice from Karen Austin: "Don't take your mom with you to your interview!" And yes, she's serious.

MTSUParkingSucks.com

An MTSU freshman takes over a Web site dedicated to campus parking troubles

By NICHOLAS QUALLS
Contributing Writer

Ever have an impossible time finding a parking spot on campus? Find yourself in the rush each morning to get to campus before all the spots are gone? Ever get what seems like an unjust parking ticket for parking somewhere you're not supposed to because you couldn't see any notification?

Many students at MTSU have had similar problems. At such a crowded university with limited space, parking can sometimes suck.

From 2001 to 2004, there was a Web site where people could go and complain about the parking situation on campus and how it was being handled. That site was mtsuparkingsucks.com. Now, there's an image telling visitors that it's being revived under new management — freshman Gary Schechter.

"I love freedom of speech," Schechter shares. "Personally, I understand that the parking services do the best they can do. However, it sucks and people need a place to say it."

Schechter, from Nashville, started attending MTSU in the spring 2008 semester, but he was already familiar with the campus, thanks to having a sister who goes here and a mother working in the English department. He attended private high schools in Brentwood and Franklin, developing a love of freedom of speech and complaining that he intends to display on mtsuparkingsucks.com.

"My first day as a student, I drove to campus so I could

buy my books," Schechter recalls. "I forgot where I put my car in the large lot between [McFarland Health Service] and [Scarlett Commons]. It took me a while to find it. Other people have had the same problem, and I think markers like [those at] Disneyworld or the airport would be smart."

Schechter is familiar with running Web sites. His experience gives him the technical know-how to run mtsuparkingsucks.com.

"I helped maintain the MTAC [Middle Tennessee Anime Convention] Web site for a couple years, as well as now running Kat5Kaos, a gaming Web site in Nashville," Schechter says.

That counts for technical experience, but it isn't the only reason Schechter wants to restart mtsuparkingsucks.com. When the site is fully up and running again, he'll want people to contribute their own articles and stories about parking and MTSU in general.

Visitors contributing stories to the Web site was a feature it enjoyed under its creator and previous owner, Lucas Leverett, who attended MTSU intermittently between 1997 and 2005, studying journalism and media.

"I'm glad to see [the site]'s mantle taken up again," Leverett said, "and I hope it can again be a thorn in the side of bureaucratic stupidity and

inequity."

