

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 16, 2003

56



82

Partly Cloudy



This week's poll question at  
www.mtsusidelines.com

What action should the  
United States take now that  
the Iraqi regime has fallen?



## A change of pace

Third Baptist Church offers  
casual services, studies for all

In Living, page 4

An editorially  
independent  
newspaper

# SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,  
TENNESSEE

Volume 78 No. 89

## Campus Briefs

### Great Strides to take place on campus

The annual 10K (6.2 mile) Great Strides walk to benefit Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's research will take place on campus April 27 at 2 p.m. Check in begins at 1 p.m.

Festivities include food, musical entertainment, playground for children and prizes.

The chair for the walk is Rachel Moore, an MTSU student who lives with CF.

For more information, contact Sara Lubow at (615) 255-1167 or by e-mail at slubow@cff.org.

### Women's center to offer free legal clinic

The JAWC is sponsoring a free legal clinic on April 24 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The clinic is free and open to all students, staff and faculty.

Appointments to speak with an attorney can be made prior to the clinic by calling 898-2193.

This is the last clinic for the academic year, and space will be limited.

### Student ambassadors to distribute free gift

MTSU Student Ambassadors and the National Alumni Association will offer a free gift today and tomorrow on the second floor of the Keathley University Center to show appreciation to students.

The gift will include blue and white M&Ms and an MTSU notepad while supplies last. Information about the Alumni Association will also be distributed.

### Campus Freethought to host last open forum

The Campus Freethought Alliance will be holding its last meeting of the semester April 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room S328.

The open forum titled "We Support the 10 Amendments" will feature keynote speaker the Rev. Thomas McCracken from Texas Christian University.

### Earth Day celebrations begin April 24 on Knoll

MTSU Concerts presents DJs on The Knoll April 24 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. featuring DJ Jolby and DJ Dank. April 25, the Earth Day Concert on the Knoll will be held throughout the day. Both concerts are free and open to the public.

For more information, call Student Activities at 898-2551.

### 'Closeup with President McPhee' to air tonight

Closeup with MTSU President Sidney McPhee, presented on MTSU Channel 10 and produced exclusively by students, will air at 8 p.m. tonight and will feature student questions for university President Sidney McPhee.

Students, faculty and community members may submit questions via phone or e-mail. For more information, call 898-2919. ♦

## T-shirts tell stories



Photos by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

Students, faculty and staff were welcomed to create a shirt for the Clothesline Project displayed in front of the Keathley University Center this week.

## Clothesline project gives voice to victims

By Callie Elizabeth Butler  
Assistant News Editor

As part of its yearly events observing Sexual Assault Awareness Week, the June Anderson Women's Center is hosting the Clothesline Project this week on the Keathley University Center Knoll.

This event is a form of remembrance and silent protest for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and rape through the creation of colorful T-shirts that will hang along a clothesline making up the display.

"People who have been victimized, known a victim or whose hearts go out to victims are able to release their feelings so that it can be displayed for them personally," said Clothesline Project coordinator Charisse Wooding. "A couple of shirts I've read have called this display their therapy. Now, they can speak out."

Students, faculty, staff and members of the community were invited to create shirts as an expression of their feelings on victimization.

See Clothesline, 2

## War Briefs

### Achille Lauro mastermind Abbas caught in Baghdad

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. commandos in Baghdad have captured Abul Abbas, the leader of the violent Palestinian group that killed an American on the hijacked cruise liner Achille Lauro in 1985, U.S. officials said yesterday. Abbas was taken by American special operations forces during a raid Monday night on the southern outskirts of the capital city, U.S. Central Command said in a statement.

### Iraqis gathered by U.S. talk postwar rule

UR, Iraq (AP) — Under a white-and-gold tent at the biblical birthplace of Abraham, the United States assembled Iraqi factions yesterday and told them it has "absolutely no interest" in ruling Iraq. Some Muslims boycotted the meeting and thousands demonstrated nearby, shouting: "No to America and no to Saddam!" The gathering of about 80 people in this ancient city on the Euphrates River — a first step toward creating a postwar government — ended with an agreement by show of hands to meet again in 10 days to discuss forming an interim authority.

### U.S. Marines come under fire near Tikrit

TIKRIT, Iraq (AP) — Confronted by rage and insults, U.S. forces swept through Saddam Hussein's hometown yesterday and began disarming residents, even as Marines came under fire while seizing an airstrip on the town's outskirts.

The U.S. military set up cordons around Tikrit to prevent Saddam's senior leaders — and in a long shot, perhaps even Saddam himself — from slipping away. American tanks stood outside Saddam's presidential palace, which was seized without a fight, the military said. Plumes of smoke rose yesterday from buildings around the Tikrit South airfield, which was pummeled by U.S. airstrikes before it was captured by Marines.

### Powell asserts no plan for war with Syria

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trying to calm a charged atmosphere, Secretary of State Colin Powell said yesterday the United States has no plans to go to war with Syria or anyone else to bring democracy to a totalitarian state.

"Iraq was a unique case, where it wasn't just a matter of a dictator being there," Powell said at a news conference with foreign reporters.

"There is no war plan to go and attack someone else, either for the purpose of overthrowing their leadership or for the purpose of imposing democratic values."

## Film festival announces winners

### 'Weedeaters' takes first place in movie contest

By Kristin Hall  
Staff Reporter

Director of *Weedeaters* Lennon Blake won a Sony video camera when he took first place in MTSU's fourth annual student film festival Thursday

night. "I really didn't think we were going to win," Blake said. "When they announced the name, all I heard was 'weed,' and I thought, 'Oh my gosh, we won!'"

Judges of the festival, a panel of four film studies professors, told Blake they liked the irony and the interdynamics of the film.

*Weedeaters* is about three guys who all suffer some loss

individually and are connected to each other through a fourth man who profits from their losses.

Blake is currently working on another film, but jokingly quipped about his future after the film festival.

"I've been thinking about retiring, so now seems like a good time," Blake said.

The second place award, a

See Films, 2



Photos by Blake Pearson | Staff Photographer

Sociology and anthropology professor Edward Kick talks to students on the ins and outs of world culture at the last honors lecture of the semester Monday.

## Professor discusses origins of culture

By Kristin Hall  
Staff Reporter

During the last honors lecture of the semester, Edward Kick, professor and chair of the sociology and anthropology department, discussed the origins and characteristics of our current world culture.

"There is only one ideology, there is only one world culture," Kick said. "It is expanding to encompass the entire globe and you are right at the center of it."

Kick, during the lecture titled "World Culture, Organizational Culture and Worker Commitment," asked the audience to identify what Americans value.

The top three answers were freedom, money and democracy.

Kick said these cultural values of American culture derived from ancient Germanic tribes in Europe who valued individual freedom.

"This is the advent of a glob-

al culture," Kick said.

Eventually the Anglo-Saxon people, descendants of the Germanic tribes, spread this ideal throughout Western Europe, Kick added.

Many sociologists, including the German sociologist Max Weber, studied the spreading of this democratic, capitalistic culture.

"Weber argued Western Europeans were also the people

See Honors, 2



# Students get aerospace, theater experiences

By Mealand Ragland  
Staff Writer

In June, MTSU's Summer Discovery Institute will welcome black teens to campus to explore aerospace and theater during one-week mini-camps.

Funded by the Tennessee Board of Regents, the two programs, On Stage and In Flight, are geared toward rising high school juniors and seniors, according to Debra Sells, associate vice president of Academic Support Services.

Sells said the main goal of the program is to get students interested in becoming college students, not only at MTSU, but also at schools statewide.

For one week, teens enrolled in the In Flight and On Stage programs will learn the ins and outs of each respective program.

Students participating in the flight program will spend much of their time at the Murfreesboro Municipal Airport, with a trip to the NASA Space Center in Huntsville being the highlight of the mini-camp.

"We've planned a cookout in one of the airport hangars for

them," Sells said.

Those enrolled in the theatre camp will learn various parts of stagecraft, such as costuming, writing, directing and acting. On the final full day of camp, they will use all they learned to put on a performance within 24 hours.

"They will have to write a scene or play, and then they have to ... cast it and design costumes," Sells said.

At the end of the 24 hours, the students have to be ready to perform.

Paul Craig of the aerospace department and Deborah Anderson of the speech and theatre department are in charge of selecting the staff members and counselors for their respective camps.

The students and their parents will not be charged for the weeklong camp. According to Sells, the planning committee looks to recruit students from as far as Memphis and other parts of West Tennessee.

"We're even working on transportation for the ones who don't have any way to get here," she said.

She also said that the institute's planning committee sent

press releases to local newspapers, mailed applications to high school guidance counselors and reached out to church youth groups.

"We've also been in touch with the junior ROTC programs in the schools to see if they've had anybody interested in In Flight," Sells said.

Many parents of younger children showed interest in their children attending during the summer.

Sells said that parents with children in grades as low as eighth grade have contacted her.

In Flight will be held during the first week in June, and On Stage will take place during mid-July.

Parents wanting more information should contact Sells at 898-5342.

Applications for the program were due yesterday.

Both departments are looking for MTSU students, especially black students, to serve as counselors.

Each camp will take about 40 students. Those interested in being counselors can call Craig or Anderson for more information. ♦

# Honors: Culture result of tension

Continued from 1

who came to believe that culturally you could know your ultimate heavenly destiny by seeing how many material possessions you were able to gather up," Kick said.

Around 1450, the Spanish and the Portuguese helped usher in a worldwide culture by opening global trade routes.

"Suddenly, it starts to become a world economy rather than the way it had been before — a series of world empires," Kick said.

Colonization by Western European countries multiplied on the North American and South American continents.

These Europeans had no moral dilemma about taking the resources of this new land

away from the native people, Kick said, because they considered this a right derived from God.

"This is the way the whole world operated, at least in the last couple of centuries, if not prior to it," Kick said.

Still, Kick said this world culture results in competing tensions between those values the audience identified at the start of the lecture.

