



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

"Have you ever pirated software?"

## MT men win season-opener Monday

In Sports, 8



The university's  
editorially independent  
student newspaper

# Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

Volume 79 No. 47

## Campus Briefs

### Child Care Lab hosts holiday party

The MTSU Child Care Lab will be holding its holiday party on Thursday and Friday, beginning at 11 a.m. each day. The lab is located in the Womack Lane Apartment Complex.

For more information, contact Antoinette G. van Zelm at 898-2637.

### Predators T-shirts given for donating blood

The Association of Secretarial and Clerical Employees is sponsoring a blood drive on campus Dec. 2.

Donators will receive a free Nashvillians Predators T-shirt and can sign up to win free Predators tickets.

The blood drive will be in the Keathley University Center, Room 322, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, e-mail amerriman@mtsu.edu. Walk-ins are also welcome.

### Graduates can pick up caps, gowns Dec. 8

Phillips Bookstore will be receiving their list of December graduates Dec. 5. Graduates can pick up their caps and gowns starting Dec. 8 during normal business hours.

There will be a line in front of the bookstore where students can pick up tickets for graduation.

For more information regarding tickets, contact the Executive Vice President and Provost office at 898-2880.

### KUC Grill closing early for Thanksgiving

Campus cafeterias will be on Thanksgiving holiday hours during the break.

The Keathley University Center Grill will close at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and will re-open at 6:30 a.m. Monday. The Cyber Café will close at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and will re-open at 2 p.m. Sunday.

McCallie Dining Hall will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, it will resume regular hours.

The James Union Building Cafeteria will close at 2 p.m. Wednesday and will re-open at 10:30 a.m. Monday.

### Seigenthaler to speak at commencement

The commencement speech for the 93rd academic year at MTSU Dec. 13 will be delivered by John Seigenthaler Sr. The ceremony will be at 10 a.m. and more than 1,300 students will receive degrees.

Seigenthaler is the Chairman Emeritus of the *Tennessean* where he has worked for 43 years in various capacities. He became the founding editorial director of *USA Today* where he served for a decade. ♦

## Complainant claims right to privacy

### Woman kept complaint secret from family

By Kristin Hall  
News Editor

The woman who filed the sexual harassment complaint against President Sidney McPhee contends that her constitutional liberties to privacy would be violated if her identity were released to the public.

Her attorney filed a 27-page motion Monday to reply to the defendant's response in opposi-

tion to the temporary restraining injunction against the Tennessee Board of Regents.

"She possesses a fundamental liberty interest in completely controlling or totally avoiding the dissemination and publication of any of the matters or facts that have been involved in the behaviors and activities complained of as victimizing the plaintiff and adversely affecting the work environ-

ment," the motion stated.

The complaint was filed Oct. 6 and withdrawn Oct. 14. Her attorney, Steven Sager, brought the temporary restraining order against TBR Oct. 16 to prevent the release of the complaint and her identity.

According to the motion, the woman kept secret the matters that are currently under investigation by the TBR, "even from members of her own family,

with the only exception being limited disclosures to close friends with whom she chose to confide on a confidential basis."

The motion stated that disclosure would "impede the objectives by creating a chilling effect on, if not a complete collapse of the reporting of hostile discrimination behavior in the public workplace of Tennessee."

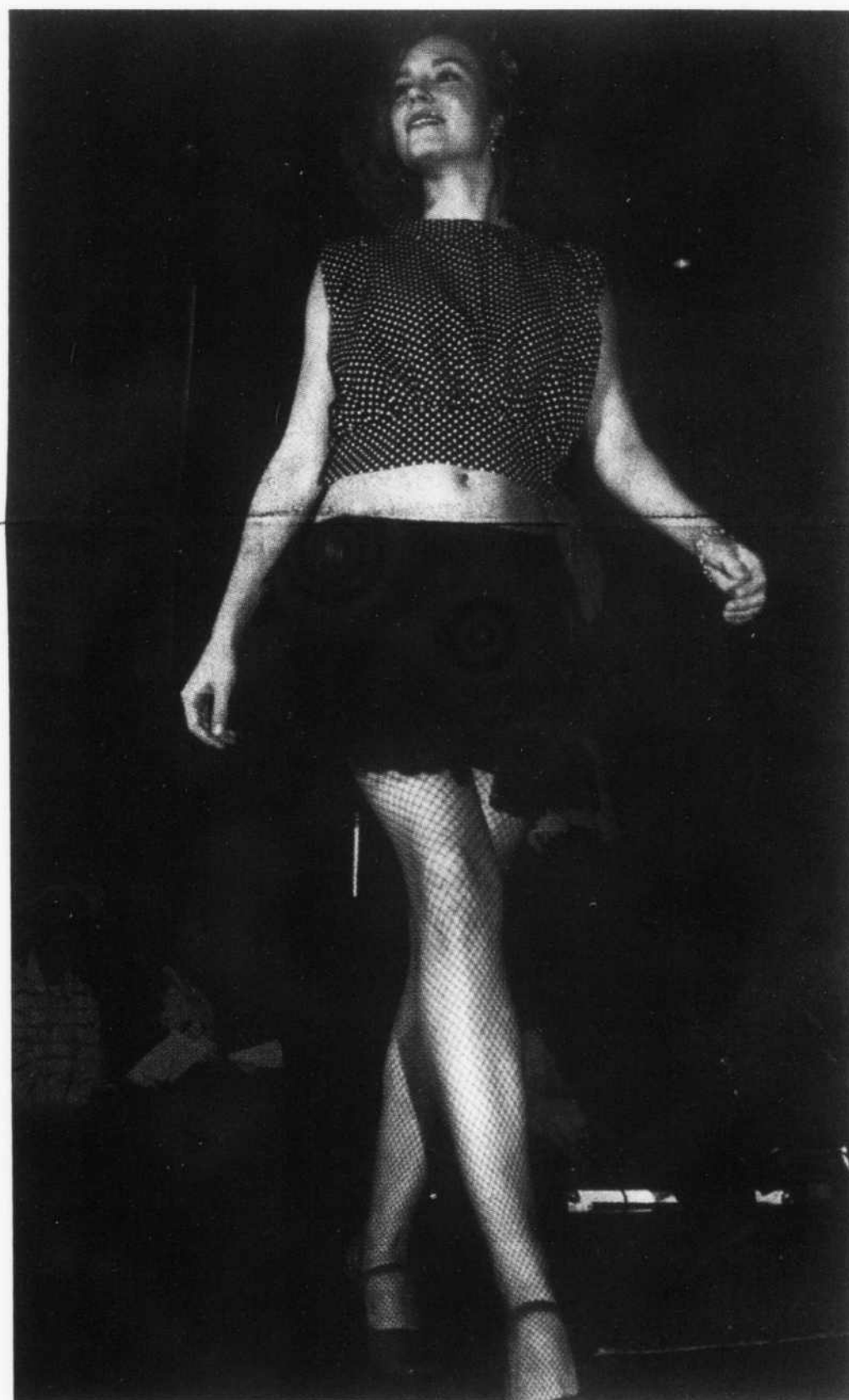
Furthermore, "the plaintiff contends that the record clearly demonstrates the threat of irreparable injury if the unredacted document is published."

The woman contended that she had no warning of the potential for publication to the media when she filed the complaint.

The motion argued that retention of privacy is particularly important in this case "where the initiation of a complaint is becoming a key component of the employer's requirement to take swift remedial action to redress workplace

See Complaint, 2

## On the catwalk



Lindsey Cassity models Cayce Bunch's design at a fashion show on Saturday to benefit Special Kids, a non-profit Christian agency that provides nursing and rehabilitation services to special needs children. The show was primarily organized by students in MTSU's textile merchandising and program.

Photo by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer

## Classes lengthened, semester shortened

### Two weeks shaved off fall 2004 term

By Leah Massey  
Staff Writer

Class times will be extended in the 2004 fall semester, shortening the semester by about two weeks.

Assistant director of the scheduling center Connie Pimentel explained that the Tennessee Board of Regents wants all colleges and universities under its jurisdiction to be on the same schedule. This way, students would be able to take classes from the different schools from semester to semester, like spring to summer, and be on the same schedule at each school.

The semester will be shortened to 15 weeks plus a week of final exams.

"The times have to change because of the common calen-

dar," she said.

It is required that for every credit hour, the student spend 750 minutes in class. To accommodate the two fewer weeks of class, three-day classes will be changed from 50 to 55 minutes, two-day a week classes will change from 75 to 85 minutes, and classes that meet once a week will change to 180 minutes.

These times are effective for the standard three-hour credit courses. Other classes are being changed to meet the new requirements. Departments are now working on scheduling classes for next fall. Corresponding time slots have been created for all existing time slots to easily change classes to the new schedule.

"This is the plan that is the least disruptive," Pimentel said.

Pimentel said that summer class times would not be affected by the changes because each school offers different numbers

See Time, 2

## Parents association hosts holiday dinner

By Kristin Hall  
News Editor

The MTSU Parents Association is providing a free Thanksgiving dinner for students who stay on campus during the holiday break.

From 2 to 6 p.m. in the Scarlett Commons Clubhouse, a catered turkey dinner with all fixings will be free to students.

"This is the third or fourth year that we've done this," said Becca Wilson, from the Parents Association.

"This is for students remaining here on campus to have a Thanksgiving meal," Wilson

said. "We have the resources to provide it so we're going to do it."

Wilson said that in the past anywhere from 50 to 75 students attend the dinner. She also said that it's not just foreign students who come.

"There are a lot of students who can't go home for one reason or another, too far away or job obligations," Wilson said.

The catering is provided by Through the Grapevine, a catering service on Broadmore Boulevard.

"All students are welcome," Wilson said. ♦

## Gore talks about racism, human nature

By B.J. Chaplin  
Staff Writer

Former Vice President Al Gore encouraged acknowledging racism inherent in human nature and working to correct it in a lecture held at MTSU yesterday.

The lecture, part of the American Democracy Lecture series, was broadcast live via satellite to more than 30 universities across the nation.

"I do believe we are inherently vulnerable to the 'sin' of racism, if you'll allow me to use a religious word," Gore said.

He insisted that he was "not proselytizing here," but he used his faith to illustrate a metaphor for racism.

"In my faith tradition, the first act of violence in the Bible is when one brother kills another," he said. "Cain killed Abel."

He then explained that, according to the Bible, God accepted Abel's offering and then rejected Cain's.

"Cain felt dissed," he said.

"Preferential treatment" such as this, Gore argued, is one of the bases of racism. He also linked his theory to atrocities in Rwanda, the Balkans and other places of genocide.

He said that in Sri Lanka, although different ethnic groups "coexisted for a long time," for example, that violence ensued "when there was a colonial power that differentiated between them."

The differences, he argued, are then conflated by the media or the government and become points of division.

"They invest these differences with exaggerated proportions," he said.

Gore said that the first step to combating racism is acknowledging that it exists.

"Race is always present," Gore said, paraphrasing claims he said were made by historian John Hope Franklin. "If you pretend it is not, you are deceiving yourself."

"But if you acknowledge it and deal with it in appropriate way," he added, "we can transcend it."

See Gore, 2



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Former Vice President Al Gore spoke about racism in America at the State Farm Lecture Hall in the Business and Aerospace Building yesterday.



## Complaint: No date set for future hearing

Continued from 1

sexual harassment."

However, the plaintiff conceded that the public has an interest in the case because it regards the treatment of employees by public officials.

But she stated that her identity and her related health matters were not necessary to be disclosed.

Political Science Chairman John Vile explained that privacy

is not explicitly stated in the Constitution, but through Supreme Court decisions is generally regarded as a right for all citizens.

"The first modern case that is usually cited is *Griswold v. Connecticut*, involving the right to use birth control," Vile said. "In which the court essentially discovered, or invented the right to privacy, depending on your political viewpoint."

"Essentially what they said is

that although the word privacy is not mentioned in the Constitution, that there are several phrases in the Constitution that relate to privacy and implicate it," he explained.

These related freedoms include the Third Amendment, which denies the government access to house troops in a private residence and the Fourth Amendment, which guarantees the right against unreasonable search and seizure.

"What the court said was that these specific guarantees had penumbras, basically a shadow," Vile said. "If you line up these guarantees together, you would come up with the equivalent of a privacy right."

