



Partly Cloudy

**Alum's online
music store aims
to promote indie bands**

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**Morrison
lights up
Murphy**

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Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Search for new athletic director commences

Committee aims for a selection within six months

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

MTSU President Sidney McPhee announced Sunday the members of the Advisory Committee who will assist him in hiring a new athletic director following former AD James "Boots" Donnelly's resignation in December.

Committee members include a variety of MT faculty,

former athletes and athletic supporters.

"This group represents a wide range of people from our community as well as our university community," McPhee said Sunday in a press release.

McPhee chose former MT athlete Steve Smith to chair the 18-person committee.

"I've been a supporter and I'm a businessman, and I hope I can make a logical decision,"

Smith said. He added that his stipulation of chairing the committee was that the search would take no more than six months.

"[Smith's] family has been real prominent with MTSU; they basically built the baseball field and locker room," committee member Jamie Jamison said. "Steve loves MTSU athletics, and he's a real good man."

Other committee members

include Jamison, the president of the MTSU Varsity Club, Terry Whiteside, an athletic faculty representative, MT head men's golf coach Johnny Moore and others who represent different facets of the university.

"It's a really excellent committee," Whiteside commented. "It's a great variety of MTSU supporters and university people."

As a former MT athlete and head of the Varsity Club, an organization for athlete alumni

with more than 2,300 members, Jamison says he is looking for someone who will generate alumni support for MT athletics.

"A lot of the Middle Tennessee graduates go to support the University of Tennessee athletically," Jamison explained. "We've got to come up with a plan to keep our alumni with our school. That's been a problem since I played."

Another playing problem for MT athletics is the graduation

rate of athletes. MT was ranked 196 out of 303 in graduation rates of student-athletes in six years, according to the college sports index of www.USNews.com published in 2002.

While athletes' academic success has always been a priority, the 2005 NCAA launch of regulations aimed at improving athlete academics includes scholarship reductions and

See Committee, 8

Legislators focus on health care, education issues

By Jason Cox
Capitol Bureau Chief

STATE CAPITOL BUREAU — On the minds of legislators heading into this session.

State Reps. John Hood and Kent Coleman, both Democrats from Murfreesboro, said TennCare's growing hold on state finances has to be resolved before other priorities, such as additional funding for higher education, can be adequately addressed.

Otherwise, Hood said, "All of our growth money is going to be eaten up with TennCare, which has been our problem in recent years."

"The biggest problem we're having in this state is the rapid increase of health care costs," Coleman said.

Coleman said he hoped to see national legislation that addressed the rising cost of health care that state legislators could tag onto, adding that these costs are putting a crimp in state budgets all across the United States.

These costs leave other causes, such as increasing funding for higher education — particularly capital outlay for new buildings — neglected.

"What we have done on the state level the last two years is properly fund K-12 education, but we have been unable to give the resources to the universities and the colleges which will allow them to have to not increase tuition," Coleman said.

"Unfortunately, you can only deal with whatever revenue the state is going to receive and whatever unmandated expenditures we have."

And speaking of health, Sen. Bill Ketron, R - Murfreesboro, has introduced a bill that would make physical education a higher priority in K-12 education.

"My daughter is a freshman at Blackman High School, and she takes six weeks this semester, and then that's it for the entire four years," Ketron said.

He added that Tennessee is now ranked No. 2 in cases of childhood diabetes and is also in the top five in childhood obesity.

"It's not just removing the sweets and the candy bars, etc. from the candy machines and replacing it with milk, fruit, etc.," Ketron said. "We need to be planting the seed on staying physically fit."

As for the rising cost to students in higher education, Ketron said he wants to address the current governance system, which has three separate boards — the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the Tennessee Board of Regents and the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees. He said consolidating these boards could free up some additional revenue.