"The accumulation of wealth across world history always must be viewed in parallel and in contrast to individual liberties, freedom and democracy," Kick said.

Kick said these feelings of tension also occur in the workplace, where workers must compete with coworkers to succeed in careers.

A modern consequence of this capitalistic world culture is the growth of rationalism, the process of making every step rational, efficient and profit maximizing, Kick said.

Kick cited examples from his study in which he interviewed and polled United States Postal Service workers in 1999.

Workers felt they had to compete with each other to keep their jobs, and this created low worker commitment.

Kick said this culturally induced attitude to fight your peers for money and power in the workplace lowered the number of unions.

"There is a higher level of inequality in the United States than there has been in a hundred years," Kick said. ♦

# Clothesline: Project began with 31 shirts

Continued from 1

"We have people that aren't used to this [victimization] in our community," Wooding said. "It could be your neighbor. It could be your friend."

According to Wooding, this project originated with 31 shirts displayed in Massachusetts in 1990. MTSU began sponsoring the project in the mid-1990s.

This event comes as part of MTSU's Sexual Assault Awareness Week each April, which includes activities aimed at raising awareness about sexual assault, domestic violence and rape and the realities of these occurrences within society.

"You see those little T-shirts out there that say, 'I was only six,' and it really gets people to thinking about what that means for victims," JAWC interim director Carol Ann Bailey said. "It's a healing process for the women."

The Clothesline Project will be available for viewing through tomorrow.

The JAWC will also sponsor Take Back The Night, a march and rally against violence toward women, tonight from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Participants will march around the campus

and meet back at the KUC Knoll for a rally including speakers, a candlelight vigil and testimony from victims.

MTSU also offers courses in self-defense through the health, physical education and recreation department, as well as the Rape Aggression Defense class for women taught by the police officers to instruct students on

defending themselves during an attack.

"Students should take precautions and stop being so naïve to the fact that it could happen to you," Wooding said. "We come across that a lot."

For more information about Sexual Assault Awareness Week and other activities sponsored by the JAWC, call 898-2193. ♦

# Films: Sony video camera first prize

Continued from 1

DVD player, went to Kevin Dunn for his film, *The Kissing Booth*, which is about a guy who sets up a kissing booth in front of his house.

"There was a lot of good competition and a lot of good ideas," Dunn said about the other films.

Dunn said he was surprised

*How to Be Cool* by Kristafer Bristow didn't win an award, and he liked the editing style of *Weedeaters*.

Jeremy Gibson won the third place award, a \$100 gift certificate for Phillips Bookstore, for his film, *Parking Lot Stalkers*.

"I have to split it four ways, so maybe I'll be able to buy a quarter of a book," Gibson said regarding his award.

Gibson was out of town for the awards ceremony and didn't find out he won until Monday.

His film was the story of two parking lot stalkers, or drivers who follow people in the parking lot in hopes of catching a parking space.

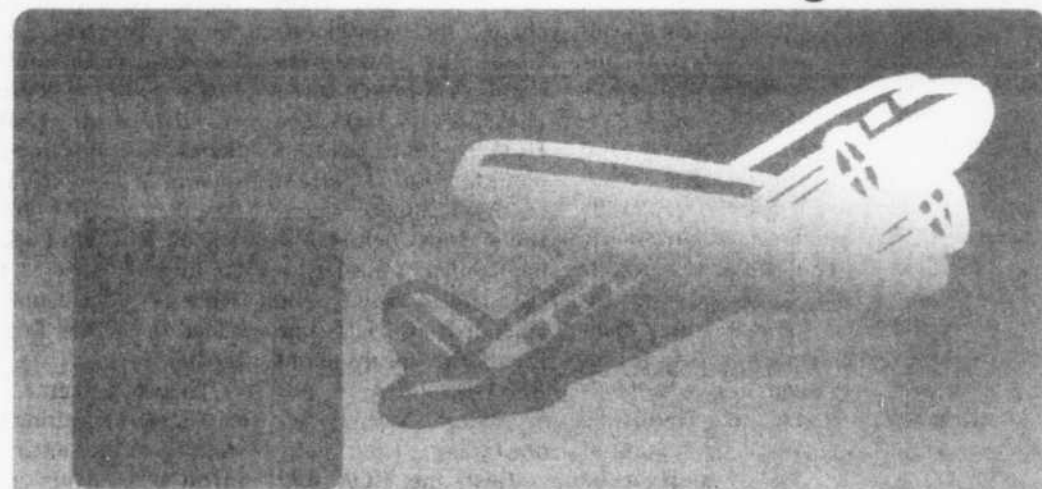
"This film really struck a chord with the MTSU crowd," Gibson said. ♦

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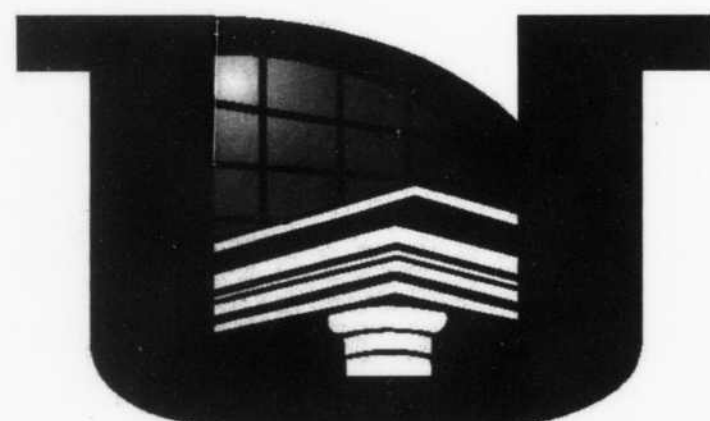
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April 27	1:00pm - 1:00am
April 28 - May 1	7:30am - 1:00am
May 2	7:30am - 5:00pm
May 3	8:00am - 5:00pm
May 4	1:00pm - 1:00am
May 5	7:30am - 1:00am
May 6	7:30am - 10:00pm
May 7 - 9	8:00am - 4:30pm
May 10 - 11	Closed



# OPINIONS

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Wednesday, April 16, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## From the Editorial Board Year-round Coach would be great relief

In an attempt to help desperate students riddled with end-of-semester projects, papers and exams, the library now offers Research Coach, a program designed to aid stressed students in using the library's many electronic databases for assignments requiring research.

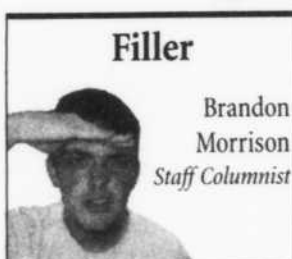
While we recognize that Research Coach is intended to keep fragile students from spiraling into stress-induced mania, the fact that it's only offered right before midterm and finals week is troubling. We can't count the times our upper-division professors have taken 20 minutes to entire class periods to explain the dynamics of research, when college students should know them by the end of their first semester. Not only is a waste of class time and, therefore, tuition money, but it also indirectly insults the intelligence of students who have already fulfilled the basic expectations of higher education.

Limiting Research Coach to the end and middle of each semester will likely encourage a last-minute swamping from lazy students hoping to coerce an unsuspecting library assistant into doing the work for them, instead of those who genuinely need help learning the whimsical ways of Voyager and Research Gateway.

The concept, however, has potential to be a great addition to the services provided by our campus library. If extended to be year-round and effectively promoted, it could guide many a terrified incoming freshman through that first research paper and offer a jarring reminder to older students who are out of practice.

Our glossy, gargantuan library could use some fresh ideas, and Research Coach officials should do our professors and hard-working students a favor and take on the burden of coaching confused students all year long, leaving the classroom for curriculum instead of pandering to those who slept through the research tutorial the first time around. ♦

## 'Simple' often complicates quickly



Sometimes the simplest ideas complicate themselves to the point of frustration.

For a recent art project, I needed to print a picture larger than most printers are capable of producing.

Rather than settle for a mosaic of smaller sheets from a regular printer, I opted to try finding someone who could print the image out on one sheet.

I went to a local copy store first. As soon as I walked in, the manager and another customer looked up like it was out of

the ordinary for a customer to walk into the store.

The manager rushed over, asking if I needed a color copy. Immediately after finding out I did, he told me their color printer was out. Before I could say another word, he rushed over to continue his conversation with the other customer.

Not to be swayed from my goal, I tried an office supply store the next day. The atmosphere inside the store was frightening. Employees were the only people inside the store. Their forced and overbearing chipperness at 8 a.m. could scare small children into submission.

After explaining my predicament, they, too, could not print the image full-size. However, they

said their branch office in Knoxville could. The woman at the counter tried to keep her smile up when she mentioned the hiked-up rates for the shipping and handling.

Despite their best intentions, I couldn't accept their offer. Almost distraught, I tried one last place in town a friend had recommended.

I almost didn't need to go in to know this place couldn't print my photo. Even from the outside, the copy center looked like it was just a conglomeration of a couple of old copy machines and a vending area.

Finally, admitting my defeat, I returned to the first store I went to because they were the only ones who could print anything at the size I needed.

At least, that's what they told me the day before. Upon arrival, I found out that not only was their large color printer out, their big black-and-white printer was also.

Before I could set fire to the place, an employee told me another store in the area could print out the image full-sized and in color for a reasonable price. The only problem: the store was more than 30 miles away.

Two class periods and a gas run later, I'm on my way to the big city to get my small-town art project printed. The entire way up to Nashville I'm trying to guess if the next problem will either be one of my rear-view mirrors flying off and hitting another car, or some guy trying to hold up the store while I'm

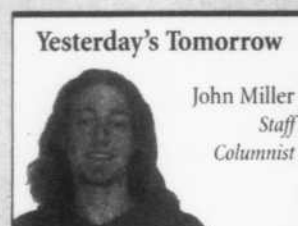
there. Surprisingly, once I made it to the store, the employees helped me with everything I needed. I finally managed to get the picture printed, and nobody had to die in the process.

