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INSIDE: King's message should be heard year-round

Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

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Campus Briefs

Taking the alternative

Students looking for something different this Spring Break are encouraged to participate in Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge program. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that provides housing to low-income families.

The selection process will be based on an application, letter of reference and an interview. The deadline for applications has been extended to Feb. 1, and students may pick up applications in Keathley University Center, Room 306.

For more information, call Chris Montague at 904-8418.

Study Abroad Fair held

MTSU will hold its Spring 2002 Study Abroad Fair today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the KUC 2nd floor lobby.

For more information, contact Jan Walker in International Programs and Services office at 898-2238.

Hope topic of lecture

Hope will be the topic of a free lecture Monday sponsored by MTSU's honors college as part of its Spring 2002 Lecture Series.

Robert L. Rucker, associate professor of social work, will center his discussion on the extraordinary examples set by three hope-inspiring individuals.

These individuals include concentration camp survivor and best-selling author Viktor Frankl, renowned blues guitarist B.B. King and Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, whose career has terminally ill.

The lecture will be from 3-3:50 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 109A.

MPD to educate public

The Murfreesboro Police Department will start its fifth annual Citizens Police Academy class Tuesday. The session will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. for 12 weeks.

The academy will be held in the Police Annex training room located at 324 Church St.

The academy is designed to educate citizens of the various services that a police officer is trained for and how those services are offered to the public.

The department is currently taking applications and a background investigation must be completed before candidates are accepted to attend. There is a \$50 enrollment fee due after applications are approved.

For more information, call 895-3874.

Recycling faces cuts

MTSU's recycling program has a lack of workers this semester and has been forced to cut back on what can be collected for recycling. Until the program has more volunteers, students have been asked to save only white paper and newsprint.

If any students are interested in volunteering by collecting paper from areas around campus, please contact Patrick Doyle at 898-2069.

By Nick Fowler
Staff Writer

Spring enrollment increased 6 percent over spring 2001, a slightly more-than-expected increase according to President Sidney McPhee.

Currently, 18,771 students are enrolled full or part time, which is 1,112 more than this time last year.

MTSU is now the second largest university in Tennessee, behind University of Tennessee-

Knoxville and ahead of the University of Memphis.

There are 18,280 students enrolled at UM, according to preliminary numbers available on the UM Web site.

This semester's enrollment is mostly carryover from fall 2001, when MTSU admitted more than 20,000 students.

The rise in enrollment comes at a time of increasing fiscal constraints. The administration must decide how to deal with educating more students on a

limited budget.

Unchecked growth with little money to fund it was one of the key concerns for McPhee when he addressed the Faculty Senate in fall 2001.

"We have to take a serious look at this explosive growth," McPhee said.

He added that MTSU must ask itself, "Do we want to be the fastest growing institution in the state?"

Now, after another record-setting semester, MTSU must

answer. If enrollment continues to increase, McPhee said, "it will impact the university's infrastructure."

The university hired additional faculty in the fall to accommodate the increase in enrollment and is considering finding alternative solutions, including finding a way to control enrollment.

Barbara Haskew, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said MTSU is "looking very carefully at maintaining

growth while managing quality."

Despite becoming the second largest university in the state, MTSU is not necessarily looking to continue this role. Haskew said they are looking at how the institution can best serve the region.

Decisions regarding an enrollment cap must be made at the institutional level. It could be several months before a decision is made to cap enrollment. ♦

Shining the light for King's dream



Photo by Allison Grammer | Staff

A crowd holds candles outside the Keathley University Center Monday night in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

By Paul Thompson
Staff Writer

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the MTSU Office of Multicultural Affairs held a candlelight vigil honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Monday night on the Knoll in front of Keathley University Center.

In the program in KUC Theater prior to the vigil, Professor Ronald S. Rochon, director of the School of Education at University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, delivered a provocative keynote address to the crowd of approximately 150 students, professors and members of the community.

Rochon looked out on the faces of the young men and women in the audience and asked, "Can I trust you with my children?"

Using a projector, Rochon showed photos of Denise

McNair, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Collins and the Bobbie Birmingham church where they died. He asked that the audience think about the four little girls as individuals with names, families and homes instead of as a group.

While teaching at an elementary school in Wisconsin, Rochon asked some young black students to show him their favorite images from Web sites on the internet.

One of the more controversial images the boy brought up on the Internet showed a woman with her tongue licking hip-hop artist Uncle Luke's crotch. Rochon worried the images the media presents of blacks will wind up defining the blacks in a negative light.

"Across race we must begin to think more critically about what we're taught about

African-American communities," Rochon said. "People can tell me who Kobe Bryant is, but can't tell me anything about Dr. Mae Jemison." Jemison became the first woman of color to go into space in 1992.

"I think Dr. King fought for us to have a clearer understanding of black life through the lens of black thinkers, black policy makers, and most importantly black children," Rochon said.

Rochon finished with the poem "Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes.

"I hope students can reflect on how important images are and how they affect our lives positively or negatively and how the media influences how we see ourselves and others," said professor Adonijah Bakari, director of the MTSU African American Studies program.

President Sidney McPhee and his wife Lynn attended the

program. McPhee gave some closing remarks at the candlelight vigil on the Knoll after the program.

He said Rochon's speech caused him to think about what he would like to see in the lives of children.

MTSU student Marcus Loupe said Rochon's speech made clear "the need to change our ways in some of the things we endorse." Loupe said he needs to "do more positive things for leadership of children."

According to Natsu Mmbaga, who led the celebration in the African Pledge after Rochon's speech, "we all play a role in cultivating stereotypes."

Alpha Phi Alpha was founded in 1906 and includes notable members as King, former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, W.E.B. DuBois and Paul Robeson. ♦

Thousands march in Nashville

By Bracken Mayo
Contributor

An estimated 7,000 Nashvillians marched down Jefferson Street Monday morning to a ceremony at Tennessee State University's Gentry Center to commemorate the birth of Martin Luther King Jr.

People of all ages, all colors, all faiths and all traditions were marching arm in arm, according to Rabbi Kenneth Kanter at the convocation. He drew comparisons to the march that King himself led from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., in 1965.

Students from MTSU, Fisk University, Vanderbilt University, TSU, David Lipscomb University, Montgomery Bell Academy and other schools participated in the march. Marchers carried signs and banners of all types. In addition to carrying quotations from King and communicating equality and anti-racist messages, participants held signs that dealt with subjects such as tax reform, anti-war messages, the death penalty and political party affiliation.

The event featured speaker Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, who is the first female to be elected bishop by the African Methodist Episcopal Church. McKenzie presides over the southern African countries of Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland.

In her address she encouraged those in attendance to follow the example of King.

"We must take his lessons to heart and make his dream a reality," McKenzie said.

She also implored the

See Nashville, 2

Student award nominations being accepted

By Jessica Kent
Staff Writer

Applications and nominations are being accepted now for three awards that honor outstanding students.

The fourth-annual Student Recognition Awards, to be presented later this semester, include the James E. Walker President's Award, the Barbara S. Haskew Provost's Award and the Robert C. Lalance Jr. Achievement Award. These awards recognize a student's

overall, universitywide accomplishments.

Students may be nominated for the awards or apply for them themselves. Each award has different requirements. Students nominated will receive a letter from the Office of Student Development informing them of their nomination and encouraging them to apply.

Gina Poff, director of Student Development, said the awards are "a pat on the back" for students who excel in and out of the classroom.

"We honor the students that really make a difference at the university," Poff said.

The James E. Walker President's Award, one of the most prestigious awards given to an MTSU student, will be awarded to someone who shows superior character and honor. In order to qualify for this award, a student must have completed at least 90 credit hours, have a minimum 3.0 GPA, be recognized as a campus leader and have made significant contributions to the uni-

versity community.

Applications for this award should include an essay in which the student explains what qualities he or she possesses and what accomplishments prove him or her to be a strong leader and representative of the university. Three letters of support from faculty, staff, peers or others should be included also.

The Barbara S. Haskew Provost's Award is given to a student who best demonstrates outstanding academic achievement. Applicants should have

completed at least 90 credit hours and have a minimum 3.5 GPA.

An essay and verified evidence of scholarly activity, as well as three letters of recommendation from teaching faculty are part of the application process.

The recipient of the Robert C. Lalance Jr. Achievement Award will be a student who has shown remarkable determination, has had to make sacrifices

See Awards, 2

POLITICAL UPHEAVAL

Briefs Compiled By Jason Cox — News Editor

Political Briefs

Shootout at American Center in Calcutta leaves five dead

CALCUTTA, India (AP) — Heavily armed gunmen killed five Indian police officers Tuesday in a "terrorist attack" on the U.S. government cultural center, officials said.

Eighteen officers, one pedestrian and one private security guard were wounded, said state home secretary Amit Kiran Deb. No Americans were injured and no consulate staffers were in the building.