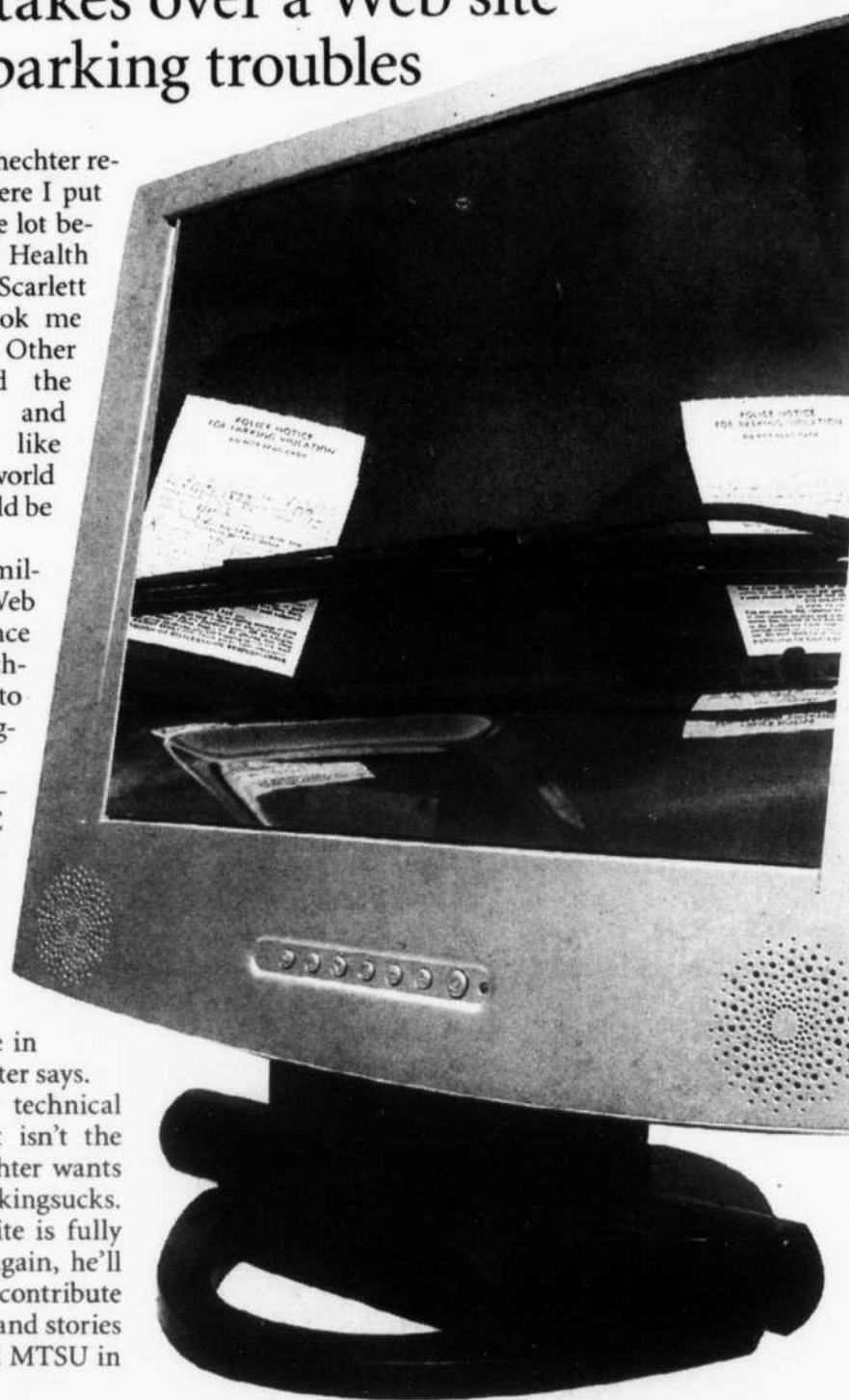
Oddly, Schechter, who had purchased the domain name after it expired, didn't originally know the site had been created by Leverett.

However, they work together in the same non-profit organization, the Middle Tennessee Anime Convention. Leverett chairs the convention and Schechter works in

the technical department.

Schechter plans to put up Leverett's site later this spring while designing a new one, which gives him plenty of time to run into new parking stories.

Once fully functional, those who encounter MTSU's constant parking problems will again have a place to comment and complain at mtsuparkingsucks.com.



Involvement will improve college experience

There isn't much to be said about college that, as students new and old, we haven't heard before.

"Make sure to get plenty of sleep."

"Always go to class."

"Don't compete for the title of 'Beer Pong Champion' the night before your final."

But the one thing that does matter and never changes is the involvement you should have with your campus.

By now, it should be no secret that MTSU is notorious for being a suitcase school. There are some weekends that a morgue seems livelier than campus. CUSTOMS will overload new students with a list of countless activities that you should participate in, but usually it seems that new students don't really care.

And why should they care? Why should a freshman want to add the responsibility of an extracurricular to their

newfound freedom? Isn't it easier to sleep in, go to class, eat, study a little and sleep some more?

Absolutely. It is easier to do nothing, but unfortunately, it's also extremely boring. Albeit, I'm sure sitting on the step of Cummings Hall or Corlew Hall is a thrilling and rewarding experience, but it shouldn't be the only thing a new student should look forward to.

As much as the university will battle against the stereotype, we are a large campus with a huge student body. It is very easy to get lost in the day-to-day shuffle and to feel like just a number — an 'M' number to be specific.

The trick is finding a place you can call home. Obviously, my pick has been *Sidelines*. For the past three years, I have found a family with collegiate peers of the highest caliber and an office that acts



YEAH, WHATEVER
Andy Harper

more like a sanctuary to escape the hustle-and-bustle of the rest of the student body.