A professor once warned in a lecture that complicating an initial idea for a paper, project or anything else too early could lead to problems. His argument was that even simple ideas usually had hidden complications that could make implementing it a daunting task.

I guess he had to print a picture, too. ♦

Brandon Morrison is a sophomore media design major and can be reached via e-mail at [bjm2k@mtsu.edu](mailto:bjm2k@mtsu.edu).

## Greek life unfairly portrayed by MTV



After reading Patrick Chinnery's "What a Schmuck" column March 31 about the stupidity of some of the frat guys on MTV's *Fraternity Life*, I began to reflect.

Although there are instances where fraternities did foolish and sometimes stupid things, many people have voiced their opinions that the *Fraternity Life* show isn't exactly an accurate representation of fraternities.

When your views are formulated from a 30-minute program aimed at getting ratings, they're undoubtedly going to become a bit skewed.

The Greek community does many things that benefit our campus and community as a whole.

For instance, they're usually among the first people to meet incoming freshmen. Greeks take time to help these new students move into their dorms, show them around both campus and the Murfreesboro area and answer any questions they may have regarding a number of issues.

Another way fraternities and sororities benefit the community is by raising money for charities. They raise more than any other student organizations — thousands upon thousands of dollars every year.

After Sept. 11, 2001, the Greek community held many events to raise money in support of the survivors and families affected by the tragedy. Greeks also raise money for less fortunate families in times of need, such as Christmas, Thanksgiving and other holidays.

In addition, the Greek community plays a major role in alumni relations. Fraternities and sororities come out en masse for MTSU's sporting events.

They also construct the majority of the floats displayed during

Homecoming. Many times, the most involved alumni are members of fraternities and sororities. I can think of very few other organizations that have as much of a positive impact on our campus as a whole.

Many people see those in the Greek system as sheep, people who would rather follow than think for themselves or who are simply just "buying their friends."

Although these people undoubtedly exist in the Greek community, I wouldn't go so far as to say they are "typical" Greeks.

One area in which the Greek community leads instead of follows would be academics.

Both fraternities and sororities on campus have a higher median GPA than those of non-Greeks.

In addition, many members of the Greek community are part of the top 10 percent of their class.

Many prominent community leaders are members of fraternities and sororities, such as athletes, CEOs of Fortune 500 companies and the majority of the members of Congress.

I seriously doubt these people are meek followers.

I once read a statistic that stated 25 percent of undergraduates are interested in becoming a member of the Greek community.

Meanwhile, another 25 percent don't want to have anything to do with it, and the last 50 percent are unsure whether it would be right for them.

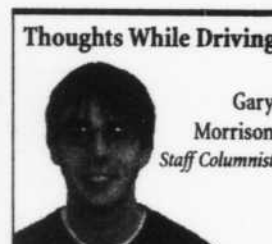
Fraternities and sororities can be a positive experience for those involved, but they aren't for everyone.

Those who think it might be interesting should at least see for themselves what it's about.

Although, at times, fraternities can resemble something out of *Animal House*, they also have a positive effect on their members and the community around them. ♦

John Miller is a senior political science major and can be reached via e-mail at [jcm2r@mtsu.edu](mailto:jcm2r@mtsu.edu).

## Beckett's flagpole waste of time



Michael Beckett, a resident of the Fieldstone Farms community in Williamson County, hides behind the U.S. flag. He erected a 20-foot permanent flagpole in his front yard, against his community's legally binding restrictive covenants, and flies his U.S. flag from this pole. He was asked by his Home Owners Association to remove the pole.

This issue started not long after Sept. 11, 2001. Beckett illegally erected his flagpole and refused to remove it after repeated warnings from the HOA that the flagpole was strictly against established covenants. But Beckett persisted, arguing he had the right to fly his flag on his property in any manner he wanted.

At first glance, that's an easy argument for an outsider (one who doesn't live in Fieldstone Farms) to get behind. The HOA appears to be denying this man his right to fly the flag of the United States of America.

But, this isn't about the U.S. flag. It's about a flagpole.

No one said that Beckett cannot fly a U.S. flag. However, Beckett gave up his "right" to have a 20-foot flagpole in his yard when he moved into Fieldstone Farms. He knew about the restrictive covenants when he moved into the subdivision. He's chosen to violate these covenants in the name of freedom. Give me a break.

A little research into this case proved to me that Beckett needs to stop whining, take down his flagpole and fly his flag like everyone else in the neighborhood: according to the rules.

Oh yes, Beckett can fly his flag. Again, there isn't anyone saying he cannot. He cannot, however, fly his flag from a permanently erected flagpole, but he may fly it from a staff mounted on his residence. Is that such a horrid restriction? Is a person less patriotic if their flag is mounted on their home instead of in their yard on a pole? If so, Beckett should have thought twice before moving into Fieldstone Farms. Or, perhaps he should think about moving out.

Should the HOA change their covenants? Guess what — that very point was brought up to Beckett by the HOA. The HOA explained that if a petition with 33 percent of the residents' signatures came before the board, then a restrictive covenant could be amended; in Fieldstone Farms, that means about 1,500 signatures.

Well, Beckett, there's one option.

Next, the HOA told Beckett that, if he would donate the flagpole to the association, the pole would be erected — with a flag — in the largest park within the community, along with a plaque recognizing Beckett as the donor in memory of Sept. 11, 2001.

Not good enough for Beckett. He says it's his pole, and he will do what he wants with it.

Finally, the president of the HOA urged Beckett to run for one of two soon-to-be-vacated seats on the Fieldstone board. Does this sound

like an oppressive regime? Is the board behaving? I don't think so. Actually, it sounds like the HOA has been very kind to Beckett by offering him options when they could pursue legal action.

I think they realize this flagpole is an extremely localized issue, not a federal case.

But, due to the stink raised by Beckett, it has in fact turned into a state case. Last week, a bill was presented in the Tennessee Senate to override the restrictive covenants of a community regarding flagpoles. Apparently, the state may have a hand in regulating the restrictions established by Home Owner Associations. The bill would "prohibit declarations and governing documents ... from limiting [or] prohibiting ... proper display of United States flag on owner's separately owned real property" (HB 0987). The bill was sent back to committee, so the Tennessee flag could be added to the wording of the bill.

Thanks, Beckett. Thanks to the state government involved in your little whine-fest.

Thanks for bringing state legislation to the neighborhood level. If everyone follows your example, local communities will no longer set their own rules; the state government will.

Thanks again, Beckett.

I salute your flag, but thumb my nose at your pole. ♦

Gary Morrison is a graduate student in English and can be reached via e-mail at [gwm2c@mtsu.edu](mailto:gwm2c@mtsu.edu).

## SIDELINES

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## Letters Policy

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Only a few more issues  
before we call it quits.  
Try and be strong.

E-mail us at  
[slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu).

## Letter to the Editor RIAA right to reprimand students

To the Editor:

I think the members of the Sidelines editorial board should think before they write. In the editorial "Artists don't mind, so why should we?" they point out that the recording industry brought this problem on themselves (April 9). I agree, but does that make it right to download music, movies and software? Two wrongs don't make a right. The four students being sued by the RIAA had millions of songs they were sharing.

One of the students has a 41-month prison term. If he also has the \$150,000 fine per song applied to him, maybe it will set an example to other potential "intellectual property thieves."

The artists Sidelines mentions in the editorial allow people to download songs directly from their Web sites. Downloading files is only legal by the Fair Use Doctrine (17 USC 109) if the author of the work gives consent to a party to use his or her work or if the work is in the public domain.

You may also want to remember that at least 1,700 students on this campus are recording majors and may have other comments regarding the editorial. Copyright law is what will pay our future incomes.

Ryan Blazer  
Recording industry





Photo by Jamie Lorange | Staff Photographer

The sanctuary of the Third Baptist Church is spacious. Some Sunday morning services total 400 people. They also have contemporary music, complete with drums and a piano.

## A change of pace

### Third Baptist Church offers casual services, studies for all

By Melissa Coker  
Staff Writer

The traditional Baptist church has a new face and a new name. It's no longer First Baptist Church — it's Third Baptist Church.

That's because when the church was formed in 1947, it was literally the third Baptist church in Murfreesboro. Today, it's nestled among welcoming trees, secluded, yet inviting fel-

lowship. The average Sunday morning worship has around 380 attendees, with some worship services totaling 400, according to current pastor Mike Lee.

Lee has been the pastor at Third Baptist for seven months. He came from his previous church in Houston, Texas, to take former pastor Daniel Moore's post.

Students may be surprised by the relaxed atmosphere of

the church. It is warm and friendly and there is no pressure to dress up to take part in worship. A visit on any typical Sunday morning will prove that.

"College students are with college students all week, so it's kind of a nice change for them to worship with the rest of the body of Christ," Lee says.

The church's vision statement is that they are "a body of believers who worship God, share Jesus Christ and disciple believers, sending them out for ministry."

As outlined on their Web site, they are a Southern Baptist

church that strongly believes and consistently strives for the core values of:

- Bible-based preaching, teaching and ministries
- Intentional evangelism
- Comprehensive discipleship
- Unified fellowship
- Servant leadership
- Joyful, transforming worship
- Steadfast prayer
- Effective communication
- Commitment to excellence
- Faithful stewardship
- Cultural relevance

Elliot Fisher, a senior aerospace major with a professional pilot concentration, has attended Third Baptist for 18 months.

He says the Bible studies are relaxed and informal. The college class usually sits as a group, and everyone participates if they wish, instead of the traditional lecturer up front with everyone else listening.

"Everybody there sincerely loves God and is extremely friendly, particularly the college and youth groups," Fisher says.

Fisher recently started a tutoring ministry at Third Baptist together with a few teachers from the church. The ministry's primary focus is to help junior and high school students but is open for elementary school through college-age stu-

dents as well. It aims to provide help with any school subject, through scheduled appointments.