Draped in shawls, four attackers on two motorcycles drove up to the American Center in the heart of populous Calcutta at 6:30 a.m., shot at officers and fled, said the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.

The attack comes more than a month after an assault on the Indian Parliament left nine government workers and five attackers dead in New Delhi.

India blamed two Pakistan-based Islamic militant groups and a resulting diplomatic clash has put India and Pakistan on a war footing.

Enron accused of shredding papers as recently as Jan. 14

WASHINGTON (AP) — Enron Corp. employees openly destroyed numerous financial documents long after federal securities regulators began investigating the company, according to lawyers suing on behalf of investors.

The shredding of "hundreds of thousands" of documents was carried out at Enron's Houston headquarters as recently as Jan. 14, the attorneys said.

"From what we have learned, destruction of evidence at Enron was open and notorious and widespread," one of the attorneys, William Lerach, told *The Associated Press*. "They even shredded on Christmas Day."

Lerach said he was bringing some of the shredded documents to federal court Tuesday and was demanding court custody of all relevant Enron papers.

Robert Bennett, a Washington attorney representing Enron, issued a statement saying Enron was investigating the alleged destruction of documents.

The reported shredding at Enron follows revelations over the past week and a half about document destruction at Arthur Andersen LLP, Enron's auditor.

A former Enron executive, Maureen Castaneda, says the shredding of documents at Enron began after Thanksgiving on the 19th floor in an accounting office and continued through at least mid-January, G. Paul Howes, another attorney involved in the class-action lawsuit by

investors against Enron, said in court papers being filed Tuesday in Houston.

Nations pledge \$4.5 billion to rebuild Afghanistan

TOKYO (AP) — Interim Afghanistan leader Hamid Karzai left Tuesday with \$4.5 billion in international aid pledges, but only after he pledged to make sure the money gets spent where it's needed most.

The total aid package is less than half of the five-year goal set by the United Nations, but the first-year installment of \$1.8 billion exceeds Afghanistan's expected needs. The remaining \$2.7 billion will be disbursed over the next several years.

Nearly 60 nations attended the two-day conference on rebuilding Afghanistan.

The immediate funding priorities include paying the new administration's bills, providing education — especially for girls, ensuring health services and rebuilding the battle-scarred infrastructure.

Treatment of detainees at Guantanamo receiving scrutiny

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP) — The treatment of detained terrorist suspects from the Afghanistan war is getting more scrutiny from the international community and a federal judge in Los Angeles.

U.S. District Court Judge A. Howard Matz set a Tuesday hearing for a petition filed by a coalition of Los Angeles clergy, journalism professors and civil rights attorneys, including former Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

The first court challenge of the detention of al-Qaida suspects at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base demands that the U.S. government bring the suspects before a court and define the charges against them.

Meanwhile, the Netherlands, Amnesty International and the International Committee of the Red Cross demanded the detainees be given prisoner-of-war status subject to the Geneva Conventions, and Sweden called for fair treatment for a Swedish captive.

Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair tried to defuse London press accusations of torture at the base, saying through a spokesman Monday that three Britons among the detainees say they have no complaints about their treatment.

The number of detainees at the base in remote Cuba rose to 158 with Monday's arrival of 14 battle-scarred fighters on stretchers, including two amputees and three with infections that require surgery. ♦

2002 holds keys to the kingdom

By Jeremy Davis
Staff Columnist

Why has the bipartisan spirit of 2001 disappeared so quickly in 2002?

It's an election year. The Democrats are hoping to conquer their six-seat deficit in the House and hold on to their one seat majority in the Senate. Also, in Tennessee the outcome of the governor's race will determine whether the state resolves its budget debacle.

First, in the House of Representatives, Democrats hold 222 seats to the Republicans' 211. Traditionally, the party out of power gains seats in midterm elections. Don't count on it this year. Redistricting after the 2000 census has put many northern Democrats in trouble.

House Minority Whip David Bonior of Michigan decided to not seek re-election after Michigan Republicans cut up his district. Bonior is running for governor of Michigan instead.

Situations like that are happening in many states that lost congressional seats and are controlled by Republicans like Pennsylvania and Michigan. House Republicans are predicting an eight to ten seat gain through redistricting.

In addition, Democrats have decided to attack President Bush and Republicans on the economy. This is also good for Republicans considering a Gallup poll conducted last week showed the GOP with a 43 to 37 advantage over Democrats when it comes to which approach people favor on the economy.

Most economists are now predicting an economic recovery in the spring and summer of this year with economic growth projected to reach 3 percent or higher by fall. That would be an almost full recovery from the economic downturn that began in March of 2000 and worsened dramatically after Sept. 11.

With redistricting, the war, and high approval numbers for incumbents, look for Republicans to keep the House.

The Senate is where the action will be this year. Democrats have a one-seat majority given to them by Republican-turned-independent Jim Jeffords of Vermont.

The Republicans' best chance to gain in this Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's South Dakota. Daschle's fellow senator, Tim Johnson, is already polling behind Republican challenger Rep. John Thune. Thune is congressman-at-large for South Dakota and has an approval rating of 80 percent.

Republicans hope to embarrass Daschle by showing the lack of support for his agenda in his home state. Daschle has even angered some Senate Democrats for critique of President Bush's handling of the economy. Daschle blamed the Bush tax cut for creating the budget shortfall expected this year and the recession. Moderate Democrats who have supported the president, like Zell Miller of Georgia, are worried Daschle's

comments will hurt moderate and conservative Democrats in the South and Midwest.

Polls show the public believes the war has caused the budget shortfall — not the tax cut — and Daschle gets the blame for the delay of an economic stimulus bill, not President Bush. However, Democrats could cancel out the loss in South Dakota with a win in New Hampshire.

Here in Tennessee, the situation is not promising. The two front-runners in the race for governor are Democrat Phil Bredesen and Republican Van Hilleary. Both are ahead simply because of name recognition, and neither have any business being governor.

Bredesen was mayor of Nashville, which means nothing outside of Nashville. Memphis is the state's largest city and biggest Democratic stronghold. In case you don't already know, Memphians (including me) don't like Nashville. Three-term mayor W.W. Herenton and the Ford family, the Democratic superpowers of Memphis, have been very quiet about supporting any of the Democratic candidates as far as I know.

Hilleary has statewide name recognition since his congressional district is in some part of East, Middle and West Tennessee. However, he has no experience in state politics and is too conservative. Hilleary was elected to the U.S. House in 1994 in the "Republican Revolution" led by Newt Gingrich. Hilleary also was part of the group that tried to remove Gingrich from power a few years later.

Hilleary opposes income taxes for the state because state spending has increased grossly faster than inflation. Spending must be looked at first because riots, protests and polls have indicated Tennesseans believe their money is being misused. Once the spending problems have been dealt with the state should then look at restructuring the tax system. Hilleary won't do that.

Former Republican state Senator Jim Henry is running against Hilleary in the primary but lacks the money and name recognition to seriously compete. Henry was Senate minority leader in Nashville and worked closely with Republican Governor Lamar Alexander and Democratic Governor Ned McWherter.

Henry has proposed solving the spending problem first and then moving on to changing taxes, if needed, after spending cuts. Outgoing Governor Don Sundquist has stayed out of the Republican primary debate, but is rumored to support Henry. An upset in the Republican primary would be nice but don't bet on it.

The Democratic challengers to Bredesen are Knox County District Attorney Randy Nichols, former state Education Commissioner Charles Smith of Nashville and former Sen. Andy Womack of Murfreesboro.

Also, Sen. Fred Thompson should get re-elected without any serious competition as well as Murfreesboro's Democratic U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon. ♦

Awards: Jan. 31 deadline

Continued from 1

and is contributing to the community while also working toward his or her degree. A minimum of 60 credit hours should be completed and the student should be in good standing with the university.

Applications for the Lalance award must include an essay related to the emphases of this award and three or more letters of support, written either by MTSU or outside community members.

No resumes will be accepted with applications to any of the

awards. All essays must not exceed two typed, double-spaced pages.

Applications and nominations are due Jan. 31.

The University Awards Committee will judge applications, and winners will be announced at a ceremony this spring. Poff said this year's ceremony will be combined with the Student Leadership Awards.

To nominate someone or for more information, contact Poff at 898-2454 or go by the Office of Student Development in the Keathley University Center, Room 122. ♦

Nashville: 'We are unique'

Continued from 1

crowd not to turn the hatred that America was shown on Sept. 11 against those who are "beige and brown and who worship in a mosque and not a church or a temple."

"We don't fight this hatred with bombs on foreign soil, but in our hearts," McKenzie said.

Many of the speakers stressed the importance of education.

John G. Corry suggested that strengthening one's mind might be the best way for King's legacy to live on, and the Rev. Victor L. Singletary expressed society's need for teachers who love students.