Honestly, I would not have survived this long at MTSU without the support I found by working at the newspaper.

Luckily, there are other ways to get involved other than *Sidelines*. MTSU offers a variety of interesting activities ranging from sports, political and volunteer.

Even joining a fraternity or sorority has its benefits. Granted, the Greek life isn't

for everyone, but it never hurts to try. Sign up for Rush in the fall; the worst case scenario is you get free food, the best case is you make lifetime friends.

And not all fraternities are "social;" MTSU offers many professional development and honors fraternities that can help link students of similar majors.

For sports fanatics, we have Rowdy Raiders, intramural sports and fifteen-plus sports "clubs," like martial arts, fencing and paintball. For political junkies, there are multiple political organizations on campus, the two most prevalent being the Raider Republicans and the College Democrats.

We even have a student council called the Student Government Association that offers many different opportunities, including freshmen senate seats. The SGA is also

involved with great philanthropic causes like Habitat for Humanity, AIDS Quilt and Up 'Til Dawn.

And if nothing is suitable, start a new organization. Get some friends together and form a club. It doesn't have to be serious. It can be a group of friends that get together once a week and swim at the Recreation Center or go camping at the end of every month. I got together once a week and played tag with friends at Old Fort Park.

It really isn't hard to get involved on campus and turn your college experience from a monotonous routine to something that you look forward to each day. I promise that you'll go from "yeah, whatever" to "this is the best time of my life."

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

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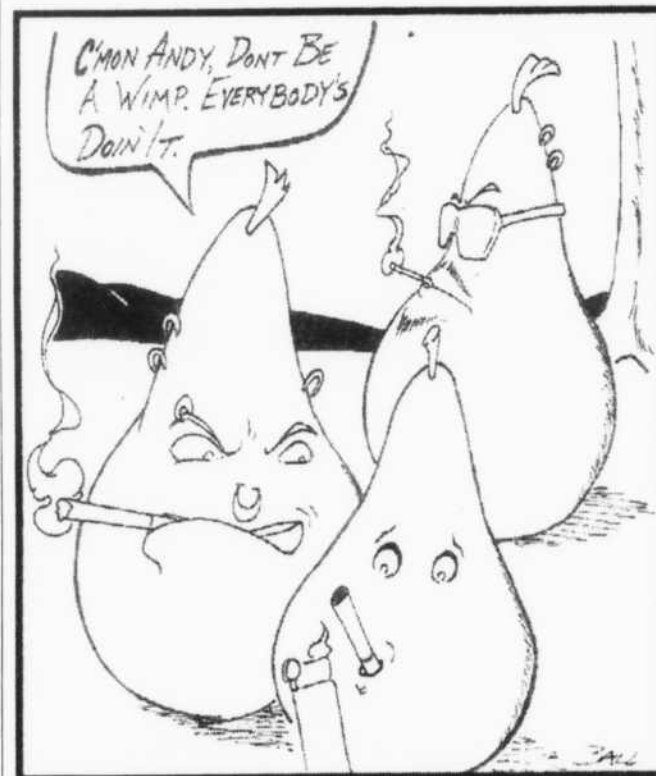
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The finer things...



Pear Pressure

TheFinerThingsComics@yahoo.com

Jeremy Ball

Campus safety should be top priority for all

College is not like high school. The rules and structure we grew accustomed to over the years are now pulled out from under us, largely leaving us to fend for ourselves. Ahh, the first taste of adulthood. It's fun, it's scary, it's different.

But it doesn't have to be dangerous. The safety net of home is replaced by a safety net of a different sort—that of the campus public safety department. Our campus is well-equipped to handle many sorts of emergencies and other situations.

Our campus is not unsafe, by any means, but it is a university, home to over 20,000 students, and nestled in the middle of a growing city.

While students are usually the least threat, a college campus cannot easily control who comes in or out. Unlike primary and secondary schools, a campus cannot go into complete lockdown, so it is up to us to be aware of our surroundings.