Third Baptist Church is located just off West Clark Boulevard on West McKnight Drive. They offer Sunday school and worship services in English, Spanish and Japanese. Sunday morning worship begins at 10:15 a.m. Students can stay informed of what's going on at Third Baptist via their bimonthly newsletter, "The Third Watch," or their Web site, [www.thirdbaptist.net](http://www.thirdbaptist.net). Students can also call the church office at 893-8192. ♦

## Dear Annie



Illustration by Lucas Antoniak | Staff Illustrator

Dear Annie,

My parents have been divorced for about three years, and my dad just got engaged. He is 45, and his fiancée is 27. The age difference makes me uncomfortable because she is closer to my age, 25, than to his.

I mean, the fact that I could date my future stepmother really freaks me out. And that isn't even the entire story. Last year, I met my dad's fiancée in a bar before they ever knew each other, and we ended up going home together. It was just a one-night stand.

The next time I met Rachel was when my dad was introducing her as his girlfriend. A few months later, they were engaged. I'm pretty sure she wasn't with him when we hooked up.

This is creating problems between my dad and me because he wants to know why I act "strange" around Rachel. Should I tell him about the one-night stand, or should I tell Rachel to tell him? — Troubled

Dear Troubled,

I had to re-read your question a couple of times, because I just couldn't believe it. It's like a story right out of a soap opera. I can under-

stand why you are troubled.

I can't believe your potential stepmother, Rachel, hasn't said anything to your dad. I would think since she's going to marry him, she might want to mention a previous one-night stand with his son.

You need to tell Rachel that she should be the one to tell your dad about the one-night stand. Give her a time frame.

Otherwise, her relationship with your dad will be hurt — unless you want them to break up, and I'm sensing this idea has crossed your mind. It's a huge mistake to try and break up your dad and Rachel. This could hurt your relationship with your father.

If she's not honest with your dad, then you need to be. It's better for him to find out now rather than after he is married.

Basically, your relationship with your dad should be more important than your objections to his relationship with Rachel. Family is forever. ♦

Please e-mail your questions to [DearMtsuAnnie@aol.com](mailto:DearMtsuAnnie@aol.com).

## Campus Events

### Ongoing

• The women of Alpha Theta Omega will hold a prayer meeting every Thursday at 7 a.m. in the Keathley University Center. For more information, contact Ailisha Vaughn at (615) 668-2616.

• Students for Environmental Action is seeking students to participate in a student symposium April 24 at 5 p.m. For more information or to sign up to present at the symposium, send an e-mail to [tm2d@mtsu.edu](mailto:tm2d@mtsu.edu).

• Now through May 2, Circle K is hosting a children's book drive to benefit the Christel House. There will be competitions between organizations, offices and individuals to see who can donate the most books. All offices and organizations must register by April 22 to be eligible for prizes. Students and faculty can drop off books in the KUC, Room 326. For more information, contact Rebecca Pickering at (615) 898-2533, or e-mail her at [rep2c@mtsu.edu](mailto:rep2c@mtsu.edu) to obtain a form.

### April 16

• MTSU Fine Arts and Student Programming present "Step Afrika!" in Tucker Theatre at 8 p.m. "Step Afrika!" highlights young artists from the United States and Europe and the South Africa-based Soweto Dance Theater. For more information contact Timmy Gibson at (615) 898-2551.

• The Greek awards will be given in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building at 7 p.m. Contact Mike Ceccarelli at (615) 631-2162 for more information.

• A seminar, "Showcasing your creativity on DVD," will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Bragg Mass Communication Building, Room 151. Learn how to put your portfolio on DVD and get noticed in the creative indus-

try. See [www.mtsu.edu/~macusers](http://www.mtsu.edu/~macusers) for more information.

### April 19

• The American Beefalo International Sale will be held at the Tennessee Livestock Center. Contact Joe Davenport at (615) 563-5170 for more information.

### April 21-26

• In celebration of Earth Week, Students for Environmental Action present MTSU Earth Week activities. Below is a partial list of activities for the week. Unless otherwise specified, all events will be located on the KUC Knoll from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily.

#### April 21

At 4:15 p.m. in the Stark Agricultural Building, Room 125, Michael Principe will speak on Cuba's paradigm for sustainable agriculture.

#### April 22

An Earth Week benefit will take place at The Boro Bar and Grill at 9 p.m. The benefit will feature Kati, Rockwell Kilgore and the Harveys.

#### April 23

Yoga on the Knoll at 8 a.m.

#### April 24

An SEA symposium will take place in the KUC Theatre at 5 p.m.

#### April 25

Earth Day celebration on the Knoll with Drums and Tuba, Stephen Gaskin, Juan Prophet Organization, Spooky Johnson and Broken Word.

#### April 26

Anyone wanting to participate in a flat rock cleanup can meet on the Knoll at 8:30 p.m. to caravan. Volunteers welcome.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Tomi Winfree at (615) 898-5184. ♦





Need to let the campus know about an event your group is sponsoring?

*Sidelines'* Campus Events calendar can help.

Clip the form below, fill it out and return it to the James Union Building, Room 310.

### Campus Events

The following guidelines apply to all:

1. Forms must be submitted by deadline to be considered for publication. Campus Events run each Monday in the Living section, so forms should be submitted by Saturday night.
2. Every attempt will be made to run your announcement as often as possible, but priority will be given to events with the most immediacy.
3. We reserve the right to limit announcements to campus events only.
4. *Sidelines* does not guarantee placement of any submission.

Name of person placing this notice \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Event \_\_\_\_\_

Date of event \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to Sidelines, MTSU Box 8, or bring to James Union Building, Room 310

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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. Open to legal residents of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia and Canada (excluding the Province of Quebec) and students residing ON A STUDENT VISA in these eligible jurisdictions who are eighteen (18) years of age or older as of April 1, 2003. LIMIT: One entry per person. All entries must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2003. For additional eligibility restrictions and instructions to enter, see the complete Official Rules, available at Kaplan centers and on-campus sites in the U.S. and Canada, online at [kaptest.com/giveaway](http://kaptest.com/giveaway), or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to "Course-a-Day" Giveaway, P.O. Box 456, Medford, New York 11763. Thirty (30) winners will be selected from all eligible entries received in separate random drawings to be held each day from June 16, 2003 through July 15, 2003. Prize for each winner is a Kaplan LSAT, GMAT, GRE, MCAT, DAT, OAT or TOEFL, TOEFL and Academic English, General English Self-Study, General English or General Intensive English course. Odds of winning depend on total number of eligible entries received. Participation in this promotion constitutes entrant's full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of the complete Official Rules. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED, TAXED OR OTHERWISE RESTRICTED. If you do not wish to receive notice of future Kaplan Test Prep promotions, contact us at Kaplan Test Prep, Marketing Department, 1440 Broadway, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10018. \*Test names are registered trademarks of their respective owners.

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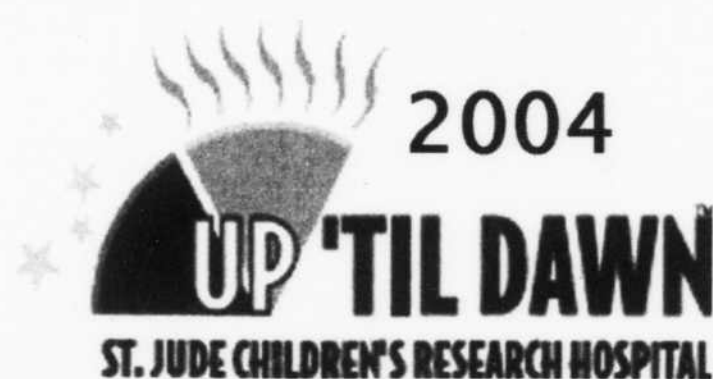
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# SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, April 16, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## Mitchell ties school record in Lady Raider victory



The Lady Raiders outplayed the Western Kentucky Lady Toppers 10-2 and 5-4 on Sunday.

By Jerry Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders (20-15, 3-5 SBC) stayed at home on Sunday to take on Sun Belt Conference foe Western Kentucky (20-22, 2-3 SBC).

The Lady Raiders handed the Lady Toppers their first two losses this season in the Sun Belt Conference.

MT ran up the scoreboard in the doubleheader with a com-



Mitchell

bined 25 hits and 15 runs. MT kept the errors down, and allowed six runs for two games.

The Lady Raiders started their first game strong with five hits and five runs in the bottom of the first, putting the Lady Toppers in the hole, 5-0. Courtney Mitchell kept it going in the second with a double. Eventually, she reached third on a wild pitch and scored off of a Dani DeCamino single.

MT struck again in the bottom of the fourth with another Mitchell double. DeCamino took one for the team, putting her on first with no outs, and Erica Buhl singled, loading the bases up for Leah Grothouse.

In the fourth, DeCamino, Buhl and Grothouse scored,

putting the Lady Raiders up 9-2. Stayc Preator went to work on the Lady Toppers, allowing only four hits and two runs, improving her record to 12-6.

Mitchell tied a school record with her 20th double of the season. The Lady Raiders finished the game 10-2.

The second game was a nail-biter. Dani DeCamino put the Lady Raiders on the board first in the bottom of the second inning in the second game when she hit a solo home run over the left field fence.

The hit gave DeCamino the third homer of the season and seventh of her career, tying her for second place in the MT record books.

WKU doubled in the top of

the third inning, putting them on top 2-1, but MT rallied to knot the score at 2-2 in the bottom of the fourth.

MT tied the score again in the bottom of sixth and put it away in their half of the eighth frame with three hits and one run, giving them the 5-4 victory.

Freshman Valerie Swanson was given the starting job and went 2.2 innings, allowing four hits and two runs.

Stayc Preator finished out the game, giving her her 13th win of the season.