Hood's legislative priority outside of health care is finding

See Legislature, 3

MFA in RIM

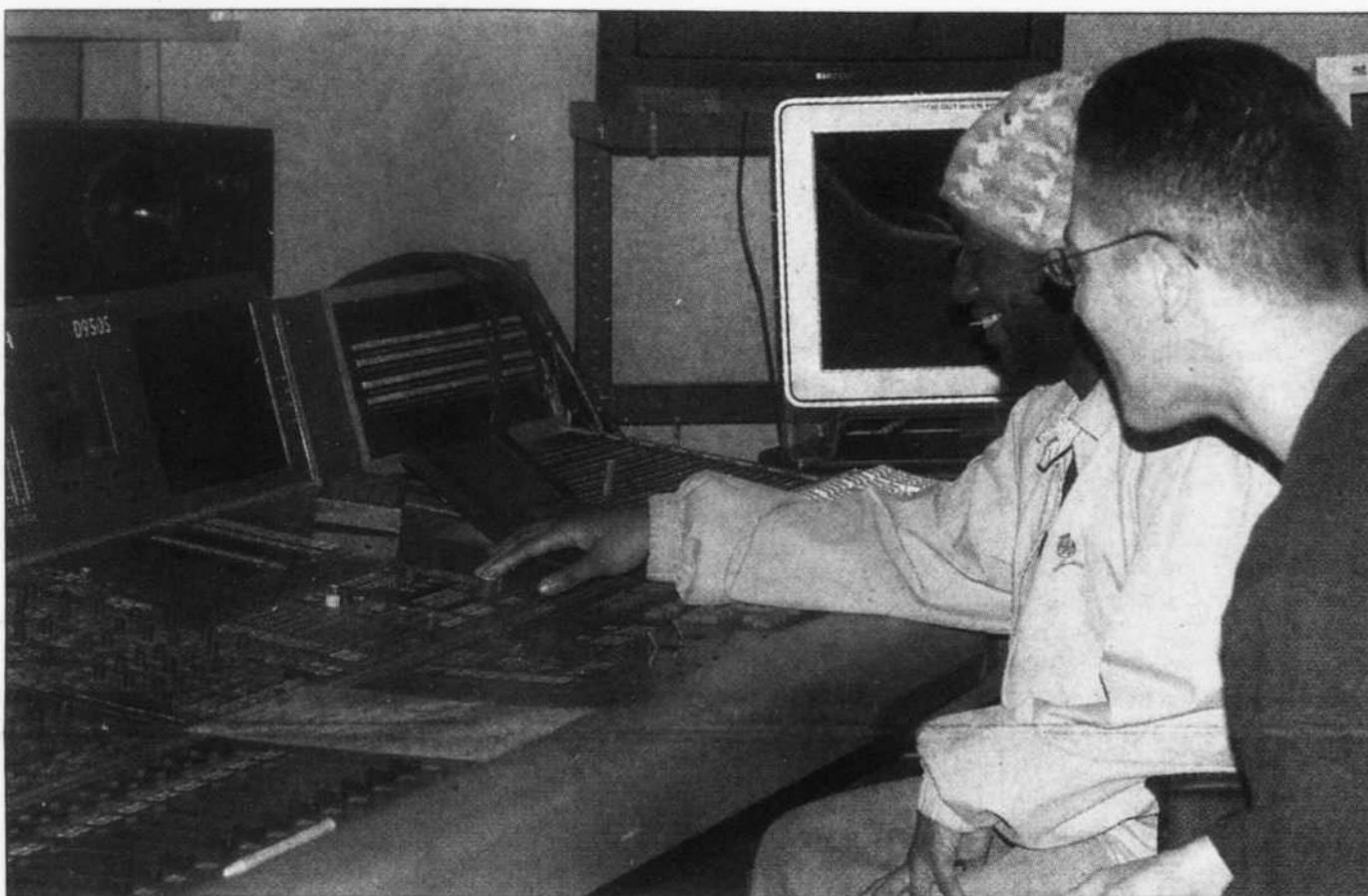


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Senior recording industry majors David J. Lawrence (left) and Eleazar Trejo (right) mix their songs during coveted studio time for a class project. Studio usage gives students hands-on experience.

Recording industry adds master's degree

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

After 12 years of planning, a new master's of fine arts program for recording industry professionals is planned to begin at MTSU this fall, university officials said.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission is expected to approve the new graduate program at its quarterly meeting this Thursday, recording industry professor Rich Barnett said.

"The program will attract two target audiences: the industry professionals who want training for creating audio and music for all types for media, and

individuals with a music or computer science degree with experiential learning who want to focus on recording music," Barnett said.

He said the program is a "prescribed, lock-step degree for full-time students." He said it was modeled much like the master's of business administration program offered by Harvard University.

"Students will start as a group and will work with their colleagues as a group," Barnett said.

According to published information from the recording industry department, the MFA degree is a 60-hour, six-semester program that will instruct candidates in the field of recording and

production for advanced work in an integrated electronic media.

Candidates will have to have at least a bachelor's degree, a portfolio of creative achievements in audio recording or other areas related to the field and at least two letters of recommendation from college advisers or industry professionals.