MTSU has our own fully-functioning police department and you are encouraged to utilize it anytime. If the police don't know what's going on, they can't help. Don't ever be afraid or embarrassed to call them—it is what they are paid to do.

So what is available to you? First and foremost is the campus escort service. Day or night, there are people available to accompany you anywhere on campus.

Escorts are trained individuals who will meet you at a designated spot and walk with you to your car or dorm, for instance. They are available by calling 898-2424.

Another safety measure on our campus, and on many campuses nationwide, is the emergency call box system.

There are 34 call boxes on campus, each with a button that calls the police depart-



GRAMMAR GAL SCHOOLS YOU

Jessica Laven

ment directly. At night the call boxes can be identified by their glowing blue lights, and you are encouraged to use them if you find yourself in danger.

You can stay at one box while the police come to your location, or, if it is not possible, you can keep walking to different boxes, pushing the buttons as you go. The police will track your path and meet up with you quickly.

Protecting oneself extends beyond the confines of our campus. While it is comforting to know that there are safety systems in place on campus, you will inevitably find yourself off campus often, and it is important to equip yourself with defense mechanisms should you encounter trouble.

MTSU Public Safety offers a physical defense program known as the Rape Aggression Defense System, or RAD. It is free and available to women enrolled at MT. It consists of a series of classes designed to teach women how to protect themselves more wholly—through prevention, awareness and physical defense.

The instructors can accommodate those with physical limitations as well, making sure that every woman on campus has an opportunity

to keep herself safe. Call Office David Smith at 494-8855 for more information.

While there are other, smaller mechanisms available, such as pepper spray and rape whistles, the most important thing to use when going about your everyday life on campus is awareness.

In other words, go with your gut. We all need to watch out for one another and also be aware of our surroundings at all times. College is definitely a time to have fun, become more responsible, and,

of course, learn.

Taking responsibility for yourself means making sure that you don't put yourself into situations that are dangerous. There are situations which are beyond our control, of course, but taking preventive measures can ensure your safety and well-being, therefore ensuring an enjoyable college experience.

Jessica Laven is in the graduate education department and can be reached at jcl2w@mtsu.edu.

The finer things...



Morganna was having a hard time finding a new house due to all the neighborhood witch programs

TheFinerThingsComics@yahoo.com

Jeremy Ball

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Photos Courtesy MT Media Relations/Photo Illustration by Eric Shuff

MT is still in the running to win its fifth Vic Bubas Cup in eight years, the second most among active members of the Sun Belt Conference. South Alabama is in first place with 10 titles.

Vic Bubas Cup still within reach for MT

By **RICHARD LOWE**
Sports Editor

Since Middle Tennessee State University became a full-time member of the Sun Belt Conference in 2000, success has become synonymous with its athletic program. The Vic Bubas Cup, given each year to the university that comes in first in the Sun Belt's all-sports standings, has been awarded to MT four out of the last seven years.

With four sports to finish their seasons in 2008, MT is in second place behind Western Kentucky, 108.5 to 113.

The most successful team this season was MT's volleyball team, which finished the season with a record of 35-3 and 14-1 in conference play. After winning the regular season and tournament championships, MT made it to round

16 in the NCAA Tournament but fell to Brigham Young University, 3-0.

The soccer team tied for second overall in regular season play before falling in the first round of the SBC Championships due to penalty kicks.

MT's men's basketball team scored an upset in the SBC Championships over top-seeded South Alabama before falling in the finals to Western Kentucky.

After finishing a record-breaking senior season, Amber Holt, of MT's women's basketball program, was drafted ninth overall to the Connecticut Sun.

During the 2006-2007 sports season, MT won or shared conference championships in football, volleyball, and women's basketball while enjoying postseason success

in men's outdoor track and volleyball.

Chrissy Givens, the 2007 SBC female player of the year, was also named first team all-conference, ESPN Academic All-American Player of the year, and was selected 31st overall in the WNBA draft after finishing her senior season.

Women's basketball head coach Rick Insell, was the conference women's basketball coach of the year guiding his team to a 30 - 4 record. MT's 27-game win streak was the longest in the nation before it ended.