The Lady Raiders travel to Nashville today for a double-header against David Lipscomb University. The games start at 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. ♦



Middle Tennessee pitcher Steve Kline currently holds the best Blue Raider pitching staff with a 4-2 record.

File Photo

## Indians beat Blue Raiders in final game

By Josh Beasley  
Assistant Sports Editor

After notching two wins at Tomlinson Field Saturday, the Blue Raiders fell just short of sweeping Arkansas State Sunday while on the road in Jonesboro, Ark.

The Blue Raiders (16-19, 5-7 SBC) jumped out to an early lead in the top of the first. Chuck Akers, hitting in the No. 2 hole, reached first off an error by ASU's shortstop with one out in the inning. Later in the inning, Josh Archer tripled off the left center field wall, just missing a home run by a couple of feet, that allowed the speedy Akers to score from first.

The Indians (17-17, 7-4 SBC) wasted no time in the bottom of the first to threaten with some offense of their own. The Indians' lead-off man Brad Hayes singled up the middle and Blake Denischuk followed with a single to right field to advance Hayes to third. A wild pitch and a walk loaded the bases for the Tribe with no outs. Zach Shipley did MT a favor by grounding out into a double play, and Blue Raider starter Zach Mobley settled in and sat down Dusty Sexton for the third out of the inning, putting an end to the ASU threat.

Mobley managed to work into a groove and cruise through four innings before the wheels came off in the fifth for MT.

The Indians started the inning with a lead-off double by George Sterner. Justin Glenn's sacrifice bunt moved Sterner to third, once again setting up a scoring opportunity for ASU. Mobley,

See Indians, 7



Nate Jagers puts the tag down on an opposing player. Jagers's .388 batting average leads the team.

File Photo

## Tennis team ends five-game losing streak

### MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee lost the doubles point but bounced back to win four singles matches and defeat University of Alabama-Birmingham, 4-2, Sunday afternoon in Birmingham, Ala., the first win for the Blue Raiders since March 20, ending a five-match losing streak.

The Blazers (9-13) won the doubles point by taking matches at Nos. 1 and 2. UAB's

Kristijan Mitrovski and Patrick Suhrbier defeated Trevor Short and Michael Staniak, 8-2, at No. 1, while Andre Maier and Dino Mancarella gave UAB the point with an 8-5 victory over Daniel Klemetz and Brandon Allan. MT won at No. 3, with Kirk Jackson and Anant Sitaram defeating Bastian Gruendler and Sanzaruz Zaman, 8-4.

MT (6-15) came back to win four singles matches of the five played, led by 20th-ranked

Klemetz, defeating Gruendler, 6-2, 6-2, at No. 1. Jackson won at No. 2 over Ivan Andreev when the Blazer retired in the third set. Jackson lost the first set 6-3 but won the second at love and led 1-0 when Andreev retired. The Blazers got a win at No. 3 with Maier defeating Sitaram 4-6, 6-4, 10-8. But Middle Tennessee came back to win at Nos. 4 and 6 and led at No. 5 when the match ended.

Staniak defeated Mitrovski,

2-6, 6-4, 6-4, at No. 4, while Allan won 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, to secure the win. Rishan Kuruppu led Suhrbier, 5-7, 6-2, 2-1, at No. 5.

The Blue Raiders will now prepare for the Sun Belt Championships, which start April 25 in Mobile, Ala. South Alabama will host the conference championships, which take place April 25-27 at the Lubel Memorial Tennis Courts and the Mobile Tennis Center. ♦

## MT finishes first day with poor showing

By Randall Thomason  
Staff Writer

In their final tune-up for the Sun Belt Conference Championships next week, Middle Tennessee's men's golf team struggled mightily during Monday's opening two rounds of the Arkansas State Indians Golf Classic in Jonesboro, Ark.

The field played 36 holes on Monday, and the Blue Raiders finished the day in 16th place in the 19-team tournament at RidgePoint Country Club.

Josh Nelms was the top golfer for MT on Monday, shooting consistent rounds of 76 and 74 to position him in a tie for 43rd overall.

Patrick Williams and Blake Bivens each were tied for 57th after Monday with round totals of 152. Williams shot consecutive scores of 76 while Bivens opened with a 75, and followed with a 77.

Charlie Gibson completed the opening rounds in a tie for 73rd after rounds of 76 and 80

to total 156.

Carter Henderson rounded out the Blue Raider scoring on Monday by posting a 163 total after posting scores of 80 and 83, to land in a tie for 88th position.

Sun Belt Conference members North Texas and Arkansas-Little Rock were tied for the lead with totals of 575, 35 shots clear of MT, who finished the first two rounds with a team total of 610.

Arkansas State, the host school and fellow Sun Belt member was in a tie for fifth position at 588.

South Alabama was the only other Sun Belt member school participating in the tournament. The Jaguars were in a tie for eighth place with a two-round score of 589.

The final round of the tournament was scheduled for Tuesday morning.

The Sun Belt Conference championships will commence play on April 21 in Niceville, Fla. ♦

## Roy Williams leaves Kansas to coach basketball for N.C.

By David Droschak  
Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — It was difficult for Roy Williams to calm down 12 hours after making one of the hardest decisions of his life.

He cut himself shaving in his hotel room, his hand still shaking minutes before officially taking over North Carolina's storied basketball program.

The week leading up to his decision to leave Kansas was filled with emotional twists and turns that ended in a sobbing goodbye to his Jayhawks on Monday afternoon.

"I love two schools, and this was not an easy position to be in," Williams said. "I was very pleased three years ago thinking I would never be in this position again."

Dean Smith came calling in 2000 when Bill Guthridge retired. The timing appeared right for Williams to leave Kansas and return to his home state, his alma mater and the place where he learned his craft for a decade under the Hall of Fame coach.

But it wasn't to be, as Williams backed out in a last-minute about-face that left the Tar Heels scrambling to find a coach in the Carolina Family.

This time around, Williams waited a week again to give his final answer to UNC athletic director Dick Baddour. And again, it was touch-and-go.

Shortly after his team's 81-78 loss to Syracuse in the national title game last Monday, speculation turned to Williams taking over the Tar Heels. But he needed time and space to think, something Baddour was willing to give.

"He didn't push me early on," Williams said. "He gave me some space and some time, and

he didn't push. If he had done that, I would have said no."

In fact, Williams almost picked up the telephone twice to tell Baddour he wasn't coming, once when he saw a photo of Kansas recruit Omar Wilkes sitting on his desk and once when he saw Nick Collison at the Wooden Awards over the weekend in Los Angeles.

But the 52-year-old Williams never called the Tar Heels, telling himself in the early morning hours Monday that his decision would be final once his plane landed in Lawrence, Kan.

"I have so much respect for Coach Smith," Williams said. "It was hard to say no to him twice."

After a few hours of sleep, Williams finally made the calls to North Carolina, first to Smith and then to Baddour, telling each he would come to replace Matt Doherty, a former teammate of Michael Jordan who was forced to resign April 1.

"I have two dream schools, and I wanted to coach both, but you can't do it at the same time," said Williams, who received an eight-year contract.

"Now I'm coaching North Carolina, and few people can say they coached at their two favorite schools — both schools touched by something special."

It's clear how much Williams loved Kansas, a program he coached to nine conference titles and four Final Fours in 15 seasons.

He started his news conference in the Smith Center with an emotional reading of the names of his 13 players and four recruits.

"The one thing I asked them to remember is that every day I gave them everything I had," Williams said. "I cared about

See Williams, 7







## Sun Belt Conference News and Notes

### 2003 Sun Belt Softball Records

SBC Games	ALL Games							
	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	W	L	Pct.	
Louisiana-Lafayette	8	0	1.000	W8	28	5	.848	
Florida International	4	0	1.000	W4	28	19	.596	
Middle Tennessee	3	5	.375	W2	20	15	.571	
Western Kentucky	1	3	.250	L2	20	22	.476	
New Mexico State	0	8	.000	L8	7	44	.137	

#### Recent Results

##### April 2

Western Kentucky 3-5, Evansville 2-2  
MT 4-9, UT-Martin 1-0  
#25 UL-Lafayette 5-9, UL-Monroe 1-0

##### April 5

\*#25 UL-Lafayette 12-5, MT 4-0  
\*Florida International 13-2, New Mexico State 2-1

##### April 6

\*#25 UL-Lafayette 10-6, MT 0-3  
\*FIU 15-9, NMSU 0-0  
Louisville 3, Western Kentucky 2

##### April 9

MT at Tennessee State (DH), canceled

##### April 10

Western Kentucky 5-2, Tennessee State 0-4  
Lipscomb at MT (DH), canceled

##### April 11

Florida International 8-8, St. Thomas 0-0

##### April 12

\*No. 21 Louisiana-Lafayette 17-14, NMSU 0-0  
\*MT 3-3, Western Kentucky 2-6

##### April 13

\*No. 21 UL-Lafayette 9-18, NMSU 0-3  
\*MT 10-5, Western Kentucky 2-4

#### Upcoming Games

##### April 15

Western Kentucky at ECU (DH), 2 p.m.  
Florida Atlantic at FIU (DH), 5 p.m.

##### April 16

MT at Lipscomb (DH), 2:30 p.m.  
Nicholls State at UL-Lafayette (DH), 5 p.m.

##### April 17

Austin Peay at MT (DH), 3 p.m.  
UT-San Antonio at UL-Lafayette, 7 p.m.

##### April 19

\*UL-Lafayette at FIU (DH), 12 p.m.  
\*NMSU at Western Kentucky (DH), 2 p.m.

##### April 20

\*UL-Lafayette at FIU (DH), Noon  
\*NMSU at Western Kentucky (DH), Noon

##### April 22

Western Kentucky at Belmont (DH), 2 p.m.  
Tennessee State at MT (DH), 4 p.m.