The program is also intended to provide a degree that will allow graduates to teach in the recording industry field at the post-secondary level.

"There is a demand for a terminal

See Recording, 2

Students remember Martin Luther King Jr. at candlelight vigil



Photos by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

The MTSU Gospel Choir performs at Monday night's candlelight vigil in Tucker Theatre.

Speaker condemns use of 'n-word'

By Matt Anderson
News Editor

Students honored Martin Luther King Jr. at a candlelight vigil in Tucker Theatre Monday night.

The MTSU Gospel Choir performed, and motivational speaker Milton Creagh challenged students to invest more of themselves in their communities.

"If you don't do something to lift people up, you're not what this country needs," Creagh said. "It's real nice to talk about what Martin Luther King said, but I want to talk about what you're saying."

He expressed disbelief in the way blacks use "the n-word" and the way women use "the b-word."

As a motivational speaker, Creagh frequently conducts training sessions for corporations. One corporation hired him to talk to its employees about the use of the n-word. Two black managers had just been fired for using it in the office.

One of the managers told the employers, "that's how I talk to my boy," Creagh said.

"I think there's something wrong when the first time people hear that that's wrong is from a corporation," Creagh said.

Creagh said that if King were alive today, he would be concerned about it.

As a child in Chicago, Creagh did odd jobs for a local dentist, who hosted a meeting of civil rights leaders which

included King. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley was inhospitable to King's presence, so the meeting was held in secret.

Creagh missed the phone call to tell him the time of the meeting, and he didn't get to meet King.

But when he cleaned the house after the meeting, Creagh sat in the chair where King sat. He hoped one day he could make King proud.

"I remember praying as a child that I could be a great man like Dr. King," he said.

At one point during his speech, Creagh's microphone set off his defibrillator, which was put in a week before the vigil. His wife told him not to come, but he wanted to inspire students.

"There might be one more person out there that needs me. But I'm old. Martin's dead. You're young," Creagh said.

"You know what scares me? Your parents have given you so much it's taken the fight out of you," he said.

Creagh was also concerned about the privilege of younger generations compared to previous generations. Today's youth have too much stuff and lack the work ethic he learned as a child, he said.

"Just because you can afford it doesn't mean your family needs it," Creagh said.

He said parents are partly responsible for this because they find it easier to do house work themselves than to make sure their kids do it right.

"It may be easier for you to do it, but what are you teaching your child?" he asked. "You're teaching them that if they wait long enough, someone else will do it." ♦



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

Do you feel that ID readers are
necessary to ensure campus security?

Opinions 4 • Living 5 • Sports 6 • Classifieds 7

Smoking, drinking combo causes brain damage

By Katie Garland
Staff Writer

A recent study in the December issue of *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* suggests that smoking may enhance damage caused to the brain by alcohol use.

In the study, "Cigarette Smoking Exacerbates Chronic Alcohol-Induced Brain Damage: A Preliminary Metabolite Imaging Study," smokers and non-smokers who were either recovering alcoholics or light drinkers were compared on many different levels of brain activity by means of magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

The results of the study indicated that "chronic cigarette smoking exacerbates chronic alcohol-induced neuronal injury and cell membrane damage in the frontal lobes."

In other words, chronic smoking combined with chronic alcohol use, may cause damage to a part of the brain that is necessary for many daily functions as well as short-term memory, according to the author of the study, Timothy C. D'Arzo, who is a neurophysiologist and neuroscience researcher at the San Francisco Veterans Administration Medical Center.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, chronic alcohol



Photo Illustration by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

A new study says drinking and smoking is more dangerous than either vice alone.

abuse alone can cause brain damage accompanied by problems with cognitive and motor functions.

The damages caused by alcohol alone are similar to the damages noted in the study on alcohol and smoking.

Barbara Presley is a nurse practitioner for MTSU Health Services. Presley has not personally noted any specific medical research that recognizes smoking as a catalyst for the brain damage caused by alcohol consumption.

However, Presley did note that just as alcohol consump-

tion alone can cause brain damage, so can smoking.

"Along with nicotine, the issue with smoking is carbon monoxide," Presley said.

According to an article by *New South Wales Health*, carbon monoxide is a gas that "hitches a ride on your red blood cells and takes the place of some of the oxygen in your bloodstream." When your brain is not receiving the amount of oxygen it needs, brain damage can occur.

However, regarding the effects of smoking on alcohol consumption, it may depend on age, length of use, amount of

use and gender, according to Presley.