The football team was led by Coach Rick Stockstill, who in his first season was named conference football coach of the year. The Blue Raiders won a share of the Sun Belt Conference Championship and a trip to a Division

I-A bowl game - their first in school history. Damon Nickson and Franklin Dunbar were named to the 2007 All-America checklist by the Football Writers Association of America.

Other highlights from 2007 include MT's baseball team defeating Vanderbilt - the number one team in the nation at the time- and Marco Born and Andreas Siljestrom winning the 2007 NCAA National Championship in men's doubles tennis.

Since its inception, MT has won or shared 28 Sun Belt Conference Championships, 144 Ohio Valley Conference Championships, 135 NCAA Appearances, 10 Ohio Valley Conference All-Sports Trophies, six members of the Ohio Valley Conference Hall of Fame, and 12 National Championships.



VIC BUBAS CUP

ALL-SPORTS
AWARD STANDINGS

1. WESTERN-KENTUCKY
113 POINTS
2. MIDDLE TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY
108.5 POINTS
3. ALABAMA -
LITTLE ROCK
86.5 POINTS
4. NORTH TEXAS
85 POINTS
5. DENVER
82 POINTS

MT looking to plug holes before next season

By CHRIS MARTIN
Assistant Sports Editor

A nationally televised home game, an excellent recruiting class and filling some big shoes will be some of the headlines that should be seen throughout Middle Tennessee's upcoming football season.

One of the big themes from last year's team, which finished 5-7 (4-3) Sun Belt, was injuries. At various points in the season quarterbacks Joe Craddock and Dwight Dasher, running back Philip Tanner, wide receiver Desmond Gee, defensive end Erik Walden and defensive back Damon Nickson all missed at least one game due to injury.

However, despite some devastating losses at the beginning of the season, the Blue Raiders were able to keep themselves in the post-season picture until the next-to-last game of the season when they fell at home 34-24 to Louisiana-Lafayette.

MT fans have much to be excited about next season, though.

One date in particular is Sept. 30. On that day, MT will face off against Florida Atlantic in Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium in a game that will be nationally televised on ESPN2. Fans are encouraged to wear black T-shirts on what has been deemed "Black-Out Night."

Another promising aspect of next year's team will be the newcomers. Head Coach Rick Stockstill, who was known for his recruiting prowess when he was a coach under Steve Spurrier at South Carolina, has put together his best Blue Raider recruiting class by far.

According to rivals.com, the class features six three-star prospects. While many coaches contend they would