TBR's attorney, Kevin Steiling, has until Dec. 1 to decide whether or not to respond to Monday's motion. No date has been set for a future hearing regarding this case. ♦

## Time: Fall break shifted Saturday, Monday, Tuesday

Continued from 1

of sessions.

"Rooms and enrollment are not an issue in the summer," she added.

The spring 2005 semester will follow the same basic schedule. Next semester will not be affected by the time changes.

Because of the changes, some of the breaks have also been

changed. Instead of being on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, fall break will be shifted to Saturday, Monday and Tuesday.

The university holiday that is usually taken on Good Friday in the spring semester will become a part of Spring Break in 2005.

The time changes go into effect at the same time as the 120 hour credit change and the changes in general require-

ments.

Fall classes will begin Aug. 30, the last day of classes will be Dec. 8, and the following day has been designated a study day. Final exams will be given between Dec. 10 and 16.

The spring 2005 semester will begin on Jan. 18, the day after the Martin Luther King Holiday. Spring break for that semester will run from March 7

to 12, encompassing Good Friday. Finals will be held from April 29 to May 5.

Students can check the academic calendar link on the MTSU homepage for a more detailed list of important dates in the fall and spring semester of 2004-05. ♦

## Gore: Minority groups left out of 'American Dream'

Continued from 1

Another theory Gore proposed that contributes to racism is "vicarious traumatization," in which one generation passes down racist feelings to another. These feelings arise, he said, when one race feels discriminated against by another. These feelings of injustice, according to Gore, are just as fresh and personal to the new generation as they are to the old.

"If the experience is a traumatic experience...that experience is transmitted into a memory that has no time tag," Gore said. "It doesn't decay. It doesn't weaken. When it is recalled, it is ever-present."

Gore also used attachment

theory, which is based, according to Gore, "on the study of infants interacting with their primary caregivers to examine the origins of racism and its effects."

Gore argued that when an infant is in distress and makes its distress known, the response it receives shapes its view of the world.

"If the response is appropriate, reliable, [and] consistent, then the infant learns an important ability: 'I have power to affect the world around me. I have power,'" Gore said.

If the opposite holds true, Gore said, "then the infant learns a lesson of powerlessness."

The feeling of powerlessness then, "often ferments into rage,"

Gore said. The feeling of helplessness holds true for minority groups who feel left out of the "American dream," Gore said.

While he insisted that he was not condoning violence, racism or rioting, Gore said that the process of communication and representation between the majority and minority races needs to be further examined.

"Democracy depends upon clear communication," he said.

Characteristic of Gore, some not-too-subtle critiques of the current presidential administration were made by Gore.

"I think that for the president of the United States to claim in a (television) ad that those that are against war in Iraq are against attacking terrorists is a disgrace," Gore said.

That kind of campaigning, Gore said, is not characteristic of presidential campaigning.

"It's something you'd find in a down-and-dirty sleazy campaign for city council or something," he said.

Gore also attacked President George W. Bush for what Gore views as too far-reaching powers to incarcerate suspected terrorists. He said that Bush labels them "enemy combatants...if he can pronounce those words."

Gore also tied what he called one of racism's roots — fear — to the fear he believed Bush used as a "political weapon" to garner support for war in Iraq.

"I'm concerned that he's turning out to be a divider, not a uniter," Gore said. ♦



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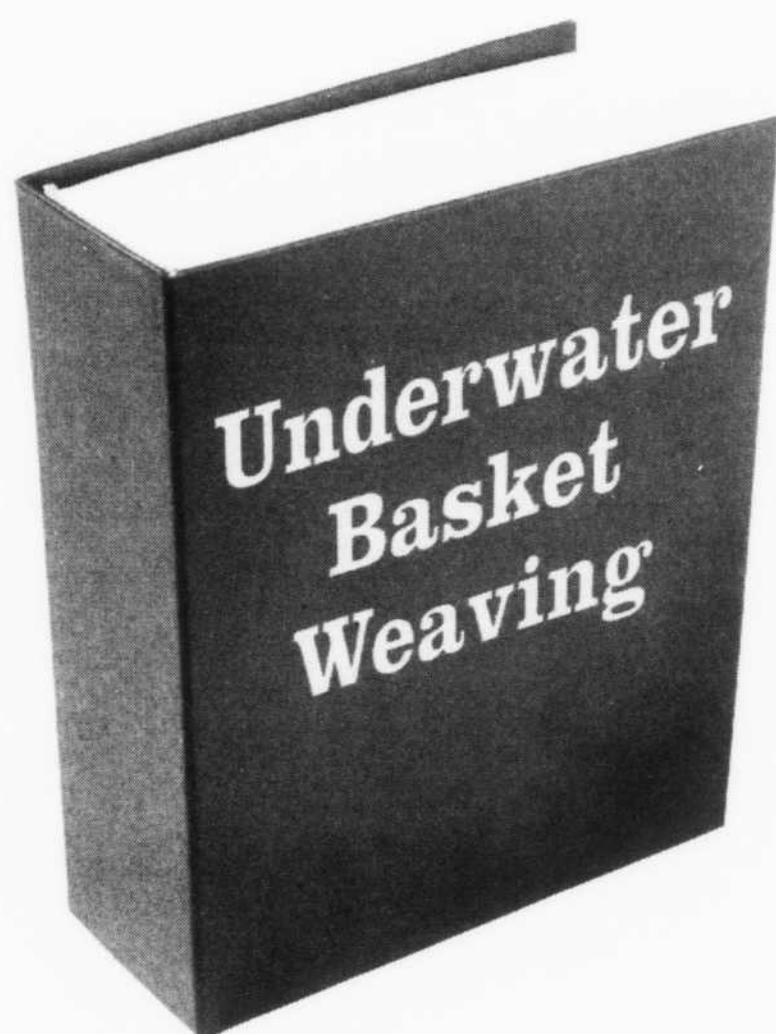
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# Holiday sales to hit a downturn this year

By Tomislav Ladika  
Michigan Daily

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The holiday shopping season unofficially kicks off this Friday, but according to a University of Michigan analyst, an increasing number of consumers are buying presents at any time of year— as long as they can get them at discount.

This trend might hurt businesses that expect the traditional sales boost during the holiday season. About 40 percent of consumers have traditionally shopped on the day after Thanksgiving, according to the American Express Retail Index.

Business School Professor Aradhna Krishna said many consumers have become accustomed to buying their gifts on

sale. An increasing number of opportunistic consumers are searching for and purchasing gifts that are on sale throughout the year and then saving them for the holidays.

But this trend has been hurting the profits of businesses because consumers are buying items at discounts instead of at the regular prices, Krishna said.

"Typically, the amount sold at regular prices has been decreasing over time," she said.

Senior Julie Sprunk said she is planning on shopping for holiday presents during the Thanksgiving break but added that she also buys gifts before the holiday season if she can find them at reduced prices.

"I have a big drawer that if I find something that's on sale, I just put it in there," she said.

Tree Omar, manager of the State Street Bivouac, said people have been buying holiday presents since the beginning of the school year, and especially since Halloween. He said people occasionally buy items for their boyfriends or girlfriends and save them for Christmas.

Krishna added that another recent trend has been the increase in holiday purchases made online.

While businesses may be hoping that the recovering economy and higher consumer confidence will lead to a boost in sales this season, data indicate that holiday shopping will not increase by a significant amount, according to Business School professor Claes Fornell.

Customer satisfaction with the goods that they buy has not

changed recently, indicating that consumer spending also will not increase, said Fornell, who compiles the American Customer Satisfaction Index.

The satisfaction index differs from the university's Index of Consumer Sentiment in that it measures how happy people are with the quality of items they buy, Fornell said.

Consumer confidence measures how confident people are that the economy will perform well in the future, he said.

Fornell said this year's holiday shopping season will be an improvement over last year's — which he called "pretty bleak" — but will not be as successful as in the years before the recession that began in 2001.

"I don't think we'll see much of an increase in spending over

the last quarter," he said. "People are still cautious and there's a question of where the money will come from."

Fornell added that earlier in the year, people could spend more because they had received extra pocket change from President Bush's tax cut program, and he says consumers face high mortgage payments on their houses, he said.

Sprunk said from what she has heard from friends and classmates, she also believes people will spend more money this holiday season than last year but not as much as several years ago.

Although national gross domestic product, the total of all goods and services produced in the United States, increased by 7.2 percent in the third quar-

ter of this year— the biggest quarterly jump since 1984— economists also predict the growth will level off soon.

Saul Hymans, director of the university's Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics, said national GDP growth will increase by 4.5 percent in the fourth quarter — a decline of almost 3 percent from the "remarkable" third quarter.

Fornell said his predictions about the future of the national economy are more conservative than those of some economists, but he said lower growth and consumer spending this holiday season could actually benefit the economy in the long run.

"I think it's much better to have sustained, slower growth" than rapid bursts of growth, he said. ♦

## Kentucky council passes keg identification ordinance

By Ryan Garrett  
Kentucky Kernel

(U-WIRE) LEXINGTON, Ky. — University of Kentucky students may want to stock up on kegs before midnight New Year's Eve this year, because when the ball drops at Times Square, the new keg-tagging law drops on Lexington.

Lexington-Fayette Urban Council voted 12-2 last Friday in favor of the law.

Second District Councilman Jacques Wigginton abstained, saying he wasn't caught up on the issue.

First district representative George Brown voted against the ordinance.

"We are passing a feel-good ordinance that does nothing to solve the problem of underage drinking," Brown said.

Seventh District Councilman Bill Cegelka joined Brown with his vote against the ordinance.

The law requires retailers to put a keg identification tag on all kegs of six or more gallons. That identification tag can then be traced back to the keg purchaser through information the retailer obtained during the sale.

The purchaser is also required to sign a document that states they are 21 or older, do not intend to serve underage people, will not remove the keg

identification tag and will produce a copy of the registration form upon the request of any law enforcement officer.

Any purchaser who fails the law can be punished with a fine up to \$500.

Clare Lahr, owner of Coliseum Liquor at Rose Street and Avenue of Champions, doesn't think the ordinance will affect keg sales, which she said currently account for about five percent of the store's revenue.

"I don't think it will be effective," Lahr said. "They buy a keg to have a party. It's their. They've got younger people drinking out of it. What are they going to do about it?"

James Murphy, a pre-physi-

cian therapy freshman, said it will make underage people less likely to ask friends to buy kegs for them but won't stop underage students from drinking.

"There will probably be an increase in the amount of beer bought in bottles," he said.

Lahr thinks the ordinance, despite what supporters have argued, is directed toward her collegiate patrons.

"If you're having a party, and you're old enough, and a guy you have a class with shows up, and his girlfriend is underage, how would you know?" she said.

Jessica Kordis, a political science senior, agreed.

"What are you going to do — hold one person responsible

for a party that 300 people are at?" she said. "Are they supposed to check IDs at the door?"

Sgt. Rick Bottoms from the Lexington's Alcohol Beverage Control said the focus of the ordinance goes beyond students.

"The keg ordinance is basically to prevent underage drinking," he said. Kordis raised another concern students have had with the issue as well.

"If the property owner is already responsible for any underage drinking, why make the person who bought the keg liable as well?" she asked.

Bottoms disagreed.

"That responsibility is already there, but the keg ordi-

nance will reemphasize that," Bottoms said.

Lahr doesn't expect a coalition of liquor retailers to challenge the ordinance the same way the Lexington-Fayette County Food and Beverage Association tackled the smoking ban.

"It's just something else we have to deal with," Lahr said. "It's just another way for the city to make money."

SG Vice President Matt Rippetoe said it is still possible the ordinance will be challenged.

"We've been concentrating on defeating it before it was passed," Rippetoe said before the meeting. ♦

## Experts at Ohio State University blame college culture for riots

By Derrik Chinn  
The Lantern

(U-WIRE) COLUMBUS, Ohio — A lack of campus bars is not necessarily what causes a riot. Instead, experts suggest a youth culture built upon binge drinking is to blame.

The second half of the two-day National Conference Addressing Issues Related to Celebratory Riots hosted by Ohio State University concluded Friday.

David Andrews, professor of human development and family science, made a presentation focused on defining the causes of celebratory riots and offered recommendations to prevent future disturbances.

"Students will tell you the reason we have more riots now is because we shut down all the bars [on a street near campus]," Andrews said. "Does this mean

we need more bars? No, not necessarily. But does it mean that many disturbances happen in residential areas close to campus where there is a high volume of alcohol consumption? I think we can say, 'Yes.'"