The participants in the opening procession called attention to both African and American heritages. Young African-Americans danced and played African drums as the Girl Scout Council of Cumberland Valley and the Middle Tennessee Council Boy Scouts of America carried the American and

Tennessee flags.

Later McKenzie remarked, "Uniqueness does not mean that you are inferior or superior. It means we are unique. Each can celebrate his or her heritage and not demean another."

At a pre-march gathering at Pleasant Green Baptist Church, the Rev. Donald Smith prayed that the people of Nashville would "truly fight racism and truly eradicate hate crimes."

At the same gathering, Rabbi Kenneth Kanter commented, "Nashville has gone a long way, but we have a long way to go," dealing with the present racism and classism situations in Nashville. Also, Nashville chapter NAACP president and city councilman Ludye Wallace praised King saying "he was a great instrument of the Almighty," and that we should follow his example to "make this a better place to live."

TSU and the Inter-Denominational Ministers Federation sponsored the event. ♦

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visit www.volunteersofamerica.org.**

**Sidelines is holding an open house Thursday
from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
in Dining Room C of the James Union Building.**

OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

SIDELINES ♦ 3

Editorial

King's message should be heard year-round

The nation was busy Monday.

In Philadelphia, thousands of volunteers painted schools and recreation centers, trained to become reading coaches and tutored senior citizens on the use of computer technology.

Children in Portland, Ore., received safety training to use at home alone or as babysitters.

In New York City, volunteers sorted 52,000 pairs of shoes to donate to Dress for Success, an organization that provides business attire to women entering the workforce following homelessness or welfare dependency.

And about 7,000 area residents marched down Jefferson Street in Nashville to commemorate the birth of one of the most influential Americans in history — Martin Luther King Jr.

These communities and more joined together to celebrate King's birth by strengthening community and family ties while breaking down race, age and economic barriers.

Few Americans have had such an influence on American social policy as King. Throughout his devastatingly short life, he encouraged non-violent social change strategies in the face of immense and threatening opposition. For all his strife, we honor him once a year with a school and bank holiday dedicated to his memory.

King deserves more, and it's up to us to give him more.

The aforementioned celebrations of King's vision mustn't be reserved for one day a year. Instead, his message must be heard and practiced daily, by people of all colors, from all walks of life.

This year's theme of MLK day was "A day on, not a day off."

Though MLK day is a completely worthwhile excuse to join together for community service, kindness and remembrance, we should strive to make every day a day for serving the community, honoring King and breaking down racial and class barriers, making it a life on, not just a day. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Taxes need attention



lives to get active — and to learn.

If you're not willing to take your head out of your butt now, when will you ever develop the skills necessary to form opinions?

And it's not like how the state is going to fund the budget is an irrelevant topic.

What the legislature decides to do is going to directly affect our wallets and bank accounts, probably as early as August.

My prediction for the legislature's action is: keep state parks closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, cut higher education spending to the point where our tuition will be raised another 8 percent and increase the sales tax by at least one cent.

This is important stuff. And yet, most students aren't taking five minutes out of their beer-guzzling, bong-hitting schedules to learn the basics of this dilemma.

Maybe the students who said they didn't care what happens in the state rely on their parents to pay their tuition bills. I'll bet my bottom dollar they'll be the first to complain when the taxman steals from their first "real world" paycheck. ♦

We're in college. This is the time of our

Students speak out about taxes

What do the students have to say on the taxation issue? Straight from the source, this is what a cross section of our campus thinks.

Phillip Cordell, sophomore, communications — "Obviously, the cutting of the parks was not a good call. It's going to be difficult, I think, to make up for that as well as cutting the budget. And no one wants to see higher taxes levied.

"This is sticky because no one wants an income tax, definitely don't want a sales tax, but I'd almost propose like a ... oh, I know. Tax the rich, man. Tax the rich."

Andy McMillion, senior, accounting — "They should make it as complicated as possible, so I can make a lot of money helping people doing taxes."

Eric Jackson, senior, graphic design — "I don't see cutting the

educational budget, cause, of course, MTSU could use more of a budget. We're already understaffed with teachers, we don't have the printers that we need. They sent us to Kinko's to get things printed.

"I'm a senior, and I've been a senior for two years, just because there's a lack of teachers for all the sections. I would strongly disagree with cutting the budget for education and everything.

"As for raising the sales tax or creating an income tax, I'd support whichever one would raise the funding more for higher education."

Keisha Taylor, senior, political science — "I definitely think we should have a sales tax. But, an income tax is definitely a possibility, but it needs to be done correctly. I don't think that it needs to burden the lower class, and from what I know about the legislation that we had for the income tax, it was on the right track because it

didn't necessarily burden the lower class. It was targeted more for the upper class and some of the middle class a little bit.

"To me, an income tax is the way to go, but I know an income tax will never pass. So ... the sales tax is the only other option. I think a one-cent increase is probably not enough, actually.

"One and a half is going to be probably the highest they can go without being too much, but enough to fix our budget difficulties. The economy is one of those things that you never really know what's going to happen until you do something to it."

Ernest Miser, junior, finance — "I guess a combination of cutting spending and a sales tax. I don't know about the income tax. You know a lot of people are against it, but if it's going to get the state out of the budget problems, then I guess you should. I guess you could raise the sales tax."

Patrick Marshall, visiting student — "Raise the sales tax? But Ernest was already complaining about 8.25 percent sales tax. What are you going to think when they raise it?

"I think a penny's not much, but it'll help out in the long run. So I think they should raise the sales tax. Right now, we're a little young, but when we get older, we're going to be like, 'Damn, we should have raised the sales tax.' Even if Ernest'll be kind of pissed off at me when he goes to the mall."

Lisa Collins, junior, political science — "I believe that we should have an income tax, but at the same time, lower the sales tax, which I don't think anyone's wanting to do as of yet. When I lived in St. Louis, Missouri, that's the way we did it. In the long run we paid less taxes, but at the same time we had more taxes as a state. So I think that's what we should do." ♦

Only an income tax can fix our state's budgetary woes



Mark Byrnes
Guest Columnist

The story is getting tiresome: Once again, the Tennessee General Assembly is struggling with how to balance the state budget. The debate is tedious, not only because it has been going on virtually non-stop for several years now, but because the best solution is so obvious. Tennessee needs a state income tax.

Many people in this state disagree with my assessment. Indeed, the thought of a state income tax makes some Tennesseans stop just short of frothing at the mouth. What have we seen from income tax opponents? Horn honking, sign waving, window breaking, chanting and the sending of irate and/or threatening e-mails to legislators. What we have not seen from them is much reasoned discussion.

Our state's legislators, even those who know that an income tax would be the most fair and efficient way to collect revenues, are listening to the protesters. Last spring, when the General Assembly seemed to be seriously considering an income tax, Sen. Marsha Blackburn — one of the most vocal and least-informed opponents of tax reform — urged a talk radio show host to "call out the troops." A mob did descend on the Capitol and staged an ugly protest. The legisla-

tors quickly abandoned talk of an income tax and instead patched together a budget using one-time revenues and overly optimistic tax projections.

The fantasy budget allowed the legislators to get out of town, but it did not meet the constitutional requirement of passing a balanced budget. It now appears that the state will need an additional \$375 million or so just to balance this year's budget. Then comes the even more daunting task of making next year's budget, which will require up to an additional \$1 billion merely to maintain the level of services the state currently provides.

The situation presents the legislature with a few choices, none of which its members find very attractive — especially in an election year.

First, they could cut spending enough to balance the budget. Making up the shortfall, however, would require draconian cuts in the two major areas of state spending, education and health care. Few people really want to do this, particularly because the state already languishes near the bottom of any state rankings in education. The political repercussions of such mammoth cuts would be severe. Multiply by about 10 the wails of protest that occurred this year when the governor, at the legislature's direction, cut \$100 million in state spending. Relying on spending cuts alone is neither wise nor politically feasible.

Secondly, legislators could raise the state sales tax. An increase of one cent would make the highest sales tax rate 9.75 percent (the rate varies because counties have some flexibility in setting their share of the sales tax).

This move would simply exacerbate the

problems we already have. It would make a regressive tax system even more regressive. It would provide an additional impetus for Tennesseans living near other states to cross state lines and do their shopping. It would do nothing to ease the inequities caused by the many exemptions in the sales tax. Why, for example, should I pay tax on the food I buy for my family, but a farmer be exempt from tax on the food he buys for his animals? And it would not be a permanent solution to the problem. In five to 10 years, the state would be right back in the situation it faces today.

Finally, legislators could enact true tax reform. This would entail taking the sales tax off food and other essentials, halving the sales tax rate on other items and instituting a flat rate state income tax.