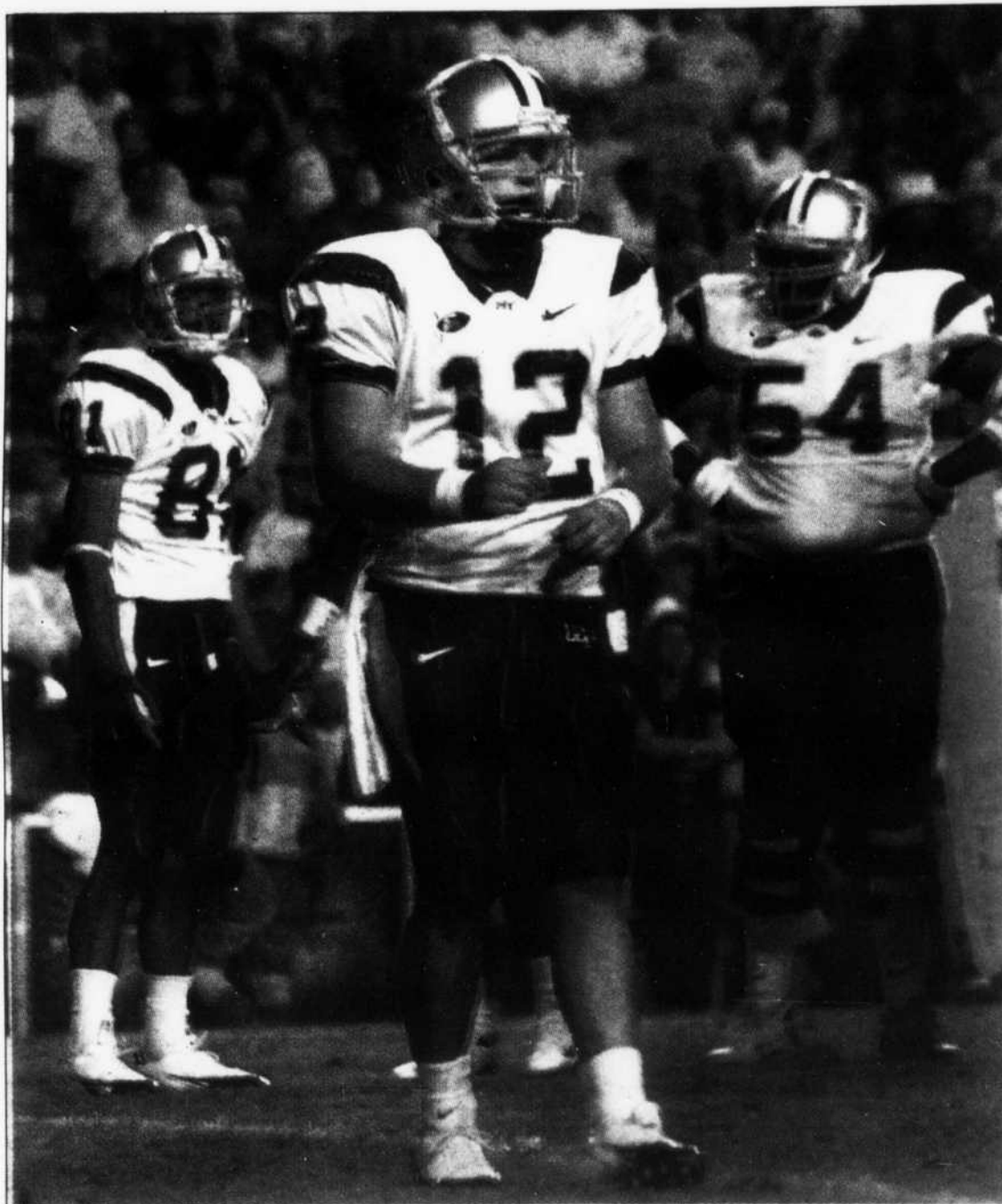


Photo Courtesy MT Media Relations

Senior quarterback Joe Craddock (12) finished the 2007 season with 1,259 passing yards and 12 touchdowns.

prefer to redshirt all newcomers, this class could produce some players who could contribute immediately—particularly at wide receiver.

The wide receiver corps has been hit hard since the conclusion of last season. Leading receiver Taron Henry and Jonathan Grigsby have both exhausted their eligibility while junior Bobby Williams, whose own career marks of 76 receptions and 864 yards, decided to leave the team. Also, freshman

Walter Dozier was released from the team for violating team rules the same day he was arrested on drug charges and Gee will likely spend more time at running back in 2008.

Senior tight ends Clinton Corder and Stephen Chicola are no longer eligible, and senior running back DeMarco McNair, who was a capable receiver, racking up 321 yards and four touchdowns in 2007, will not be with the team this season. All told,

MT is losing 1,308 receiving yards and 15 touchdowns.

Luckily, the Blue Raiders' recruiting class is not short on wide receivers. Three-star prospects Malcolm Beyah and Eldred King will look to provide some depth for the MT receiving corps.

Not all positions are getting the influx of depth as the pass-catchers.

The offensive line is one of the notable examples. All-SBC first teamer Franklin Dunbar decided to forgo his

senior season in pursuit of a professional career while longtime starter Brandon Nix will no longer be holding down the right guard position for MT.

Another big hit to the offensive line came when last year's starter at right tackle, Mark Fisher, suffered an injury in spring practice that will likely sideline him for the season. That left what had appeared to be a position of strength as arguably the Blue Raiders' largest weakness. Instead of just losing one starter (Nix) for the 2008 season, three new faces will be battling in the trenches.