Andrews said areas where students live in high density and have created a culture of high-volume alcohol consumption are the key places where riots occur.

Most are deteriorating neighborhoods that involve no student investment as well as no long-term living commitment and, therefore, little respect for property.

"We really need to get a handle on the fact that we're dealing with young adults who are in a particular state of development that has implications for our response," he said.

Andrews said riots typically involve young, white, adult

males and a large crowd of predominantly white onlookers of both genders.

Many rioters are students of the host institution, but some are from elsewhere.

"The predominant car-flipping and fire-setting group is of a very narrow age group of young, white males," Andrews said. "There is an incredible amount of homogeneity in the group. Part of the solution is breaking up that sameness because in that sameness is where you get the group support and anonymity."

Andrews listed three types of celebratory riot participants: Those who are curious and want to observe; those who want to party hard and consider police actions provocation for destructive behavior; and those whose intent is creating a disturbance and participating in destructive behavior.

"Students who are the hosts of the large parties that spark riots say, 'Why can't we have a party? It's my right to have a party as big as it wants to be,'" he said.

Riots that have occurred near OSU and other major campuses around the nation all share three key observations: The riots occurred late at night or during the early hours of the morning; involved high alcohol consumption and the destruction of both public and private property; and occasionally, but not always, related to sporting events.

"Sporting events are just an opportunity to gather," Andrews said. Game days, however, tend to involve the suspension of rules of civility, he said.

Andrews, who served as chairman of a joint OSU-Columbus, Ohio, task force on preventing celebratory riots last

December, identified specific weekends throughout the school year that are at a high risk for a possible riot.

"If you look across our campus, we have about 10 or 11 weekends that are high-risk weekends," he said. "All home football games in the fall and four or five weekends in the spring."

Andrews' suggestions for preventing future riots included: communicating the consequences of illegal and dangerous behavior, enforcing underage drinking and open container laws, utilizing surveillance measures, expanding a mutual aid agreement between University Police and the Columbus Division of Police, incorporating students into developing and implementing enforcement strategies and creating more late-night activities for students.

Such short-term goals, however, are only treating the fever, Andrews said.

Long-term goals involve instilling pride and enhancing positive engagement, promoting safety and health, and preventing illegal and irresponsible behavior.

John Rensink, speaker of the Senate for the Undergraduate Student Government, spoke briefly about USG's efforts to lessen the possibility of riots.

"We find that the biggest solution is keeping the party smaller," Rensink said. "We started planning events on campus that are live bands and DJs with loud music and free food."

"On any given night there are a couple of things students can do," he said. "It's not an alcohol-related event, but it is something students want to go to. It's where their friends are." ♦

## Congress fights textbook prices

By Stacie Vasko  
Indiana Daily Student

(U-WIRE) BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — A new bill in Congress could ease the pain felt by college students buying textbooks each semester.

Congressman David Wu, D-Ore., and members of the House Education Committee, introduced a bill to the House of Representatives Thursday to have the General Accounting Office, the investigative division of Congress, look into why American students pay more for textbooks than students overseas.

The GAO will also determine why U.S. college bookstores are banned from buying cheaper alternatives, like used books or paperbacks, that universities overseas have access to, according to a statement made by Wu Thursday in Washington, D.C.

"American college students should not have to pay double what overseas students pay for identical college textbooks," Wu said in the statement. "The pricing practices of the college textbook industry defy common sense, and today I am announcing legislation to get to the bottom of it."

Wu started taking action when he talked to Portland State University's bookstore manager and found out this had been a source of frustration for quite some time, said Cameron Johnson, Wu's spokesperson. Textbooks in the United States can be as much as \$100, whereas the same textbook in paperback overseas is \$50.

"Textbooks that Americans could buy overseas, even with the shipping, are significantly cheaper," Johnson said. "Given tuition is rising at high levels for American families sending their kids to college, we want to find out why this is happening. Is there price gouging going on? We just don't know."

Indiana University senior Jeffery Toschlog, an employee at T.I.S. College Bookstore, 1302 E. Third Street, is in favor of the bill's progression.

"I'm going to like it if it will lower the prices ... because, of course, I don't like paying for books," Toschlog said. "I think people are going to buy books no matter what, but there would be a more positive attitude among students and their parents if the prices of books become lower."

If Wu's goal is reached, students will not be the only ones affected. Bookstores across the nation will benefit as well.

"I feel good about the efforts being made by the congressman," said Paul Hazel, director of the IU Bookstore in the Indiana Memorial Union. "Some progress has been made but not nearly as much as what Congress can do."

It may be up to a year before the GAO's investigation will support further progress of Wu's bill, according to his statement.

Johnson said he wants students interested in supporting the process to know they should contact their congressman and tell them to co-sponsor HR3567.

"That's the best way for anyone to help," he said.

Given the encouragement of Wu and his supporters, the bill could potentially make the ride through college less bumpy.

"College students and American families have to pay for tuition, room and board, books and travel," Johnson said. "We want to reduce the overall cost of a college education. We want to make college as affordable as possible." ♦

This isn't the time to question his education.

This is.

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## From the Editorial Board

### We want it both ways

The Tennessee Board of Regents has regulated school schedules and class times across the board. This has the effect of shortening the MTSU semester by two weeks.

Great, right?

Yes, but it's not without a downfall.

Starting in the fall of 2004, longer classes will accompany a shorter semester. Fifty minute classes will become 55 minutes, and classes that are currently one hour and 15 minutes will become an 85-minute marathon. In addition, classes that meet one day a week will be a grueling three-hour affair.

No one can argue against shortening the semester, except for those of us who use the last two weeks to get a semester's worth of work done. These fine academics may find the new schedule somewhat more hectic.

For everyone else, it means no starting school at the same time we did in high school. There's no reason college courses should be starting two weeks before Labor Day. After all, isn't that why many of us looked forward to coming to college?

As for the longer classes, it's quite possible that very little additional education will come from this time. Until everyone gets used to the new schedule, the usual mumbling roar, shifting of books and zipping of zippers will commence at the regular time. It's going to take time for students to adjust to staying that long, and professors will have to adapt their lesson plans (some of which have undoubtedly sat untouched for years) to fit the new times.

It has also been shown that students tend to absorb more in shorter classes, and the longer classes might actually detract from learning.

In the end, however, we're selfish and want the shorter semester along with shorter classes. Is that really so wrong? ♦

## Kennedy, Jackson receive too much coverage



Filler

Brandon Morrison  
Staff Columnist

John F. Kennedy and Michael Jackson: Two people that should never be mentioned in the same sentence without some long explanation following it to elaborate.

This past weekend, people across the country stopped for a moment to remember the tragic death of their 35th president.

At the same time, everyone kept part of his or her focus on the criminal problems of Jackson.

At least, that's the image the media painted for its viewers.

On the 40th anniversary of Kennedy's assassination, media outlets across the country focused on Kennedy's impact on the country.

If a station felt it had publicized enough about Kennedy, it shifted its attention onto the King of Pop's rap sheet.

While the coverage of Kennedy and Jackson were both worth covering, the attention they draw is staggering.

Ultimately, the remembrance of Kennedy's death is another step in letting go and forgetting the dead. Jackson's issues with children are only drawing attention because of his superstar status.

Both stories touch far fewer lives than say, the growing AIDS epidemic in Africa or the recent upheaval of the government of Georgia. Despite

that, media outlets easily devoted more time and space to these two than any other subject over the past few days.

Our media has a bad habit of overinflating one particular subject, causing everything else to seem relatively unimportant.

This distortion skews the importance of all news, and news organizations tend to throw away their once favorite fodder in favor of new stories without any sign of remorse.

Remember a few weeks ago when everyone was talking about the possibility that Prince Charles is gay? What about the whole fiasco over the Reagan miniseries on CBS? How many people today would mistake the name Roy Moore for a former James Bond actor?

Granted, not all news is

going to remain timely and interesting forever.

Most people really don't care if Prince Charles is gay or not, the Reagan movie probably wasn't worth watching anyway and Roger Moore has certainly done more to deserve a place in history than any Alabama Supreme Court justice could ever hope to do.

This constant cycle of misguided direction causes the appearance of no real weight in news stories.

If a story disappears after a few days due to lack of interest, it apparently has no bearing on the minds of the people.

While shoving off characters like Moore may not be such a bad idea, dropping the ball on stories of real importance rids the media of any sense of continuity.

The media gets criticized almost daily for sensationalizing stories of little importance while sweeping under the rug what is not important.

In reality, journalists do try to look for the important stories.

If there's anything kept secret by the media itself, it's the outward appearance of confidence that hides its frantic undertones.

The media doesn't know any more than anyone else what is going to be important tomorrow, yet it is the position of trying to predict what stories matter and what's just gossip. ♦

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

## Buy Nothing Day provides shopping mall alternatives



Ramblings of a Madwoman

Shana Hammaker  
Staff Columnist

It's that time of year again.

Time to give thanks and gorge ourselves on turkey and dressing.

Time to laugh with family, share happy memories and fall asleep on the couch while watching football.

Most importantly, the day after Thanksgiving marks the time to stay home, lock up our credit cards and make a radical statement against America's consumer culture.

That's right — it's time for Buy Nothing Day.

Buy Nothing Day was originally the creation of a Canadian media group called Adbusters ([www.adbusters.org](http://www.adbusters.org)) as a way to respond to the obnoxious consumer-fest Americans normally participate in the day after Thanksgiving. What they didn't anticipate was how wide and how fast it would spread.

Last year, individuals and groups in more than 60 countries around the world took part in Buy Nothing Day festivities.

Buy Nothing Day advocates argue that the Christmas season is supposed to be about spirituality and family, not credit cards and shopping malls. It's supposed to be a time of reflection and joy, not frantic spending and angry crowds.

They chose the day after Thanksgiving — the traditional opening day of the shopping season — because it has become a holiday in itself, a holiday for shopping. Buy Nothing Day enthusiasts have thus chosen this day to participate by not participating.

So what do Buy Nothing Day-ers do the day after Thanksgiving? Do they just sit at home and stare at the walls, feeling smug because they aren't joining in the mindless consumption frenzy?

Hardly. Many families spend the day engaging in meaningful family activities. Other more activist-oriented individuals perform acts of civil disobedience and colorful street theater, all designed to draw attention to the absurdity and destructiveness of the compulsive consumption that characterizes the holiday season.

Because Buy Nothing Day events are generally not organized beyond a very local level, events are always very unique and sometimes spontaneous, but some favorites have spread via the Internet and are performed in different places year after year.

Consider, for example, the Zen Santas, or Zenta Clause, as they're called in Japan.

These are groups of people dressed in Santa suits who find a public place to engage in group meditation. Another favorite is called Whirl Mart. Activists go to their nearest Wal-Mart and form human trains, each with a shopping cart, and speed through the aisles.

Last year in the Channel Islands, Buy Nothing Day activists dressed up as doctors and set up a mock clinic in a public square.

Some handed passers-by prescriptions for a simpler lifestyle, while others checked people's eyesight on an optician's eye chart that read "consume less live more."

In the Netherlands last Buy Nothing Day, a superhero called ScanMan (he wore a barcode on his chest) cut up credit cards for those who wanted to drop out of the spending cycle, but needed some

assistance.

In the capital city of Amsterdam, activists set up a booth and distributed information about the consequences of hyper-consumption.

Buy Nothing Day resonates with the many, many people around the world who feel that the holiday season is too commercial.

Many Christian groups, especially, feel that we've gotten away from the true spirit of Christmas. One group (learn about them at [buynothingchristmas.org](http://buynothingchristmas.org)) advocates Buy Nothing Day as a means to return to more traditional Christian values. Their Web site offers free downloadable posters and flyers that contain anti-consumption, pro-Christian messages such as a quote from Jesus Christ ("Where did I say that you should buy all sorts of stuff to celebrate my birthday?") and "Unscramble the letters in Christmas and it spells don't shop."

This and every year, millions of Americans will wake up extra early the day after Thanksgiving so they can line up at the crack of dawn outside their local Targets or Wal-Marts in order to take advantage of the sales.