The benefits of a state income tax are many. It would spread the burden of taxation much more fairly than the sales tax upon which the state currently relies. It would be far more stable and do a much better job of growing with the economy than the sales tax. And it would allow taxpayers to deduct state income tax payments from their federal income tax.

So what will the legislators do? Most likely, they will choose the option that carries the least political risk: a "temporary" increase in the state sales tax. Only when an informed citizenry demands tax reform are our legislators likely to do the right thing. ♦

Mark Byrnes, Ph.D., is a professor of political science at MTSU. His most recent book, *James K. Polk, A Biographical Companion*, was published by ABC-CLIO in December.

Letter to the Editor

Clinton should be given credit by the American public

To the Editor:

I agree with Austin Jackson (*Sidelines*, Jan. 14) that credit should be given where credit is due, but the corollary is that credit shouldn't be given where credit isn't due, nor discredit where discredit isn't due. Jackson's article is full of both. Jackson calls ex-President Clinton an "egomaniac" that this nation was forced to endure for eight long years." Who was it, Mr. Jackson, who forced the voters in 1996 to re-elect Clinton? Which Americans were dragged, kicking and screaming, to endure the longest continuous period of prosperity in our nation's history?

Shrub says we must put his brazen and unconstitutional seizure of the presidency behind us, so I won't discuss the five injustices of the Supreme Court who blatantly overstepped their constitutional authority to set aside the votes of the majority of Florida voters who voted to give their state's electoral votes to Al Gore, and the majority of American voters who elected Al Gore to be president, and instead appointed Shrub. Those who wish to know the facts can read Vincent Bugliosi's book, *The Betrayal of America*.

So let's look at Shrub's record since he succeeded in stealing the presidency. One of his first official actions was to betray his oath of office by attacking, rather than defending, the Constitution. By executive order, he overturned the First Amendment wall of separation between church and state, so that his religious right-wing supporters could be unconstitutionally paid for their support out of the public treasury. Then he demanded and got a huge tax giveaway to his wealthy supporters that erased the budget surplus Bill Clinton had worked so hard to build up. Clinton had begun his term of office with the biggest deficit in the nation's history, from the rampant cor-

ruption of the Reagan administration and the ineptitude of Bush the Smarter, and his eight years in office left the nation with a budgetary surplus which was paid for largely by tax receipts from the middle class, and which Shrub awarded mostly to the very wealthy in his tax cut, replacing the Clinton surplus with a deficit.

Many of Shrub's choices for cabinet members, etc. have been grossly inappropriate. The most obvious examples are Attorney General John Ashcroft, the should-be guardian of our civil liberties, who has fought hard from the moment he took office to eliminate as many of our civil liberties as possible, and Gale Norton, should-be protector of our national forests, who has fought hard to give away our national forests to big lumber companies. This should hardly be surprising, given Shrub's horrible record as governor of Texas (See Rick Abraham's *The Dirty Truth: The Oil and Chemical Dependency of George W. Bush*).

Even Edwin J. Feolner, president of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, called Shrub's administration "more Reaganite than the Reagan administration." Translation: Shrub's administration appears poised to overtake Reagan's as the most corrupt administration in the history of the country.

So let's give credit where credit is due and discredit where discredit is due. Clinton, while far from perfect, did a great deal of good for the people of this country and would have done much more had the Republicans not succeeded in blocking his best initiatives, whereas Shrub stole the office so that he and his cronies could loot the public treasury with impunity. It is four years of Shrub we are forced to endure.

Sincerely,
Bret Hooper

SIDELINES

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Entertainment Snips



By Luke Burke
Staff Writer

Britney still a virgin?

Pop princess Britney Spears is having regrets about a comment she made years ago about her sex life. "I wish I'd never said anything about being a virgin now," 20-year-old Spears told a news conference promoting her new album and film.

When Spears is asked the burning question now, she simply says, "that's private." Spears, in 1999, first made the comment that she wanted to stay celibate until she married. Since then, she has been hounded about the issue, especially after her relationship with 'NSync singer Justin Timberlake was made public. Spears says she plans to marry her boy band beau "in the future" but was too frantic on music and film projects to fit it in this year.

C-Murder arrested

No Limit Rapper C-Murder was arrested last Friday and charged with first degree murder and fraud. The rapper, whose real name is Corey Miller, is being held on \$1 million bail, according to a spokesperson for the Jefferson Correctional Facility in Gretna, La. Police are not releasing any further details at this time. C-Murder was in the headlines just six months ago when he was charged with attempted murder and released after posting \$100,000 bail in August. He is the younger brother of Percy "Master P" Miller.

'Sam' to hit theaters

If your looking for something to do this weekend, *I am Sam* premieres this Friday in theaters. *I am Sam* is a half comedy, half drama starring Sean Penn and Michelle Pfeiffer.

The film is about Sam, a disabled man with the mental capacity of a 7-year-old, who faces a hearing to regain custody of his young daughter, taken away from him by social services.

But beware, this movie is has been described by some as a tear jerker and Oprah has rated it as one of her all time favorite movies. So with that being said, you can be the first in line to check out a "predicted" box office hit.

Jordan gets divorce

Michael Jordan's wife filed a divorce petition this month seeking to end her 13-year marriage to the NBA superstar. The six-page divorce petition said past attempts at reconciliation have failed and future ones "would be impractical and not in the best interests of the family." Mrs. Jordan wishes to gain permanent custody of the pair's three children and to obtain half the couple's property.

Jordan is one of the world's wealthiest athletes and *Fortune* Magazine estimated his wealth at \$398 million. In an apparent bid to cloak the divorce filing, which was made in circuit court in Waukegan, Ill., the petition lists the plaintiff as J. Vanoy Jordan, while the basketball player is identified only as M. ♦

Rave invades Bongo Johnny's

Wesley R. Bush
Staff Writer

When Noah Bounyalith stepped outside his Atlanta home Friday afternoon, he was nervous.

He had booked a party at a club he'd never been, nearly four hours away and in a town known for its apathetic and

unpredictable nightlife. Bounyalith was on his way to Murfreesboro.

On the trip north, with a line of Hondas and customized imports in tow, the promoter put away his worries and hoped for the best. "It may not be Atlanta," he thought to himself, "but it'll be fun."

Although Bounyalith and his

Turbulence Productions crew had collected a respectable following in Georgia, this was the first time for most of his disc jockeys to spin outside their comfort zone in the thriving club scene of Atlanta.

"(Atlanta) has a lot of big names," explained Bounyalith, "so it's either compete with them or take it somewhere else."

Bounyalith said the group of DJs was just getting started and would eventually work their way up to perform at larger venues.

The flyers advertised Hyper Invasion to begin at 10 p.m. and touted an "18 to tease, 21 to please" door check. What no one told Bounyalith was that the 'Boro didn't wake up until at least midnight.

But like clockwork, the line outside Bongo Johnny's formed at once, as if everyone was waiting for someone else to be the first in.

Inside, two of Murfreesboro's own, Noy Tanyarong, known as DJ Noymatikz, and Ary Phonhyaphanh, known as DJ Ary, were laying down some tracks to get the ice-cold dance floor heated up and primed for the night ahead. DJ Noymatikz pieced together a progressive trance set begging for a better lighting system, and DJ Ary's tech step dropped enough bass to set off sensitive car alarms next door.

Phonhyaphanh is hardly a stranger to the Murfreesboro area, although he's only been spinning at parties for several months. An engineering major at MTSU, he doubted the suc-

cess of the party due to its venue.

"I'm not expecting it to be huge," Phonhyaphanh said before the doors opened. "There's supposed to be a lot of people coming from Atlanta, but you never know here."

Certainly, compared to the higher standard of club life outside of Middle Tennessee, the party lacked the feeling of a rave that is becoming increasingly associated with any live vinyl performance. But, for Murfreesboro, it was a much-needed escape from the lackluster dance clubs and radio station DJs plaguing the city's volatile nightclub landscape.

"It's all about feeling the crowd," DJ Xspec said during his hip-hop rotation. "If you see the crowd ain't feeling it, you've got to throw something else at them. It's all about giving them a good time."

By night's end, the party had grown by the hundreds and earned Bongo Johnny's a few respect points for escaping the customary beer special and house DJ routine.

One can only hope that the Hyper Invasion hasn't ended and more talent will scratch their way into the desperate Murfreesboro club scene. ♦



Photo by Wesley R. Bush | Staff

A rave at Bongo Johnny's titled "Hyper Invasion" crowded the floors Saturday night.

Orange Juice Kids blend rap style

Shane Gallo
Staff Writer

It's always been known that orange juice is good for the body, but Mack Williams, Will Warren, Mike Barbieri (AKA Lymen Twist) and Lucas Allmon have put this breakfast beverage to use on the mind as well.