Another key loss was at defensive end. Senior defensive ends Walden, who was selected by the Dallas Cowboys in the sixth round of the 2008 NFL Draft, and Tavares Jones leave big holes on both sides of the defensive line.

Jones and Walden combined for nine sacks and 18 tackles for loss. However, spring practice has produced some surprises at the end position. Redshirt sophomore Chris McCoy picked up two sacks in the Blue-White game while incoming sophomore Jamari Lattimore picked up one sack.

The Blue Raiders can count on having some consistency at quarterback this year. Both signal-callers that started last year (Craddock and Dasher) are returning. Judging from spring performances, Craddock figures to be the starter as he has put up better numbers than Dasher, but either way the Blue Raiders are returning two quarterbacks who combined for 2,407 yards and 21 touchdowns against eight interceptions.

MT will kick off the 2008 campaign on Aug. 28 at home against conference-rival Troy.



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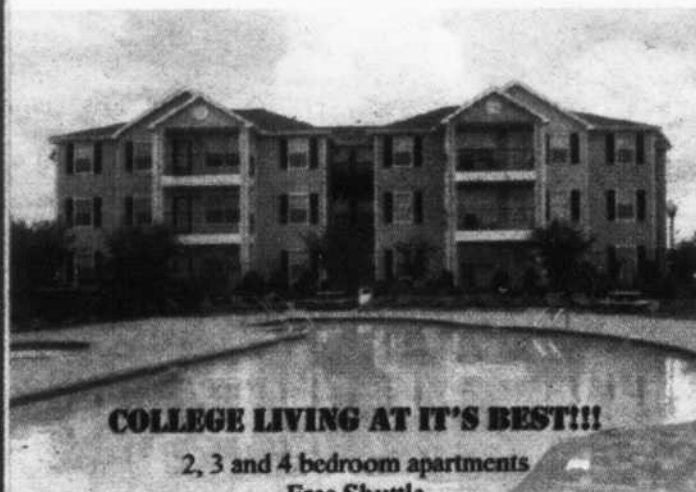
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2008 MTSU FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

**AUGUST 12
TROY**

**AUGUST 28
MARYLAND**

**SEPTEMBER 6
@ KENTUCKY**

**SEPTEMBER 20
@ ARKANSAS ST.**

**SEPTEMBER 30
FLORIDA ATLANTIC**

**OCTOBER 11
@ FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL**

**OCTOBER 18
@ LOUISVILLE**

**OCTOBER 25
@ MISSISSIPPI ST.**

**NOVEMBER 8
LOUISIANA-MONROE**

**NOVEMBER 15
@ WESTERN KENTUCKY**

**NOVEMBER 22
NORTH TEXAS**

**DECEMBER 3
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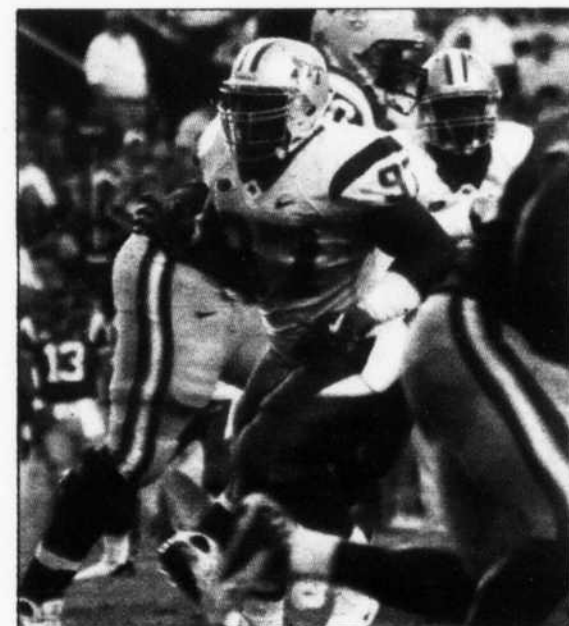


Photo Courtesy MT Media Relations

From top, junior running back Phillip Tanner, head coach Rick Stockstill, senior Trevor Jenkins.

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