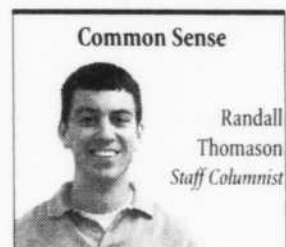
This and every year, we'll read in the paper about grown men and women getting in fist fights over the last toy at the toy store. This and every year, shoppers will return home with their credit cards run up and their bank accounts depleted, with bags full of unnecessary junk.

Why not drop out this year? Why not participate by not participating?

Make this day after Thanksgiving a Buy Nothing Day. ♦

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## America worthy of thanks



Common Sense

Randall Thomason  
Staff Columnist

Tomorrow marks my favorite holiday on the calendar. I think it's wonderful that we live in a nation with an official holiday set aside for the purpose of giving thanks.

However, I worry that many people in America

use their quota of thankfulness on that one day. We should all pause every day to give thanks for the blessings we have received in our lives. As Americans, it's literally impossible to count or even imagine the multitude of good things we have of which to be thankful to the Lord.

For years, people have debated the course of the United States and developed a "glass half-full or glass half-empty" attitude. But there is no question in my mind that we have much to be thankful for and optimistic about.

From sea to shining sea, our land is truly rich, not only in resources, but also in sheer beauty. From the breathtaking views of two oceans, the roar of Niagara Falls, the lofty grandeur of the Rocky Mountains and the simple pleasures of nature such as gently moving streams and magnificent wildlife, America's beauty shines so vividly that not even the harshest cynic can deny it.

We should also be thankful every day for our form of government that the founders of our nation so brilliantly laid out more than 200 years ago. We take for granted our basic freedoms that so many others throughout the world cannot even imagine.

Free elections have been a staple in America for generations — a blessing that many other nations have just recently granted to their people, and many more continue to silence the voices of their people.

Dating back to the election of 1800, our government has enjoyed seamless transitions of power when the reigns of the nation have been passed to a different party. Our most recent presidential election is a prime example of what may have resulted in civil war in perhaps a majority of the rest of the world. Though partisan divides may be bitter at times, we are blessed to have leaders who are willing to ensure that democracy remains intact during hotly contested elections.

There are those who point to the few black marks in America's history as evidence that the fruited plain we sing of is not as great a country as people such as myself like to think. However, we can be thankful we live in a nation that does not attempt to cover its problems.

Mistreatment of the American Indians during the nation's early settling, the country's lone civil war having been fought over the ludicrous notion of slavery and prolonged civil rights problems are portions of our history that we learn about in school growing up.

Something tells me a leader like Saddam Hussein didn't bother to inform his people that he routinely used weapons of mass destruction on segments of his own people.

There is a tendency of some in this nation to try to point out problems and harp on negatives endlessly, perhaps due to a mentality that America is only a few small tweaks away from a utopia.

To an honest observer, America is as perfect as it gets, and trying to improve our governmental structure is largely a useless endeavor. We are a free nation, a wealthy nation and a powerful nation because of the grace of God and many hard working individuals in our past and present.

I readily admit that I am an optimist. I do not apologize for believing our nation is great and that we should be ever thankful to be citizens of a free land.

Some will dismiss me as corny or criticize me for painting an overly romanticized portrait of America, but I urge everyone this Thanksgiving not to cease giving thanks after your turkey has digested on Thursday.

Take time out each day to ponder what we have been given as a people, and the responsibility that we all have to ensure that we use our blessings for good. I firmly believe that when we stop to examine our lives as Americans, we will find that our glass is not half full, but rather overflowing. ♦

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# Preemptive strike defense does not justify war

## Yesterday's Tomorrow



John Miller  
Staff Columnist

A recent letter to the editor brands Howard Dean as anti-military and pro-Saddam Hussein because he said he would not have voted for the war, nor the war supplement of a whopping \$87 billion.

I don't want to leave our troops high and dry in the Iraqi desert, but had we not incited this war in the first place, we would not need the additional \$87 billion, nor to mention the loss of life our troops have endured.

This being said, some people will want to label me as anti-military, pro-Saddam and radical liberal just as they have

Dean. However, I must ask this: Where are the weapons of mass destruction we heard about for months? Bush told the American people, the United Nations and the world we would find them, yet they are still elusive.

The truth of the matter is Iraq had nothing to do with the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, apparently WMDs and the threat piles of WMDs did not have Hussein posed was minimal at worst.

Despite all these facts, we invaded a sovereign nation.

"But Hussein was an evil and brutal dictator," some will say. Don't you think that the Iraqi people are better off now?

Absolutely. However, I cannot say that the end justified the means. The better course of action would have been to take a legitimate, truthful case to the United Nations and enlisted the aid of the world community to force Hussein to step down, by

force if necessary.

The United States did dispose a horrible dictator. However, I have a hard time believing it was for the benefit of the Iraqi people. There are millions of people who live in fear of their government every day, yet we do not help them.

Is this because their despot does not possess WMDs, or because their countries do not possess any oil?

As we all know, North Korea possess nuclear weapons. Unless Kim Jong Il gets what he wants, he fully intends on producing more. However, the Bush administration's policy in regard to North Korea has been almost the exact opposite as it was in Iraq. The administration has often broken off negotiations and threatened economic sanctions, which the leader of North Korea has said he would consider an act of war.

What is more dangerous, a

crazy leader who may have nuclear weapons, or one who aspires to have nuclear weapons?

The "preemptive" strike defense is something I have often heard in justifying the Iraq war.

This has significant implications beyond just this war, both here and abroad. What is to stop other countries from using a "preemptive" strike to eliminate a perceived threat to their national security?

For instance, what if tomorrow India decides it's in its best natural interest to nuke Pakistan, or North Korea to declare war on South Korea and Japan (as well our troops stationed there)?

For those of you who think I am just another radical liberal, let me leave you with a few facts to chew on. President Dwight Eisenhower, the highest-ranking officer of the largest war

ever, refused to increase the budget of the Defense Department by as much as a dollar in his entire eight years in office.

Furthermore, this was at the onset of the Cold War and during the height of the second Red Scare (thanks, Sen. Ronald Reagan, who never served in the military, gave the Pentagon everything it asked for and even money for some things they did not, like pipe dream *Star Wars* weapons).

The United States also saw the creation of more jobs under President Bill Clinton (aided by a Republican Congress and the Internet boom) than ever before. In addition, several of the grants people use to attend MTSU are thanks to Clinton. Under George W. Bush, the economy is worse than it has been in decades.

Furthermore, Bush is the

only president in history to cut taxes during a recession, and at the same time increase the deficit.

Bush's policies have not worked here at home, nor have they abroad.

The two things that he succeeded very well at were, cutting taxes for the rich, and disposing Hussein.

After his three years in office, Bush has enacted few, if any, policies that I have agreed with or benefited from.

The question we should ask ourselves when an elected official comes up for reelection is this: Are we better off now than we were before?

Well, are we? ♦

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

## Letter to the Editor

### Anti-war does not equal pro-Saddam

To the Editor:

As a 60-year-old in the state of Washington, it never ceases to be interesting reading when your online paper gets to me. I always make sure to read the opinion page, which gives me an idea about how the future of this country is shaping up. I'm not thrilled with what Jason Poole's letter says about what his contribution will be.

Poole states the time-worn phrase that those of us who were against the invasion of Iraq are pro-Saddam Hussein. I would think that in attending an institution of higher education, he would have been required to take a class or two in logic – and that it would have been necessary for him to learn something from that.

Just because millions of U.S. citizens and many more millions around the world felt it morally wrong to invade a country that was posing no threat whatsoever to our country – there is no apparent conclusion that we millions are in support of the nasty dictatorship that Hussein once provided over. I would challenge Poole to poll a few thousand anti-war individuals and find even one who finds any redeeming value to Iraq's ex-dictator.

When someone starts an argument with a blatantly illogical statement such as this example, his subsequent arguments have much less credibility. Poole actually managed to form an even more outrageous illogical assumption later in his letter when he stated that Howard Dean doesn't show concern for the environment because he hasn't talked about the mass graves being found in Iraq.

Just because Poole hasn't heard or read anything about it doesn't mean that Dean hasn't been very disgusted about those graves; and using perceived silence about mass graves as an argument for environmental issues is a stretch that most people would roll their eyes about.

Let me add my own twisted form of logic: I will assume that, because Poole has so much concern for the Iraqis' continuing struggle, he will be signing up to serve in the military and demand to be sent to Iraq just as soon as his schooling is over this coming spring.

Beautiful Barb  
Seattle, Wash.

## Conservative-itis hits America

By Joey Hood  
Guest Columnist

So, it has finally happened. After years of Clintonian sexapades with backwater waitresses and chunky Jenny Craig dieting interns, America is suffering from a bad case of conservative-itis.

How else can one explain our nation's horndog complacency with Dubya? In the more secluded areas of Tennessee, folks act like Dubya is the second coming of Jesus.

"Stand behind our Christian shrill," is Bank Teller Betsy's prident, backing Refrain. Or "I'd much rather have a president who reads the Bible than one who doesn't," sings Small Town Steve.

According to the conservative bottlenecking brethren, President George W. Bush can bomb unprovoked countries, so long as he remains tellatio-free and remembers to Ti-To Joan of Arcadia.

Granola Pax-TV rejects aside, the underlying issue isn't Bush's toxic cocktail of Christian Church and state. It isn't even Bush's version of

Democracy World Order, his visions of haggard post-John Wayne heroics in Middle Eastern dustbowls.

The underlying issue blaringly reveals itself amidst the dog-eared backpages of intellectual snobbery (*The New Yorker*) and abrasive Michael Moore-penned truisms (Warner Books' recent release, *Dude, Where's My Country?*).

It's the much-hypothesized quagmire of Bush's dubious Sept. 11, 2001, gloved dubbling of marooned bin Ladens and George H. Bush's association with the Carlyle Group, "an investment firm with billions in defense holdings."

Soon after the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy, *The New York Times* spearheaded the investigation into debunking Bush administration falsities. The post Sept. 11, 2001, headline, "FEARING HARM, BIN LADEN KIN FLED FROM US" provided the ground rules of future investigative Bush-era journalism.

According to *The Times*, an estimated two dozen members of the bin Laden family resided on American soil during the terrorist attacks. After brief meet-

ings at the helm of Saudi Embassy officials and consent from the Bush administration, bin Laden family members were given permission to leave "hostile American territory."

When *New Yorker* investigative reporter Jane Mayer produced a senior United States intelligence officer about whether officials contemplated withholding bin Laden family members for possible questioning, he replied, "That's called taking hostages. We don't do that."

The Bush administration defends its betokened reprieves, denoting the family members as the 'good bin Ladens.'

Does this misbegotten spin hold water? Of course not.

The Bush administration's pliant spinelessness cost the Federal Bureau of Investigation a thorough inquisition of insightful individuals.

Later video footage even placed "Americanized" family members with Osama at his son's wedding ceremony – eight months prior to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

To worsen matters, George H.'s prized Carlyle Group boasted a \$2 million investment from

the bin Laden clan. The contract was terminated only after corresponding snooping from *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*, respectively.

But despite these smatterings of actual investigative reporting, Washington puppeteers and corporate brass are not amused. Republican House Majority leader Tom DeLay comes delving into the Bushes' bin Laden family connections as a form of "hate speech."

"Hate speech has become mainstream in the Democratic Party," DeLay told reporters. "They have allowed their causes to be bullied by people who believe that vandalizing Starbucks represents legitimate foreign policy."

Ah, virulent conservative shufflefooters. Ronald Reagan taught you well. You may have Bank Telling Betsy fooled, but most Americans aren't so easily duped, at least so I think.

Damn my liberal-itis. It's acting up again. ♦

Joey Hood is a sophomore mass communications and can be reached via e-mail at [jdh3y@mtsu.edu](mailto:jdh3y@mtsu.edu).

Send letters to the editor to [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu).

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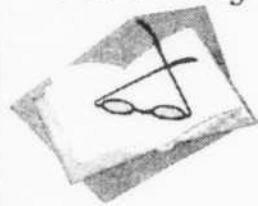
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# Holiday traditions



Illustration by Brandon Morrison | Staff Illustrator

## Memorable holidays

Carole Carroll offers the following suggestions for making the holidays more meaningful and memorable.

- Prepare a special meal that is nontraditional – such as Italian or Chinese fare. You can do this on the actual holiday or on another day during the season.