"If people are laughing out in the audience, then we're doing our job," Williams said of the Orange Juice Kids, a rap group that was originally intended as a skit for *Random Disorder*, a TV show that aired on Channel 10 two years ago.

"We just wanted to be not serious; people need to laugh," Williams explained, and this seems to be the OJK philosophy.

The style, rap run amuck, white-boy style, is perhaps the group's most captivatingly humorous characteristic, and they know how to work this to their advantage.

Warren and Williams started as a duo and picked up Barbieri along the way. The three lived together about a year ago but, according to Warren, never ini-



Photo Provided

Orange Juice Kids perform rap with the intention to make the audience laugh to their high-energy performances.

tiated the group "because we had girlfriends."

However, all of this changed last Halloween, when the Kids

performed for the first time at The Boro in what the group considered their best show, courtesy of Craig Murphy and

the late Booboo Bunny.

"The audience loved it, and we have gained devoted fans from the get go," Allmon said of

the Orange Juice Kids' premier.

The question on the minds

See Band, 5

CD Review

Wu-Tang's 'Iron Flag' hits No. 6 on Billboard's charts



Photo provided

Wu-Tang releases two hip-hop albums in one year.

By Stephanie Saujon
Staff Writer

It's rare that a hip-hop group releases two LPs in one year's time. The Wu-Tang Clan's follow-up to their last album, *The W*, proves why the Clan is still at the top of their game, even after recently releasing a near-masterpiece.

Unfortunately, Loud Records

hasn't done a very thorough job of promoting the Clan's new release, *Iron Flag*. Because of the obvious lack of promotion, many heads don't even know that the Clan's fourth CD was released in mid-December, much less realize that it is completely off the hook.

The Wu-Tang Clan came out of Staten Island, N.Y., in 1993 with their multi-platinum debut, *Enter the Wu-Tang* (36 Chambers). This album, with tracks like "C.R.E.A.M." and "Da Mystery of Chessboxin'" brought a grimy and brutally honest street flavor to East Coast hip-hop and has since attained classic status.

After the release of 36 Chambers, many members of the nine-man clan went on to release a combined total of 16 solo albums, some of which have gone gold, platinum or

multi-platinum. Eight of the nine MCs have released solo albums, including Raekwon's *Only Built 4 Cuban Linx*, Ol' Dirty Bastard's *Brooklyn Zoo* and Method Man's *Tical*. The RZA, long considered the mastermind behind the Clan, boasts two solo albums under his belt and full production credit for the soundtrack for *Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai*.

The RZA (for the first time on a Wu-Tang album) allowed other producers, like Nick "Fury" Loftin and Mathematics, to contribute to *Iron Flag*, but with his name appearing as producer on eight tracks, the RZA's influence is unmistakable. The horn samples and innovative rhythms on this LP will surely keep heads bobbing.

Each MC, with the obvious exception of O.D.B., is given his chance to shine on *Iron Flag*.

For U-God, it's his staccato lyrical delivery on "UZI (Pinky Ring)." Method Man's intro verse on "Ya'll Been Warned" easily flows over the catchy guitar hook, showing why he's still one of the most sought-after MCs in the business. Raekwon and the GZA team up on "Babies" to tell the disturbing story of a corrupt cop and his female victim. "Chrome Wheels" features a sharp lyrical presentation from the RZA, while showcasing his production efforts with insistent beats mixed with powerful female vocals.

Ghostface Killah catches some attention with a response

to the Sept. 11 attacks on "Rules." He spits with fury, "Who the f--- knocked our buildings down/ Who the man behind the World Trade massacre/ Step up now/ Where the four planes at, huh/ My people's dead/ America/ Together we stand/ Divided we fall/ Mr. Bush sit down/ I'm in charge of the war."

Despite the lack of promotion from their record label, *Iron Flag* debuted at No. 6 on Billboard's Top R&B/Hip-Hop music chart and currently sits at No. 47 on the Billboard 200.

Hopefully, with the release of a couple of videos, *Iron Flag* will sell like their last album. ♦



Photo provided

Wu-Tang released their fourth CD on Loud Records.

Band: Rap group anticipates rocking an eager crowd in mid-February at The Boro

Continued from 4

of anyone who has experienced an OJK performance: What's up with that name?

"We tried to come up with a name that doesn't scream rap," Barbieri explained, "and we all like orange juice."

So it makes sense, but on stage, the group doesn't give that healthy, wholesome impression that might be anticipated. Rather, the four have somehow managed to sport wind suits, rap Sir Mix A Lot-worthy lyrics, endorse orange

juice and pull it off rather cleverly.

"People tell me, 'I knew it would be funny because it's you, but I didn't know it would be good,'" Barbieri said.

Williams and Barbieri, both from Hendersonville, and Warren, a Memphis native, are theater majors, which is obvious when they take the stage.

Allmon, a recording industry major from Dickson, joined in on the fun as the group's producer/DJ and is "a big motivator to get things done," according to Barbieri.

The four rocked out in front of a jam-packed audience Friday night at The Boro. The Kids definitely had an impressive turn out of those devoted fans, some wearing bright orange T-shirts sporting an OJK logo.

For all of you OJK fans, the Kids' next appearance is planned to take place in mid-February at The Boro, and then they'll march down the red carpet at Bongo Johnny's for their "new biggest show yet," according to Allmon.

So if you have yet to jump on the OJK bandwagon, here's your

chance. No matter what music style you dig, even if it's not rap, the Kids will be sure to entertain, as long as you come with an open mind and good spirits.

In Barbieri's words, "If you like rap, you'll appreciate what we do, and if you don't like rap, you'll appreciate what we do."

As far as long-term plans go, Allmon hopes OJK will be able to share their insight of entertainment all over by cutting a record deal, which he believes the kids are entirely capable of doing. ♦

What's going on in the 'Boro

Compiled by Justin Ward
Staff Writer

Wednesday, Jan. 23

Pray for Mojo at The Boro Bar and Grill. Show starts at 9:30 p.m.

Saturn 5 with Lurve at Sebastian's.

Karaoke at Cantina Restaurant and Nightclub 7:30 p.m. Hip Hop Night at 10 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 24

Antol Beukema is having a matinee show at The Boro Bar and Grill at 4 p.m. Glossary at 9:30 p.m.

Splif at Faces. Show starts at 9:30 p.m.

The Harveys at Sebastian's.

Cliff and the Cliff. Notes at Cantina Restaurant and Nightclub at 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 25

Don't Trust the Radio at Sebastian's.

The Juan Prophet Organization and Urbosleeks at The Boro Bar and Grill. Show starts at 9:30 p.m.

Cancer Benefit for Toby Dietz at the Red Rose Café.*

Johnny Jackson's "All Good" with O.J. Terry Grant at Cantina Restaurant and Nightclub at 9 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 26

Mink and 100 Watt Magnet at Bongo Johnny's.

D.O.A. The Van Halen Experience and Feable Weiner at The Boro Bar and Grill at 9:30 p.m.

Derailed at Faces 9:30 p.m.

Johnny Jackson's "Soul Satisfaction" at Cantina Restaurant and Nightclub at 9 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 27

Louis Browns Firehouse Jazz Band 5-8 p.m. D.J. Viper at 10 p.m.

Roland Gresham Jazz at The Boro Bar and Grill at 9:30 p.m.

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Sports Briefs

Compiled by Justin Ward
Staff Writer

Lady Raider tennis loses to Kentucky

The Middle Tennessee women's tennis team lost to No. 23 Kentucky Sunday.

Two singles wins and a doubles win highlighted the 5-2 loss.

Sophomore Manon Kruse, ranked No. 33, defeated the Lady Wildcats No. 53 Sarah Witten. Kruse had a 6-4, 6-2 singles win to improve her record to 11-3. Freshman Jennifer Klachka scored her first collegiate win 6-3, 6-2 over Lauren Rookledge.

The doubles team of Kruse and Stacey Varnell, ranked No. 33, picked up their first win of the season with a 9-7 match against Rookledge and Leigh Bradwell ranked No. 49. Kruse and Varnell now have a 12-3 record.

Parham scores 20 in loss to Mean Green

Blue Raider Eric Parham scored a career high 20 points in the loss to the University of North Texas Saturday. Parham was 8-of-11 from the field and 2-of-4 from the three-point line.

Lee Nosse scored 16 points against the Mean Green. This is his 11th straight contest scoring 10 or more points. He was 7-of-10 from the floor and 2-of-3 from behind the arc. Nosse is closing in on the 1,000-point mark, with 923 career points. He is also still atop the Sun Belt Conference standings in three-point shooting percentage.

The Blue Raiders out-rebounded the Mean Green 32 to 31. Tommy Gunn led the Blue Raiders with 6 rebounds.

The UNT fans brought signs to the game to badger the Middle Tennessee team and fans about the Blue Raiders' football loss against the Mean Green.