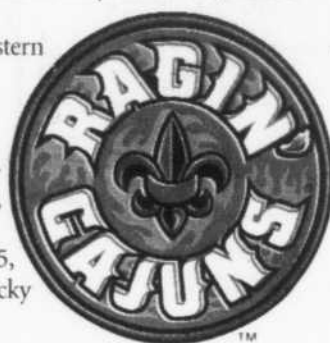
##### April 26

\*Western Kentucky at FIU (DH), Noon  
\*MT at New Mexico State (DH), 2 p.m.

##### April 27

\*Western Kentucky at FIU (DH), Noon  
\*MT at NMSU (DH), 2 p.m. ♦

\* - Sun Belt Games



We're glad you're here.

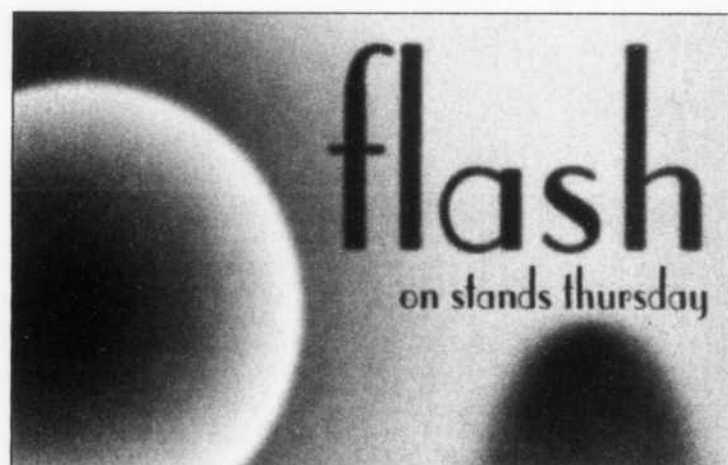
The MTSU Student Ambassadors and Alumni Association are glad you're part of our family - now and forever. Please accept a token of our appreciation on Wednesday, April 16, and Thursday, April 17, on the second floor of the KUC, while supplies last.

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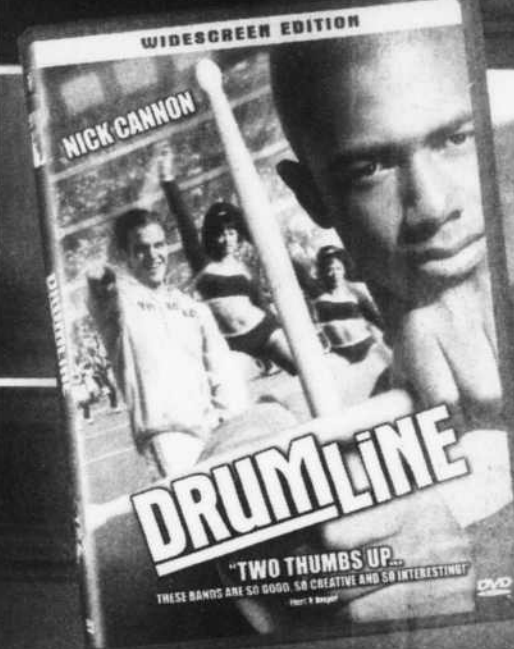
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Wednesday, April 16, 2003

# SIDELINES

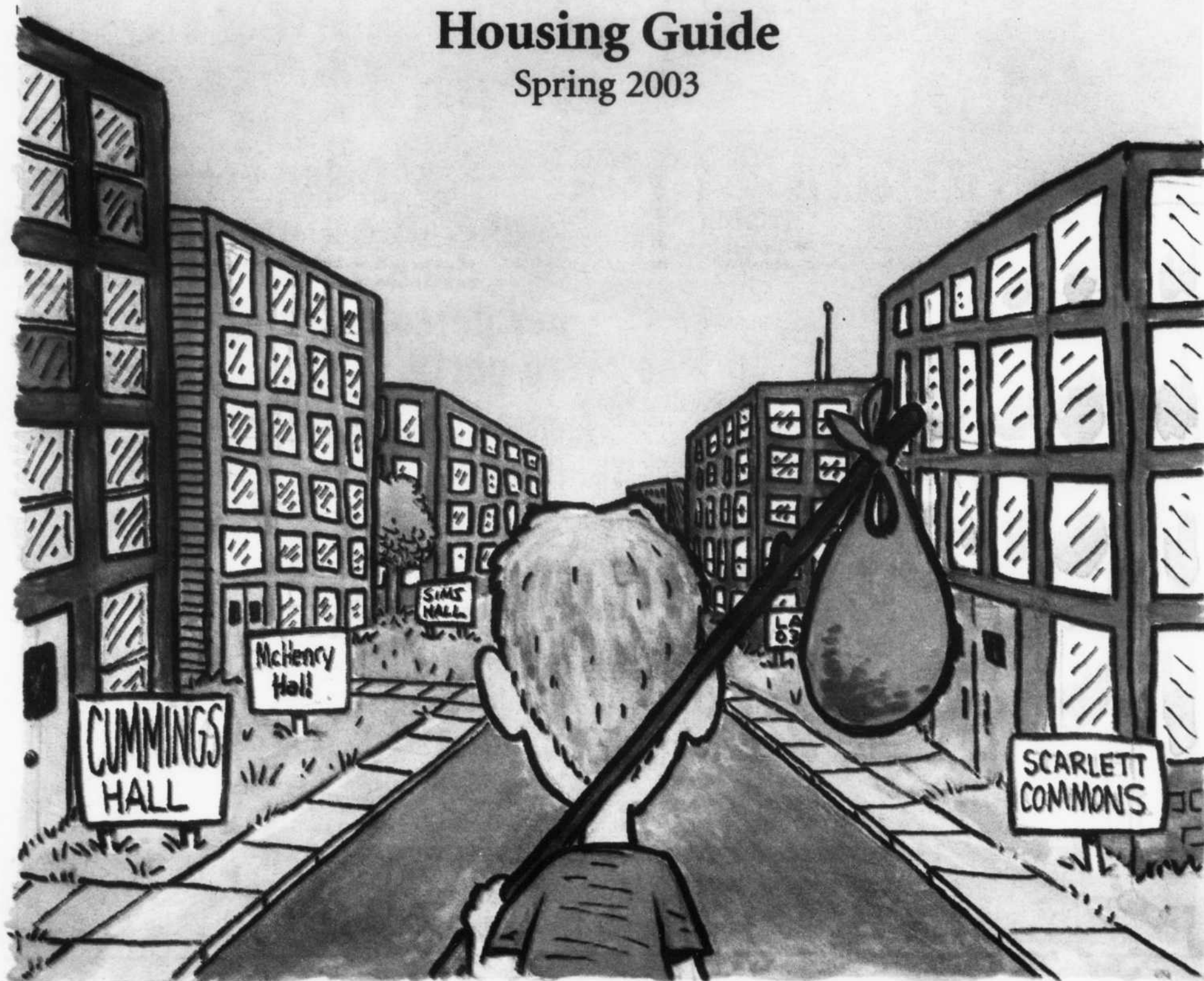
Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO,  
TENNESSEE

## Finding your place

### Housing Guide

Spring 2003





# Circle K Children's Book Drive

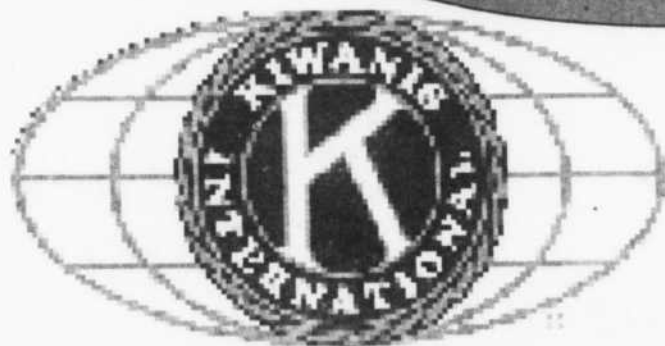
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## Office Competition

The office that donates the most books per person participating gets a free pizza party.

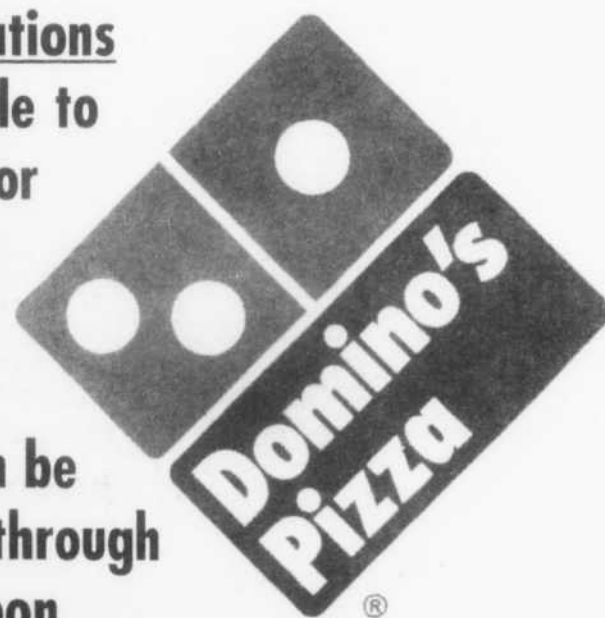


## Organization Competition

The student organization that donates the most books per person participating gets \$100 donated to the charity of their choice.

## Individual Donations

The first 25 people to donate 25 books or more will receive a certificate for a 3 day/2 night vacation. Donations can be taken to KUC 326 through May 2 at noon.



All offices and organizations must register by April 22 to be eligible for prizes. Contact Rebecca at 898-2533 or rep2c@mtsu.edu to get a form, or for more information.



# New program improves housing reapplication

## New process elevates speed, office efficiency

By Tiffany Brown  
Staff Writer

Last fall, MTSU invested in a computer program that should make the process of assigning students on-campus housing more smooth and efficient.

However, Associate Director of Residence Life Vicki Justice-Lowe, said there are some personal touches present in the current manual process of housing placement that may not shine through in the new system.