- If you have children at home, allow them to participate in an activity they can call their own. Painting ornaments, cutting down their own little cedar tree or preparing a simple desert are all activities children will enjoy.

- Give to someone less fortunate. Help serve dinner at the Salvation Army, spend time with a nursing home resident or buy gifts for a lonely neighbor.

- Make a practice of doing something together. Whether it is watching football or riding around to look at holiday decorations, families or close friends can benefit from spending time together.

- Decorate with homemade items.

## More important than you may think

By Juanita Thouin  
Living Editor

Whether it's serving Grandma's favorite sweet potato pie or hanging a funky-looking star on top of the Christmas tree, family traditions find their way into most people's homes.

Webster's Dictionary defines traditions as the handing down of information, beliefs and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another without written instruction.

"We get our tree over Thanksgiving and decorate it with sentimental ornaments," sophomore nursing major Heather Johnson says. "You know, things my sister and I made or things that have meaning for us."

According to the American Psychological Association there is strong evidence that traditions act as glue – helping families stay connected and strong.

In 2001, Barbara H. Fiese and Thomas J. Tomcho published an article in the *Journal of Family Psychology* that summarized 50 years of research regarding family rituals and traditions.

According to Fiese and Tomcho, the symbolic nature of family rituals provides a sense of belonging and personal identity – aspects, they say, that are important for the health and well-being of individuals.

Carole Carroll, MTSU associate professor of sociology agrees.

"It's [family tradition] a measure of what you are and who you are," Carroll says.

"When I was a kid, on Christmas morning, we would all line up on the stairs and go down together," Anna Stewart writes in *Inspired Parenting* magazine's Dec. 2001 issue. "When I returned one year after I had been an adult for a long time, my three siblings and I still insisted on 'calling' our place on the stairs and giggled like little kids. We felt silly, but it was the right thing for us to do."

Stewart isn't alone in her assessment that it was the right thing to do.

Fiese and Tomcho say rituals and traditions involve symbolic communication that leaves the individual feeling that the activity has a felt rightness. They also point out that there is often an emotional residue associated with rituals that is replayed in memory. These memories then help the individual recapture feelings of belonging and well-being long after the event is over.

"It [keeping our family traditions] brings a lot of happiness," freshman Nicholas Lannello says. "It keeps a sense of community and something to look forward to."

Fiese and Tomcho also found that parents tend to find traditions more important than do their college

age children. However, they say, these same individuals see traditions differently once they begin families of their own.

"Establishing family traditions are part of what binds people together when they get married," Carroll says.

The importance of traditions crosses economic, cultural and religious lines. Christians celebrate Christmas, Muslims celebrate Ramadan, Americans celebrate Thanksgiving and across the globe, families celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.

Carroll points out that research regarding the social benefits of traditions shows it doesn't seem to matter what the tradition is, only that it is practiced.

"We always have a massive pot of mashed potatoes and we usually sit around and sing for a couple of hours," senior psychology major Tyler Henson says.

Fiese and Tomcho say rituals support the stability of family members in times of stress and transition.

Carroll, Fiese and Tomcho point out that when a family unit is disrupted by divorce or death, the affected individuals are more likely to bounce back when they maintain some former traditions but also forge new ones.

"Human beings are incredibly dependent on relationships," Carroll says. ♦

## Forget plum pudding



By Laura Beth Jackson  
Staff Writer

bunch of Tannenbaums hostage next to his double-wide. Anyway, even if the tree-pickins aren't so good, the stories usually are.

After we get the tree home and it is huffed, puffed and forced into the house by my dad and brother, it's time for a light supper and then tree trimming.

No popcorn tastes as good as the kind my dad makes for that night. Every year we string fresh popcorn and cranberries to decorate the tree. In between mouthfuls of freshly salted popcorn, we thread our sewing needles and set to work as our two interested cats look on.

We have kept this Victorian tradition ever since I can remember, and yet we cannot escape the fact we live in modern times: The flames of the living room gas fireplace glow brightly behind us as we decorate the tree. ("Somebody turn that thing down, will ya?")

Of course, there's the food that's so much a part of the holidays. My family prefers ham for Christmas rather than

goose or turkey, simply because we had our fill of bird in November and most likely still have bags full of our Thanksgiving Tom still in the freezer.

Mom bakes the ham on Christmas Eve and we have ham sandwiches for supper. On Christmas Day, instead of a classy plum pudding for dessert, we usually have an apple pie. No fruitcake can quite compare to cinnamon apple goo dripping over vanilla ice cream on a Christmas plate.

We have attempted new traditions, really. It's just that usually they just don't work. Last year I made a short-cut plum pudding just for the heck of at least looking traditional. The result was more or less a dense fruitcake served with a butter-rum sauce.

It was the kind of dessert that would make you coincidentally diabetic and tipsy from all the sugar and give you enough energy to run the Boston Marathon. And it really

See Pudding, 7

## Lasagna and fighting angels



By Stacie Wacaster  
Staff Writer

My family has many traditions for Christmas – some standard and some fairly unusual.

Every year at Christmas time, we make a trip to the Gaylord Opryland Hotel to see the lights and decorations. Thousands of lights and elaborate decorations make the hotel a festive place to visit and certainly a sight to behold.

There are eight people in my immediate family, which usually presents an interesting debate over where to go and what to eat, but the confusion is part of what makes it interesting.

Another custom of ours is driving around town to see the Christmas lights. As far as the houses that participate in this event, we have old favorites and new discoveries, but no Christmas would be complete without this tradition.

On Christmas Eve, my family acts out the Christmas story with puppets my mom made, while my dad reads the story aloud. It's as goofy as it sounds, but I wouldn't change it for anything.

The best part is fighting with my brother and sister (ages 23 and 15) over who gets to be the angel.

I also have my own personal Christmas tradition of visiting the packed malls and shops on the day before Christmas Eve with the other one-half million people who evidently share in my joy

See Lasagna, 7





Photos by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

## Staff Reports

Visiting Gaylord Opryland Hotel to see the Christmas lights and decorations has become a family tradition for many in Middle Tennessee. For the past 20 years the hotel has put on a magnificent holiday display. The light display contains 20,000 strands of lights, and each strand contains 100 bulbs.

Decorations are on display each evening from 5:30 until 11 p.m. through Jan. 4.

Parking is \$10 per vehicle. For those who eat in one of the signature restaurants, parking is free. ♦

## Holiday tradition gone awry



By Juanita Thoun  
Living Editor

I'm a nontraditional student here at MTSU. For me that means not only older and wiser (debatable on occasion), but also mother.

Several years ago, when my children were young, our family left the hustle and bustle of city life and moved to the country. We basked in the solitude of open fields and thrilled at the sight of wildlife passing through our yard.

One holiday season, however, the sight of wildlife became a little too thrilling.

With my husband out of town, the kids and I decided to perform the annual tree-trimming tradition by ourselves.

Feeling a little intimidated by the cold, dark basement, I coaxed my big, strong sons — ages nine and seven at the time — into coming downstairs to help drag out the holiday boxes.

We sorted through a myriad of cardboard cartons, finally finding one marked "ornaments." Wanting to make certain of its contents, I opened the box, reached in and shoved aside a strand of garland.

Suddenly a mouse scurried beneath my hand, burrowing itself under a delicate glass ball.

I screamed, ran towards an old end table and lickety split, jumped on top.

"It's a mouse. It's a mouse," I yelled.

Confusion ensued. My seven-year-old rushed over for a closer look.

"I see it. I see it," he exclaimed.

My nine-year-old, feeling very much the protector of the house, ran to get the BB gun.

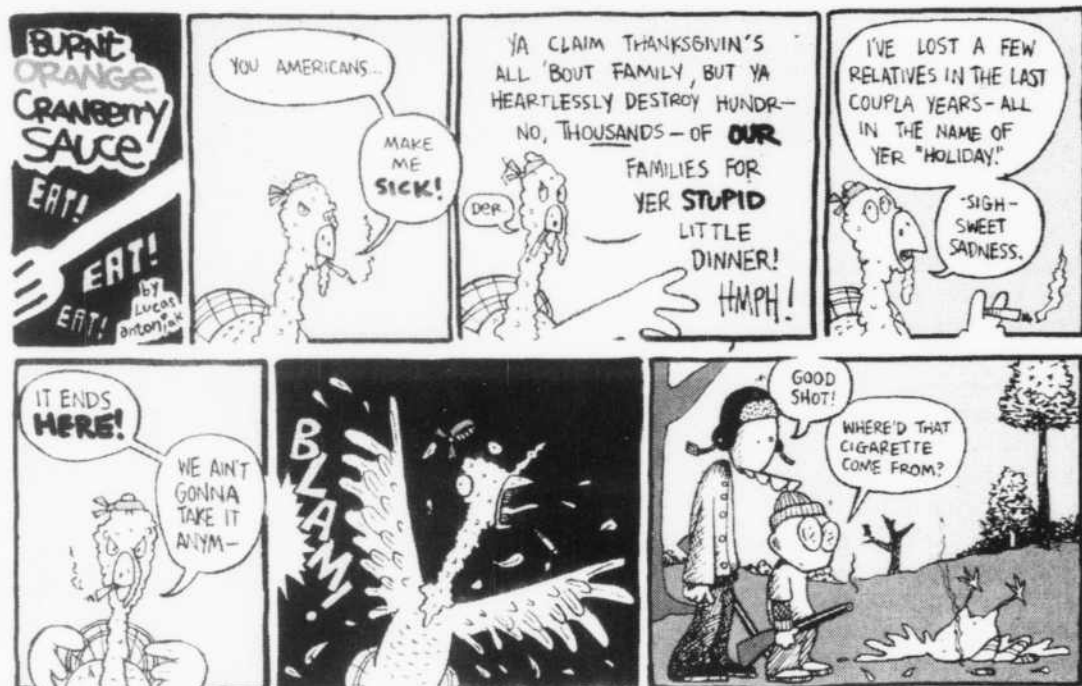
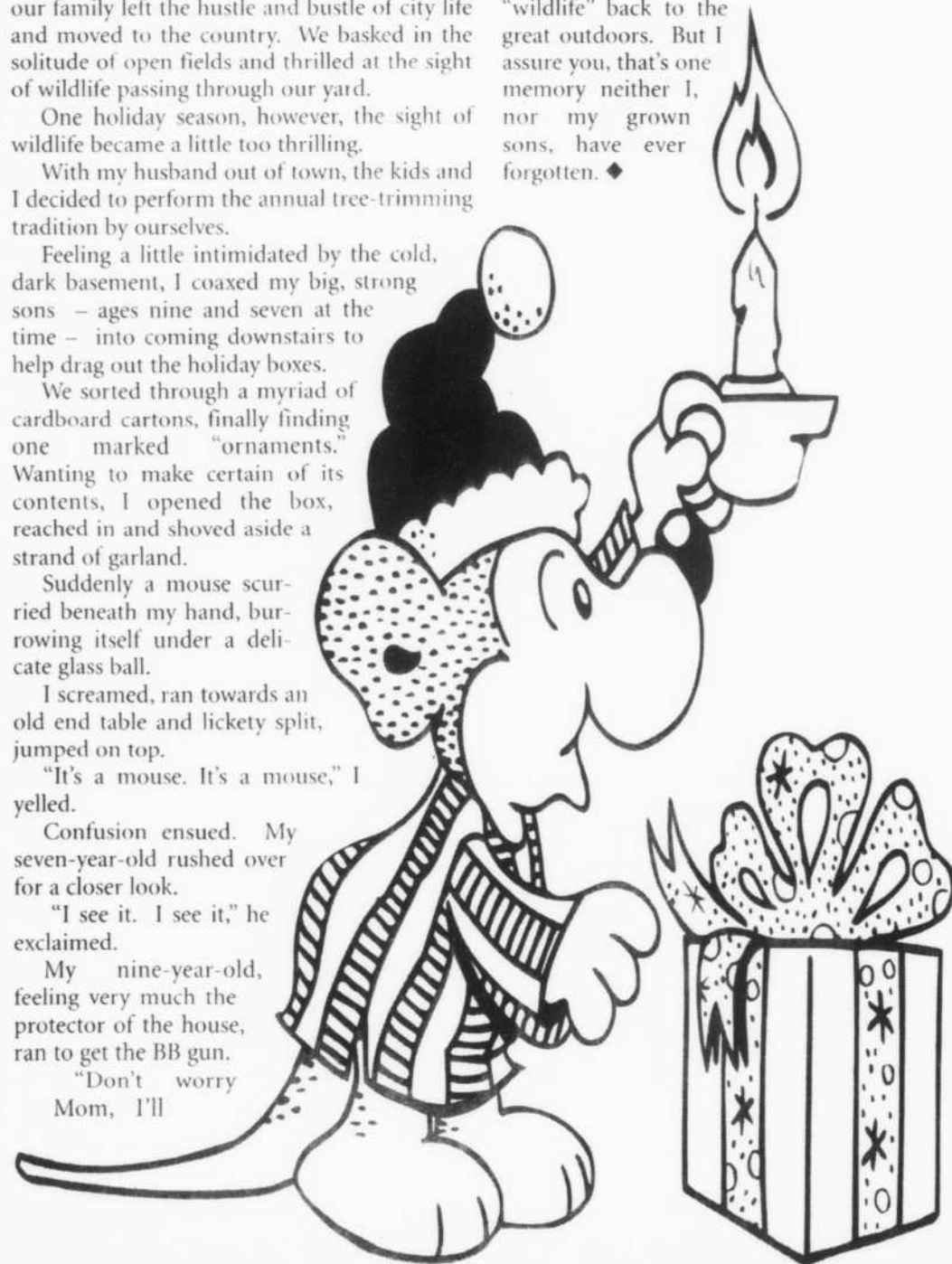
"Don't worry Mom, I'll

take care of it," he called, with a bit too much enthusiasm.