Scales earns honor for Sun Belt track

Middle Tennessee's Mardy Scales was named Sun Belt Conference Male Indoor Track Athlete of the Week Thursday after qualifying for the NCAA Indoor Field Championships in three events.

Scales recorded a 200-meter time of 21.08 at the MT Christmas Invitational in December. He qualified for the national championships in the 55-meters at the same meet.

He qualified at the Kentucky Invitational last week for the 60-meters. He achieved Sun Belt Conference records with 6.21 in the 55-meters and 6.70 in the 60-meters.

The Blue Raiders will host the Middle Tennessee Invitational Saturday.

Men's tennis sweeps University of Hawaii

The Middle Tennessee men's tennis team began the season winning all six singles matches against the University of Hawaii over the weekend.

The singles matches took almost seven hours after being interrupted four times due to rain. Doubles were cancelled due to the rain.

Daniel Klemetz defeated Reggie Moralejo, 6-4, 6-1. No. 27 Robert Gustafsson won 7-6 (0), 6-1 over Justin Manolascino.

Oliver Foreman beat Hawaii's Molino Oda 6-3, 6-1 at the No. 3 position. Michael Staniak defeated Francisco Brigade, 6-2, 6-4.

Kirk Jackson, whose match was the only one to go three sets, won 5-7, 6-2, 10-3 over Jorge Gonzales. Trevor Short picked up a 6-2, 6-2 win over Lincoln Leoder.

MT hosts Louisville Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Racquet Club in Murfreesboro. ♦

MT loses battle with Vols

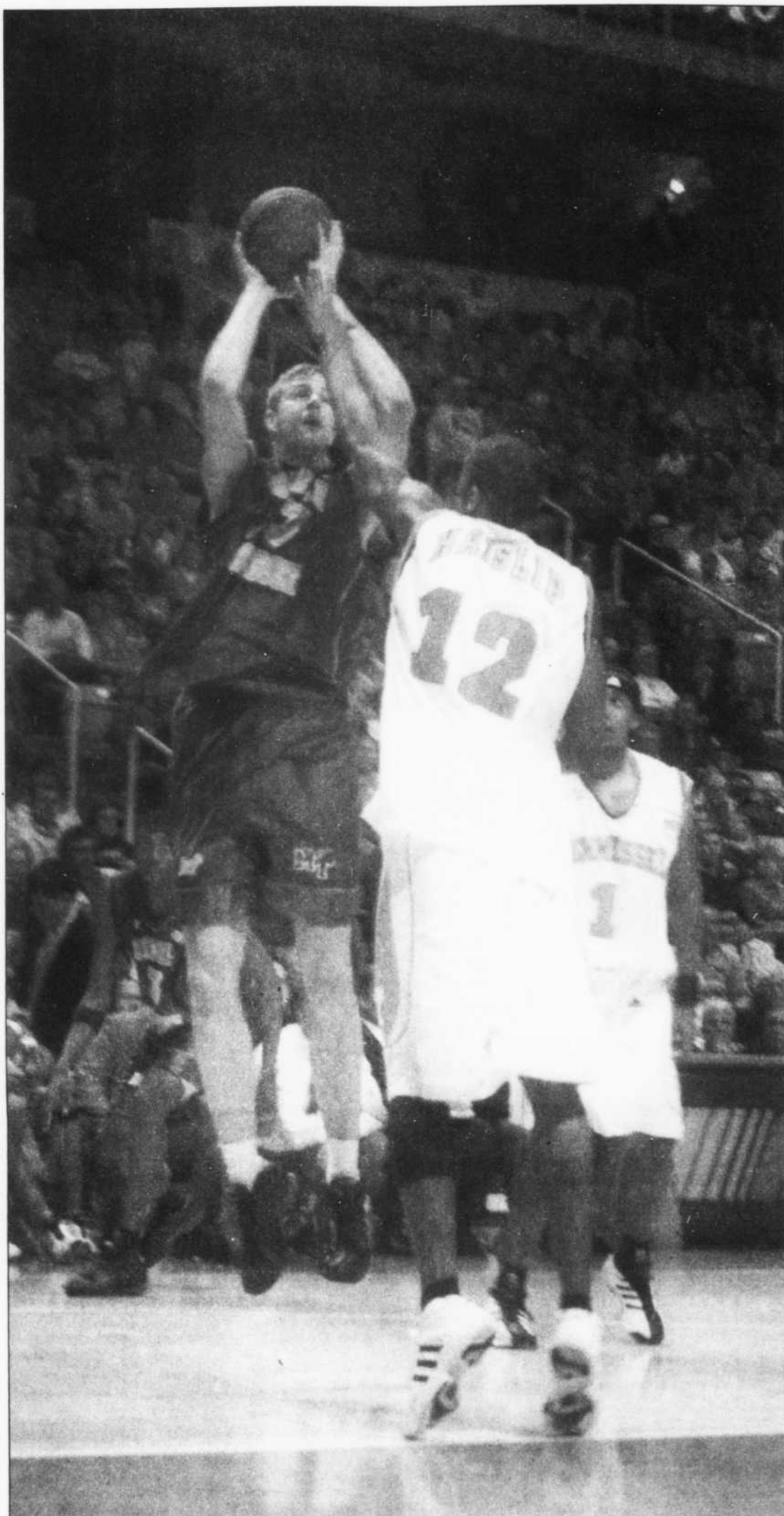


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Lee Nosse shoots over the outstretched arm of Tennessee defender Marcus Haislip.

MT loses two SBC games

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

This past weekend the Middle Tennessee women's basketball team lost two important Sun Belt Conference home games.

Saturday night, the Lady Raiders fell to the University of North Texas 74-72 in a game that had a combined 46 fouls called on both teams. The 46th will be talked about for a while.

After Patrice Holmes tied the

score 72-72 on a basket with 30 seconds to go in the contest, UNT got the ball back with Nicole Holmes dribbling near the UNT bench. With six seconds to go in the game, a reach-in foul was called on Holmes. UNT was in the bonus, and Nicole Thomas hit two free throws for the Lady Eagles, putting UNT back in front 74-72.

MT drove the ball down court, and Holmes put up a shot that hit the back of the rim and gave the Lady Eagles a 74-

72 victory.

"The (referee) made a horrible call," freshman guard Holmes said. "She bumped into me and fell on the ground."

"They are never supposed to give the game away like that as a referee," Lady Raider head coach Stephany Smith said. "It was really unfortunate. It might be the reason we lost, then again it might not be."

The game started out with both teams trading the lead until late in the first half when MT went on a 12-2 run to break a 26-26 tie. With 52 seconds left in the first half, UNT went on a 7-0 run that closed the gap to 38-35 at halftime.

In the second half, MT was only able to extend the lead to five. With 14:53 remaining, Kim Blanton hit a jumper to give UNT the lead for good. The closest MT got was the tie with 30 seconds to go in the game.

Jamie Thomatis led the Lady Raiders, recording her 13th career double-double with 23 points and 13 rebounds. She scored most of her points from the foul line going 15-for-18. Holmes chipped in with 14 points. Jennifer Justice added 10 points.

Jalie Mitchell, who scored 21 points, led UNT. Nicole Thomas added 16, including the game-winning free throws. Mitchell came into the game as the top scorer in the Sun Belt Conference.

This was not the only set

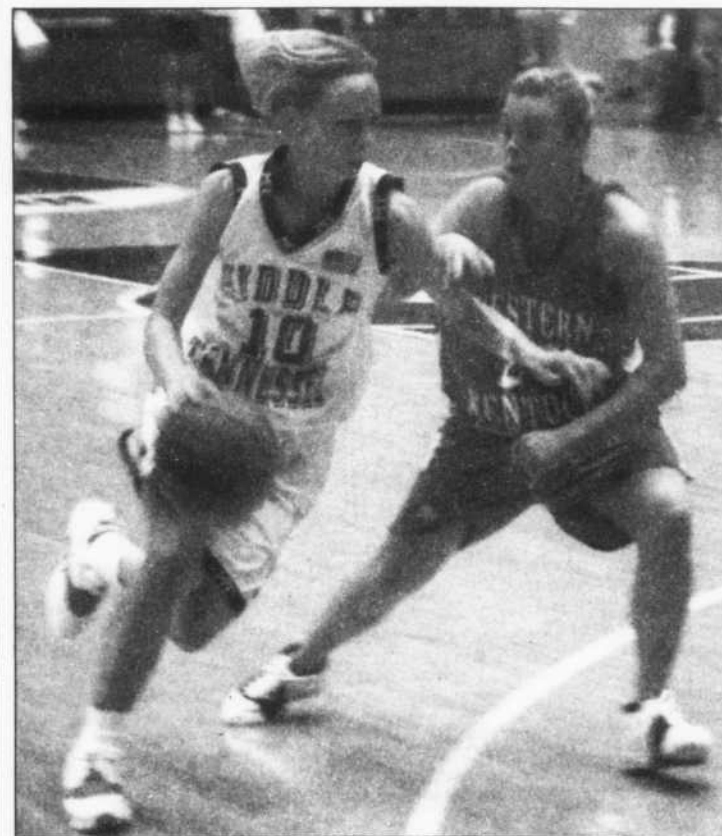


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Paula Pentilla makes a drive to the basket against WKU.