According to Justice-Lowe, if there are two rooms in which one person from each room wants to be roommates with one from the other, and one of the other roommates vacates, a computer will just fill the hole with someone on the housing waiting list. However, by doing the applications manually, Justice-Lowe said that she would, if possible, allow the two people requesting to be roommates to live together, and then fill that hole with someone in need of housing.

"After upgrades are made to the program, it will be implemented and include an online assignment package and eventually an online application process if everything goes smoothly," Justice-Lowe said.

"We don't expect, nor could we house every student that applies for housing, or that goes to school at MTSU," she said, adding that of roughly 21,000 students, there are only enough spots on campus for 3,500.

Currently, students interested in on-campus housing pay a \$200 deposit, half of which goes toward each semester of an academic year.

In addition to the deposit, students return a license agreement to the housing office, which binds them to a one-year obligation to MTSU housing.

"Probably the first big commitment that a student makes besides deciding to go to college is that they are expected to uphold to their end of the living arrangement for at least two semesters," Justice-Lowe said, referring to the license agreement.

Choice of which type of building to live in, who to room with and what part of campus to live in are all questions the typical student ponders while applying for housing.

Justice-Lowe said that although she often receives the question about which building is best, she thinks buildings have personalities exemplified by the groups of students that reside in them.

"Some populations are there by design. You have all freshmen together within the freshman experience program, within those you have aerospace, undeclared and recording industry majors," she said.

"And then you have different areas all over campus that focus on different subjects, such as athletics, sororities, women in science in McHenry Hall and recording industry majors at Scarlett Commons," Justice-Lowe said.

Justice-Lowe stressed the need for students to be flexible and realistic in their housing requests, emphasizing that early requests are more likely to get granted than those

turned in during the latter part of the spring semester.

"If you are talking about a room that is painted blue, that faces the east side of the building so that the sun comes in at a particular loca-

week period in which all re-applications for housing had to be turned in, and the process was very unorganized," she said.

Now students can start reapplying for the following year's housing as early as the first few weeks of the proceeding fall semester.

"We do everything by hand and by application and re-application date," Justice-Lowe said.

"I do computer programs that tell me your first choice, second choice and your roommate request if

you had one. I can narrow this down by identifying groups of individuals, and then I just read everything that everybody writes," she said.

"We place all individuals who apply or re-apply depending on the situation, according to how early they turn in their applications," she said. Current students who miss the re-application date are put into the mix with all incoming students and lose their priority assignment status.

"One of the things that we try to do is, if you reapply by the deadline, and you want your same room in the same location, we try to put you there," she said.

The same process is applied to roommate requests, but that also hinges on when both roommates reapply, she added.

Depending on the location, roommates might be separated if they do not apply in a timely fashion.

Overflow housing, although a nuisance at first, is necessary

because of a "no show" rate factored into all housing estimates for taking applications and deposits.

"My job is to make sure we do not take any money from you if we are not going to be able to house you," Justice-Lowe said.

She also explained that only one time in her 20 years of working in Housing has the overflow rate diminished within the first week of classes.

Anytime the overflow students remain in a room with three people longer than the first week of classes, portions of their rent are returned to them. Justice-Lowe said that because of this, MTSU is not actually making any extra money off overflow housing, because the amount charged is the regular rent for a two-person room, only split three ways.

"College and living in the dorms is so much more than a place to live," she said, adding that for students who work, however, sometimes it is just that.

"This is an opportunity to be involved with things you will not ever get to be involved with again," Justice-Lowe said. "An apartment complex does not force you to meet people that bring you perspective."

She emphasized that for students who must leave campus before the license agreement is up, go through the formal process of filling out the proper forms and notifying the appropriate people.

This is also true for graduates, who will receive any further deposit or housing money back once their graduation is formalized with the housing department.

"Inundating yourself with school, being involved – all of those things are things you ought to do if at all possible," Justice-Lowe said.

Anyone with housing questions can stop by Keathley University Center, Room 300, or call 898-2971 for more information. ♦

"You have different areas all over campus that focus on different subjects, such as athletics, sororities, women in science in McHenry Hall and recording industry majors at Scarlett Commons."

– Vicki Justice-Lowe  
Associate director of Residence Life

tion, and these are the requests that you have put down, then chances are you probably will not get your wish," she explained.

"However, if you are talking about a population of individuals, then I would say you come closer to getting that particular request granted," she said.

She also explained how requests to live in a certain area with a particular program might not be possible, but that if it is possible, she will locate groups of individuals somewhere else on campus.

"It may not be where they requested, but if I can concentrate them somewhere else, even on an unrecognized floor, so that they can still associate and be involved with each other, I will," she said.

Justice-Lowe emphasized how MTSU's switch to year-round housing reapplications made a big difference in the process for returning students.

"There used to only be a one-

## Sidelines' Housing Guide Special Edition

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# On Campus versus off

## Students unsure on best decision between apartment, dorm room

By Stephanie Hill  
Staff Reporter

One of the main factors to take into consideration when going to school away from home is where to stay once at college.

Should a student live on campus in a dorm or apartment or off campus in one of the many apartment complexes? Both options offer pros and cons for incoming or returning students.

Living on campus, in either a dorm or an apartment, has many advantages and disadvantages. There are many different options to choose from when planning to live in the dorms. Many students chose to live in the traditional dorms with a community bathroom, such as Cummings and Corlew halls.

However, some dorms on campus, such as Judd and Gracy halls, are exterior entries with suite-style bathrooms. Students can also pay a little extra and live in Miss Mary Hall for females and Sims Hall for males, which both offer private rooms.

Students who want to live on campus but also want to live in an apartment can live in either Scarlett Commons or Womack Lane. Womack Lane Apartments are for both single students, who share a one- or two-bedroom apartment with another student, and for families. Students living in Scarlett Commons share a four-bedroom, two-bath apartment complete with a kitchen, living room, dining room and four furnished bedrooms.

"I live in Gore Hall. Living on campus is great because I can walk everywhere. I don't have to drive to school in bad weather and I don't have to walk everywhere looking for a parking space," said Laura Ellis, freshman mass communication major.

Additionally, all residents have network connections in their rooms for Internet access as well as use of five computer labs in various locations such as the honors lab in Wood and Felder halls, which allows students to print, scan and photocopy information for classes. Each dorm also has a lounge area available for students as and as lobbies for studying, recreation or hanging out. Students also have basic cable in their rooms and laundry facilities in each complex.

According to the Housing and Residential Life Web site, all



Photo by Jamie Lorange | Staff Photographer

**Murfreesboro offers numerous choices for students looking to get away from campus but still stay close for classes. The Woods at Greenland on Greenland Drive offers two-, three- and four-bedroom apartments.**

residence halls and apartment complexes on campus are substance free and smoking only is permitted in designated rooms. MTSU has a zero tolerance policy regarding possession or use of drugs or paraphernalia in campus resident halls.

Students who live on campus and want to be involved in school matters can participate in area government and the Housing and Residential Life Judicial Board. Students can also participate in one of the many living learning communities. Students enrolled in the honors program can live in Wood and Felder halls and participate in the Honors Living and Learning Center. Incoming freshmen can live in the First Year Experience Residence Halls – Cummings and Corlew. Students can also participate in the Raider Learning Communities, the Aerospace Learning Community and either the Give Me A Beat Learning Community or the Beat Goes On Learning Community for recording industry majors.

The Housing and Residential Life Web site listed proposed rates for housing for the 2003-2004 school year, but they are subject to approval by the Tennessee Board of Regents.

As proposed, housing fees depend on what hall one chooses to reside in and can range from \$1,193 for a residence hall shared dorm to \$2,324 for a shared apartment with a private bedroom in Scarlett Commons to \$2,088 for a private room in Miss Mary Hall or Sims Hall.

Additional fees apply for summer housing and students must prepay a housing fee of \$200 when submitting an application for the fall semester, which includes both fall and spring semesters and \$125 for the summer term.

Students who choose not to live on campus have a wide variety of options surrounding the campus. Some of the more popular apartment complexes include University Courtyard, University Terrace, the Woods at Greenland, Sterling University Gables, Nottingham Apartments, Oak Park, Raider's

Crossing and LeBeau Chateau Apartments. Prices range from \$300 per month to more than \$500 per month depending on the apartment complex.

Some of the highlights included in many apartment complexes are fitness centers, swimming pools, a 24-hour computer lab, washer and dryer facilities in every unit and a tanning bed. Some apartment complexes such as University Courtyard, Raider's Crossing and the Woods at Greenland also include water, electricity and basic cable in the monthly bill, which causes less stress to students since they only have to write one check each month.

A downside to apartment life is the hassle of searching for a parking space on campus each day.

Unless the apartment complex is in walking distance to campus, such as Nottingham Apartments, located right across Greenland Drive in front of the Murphy Center, most students must drive to campus. Searching for a parking space can be a frustrating experience each day for commuting students.

"A good thing about living off campus is that you have a place to go and get full peace and quiet since with most apartments you have your own room instead of sharing it with another person," said Sheryl Mabry, senior in the College of Business. "The only drawback for me is if I forget an assignment then I have to drive all the way back to my apartment in Oak Park Apartments to get it."