In the twinkling of an eye, pellets began shattering ornaments as my son and the mouse played a lively game of hide and seek.

Snapped out of my feminine hysteria by the sound of breaking glass, I managed to call a halt to the debacle before too much damage was done.

We eventually concocted a less "exciting" plan for returning our "wildlife" back to the great outdoors. But I assure you, that's one memory neither I, nor my grown sons, have ever forgotten. ♦



## Pudding: Sharing joy

Continued from 6

didn't taste so hot. The plum pudding was ousted.

Then there was the year my mom and I plotted a "family activity" where everyone had to make a gingerbread house out of graham crackers and pint cream cakes.

It was a cute idea on the surface, but it took longer than expected. Daddy got grumpy, my brother was bored stiff and Mom and I got frustrated wrestling with the pastry bag full of cement — I mean, icing. That idea shared the plum pud-

ding's fate.

Some new traditions have stuck. The last two years my family has begun to celebrate Advent.

This tradition celebrates the foretelling as well as the event of Christ's birth, with specific Bible readings every day in December and candles to light every Sunday.

We've found we're doing good to just keep up with the Sunday scriptures, but even still we find that it is a special tradition to remind us of our faith at Christmas.

In the end, I guess that's what

traditions are: reminders.

Poking at popcorn with needles and thread and trudging through hardware stores for Christmas trees reminds me of how special my family is.

Lighting candles and reading scripture out loud reminds me of a silent and holy night so many years ago.

Despite Martha Stewart and Currier and Ives, I've found that simple traditions can celebrate the season best. Even without the plum pudding. ♦

## Lasagna: Making memories

Continued from 6

of last-minute panic-shopping.

This tradition is never planned; every year I have every intention of finishing my Christmas shopping early. Yet nearly every Christmas Eve, I find myself in Wal-Mart at 2 a.m.

Our meals are not the traditional seasonal fare that the rest of the country shares. Instead we eat pizza on Christmas Eve and lasagna on Christmas day. No, we're not Italian, but for some reason, and for as long as I can remember, pizza and

lasagna have always represented Christmas to me.

As far as Christmas morning, we again break away from the status quo.

We sleep in late, then eat breakfast together. My mom makes "duffins," a special twist on muffins that I believe we invented.

We all get dressed and ready for the day before presents — a tradition atypical of most.

I don't remember ever feeling an overwhelming need to wake up at 6 a.m. to open presents. Besides, this way we all look nice in the pictures.

Around noon, we are ready to start unwrapping presents, a process that takes several hours to complete. We savor every minute, taking one present at a time and going frequent breaks to get eggnog and peppermint ice cream or to stoke the fire.

Christmas for my family is an all-day event. We prefer our slow-paced celebration to a frantic, anticlimactic morning of ripping paper and bows.

All in all, I wouldn't trade or exclude any of my family's Christmas traditions — not even the fight to be the angel. ♦



# SPORTS

8 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## Lady Raiders head to Florida Atlantic Tourney

By Mark Emery  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team has started the season 2-0 thanks to a win Monday night over Southern Illinois. Now the Lady Raiders must look ahead to their next game against Manhattan.

The Lady Raiders will be traveling to Boca Raton, Fla., on Nov. 28-29 to play in the Florida Atlantic Tournament. Their first opponent will be the Manhattan Lady Jaspers. The Lady Jaspers (1-0), who play in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, will be looking for their second victory of the

season. They won their season opener against Central Florida 68-47.

The Lady Raiders' 2-0 start has been in large part to the balance of their lineup. Five players scored in double figures in their game against SIU. One of the five, Patrice Holmes, known for her defensive abilities, has put up solid numbers in the first two games. She is averaging 23 points, nine rebounds and five assists per game. Also leading the way for the Lady Raiders are Tia Stovall with 12 points and eight rebounds per game, Keisha McClinic with 10 points and nine rebounds per game and Krystle



Horton with 10 points and eight rebounds. Ciara Gray is also coming off the bench and has been averaging nine points per game.

The Lady Raiders face a tough Manhattan team led by Preseason First Team All-MAAC selection Rosalee Mason. She led the Lady Jaspers with 21 points and 14 rebounds in their victory.

The Lady Jaspers also have balance as four players scored in double figures. The Lady Jaspers will be trying to make it to the NCAA Tournament for the second straight year. Last year they lost to Mississippi State in the first round.

MT will be trying for their first 3-0 start since the 1998-99 season, when they shared the Sun Belt Conference title. The Lady Raiders have started 2-0

for the 13th time overall and first since the 2000-01 season.

The other game in the FAU Tournament is Norfolk State from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference against Florida Atlantic from the Atlantic Sun Conference. FAU lost their opener to Georgia Tech 73-62. Trineca McCleod led the Lady Owls with 16 points. Norfolk State also lost their opener to Monmouth 60-51. Dekisha Thompson led NSU with 14 points and six assists.

The Lady Raiders will face either FAU or Norfolk State in the championship or consolation game Nov. 29. ♦

## MT men win season-opener Monday

By Jon Leffew  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee Blue Raider basketball team hosted the Covenant College Scots on Monday, looking to pick up a win to begin the 2003-04 season.

After some early jitters, MT cruised to an 86-53 victory.

Several Blue Raiders contributed to the victory.

Three seniors, all playing limited minutes, performed well in front of 2,824 at the Murphy Center.

Tommy Gunn, a First Team All-Sun-Belt Conference selection last season, led all scorers with 23 points in 24 minutes. Gunn, who averaged 15.9 points per game to lead the Blue Raiders last season, had six rebounds and three assists.

These numbers were good enough to put Gunn 18th on the MT all-time scoring list and sixth for steals.

"Tommy Gunn was sensational tonight," head coach Kermit Davis said.

Keith Connor, another senior who started 11 games last year, turned in an impressive performance as well.

Starting at point guard, Connor dished out a career-high 10 assists and no turnovers.

"Overall, I thought we shared the ball well," Davis said. "Keith Connor was fantastic with 10 assists and no turnovers."

Several newcomers stepped up for Davis as well.

Kyle Young led all players with 10 rebounds, five coming on offense. Keith Christman came off the bench to pick up 10 points and three rebounds, and Bryan Smith, picked up 12 points on six of eight shooting.

Perhaps the only bad news of the night was an injury to newcomer Michael Cuffee. Cuffee, who scored 20 points in his first exhibition game as a Blue Raider, went down with what appears to be a medial collateral ligament sprain seconds into the second half.

"It hurts losing Cuffee," Davis said. "It looks like he'll be out for three weeks, and I know we'll miss him in the games

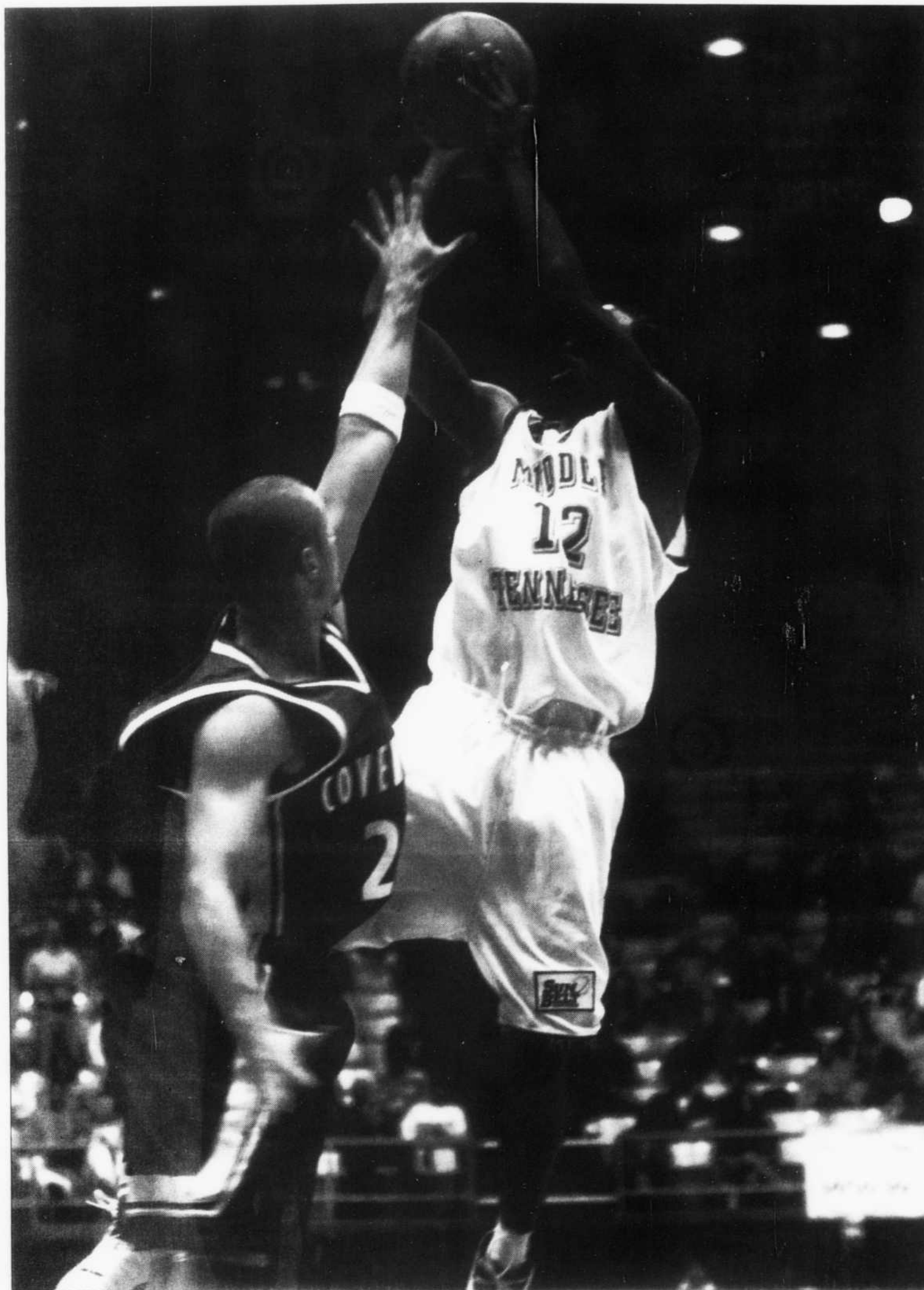


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

MT guard Marcus Robinson attempts a jump shot against a Covenant College defender in Monday night's game.

## Season underway for Middle

Sports commentary



David Hunter  
Asst. Sports Editor

Unselfish play was the key in Middle Tennessee's sweep of the basketball double-header on Monday night.

Both teams showed the ability to score by sharing the ball, with several players from each team finding the hoop and picking up a victory.

In the Lady Raiders' (2-0) 76-62 victory over Southern Illinois University, five players scored in double figures. MT was led by Patrice Holmes with 21 points. Tia Stovall and Krystle Horton added 13 points, while Ciara Gray and Keisha McClinic chipped in with 12 and 10 points for the Lady Raiders, respectively.