"Every student that comes into Health Services is asked about smoking and drinking as protocol," Presley said. "We are not trying to be nosy, but part of what we do is a risk assessment."

Health Services sees it as very important to help students identify unhealthy behaviors such as smoking and drinking at a young age, according to Presley.

Freshman chemistry major Tyler Bodiford has been a social drinker since he came to MTSU. According to Bodiford, many

What you should know about...

Smoking

- Chronic smoking can cause lung cancer, cancer of the mouth, stomach, kidney and liver to name a few.
- Smoking can lead to other diseases such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis.
- Smokers are twice as likely to die from a heart attack as non-smokers.
- Smoking also causes premature wrinkling of the skin, bad breath, bad smelling clothes and hair and yellow fingernails.

Drinking

- Alcohol can cause complications when mixed with one of over 150 different medications, including some antihistamines and painkillers.
- Liver disease, heart disease, certain forms of cancer, and pancreatitis often develop over many years of drinking.
- More than 2 million Americans suffer from alcohol-related liver disease.
- While moderate drinking is known to benefit the heart, heavy drinking over a long period of time can lead to complications such as heart disease, high blood pressure and stroke.

Source: www.huntingdon.edu/student_services/wellness_center/health_facts
www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/facts/alcohol.aspx

people who don't smoke on a regular basis do enjoy smoking while having a drink.

"I know so many people that only smoke when they drink," he said. "Especially girls." Bodiford is aware of the problems associated with extended

alcohol use and does not plan on drinking for a long time.

"Because I know it has negative effects, I don't drink every night," he said. "I'm not addicted to it, and I don't plan on drinking forever." ♦

Recording: Master's program introduced

Continued from 1

degree in this field," Barnett said.

The program includes a class on the legal aspects of the recording industry to help the graduates "protect the intellectual property that they create" and a class on the cultural context of recorded music, according to Barnett.

Paul Fischer, a recording industry professor who designed the cultural context course, said the master's program is designed to complement, not compete with, the undergraduate program.

"This program is intended for people already past the entry-level of the industry," Fischer said. "This [program] will be mostly technical classes using state-of-the-art equipment and will include lots of studio time."

Barnett said there has been interest in the program already, and he anticipates attracting candidates from all over the nation. He said the department plans to promote the program both directly and through press releases in trade publications.

"As soon as we are officially

approved, I will be meeting with the [recording industry] directors at Southern Cal and Cal State," Barnett said.

Barnett said the program has developed slowly over the last 12 years and credits recording industry department chair Christian Haseleu.

"Chris has worked on this program for the entire 12 years and it would not have happened without him," Barnett said.

Karen Austin, assistant director of the MTSU Career and Employment Center, said that the program will be a great addition to the College of Mass Communications and will be a great opportunity for students.

"This could establish MTSU as a hub for state-of-the-art research and production in the recording industry field," Austin said.

Austin said that a master's degree enhances an individual's chances of employment.

"This is a great opportunity to earn a marketable degree," Austin said. "This will be a benefit for anyone interested in research or wanting to go on to earn a PhD." ♦

Health services works to treat students faster

By Esparanda Waller
Staff Writer

Students who are sick or in a hurry can now be treated more quickly at Health Services.

On Jan. 18 morning appointments were put into effect for students with non-urgent problems and physicals. Students can call Health Services at 898-2988 Monday - Friday to schedule appointments between 8 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Federal Aviation appointments are also offered.

"The FAA appointments or airman's exams are for students in the Aerospace program who must take the physical," said Richard Chapman, director of Student Health Services.

"Nursing physicals, pre-employment physicals and women's health physicals are also offered," Chapman said.

Students must go to the Health Services office to schedule women's health appointments, because there is a \$10 booking fee.

Appointments are not offered for specific health care providers because they may or may not be available. But Health Services said they do their best to meet the needs of

students.

When students call to schedule an appointment, the receptionist will ask for a call-back number and a reason for the visit. On the day of the appointment, students must check in on the computer.

"We encourage students to use this new policy because they will be seen first," Chapman said. "In the past, some students had to wait for at least one hour before being seen. Scheduling appointments during these times reduces traffic volume and wait time, and staff schedules are better."

However, students who do have appointments but are more than 15 minutes late will be treated as walk-ins. Students will receive a reminder e-mail to their MTSU e-mail account at least one day before the appointment.

"Students can charge fees to their student accounts at the time of service, but they don't have seven days to pay off the fees anymore," said Ashley Neill, Health Services Scheduling Coordinator. "Students must pay the fees to the business office."