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team lost the battle of the boards and the game 74-56 to the University of Tennessee-Knoxville Monday night.

The Blue Raiders (7-11) started out strong, taking a 24-18 lead on a William Phippen three pointer with 11:19 remaining in the first half. Tennessee (8-9) answered with an 8-0 run to take a 26-24 lead. MT tied the game at 26 but could not pull ahead.

MT trailed by just four points at the 2:55 mark in the first half. UT closed out the half with a 9-0 run to give it a 13-point halftime lead. MT shot 46.4 percent from the field in the first half while UT shot 55.9 percent.

Tennessee continued to roll in the second half. MT made a little run, cutting the score to 59-49 with 6:48 to go in the second half. That was the closest the Blue Raiders would get in the 18-point loss.

"I thought we came out in the second half and battled, but we were really trading baskets," Blue Raider head coach Randy Wiel said. "For the first 14 minutes, we played as well as we can play. Their big advantage was under the boards."

The Vols out-rebounded the Blue Raiders 48-29, including

19 offensive boards. Despite playing without starting forward Ron Slay, who tore his anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee over the weekend, the inside players for Tennessee scored 57 of the team's points.

"There is no excuse for them getting 19 offensive rebounds," Wiel said. "We were getting pushed around inside, and they were pinning us under the basket. We have to get stronger inside."

The Volunteers held the Blue Raiders to just 30 percent shooting from the field in the second half and 37.9 percent for the game. Meanwhile, the Vols shot 47.6 percent from the field.

"They were man-handling us inside," Wiel said. "They played well, and they were playing at home. We didn't get a call. It was physical on both sides and that came from the post play."

Though Wiel says the play was physical, MT finished with 17 fouls, and UT finished with 15.

Phippen scored in double digits for only the third time in the last nine games leading the Blue Raiders with 12 points. Tommy Gunn added 10 points.

Marcus Haslip led the Vols with 25 points and 9 rebounds. Brandon Crump added 12 points and 7 boards. Vincent

See UTK, 7

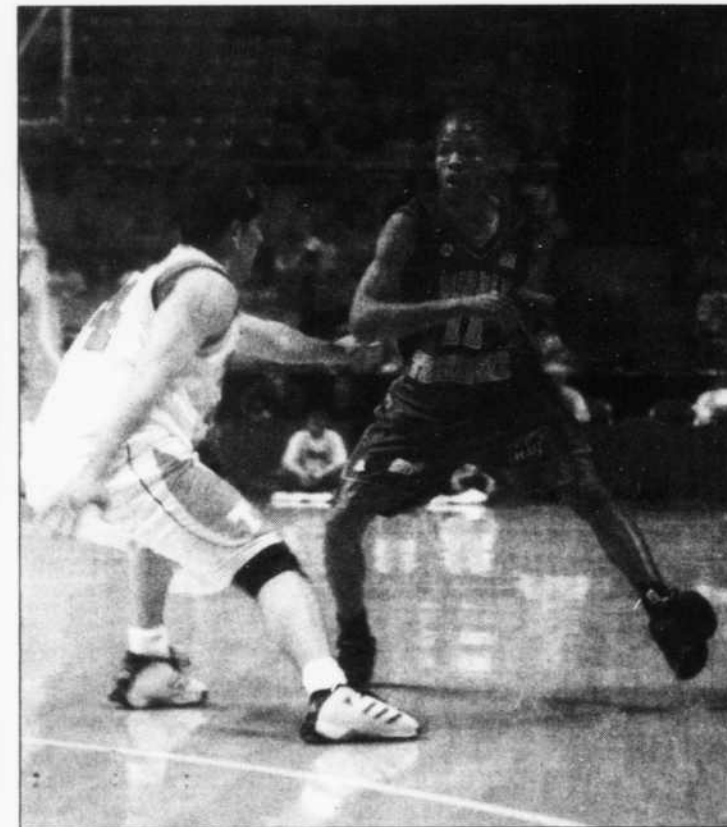


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Eric Parham looks to pass the ball to a teammate.

Blue Raiders win at MT Invitational

By Angelica Journagin
Staff Writer

Running on high after the men's team was ranked 20th in NCAA Division I track and field by *Trackwire* magazine, the Blue and Lady Raiders hosted the MT Invitational Saturday.

"Right now we are just trying to get back in shape after the winter break," coach Dean Hayes said. "We have a lot of new players who need to get used to an indoor track."

The meet featured track teams from Western Kentucky University, Tennessee State University, the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and the University of Southern Alabama. MT came away with 13 individuals placing first or second despite having several players missing, including All-American Godfrey Herring who had a muscle pull.

Coming in first place for the women included Bromeka Holmes with a time of 56.67 seconds in the 400-meter dash, Kelley Smith at 8.15 seconds for the 55-meter high hurdles and Jennifer Howard at an even 9'00.00 in the pole vault. The women dominated the long jump, taking the top three spots led by first-placed winner Letitia Eady, 18'09.50.

The men's team also had several first place wins. All-American Jasper Demps won the 55-meter hurdles in 7.56 seconds. Demps was ranked third in the 60-meter hurdles in *Trackwire's* top 25 rankings.

Other winners included long jumper Rob Jordan at 24'04.25, high jumper Chris Koger at 6'08 and Dupar-Scott in the 200 meters with a season best of 21.82 seconds. The Blue Raiders one-mile relay team also had a time of 3:16.14 for the first-place win. Omar Ali, Brad Orr and Levi Sybert for the men and Amanda Forrester, Stephany Reid and the one-mile relay team for the women came in second place in their respective events.

Despite the wins, Hayes considers the meet another step in preparing for the Sun Belt Conference.

"The real concern is the Sun Belt Conference championships," Hayes said. "A couple of years ago everyone was concerned with the OVC championships; now everyone is concerned with the Sun Belt. That's the one everyone remembers."

The Indoor Sun Belt Conference championships are Feb. 23-24 at the Murphy Center. MT will host its next meet in the Murphy Center Saturday at 11:30 a.m. ♦

See Lady Raiders, 8

UTK: Sun Belt games ahead

Continued from 6

Yarbrough picked up a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

The Blue Raiders fall to 1-4 against the Vols. MT has only one non-conference game remaining against IP-Fort

Wayne Jan. 31.

MT resumes Sun Belt Conference play Thursday against Arkansas State in the Murphy Center. The Blue Raiders also play Arkansas-Little Rock at home Saturday. Tip-off for both games is 7 p.m.♦

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Two roommates needed for 3 bedroom townhouse near campus. It is \$325-\$375 per person, including utilities. Call Zach at 589-5895

Roommate wanted! 2BR, 1BA apt. close to campus. Avail. January. \$242.50/mo (water included) plus 1/2 cable, phone, and electricity. Call Tessa 907-1225 or 504-4233 (leave msg)

Female roommate needed. Brand new 3 bedroom house. Rent \$400/month. Call Leslie at 896-8799.

Male Roommate wanted. University Courtyard Apartments. Private Bedroom and bathroom. Washer/Dryer and utilities included. \$395.00 per month. Available Immediately. Contact 615-595-1744.

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ple-two miles from school. \$900 per month. Call Tim at 594-3484.

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MT picked fourth in SBC preseason poll

By Kevin Rose
Staff Writer

If the 2002 Middle Tennessee baseball team is going to repeat as Sun Belt Conference champions, they will have to prove league coaches wrong once again.

The Blue Raiders are picked to finish fourth in a poll conducted by league coaches. Last year the Blue Raiders won the Sun Belt Conference regular season championship despite being selected fifth in a pre-

son coach's poll.

Being picked to finish fourth hardly seems to concern Blue Raider head coach Steve Peterson. "It really does not affect me," Peterson said. "Last year we were picked to finish fifth. We lost some good players from last year's team, but we have players waiting in the wing."

League coaches picked Louisiana Lafayette to win the 2002 league title. The Ragin' Cajuns, who finished 28-28 last year, will be looking to return

to their old form. The Ragin' Cajuns received five first-place votes. In 2000, the Ragin' Cajuns were a participant in the NCAA College World Series and finished in third place.

South Alabama, the 2001 Sun Belt Conference Tournament Champion, is picked to finish second. The Jaguars received two first-place votes.

NCAA Super-Regional participant Florida International is picked to finish third, just ahead of the Blue Raiders. The

Golden Panthers received the remaining two first place votes.