The Blue Raiders (1-0) kept up the balance, scoring the 86-53 win over Covenant College in their 2003-04 season opener. MT had three players in double figures, led by Tommy Gunn's 23 points. Gunn sat out the last 13 minutes of the victory.

Blue Raiders Bryan Smithson and Keith Christman added 12 and 10 points, respectively. Out of the 12 players that saw action, all but one scored. Wes Durrant failed to score, but his shots came close several times.

"We talk so much about being unselfish," head coach Kermit Davis said. "I really thought our whole team was unselfish. I thought we executed some set plays out of the zone offense."

The next game for the Lady Raiders is Nov. 28 against Manhattan University in the Florida Atlantic University Tournament at 4 p.m. The following day MT will play either Norfolk State or FAU in the same tournament. Their next home game is Dec. 17 against Chicago State.

The men's team travels to Mountain West Conference member University of

See Season, 9

## Wyoming not best place to play on road

By Colby Sledge  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team will play its first road game of the season against the University of Wyoming Saturday.

The Blue Raiders (1-0) are coming off a season-opening 86-53 win against Covenant College and will look to continue their fast start against the Cowboys (0-1).

"In the locker room, no one was celebrating," MT guard Keith Connor said after the game. "We know we have work to do; we know what we have ahead of us."

After playing a young Covenant squad that featured seven underclassmen, the Blue Raiders will face a Wyoming team with three new starters. Junior guard Jay Straight is the leading returning scorer for the Cowboys and scored 15 points in a loss to Southern Illinois University 67-62 last Saturday.

Head coach Steve McClain enters his sixth year at Wyoming, where he has taken the Cowboys to the postseason four years.

Last season, McClain became the third-fastest coach to 100 wins in Wyoming history and compiled the best record of any Wyoming coach after his first five seasons.

This season, McClain will look to re-implement the run-and-gun style he used during his first three seasons with the Cowboys.

"With this group, I think we will get back to playing quicker," McClain told www.wyomingathletics.com. "As a group, our big guys are faster than we've been. I see us getting back to a much faster tempo."

Wyoming is perhaps best known for its upset of Gonzaga University in the first round of the 2002 NCAA Tournament. The Cowboys then lost to the University of Arizona 68-60.

Last year, Wyoming finished 21-11 despite losing preseason All-American senior forward Marcus Bailey after nine games. Wyoming defeated Eastern Washington University in the first round of the National Invitational Tournament before losing to the University of North Carolina.

Given the Cowboys' recent success, MT head coach Kermit Davis expects a loud and exciting atmosphere in Laramie, Wyo., on Saturday night.

"For a young team, it's one of the hardest places to go and play," Davis said. "We're expecting 10 to 12,000 people there."

The early road schedule for the Blue Raiders is slightly less difficult than last year, when MT traveled to schools such as Alabama University and Purdue University and started 1-6 away from Murphy Center.

Davis has his reasons for scheduling quality teams on the road.

"I think playing tough road games early helps you when you go on the road in the league," Davis said. "It's fun for your guys to go play in front of a big crowd."

The contest is the first of two meetings between the Cowboys and the Blue Raiders this season. Wyoming travels to Murfreesboro Jan. 8.

Tipoff for Saturday's game is 8 p.m. CDT. ♦

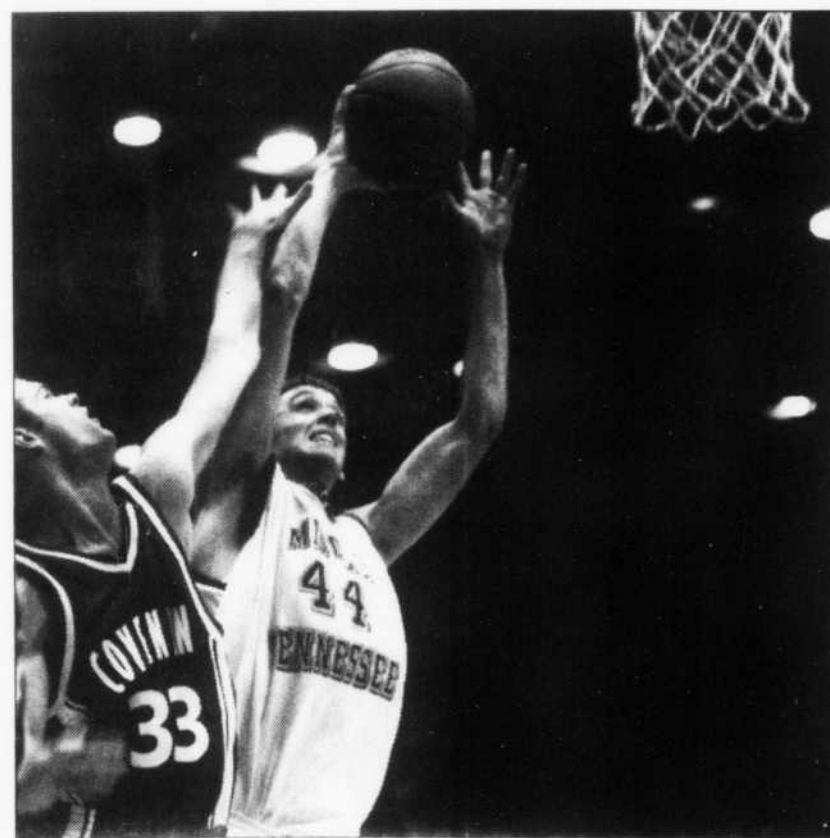


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

MT forward Kyle Young powers his way to the goal. Young, a 6-foot-10-inch redshirt-freshman, had 10 rebounds on Monday.



## Men: Begin 2003-04 season with 1-0 victory

Continued from 8

against Wyoming and Tennessee Tech during that time."

All Blue Raiders who were able to play did so in the contest, but building a lead was tough for the team early on.

With 9:13 remaining in the first half, the teams were tied at 14. However, MT reeled off 11 unanswered points on the way to a 42-24 lead at the half.

The Blue Raiders pulled away by increasing the game's tempo and

picking up several buckets.

Young, Gunn, Alex Weekes and Cuffee were all on the finishing ends of alley-oops during the first half, each of which brought the Murphy Center crowd to its feet.

Smithson picked up one of his four assists to end the half, dishing to Christmas for a layup as time ran out.

Gunn heated up in the beginning of the second half, scoring 12 points in less than five minutes, two of which came on an alley-oop from Connor from half-court.

The remainder of the second half saw several younger players on the court, with Smithson coming off the bench to score all 12 of his points in 10 minutes of play.

Marcus Robinson also saw extensive playing time in the second half, scoring four of his seven points in the period.

"Obviously, we are more talented than they are," Davis said. "But overall I was pleased. The crowd was unbelievable, and I thought it was a great start for us." ♦

## Season: Team effort

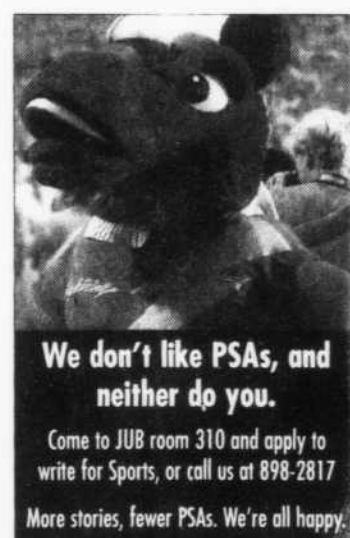
Continued from 8

Wyoming on Saturday at 8 p.m. It will be the first of two meetings between the teams this season. The Cowboys will play MT at the Murphy Center Jan. 8.

The Blue Raiders return home Dec. 4 against Alabama State ♦

## Sports e-mail

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Four Audio Bahn 900 watt 12's and a 2000 watt amp \$300. Call 731-499-1257.

Pool table perfect shape comes with cues and rack. \$225 call 731-499-1257.

Toyota Corolla, 1996, 4 dr, 129,000 miles, excellent condition. Must sell \$2600 neg. Call 615-485-6482.

Honda Civic, 1992, 4 dr, 152,000 miles. Dark red, excellent condition. Must sell \$2600 neg. Please call 615-485-6482.

Dodge Intrepid - 1996 Silver, V6, Auto 4dr, cass, pdl, ps, pw, 92K miles, clean in & out, good cond. \$2500 obo - call 260-9088.

For sale: GT Trick Bike; computer desk; Bass Guitar with amp; college textbooks for gen-ed courses. Call 319-3072.

1966 Ford Mustang. Lots of new parts. Runs good. Good Body. Great for around town or as a hobby car. \$5000 negotiable. Call Tim @ 615-397-6303 for more info.

Verizon Wireless Phone for Sale. Kyocera 2135. Great condition. \$20 Call 330-9868.

7 ft. Pool table Red felt, wood finish, 3/4 inch Italian slate. Includes all balls, 4 cues, and cue rack. \$350. Call Ian at 423-1980.

Kurtzwell SP76 Digital Stage Piano. \$450 obo. 615-403-7002.

Nice King size waterbed with Fluffo waterbed replacement mattress (no water). Also has 6 drawers of storage under bed. \$150. Call 615-300-3935.

Microphone. AKG C1000S with hardshell case. \$130. Call 556-0275.

Pool table comes with lots of cues and rack. \$225. 731-499-1257.

4 900 watt Audiobahn 12's and a 2000 watt Pyle amp. \$320. 731-499-1257.

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## Career

**Are you interested in earning your PhD?** Would you like to have your own personal research mentor? Would you like to receive funding while conducting research? Are you interested in preparation for graduate studies? If you answered yes to the above questions, please contact the **MTSU McNair Scholars Program**. The McNair Program is located in Midgett 103. Our staff would like to tell you more about our distinguished program. Information may also be found at: <http://www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair/>

## Internships

**Do you need to prepare for graduate school?** To qualify, student has to be a low-income/first generation or underrepresented student with a desire to achieve earning a PhD. Have a 2.8 GPA and 60 earned credit hours by May 2004. For more information, contact the **MTSU McNair Scholars Program** located in Midgett 103 or call 904-8462 for more information.

tion.

## Employment

**Church Nursery Attendant Needed.** Our active nursery needs an experienced childcare worker for Sunday mornings and occasional evening meetings. Apply in person. Central Christian Church, 404 East Main St. 893-2764.

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Earn \$10-\$125 for Surveys. Earn \$25-\$250 for Focus Groups. Visit [www.cash4students.com/tmntsu](http://www.cash4students.com/tmntsu)

Gary Force Acura has job opening for part-time receptionists to work at Cool Springs dealership. Applicant must be positive and able to operate a 15 line telephone system with voice-mail. Fridays 9AM to 7 PM and Saturday 8AM to 6 PM. Contact Neal Jennings at 615-377-0500.

**Business opportunity:** Independent Representatives needed to market local phone service, a \$400 billion dollar industry, set your own hours, decide how much you want to make, be your own boss. Call Justin @ 904-2498.

Meet **Mark!!** Call Lisa @ 898-4623 to see **Mark's** "remarkable" beauty, skin care and accessories catalog or to host a **Mark** party of your own. Make \$\$\$ and have fun at the same time, great for sororities and other groups.

Bartender trainees needed. \$250 a day potential. Local positions. 1-800-293-3985 ext. 305

Looking for Full-part time night job. Super 8 in La Vergne. I-24 Exit 64 25 mins. from MTSU. Is now hiring for front desk associate. Hours are 11pm - 7 am. Great pay and excellent benefits. Please apply in person!! Now hiring immediately!!

## Help Wanted

Need extra cash or Christmas money?? Daily pay. Co. vehicle. \$75-\$150 per day. Start ASAP 355-4003.

Law Office needs part-time help. Send resume to: jef2f@mtsu.edu

## Opportunities

**LOCAL BANDS** Murfreesboro Official Music Website is seeking Jazz bands. All other bands are welcome to post their calendars for free advertisement of shows. Contact: Shane Leach. Email: boronightlife@bellsouth.net <http://clik.to/bnl>

Finish your holiday gift shopping! Mary Kay Clearance sale. Nov. 19, 20, 21. Call 319-3072

**Fraternities-Sororities-Clubs-Student groups.** Earn \$1000-\$2000 this semester with a proven Campus Fundraiser 3 hour fundraising event. **Our free programs make fundraising easy with no risks.** Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so get with the program! It works. Contact Campus Fundraiser at (888) 923-3238, or visit [www.campus-fundraiser.com](http://www.campus-fundraiser.com)

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Justine @904-2498.