Health Services still accepts morning walk-ins. ♦

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Legislature: Session reconvenes on Monday

Continued from 1

a way to get more funding for Rutherford County "to keep up with some of the growth problems we've been having, particularly in building new schools."

Like Coleman, Hood is interested in increasing capital outlay so that universities can catch up on their building priorities. For MTSU, a new science building tops the list.

"It's going to have to be in several phases ... it's well over \$100 million dollars ... before they are going to be able to realize the total amount of money," Hood said.

Meanwhile, Coleman wants to address and perhaps further

strengthen Tennessee's sex offender laws.

"I personally hope to work with bills dealing with sexual predators and make sure Tennessee isn't a haven for sex offenders," Coleman said. "Tennessee used to be one of the weaker states as far as penalties for sex offenders and compliance for registration of sex offenders. Last year, we were able to pass some laws that require sex offenders to register their location more often and in person so we know where these offenders live."

The General Assembly will reconvene Monday when Gov. Phil Bredesen delivers his state of the state address. ♦

Florida gay couples drop challenges to federal Defense of Marriage Act

By Vickie Chachere
Associated Press Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Three gay couples dropped their lawsuits Tuesday challenging the federal Defense of Marriage Act, saying they don't want to risk having a conservative U.S. Supreme Court set precedent by rejecting their cases.

The suits were brought by gay couples married in Massachusetts and Canada who wanted Florida to recognize their marriages. Florida law only recognizes marriages between a man and a woman, and the Defense of Marriage Act allows states to disregard gay marriages performed in other states and foreign countries.

Plaintiffs' attorney Ellis Rubin said in a statement that the decision to drop the cases was made along with the ACLU's Gay and Lesbian Rights Project.

Key in the decision was the Supreme Court's recent refusal to hear a challenge to the Florida law that bans gays from adopting children.

"That ruling strongly suggests that our case would not be favorably received," Rubin said.

Two of the lawsuits were dismissed by a federal judge in Tampa last week. The third case, filed in Miami, had not been heard. If the dismissals had been appealed, the conservative 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta would have heard the case. Its ruling could have been appealed to the Supreme Court.

"It was a very difficult decision, but it was made in the best interest of my clients," Rubin said. "I felt that if we go to an appeal to the 11th Circuit, chances were very slim of us prevailing there and that would establish precedent for other judicial circuits."

U.S. District Judge James Moody's dismissal of the two lawsuits does not set precedent for other jurisdictions.

The lawsuits had been

opposed by the U.S. Justice Department and conservative groups, who would have prevailed in the lower courts.

Colorado's Focus on the Family and Orlando's Liberty Counsel, two groups opposed to the suits, did not immediately return calls for comment Tuesday. The Justice Department did not have an immediate response, either.

Robin Tyler, executive director of the Equality Campaign, the gay rights group that helped bring the lawsuits, said she doesn't consider the decision to drop the suits a setback for her cause.

"It's a loss when people don't stand up and fight for their rights," she said.

Tyler said her group's attention will now be focused on changing individual state laws to allow marriage between same-sex couples and other legal challenges in less conservative districts. The group is also battling efforts to amend the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriages.

"You pick your battles, but you continue fighting," Tyler said. "We understand it's a matter of time... Love always wins."

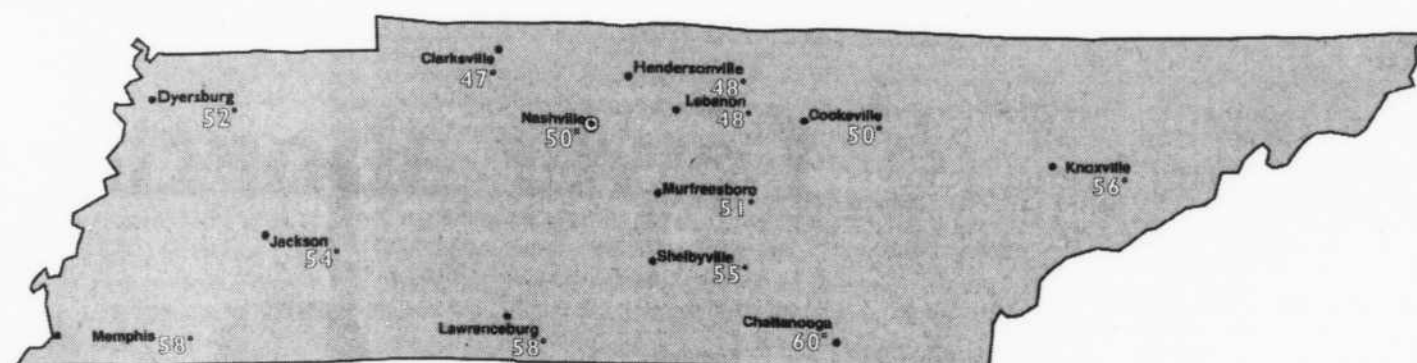
The Rev. Nancy Wilson, one of the participants in the lawsuits, said she agreed with the decision. She was seeking to have her Massachusetts marriage to Paula Shoenwether recognized by Florida.