Rounding out the bottom half of the coaches' poll are New Orleans in fifth, Arkansas Little Rock in sixth, New Mexico State and Western Kentucky are tied for seventh and Arkansas State in ninth.

The Blue Raiders officially begin spring practice Monday at Reese Smith Field. The Blue Raiders' season opener will be Feb. 17 at home against longtime Ohio Valley Conference rival Austin Peay. ♦

Lady Raiders: Even record

Continued from 6

back at home. Thursday night, the Lady Raiders lost another close game to Western Kentucky, 71-66.

After coming off the big win at Louisiana-Lafayette, the Lady Raiders came back to take on WKU. The Hilltoppers were one game ahead in the conference standings with a 3-1 record. MT had a 2-2 record in the Sun Belt eastern division.

The Hilltoppers also had one of the top scorers in the Sun Belt, Natalie Powers. She averaged 19.2 points per game. The Lady Raiders held her to only seven points in the first half. MT started the game shooting cold with shots that would barely miss going in. MT went into the locker room with a 34-30 half-time lead.

The second half was a carbon copy of the first half with the game being close. MT still had the lead until back-to-back three pointers by forward Leslie Logsdon with five minutes to go in the game.

At the same time, MT went three minutes without scoring a

basket until Jennifer Justice hit a couple of free throws with 2:08 left in the game. MT was only down 61-57, but that was as close as they got. WKU added 8 free throws and a jumper by Logsdon to seal the victory for the Hilltoppers.

Thomatis led the Lady Raiders with 20 points. Holmes and Justice each had 10 points apiece.

"We started out with a lot of turnovers, and I think that was the story of the ballgame," Thomatis said.

The Lady Raiders had 21 turnovers in the contest.

"Even when Western wasn't prepared to make a play, we were mighty nice to them," Smith said. "We gave them several opportunities to come up with whatever play they needed."

The two losses put the Lady Raiders' record at 9-9 overall and 2-4 in the Sun Belt.

This week MT travels to Arkansas State and Arkansas-Little Rock for two conference games as they look to get back in the Sun Belt Conference standings. ♦

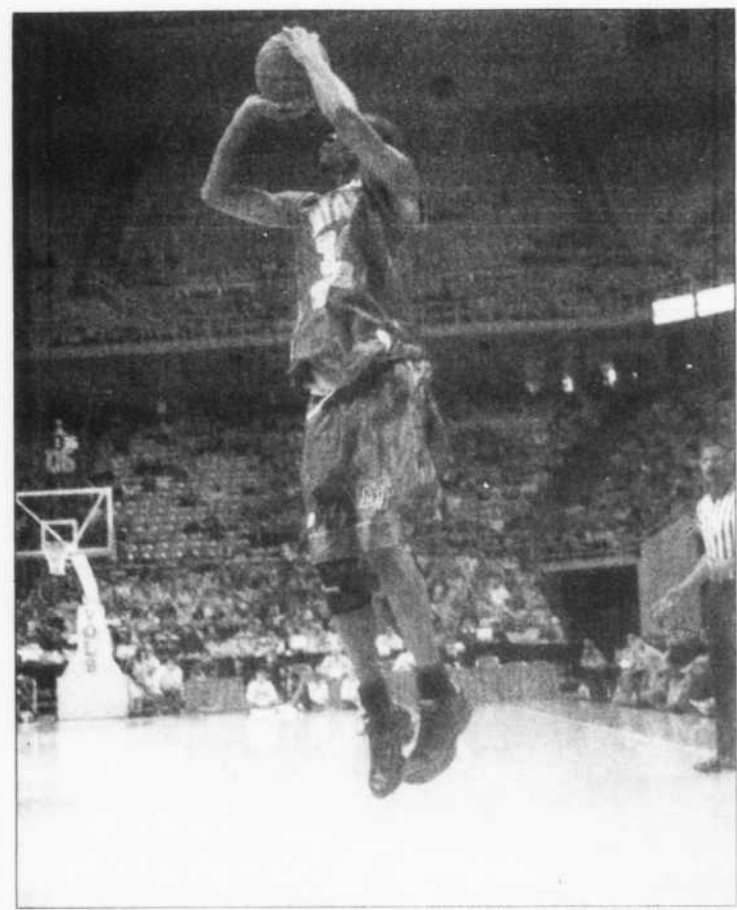


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Bryant Mitchell skies for the jump shot just inside the arc in the loss to Tennessee Monday. The Blue Raiders shot 37.9 percent from the field during the game. UT led the game most of the way and won by 18 points.

MT celebrates progress of women's athletics

By Katie McGraw
Contributor

Current and former female athletes of MTSU gathered Saturday at the Alumni Center to celebrate the progress of women's athletics over the years at MTSU.

"It's always important that the alumni want to return to MTSU and share stories of old," Middle Tennessee head softball coach Cindy Connelley said.

According to Irma Massey, a 1949 graduate who played for MTSU, there has been major development in the women's athletics program.

"It was more like a club," Massey said, referring to the Women's Athletic Association, in which women were able to play collegiate sports such as basketball, volleyball, softball and tennis.

Not much progress was made for women's athletics at MTSU by the 1960's, said 1971

graduate and former volleyball and basketball player Rhessa Sumrell.

"We had to pay our own way to go play," said Sumrell, now head coach for Central Missouri State University's softball program.

Not only has MTSU's recent financial support of women's athletics improved female athletes' playing conditions, but it also has improved the athletes themselves, according to Judy Linnville, former basketball and volleyball player for MTSU.

"Because of benefits such as the weight room, female athletes are stronger, bigger and faster," said Linnville, a 1971 graduate.

Associate Athletic Director Diane Turnham attributes the success of MTSU's women's athletics programs to the former female athletes.

"We are who we are today because of them," Turnham said. ♦

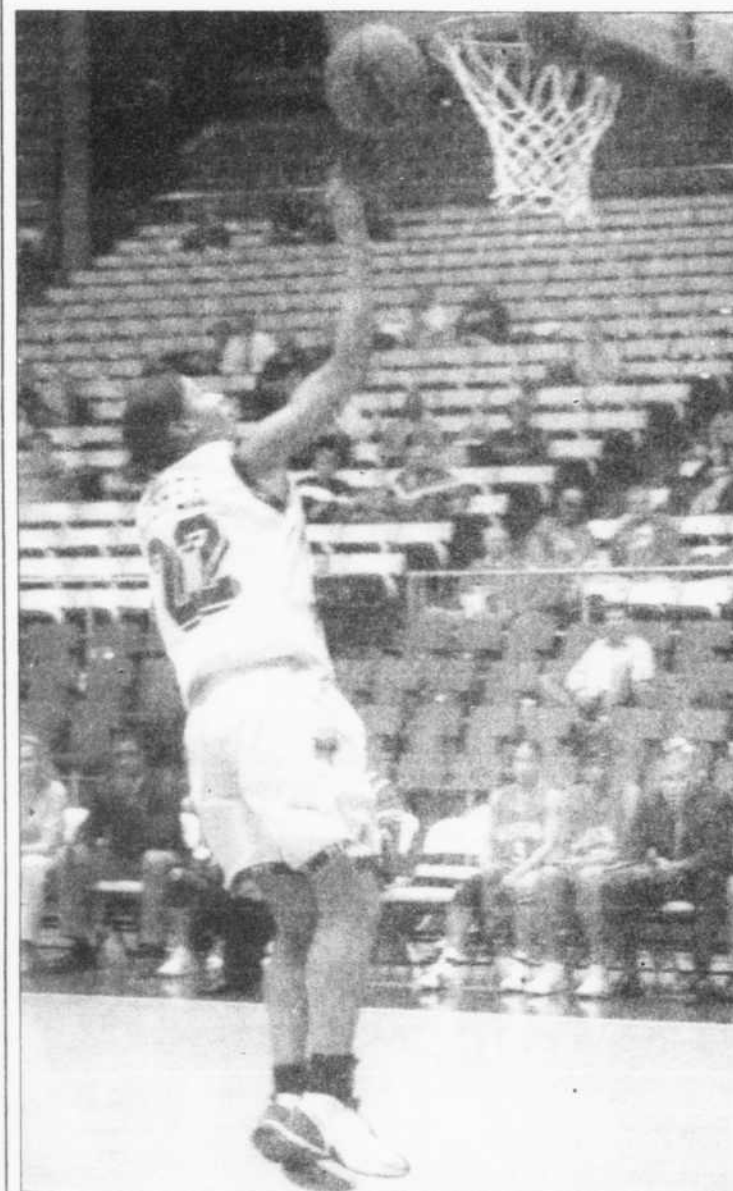


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Tiffany Fisher puts in the run away layup in the Lady Raiders loss to Western Kentucky Thursday.

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