**ARTISTS / ART STUDENTS**  
A graphic design student is planning to publish a 2005 art calendar featuring artwork of MTSU students and middle Tennessee artists. If you would like for your artwork to be included in the calendar, call John at (615) 832-4702 or email at jdcunningham@bellsouth.net.

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## Roommate

**ROOMS FOR RENT!** Three 14 x 14 bedrooms in a 2600 sq. ft. house, 1 mile from campus. Needs good occupants. Month to month based lease. \$325 deposit (refundable) Please call 308-9735 for details.

**ROOMMATES WANTED** in a large house 1 mile from campus. \$325 rent & 1/4 utilities. Month to month contract. No lawn maintenance involved. More info call 308-9735.

Need 2 female roommates to share 4 bedroom home 5 miles from Sam's. Non-smokers \$350/mo., call 849-8277.

Roommates wanted. Total house rent is \$900. Four bedroom. Must reply before December 1st. Great House! Call 907-0767.

Roommate wanted Murfreesboro/Smyrna area. Mature male or female. Non-smoker, no drugs, no alcohol, no pets, honest. Private country setting. \$400/mo. utilities included except phone. Call 867-0246. Leave message.

Female nursing student seeks quiet, female roommate ASAP for affordable 2 BA., 1 BA duplex with spacious living room and kitchen. Nice neighborhood. Yard work is involved during the spring and summer months (mowing and hedge trimming) so \$100 was taken off the total monthly rent. Rent is \$175 plus part of the utilities. If interested in this great opportunity, call Amanda 542-9028. Please leave a message.

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1 female roommate needed, nonsmoker preferred, to share 4 Br 2 BA spacious house across from Murphy center. Available ASAP! \$0 deposit, \$225/month includes electricity and water. If interested, call maritza @ 390-8693.

Roommate needed by end of October for large brick 2 BR house. Central heat/air, close to MTSU, only one neighbor- musicians welcome. \$325/mo. \$325 deposit+ 1/2 utilities. Call Jacob 849-3219.

Room for rent in Murfreesboro. \$330/month + 1/3 utilities. Avail. 11/1/03. Call 653-3982.

1 Female Roommate needed for a 4-bedroom house. Currently there are 3 girls. Close to campus. \$275/month + 1/4 utilities. \$300 security deposit. Call Amy (423) 504-4090, alw2w@mtsu.edu.

Female roommate needed for house in Cason Lane area. \$250/mo and share of utilities. Call Courtney 867-9250.

Roommate needed to share 2 bedroom apt. on Ewing Blvd., within driving distance to campus. Rent is \$350 + utilities. W/D, dishwasher, personal bathroom included in apt. Roommate needed soon so call today. Call Rick at (615) 896-7321.

## Pets

Beautiful green and yellow parakeet for sale. Paid \$20 at Pet Smart. Will sell for \$15 obo. Call 904-7554 or email elh2m@mtsu.edu.

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FREE! Two Kittens-brother and sister, go together. Female is gray, orange, white, male is blk. and white. Our Daddy ran off and Mommy was killed in car accident. Our foster Mom can't keep us. Do you have room in your home and heart for us? Call Holli at 615-443-3259.

## For Rent

For rent- Brand new duplex 120-B Fairfax Drive. \$850 per mo. 3 BR 2 BA available immediately. Call 335-2869 and leave message.

**Pre-Leasing now for Fall 2004** 4 bedrooms starting at \$300.00 month per person All-inclusive utilities!! **University Courtyard Apartments** 1540 New Lascassas Hwy. 615-907-0600

3 BR 2 1/2 BA Duplex near I-24. All Appliances. Vaulted ceilings, garage, garden tub, laundry room, lawn care included. Pets okay. \$880/ month. Call 907-8060, 423-6272.

Brand new zero lot line for rent 3br 2bt \$800mo. \$500 dep. 120-B Fairfax (near VA hosp.) call 335-2869 & lv msg.

Available today 3 BR 2 BA, Brand new house, for rent. \$875 monthly, deposit same. Fenced back yard, outdoor pets welcome. Please call 238-4045.

**December Rent FREE** 4BR Apartment starting at \$300 month per person All utilities included! Roommate matching **University Courtyard Apartments** 1540 New Lascassas Hwy. (615) 907-0600

2 BR 1.5 BA duplex. Near I-24. All appl., vaulted ceilings, garage, lawn care, garden tub, laundry room. Pets okay. \$880/month. Call 907-8060, 423-6272.

1 BR apt. for rent, \$450 per month, \$450 deposit. Call Jim 202-3050.

3 BD IBA for rent; washer/dryer hookup. \$700 per month., \$700 deposit. 745 E. Vine Street. Call Jim 202-3050.

## Subleasing

Roommate needed to take over lease by Dec. Four bed two bath @ University Courtyard. Will pay 1st months rent, if move in by Dec. \$355 a month. Includes washer, dryer, water, cable and electric. Call Jill 202-3888 or

Jmm3q@mtsu.edu  
First month rent free! Female Subleser needed for a 4 BR 2 BA apt. at University Courtyard. One great roommate. Rent is \$345/ month, includes utilities. I will pay your 1st month's rent. Call Cassandra at 708-1190.

Furnished apartment at Sterling Gables \$500 Cash to take over 9 month lease. \$425/ month-including all utilities paid. Female only. Located close to MTSU. Free internet-shuttle-other amenities. Available immediately. Call 931-212-0987 or 615-653-3133.

3 Roommates needed to take lease over at Sterling Gables. \$335/ month. Pool view! Call 497-0968.

Three people wanted to sublease 4 BR/2BA apartment. Only \$330 a month, utilities included. Sterling Gables, located across from the new Walmart. 24/7 workout room, computer lab and hot tub. Free tanning booth and shuttle bus to and from MTSU. CALL 931-260-7076.

3 Roommates needed to take lease over at Sterling Gables. \$335/month. Pool view! Call 497-0968.

Female needed to take over lease in Sterling University Gables. ASAP! 4br/2ba \$330/mo. Utilities included. Great clean roommates - no deposit! call (865) 384-5030 for more info.

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FREE BEER and 1st months rent to immediate subleser!! Washer/dryer, all utilities included, pool, gym, 1/2 mile from campus. Own bedroom - \$365/mo. Female please. Contact Kate 337-3749.

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## Lost and Found

Lost floppy disc in BAS computer lab. It's neon yellow. Call Diana 218-7313.

**Lost Ring.** Lost 1968 class ring from David Lipscomb College in or near KOM on Tuesday, November 4. Return ring to Carl Conway for reward. Call 898-5708 or email crconway@mtsu.edu.

Watch found on grass tside library. If you can describe it, it's yours. Call 848-3555.



# Lady Raiders defeat SIU Salukis

By Crystal Perry  
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders had another success on Monday night against Southern Illinois, winning 76-62.

Junior Patrice Holmes had another successful night, recording her second straight 20-plus game with 21 points, seven rebounds and five assists.

"I just took what the defense gave me, and I went from there," Holmes said. "Coach [Stephany] Smith was displeased with the effort we were showing on defense and offense."

The game was tied at 41 in the second quarter, but Holmes shot a three pointer, putting the Lady Raiders up 44-41. Ciara Gray made back-to-back three pointers with 14:48 to play.

The two remaining Lady Raiders who had double figures were Tia Stovall with 13 and Ciara Gray, who scored a career-high 12 points on four for eight shooting to go along with a personal-best two three pointers.

"I think we picked up our intensity," Gray said. "We knew they were not going to give up whether they were down or ahead."

"I think we progressively got better in the second half," Smith said. "Again, I think that was due to our effort. We played aggressively against Tennessee Tech but not against Southern Illinois. That is 100 percent lack of effort."

Last season, Middle Tennessee defeated Southern Illinois in Carbondale, Ill., 87-63.

Holmes led with 20 points, and Cartia Bailey picked up a career-high 18 points.

The Lady Raiders will travel to Boca Raton, Fla., to compete in the Florida Atlantic Tournament.

Middle Tennessee will come face to face with Manhattan on Friday before taking on Florida Atlantic or Norfolk State on Saturday.

The Lady Raiders will not return until Dec. 17, playing Chicago State. ♦

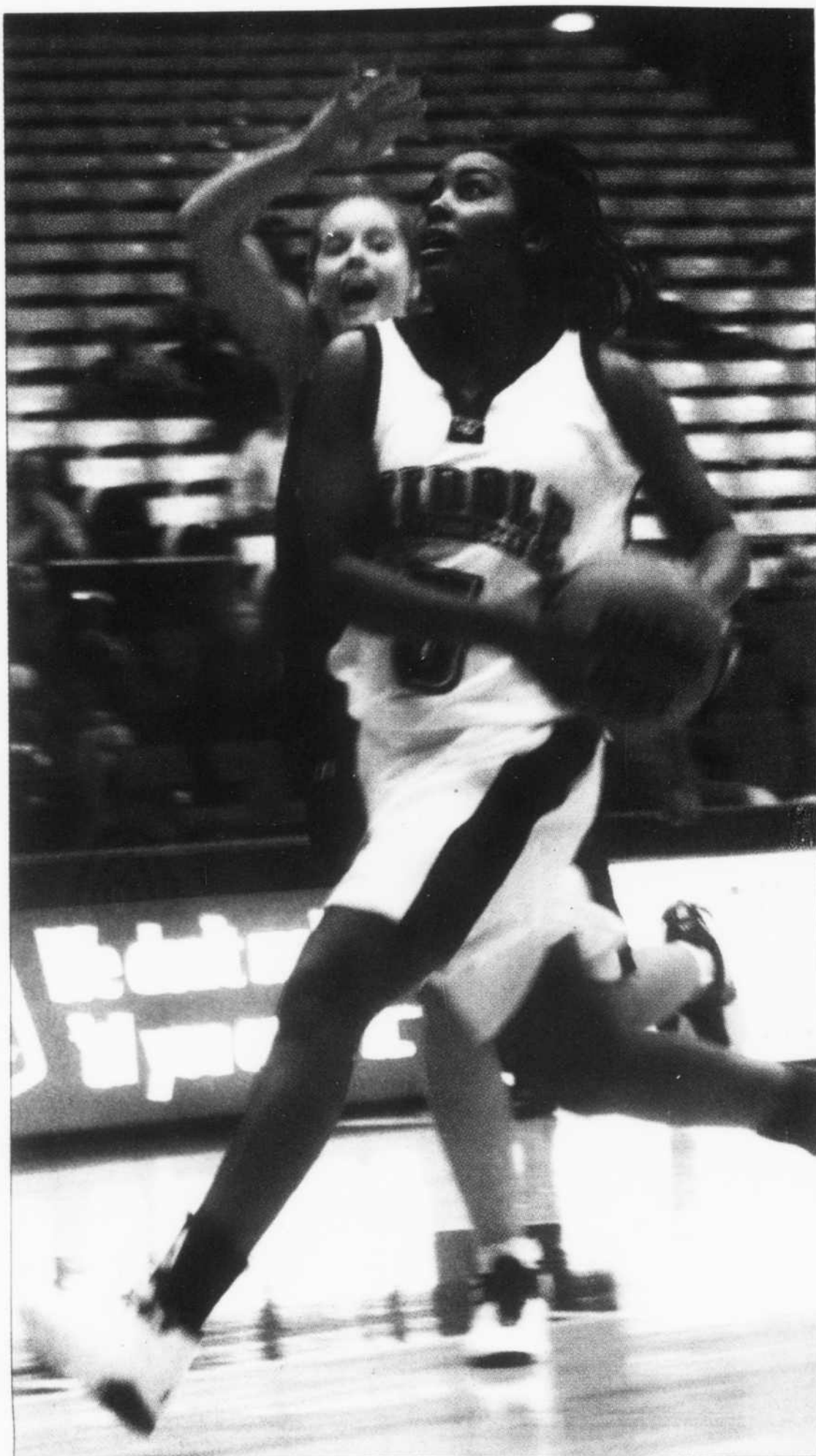


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

MT guard Patrice Holmes drives the ball down the court against Southern Illinois.



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