"I live in University Terrace and by living in an apartment I have my own space, my own bedroom," said Natalie Stone, a junior in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. "I can go there when things are getting rough, and I just want to be by myself. Also, I am able to cook or try to which saves a ton of money. I love apartment life but think everyone should experience dorm life." ♦

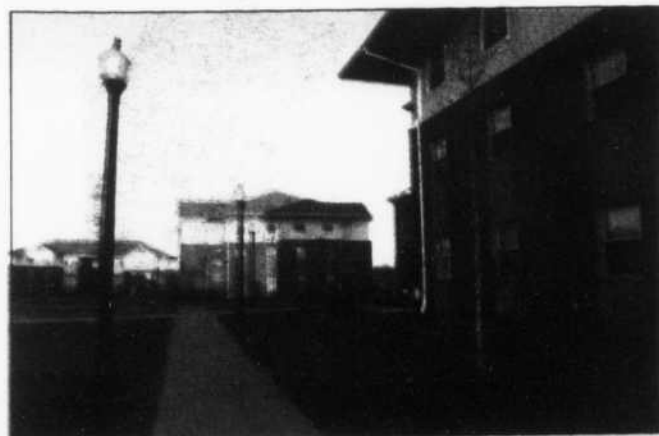


Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

**Scarlett Commons offers students the convenience of an apartment and the proximity of a dorm.**



# Campus provides comforts of home for students, families

By Jennifer Bardoner  
Staff Writer

"I never thought I'd miss carpet and drywall," senior Mary Meyers said.

She traded both in when she and her 4-year-old son, Christian, moved into Womack Lane Apartments, campus' family housing complex. But carpet or not, she's glad they made the move from a Nashville apartment to campus.

"I like living here," she said. "I like that I've met people with kids and that we can help each other out."

She speaks of the friends she's made, one of whom will share babysitting responsibilities with Meyers next semester when they both have a night class. But she also speaks of the friends Christian has made.

"He turned four last week," she said. "We used the center up here. It was the first birthday party he's ever had with other kids. It's always been my friends because I didn't really

know anyone with kids."

But this year Christian and nine of his friends partied in the Womack Lane Clubhouse, which can be reserved for instances such as this. It also serves as the lobby and houses sofas, a big-screen television, the check-in desk where Meyers currently works and day care activities.

However, the day care, which tries to cater to as many students as possible, can only be used Monday, Wednesday and Friday or Tuesday and Thursday. For Meyers, a full-time student, this just wasn't possible.

"I really wanted to send him there," she said. "It's really cheap, and it's really close. But it's just not convenient."

For Meyers, cheap and close describes the entire family housing experience, which is why she chose Womack Lane in the first place.

"I started calling around, and this was the most economical place to live," she said.

Family rates for an unfurnished two-bedroom apartment like

Meyers' are \$2,603 per semester. Students who wish to remain on campus all summer are required to pay an additional \$1,890, which can also be broken down according to summer school sessions. However, students do not have to be enrolled for summer classes in order to keep their housing.

All rates include water, electricity and basic phone, Internet and cable services, a big plus for Meyers, who enjoys not having to worry about bills every month.

"That's one of the main reasons why I moved over here," she said. "You just pay it all at the beginning of the semester. It really takes a load off during the semester."

However, there is a trade-off for all this convenience.

"The bad thing is you can't move in until two days before classes start," she said.

Aside from this and the carpet and drywall issue, there are only a few more slight drawbacks in Meyers' opinion. She points to the lack of a dishwasher and central heat



Photo by Jamie Lorange | Staff Photographer

Senior Mary Meyers and her 4-year-old son, Christian, moved to Womack Lane Apartments from Nashville.

and air. But she said she feels none of those are things you can't live without.

All in all, Meyers recommends Womack Lane to anyone who is considering it.

"It's exactly like a classroom in Peck Hall is what it looks like," she

said.

"But, I will be here until I graduate."

For more information about Womack Lane or any other on-campus housing, visit [www.mtsu.edu/~housing/index.html](http://www.mtsu.edu/~housing/index.html). ♦

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## Housing shortage expected to continue

By Juanita Thouin  
Staff Writer

On-campus housing shortages aren't expected to get any better for the fall of 2003.

According to Assistant Vice Provost Sherian Huddleston, enrollment for this coming fall will be up 5 percent from the fall of 2002.

Included in this increase will be 3,286 freshmen – 150 more than were admitted last year.

With a student population exceeding 20,000 and only 3,500 total on-campus housing spaces, Associate Director of Housing Vicki Justice-Lowe expects to once again have a waiting list.

"I was on a waiting list from May till late in August; it was really stressful," said Corey Barajas, a senior transfer student.

According to Barajas, on-campus housing was an essential part of his being able to come to MTSU.

"I couldn't afford to live off-campus," Barajas said.

Currently he lives in Cummings Hall, a freshman dorm, despite the fact that he's a senior.

Lowe points out that, while the university does have a waiting list, it is comparatively small to the overall student population. Last year's waiting list consisted of 50 students.

According to Lowe, by the time those individuals were called about available overflow space, most of them had found alternate housing.

"Students are going to have to apply earlier and get their business done earlier," Justice-Lowe said.

Lowe stated that university housing has 80 spaces to accommodate overflow housing. She also said there are numerous off-campus apartments and houses available to students.

"Not everyone wants to live on campus," Justice-Lowe said.

Freshman finance major Ben Pendergrast said he never wanted to live on campus.

"I don't like dorms," Pendergrast said. "I just don't like living with that many people."

Pendergrast shares an apartment with only one roommate.

Despite an abundance of off-campus living quarters and overflow on-campus arrangements, Justice-Lowe admits that some will not find a place to live.

"We assist students as best we can," Justice-Lowe said.

Housing posts vacancies on a bulletin board outside their office.

They also provide incoming students with names of realtors and vendors who rent apartments and homes to students.

According to Justice-Lowe, even though Housing is self-supporting, and, therefore, not affected by recent budget cuts, there are no immediate plans to build additional dorms.

"The traditional dorm room is now not what students are accustomed to," Lowe said.

"But there's a big difference between what students want and what they can afford."

Justice-Lowe said many of today's incoming freshmen are used to having their own rooms or even an entire upstairs to themselves.

She said they often find sharing a bedroom and bathroom unappealing. But building single-room dorms is too costly.

Despite these drawbacks, long-term building plans are being discussed.

To make dorm arrangements more attractive, Housing is looking toward restructuring dorms and eventually building new dorms that encompass different themes.

These themes could include dorm housing students with the same major or the same types of interests such as sports or music.

But according to Justice-Lowe, these changes cannot be made until the current program changes stabilize. ♦

## Campus Crime: Not an issue in MTSU housing

Rates of offenses show that students should feel safe

By Jennifer Bardonier  
Staff Writer

Crime plays a miniscule role in MTSU campus life, according to Director of Public Safety Jack Drugmand.

"We have a very safe campus, generally speaking," Drugmand said. "It's certainly not a high crime rate. Relative to other campuses our size and relative to the location that [they and we] are situated in, it's moderate-low."

In the year 2002, there were just more than 24 reported offenses per 1,000 students. Nearly 40 percent of these were cleared by arrest or other means.

According to Drugmand, that means students should feel relatively safe no matter where they are on campus.

"It's a big campus," Drugmand said. "It's spread out, and crime is not concentrated in one area. When there is a problem, it's scattered. You never know where those types of events are going to occur. We try to be everywhere at the same time."

That means 29 Tennessee-certified, full-time law enforcement professionals and a few part-time student officers patrolling and manning the 911 emergency dispatch service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Also aiding in the process is the Public Safety and Security Advisory Committee, which is made up of faculty, staff and students, who discuss safety issues on campus, such as lighting.

Housing has its own security staff in the form of resident assistants, sign-in desks with desk assistants and security cameras.

"Safety is an ongoing program here, and we've got everybody involved in it," Drugmand said.

However, there are always those who slip through the cracks. Drugmand cites theft, or larceny, as the most common of these instances.

"Larceny is our biggest problem," he said. "It probably always has been, and it probably always will be, as [it is] with about 99 percent of other campuses nationwide."

What he calls a "crime of opportunity," occurs when someone takes something that doesn't belong to them, but doesn't take it directly from another person, which is robbery and doesn't illegally enter the premises to get it, which is burglary.

According to Public Safety's Web site, this occurs approximately 180 times per school year. But although theft is the most common problem on campus, Drugmand said he feels crimes against persons, such as rape and assault, are the most important.

"That's where we put most of our efforts in preventative crime," he said. "That's what makes a safe campus."

One such example of these efforts is the rape aggression defense

class offered only to women through the campus police department. Students earn one hour of physical education credit and learn self-defense. At the end of the course, they get the chance to apply what they've learned by taking on the instructor who suits up with padded gear.

"My goal is that every woman who comes through MTSU would take this course," Drugmand said.

He said efforts such as these raise awareness and really make a dent in the crime rate, by "sensitizing people." However, he realizes this alone will not cure the problem, pointing to the fact that MTSU often reflects local crime patterns.

"We are somewhat of a mirror image of what happens in the community," Drugmand said.

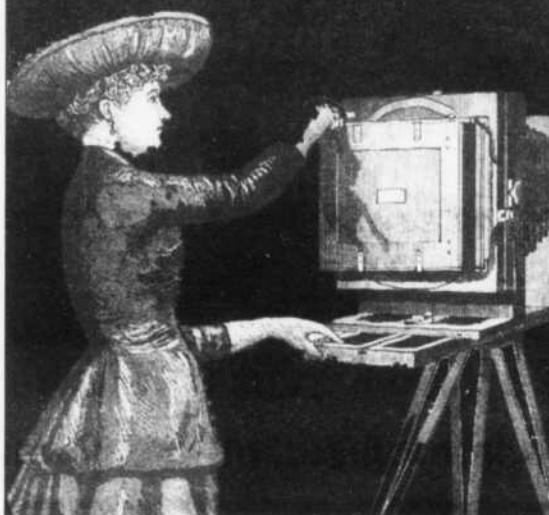
"Percentages will be different, but if burglary's up locally, it will probably be up on campus because we're an open campus. We have so many people coming and going all the time."

And although reluctant to comment generally on the current overall trend, claiming it "doesn't really look at the whole story," he did offer that "when it does increase, it's a marginal increase."

"I think we have a pretty good handle on things," he added.

For a full listing of reported crimes and statistics, visit the campus police's Web site at [www.police.mtsu.edu/crimestats/in dex.html](http://www.police.mtsu.edu/crimestats/in dex.html). ♦

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