Wilson, a minister in the Metropolitan Community Church, a nationwide church for gay Christians, said she will continue to fight Florida's gay marriage ban in other ways.

"Strategy is important," she said. "We know this issue will come before the Supreme Court one day and I believe when it does we will be victorious." ♦

Tennessee Weather – Wednesday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Advanced Placement students increasing in all states

By Ben Feller
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — More students are passing Advanced Placement exams in every part of the country, as college-level work in high school becomes increasingly common — and competitive.

In every state and the District of Columbia, the percentage of public school students who passed at least one AP test was up in 2004, compared with the graduating class of 2000. The Bush administration, which has been pushing to increase high school rigor, embraced the news, which followed other reports that have underscored how unprepared many graduates are for college or work.

Significant gaps remain, even as AP participation booms nationwide, according to the first state-by-state report in the 50-year history of the college-level testing program. Many students enter college without having passed an AP test. And black students have low test participation and test scores a full level behind those of whites.

The AP Program, which began as an experiment for elite students seeking college courses and credit, has now become a fixture in more than 14,000 U.S. public schools. Beyond gaining experience, a student gains an edge; college admission officers

say they place more importance on grades in college-prep courses such as AP than they do on any other factor.

Across the country, 20.9 percent of the public school class of 2004 — one in five students — took at least one AP exam, compared with 15.9 percent four years earlier. More significantly, 13.2 percent mastered an AP exam last year, up from 10.2 percent in 2000.

Research shows that success on AP exams is a strong predictor of success in college.

"This new report provides further proof that our children respond when we challenge them academically," said Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, who began her term this week. Spellings said she was particularly happy to see more minorities taking AP courses. That has been a long-standing challenge for the College Board, the nonprofit that runs the AP Program.

Hispanics made up 13.1 percent of AP test-takers last year, up from 10.9 percent. Their participation slightly exceeds their share of the public school population. AP Spanish appears to be influencing those numbers, as 53 percent of its participants are Hispanic.

Black students remain underrepresented in the AP Program. They account for 13.2 percent of the students but only 6 percent of AP test-takers, up

from 5.3 percent four years ago.

About two in three AP test-takers are white.

To avoid inflating state performance, the College Board counted students once regardless of how many AP subject tests they passed. But that obscures the point that students in wealthy areas often have access to multiple AP courses while other students do not, said Bob Schaeffer, public education director of FairTest, which monitors standardized testing.

"Unfortunately, despite the value of AP courses, they end up reinforcing huge gaps between haves and have-nots because of differences in where courses are offered," he said.

For many students, an AP course is often their first exposure to challenging material, said Kati Haycock, director of the Education Trust, which advocates for minority children. In that sense, she said, the growing participation rates are clearly good news.

But the AP popularity raises questions, too, Haycock said, such as whether the program takes the best teachers and leaves less experienced ones for struggling students. Among students who go on to college, about 40 percent take at least one remedial course.

"It's not the total answer," Haycock said of the AP. "If we think this is the way to improve

academics in high schools, we need to think a little harder than that."

Advanced Placement executive director Trevor Packer agreed. Schools that have success in producing access and good scores on the AP are the ones that take a broader approach, he said. They require rigorous curriculum and teacher training years before the grades when AP tests are taken.

On a 5-point scale, the typical test score is 2 for black students, between 2.5 to 2.8 for Hispanic students, and 3 for white students.

New York is the first state to have more than 20 percent of its graduating class achieve a grade of 3 or higher on the exam, the level considered to be mastery. New York's challenging standards and state testing have encouraged AP enrollment, state officials said.

Other states were close to New York — Maryland, Utah, Florida, California and Massachusetts had 18 to 20 percent of students earning the passing score.

The states with the greatest increases in successful AP scores were Florida, Maryland, North Carolina, Colorado, Connecticut and Washington.

Gains ranged from just 0.6 percentage points by Louisiana and Mississippi to 5.7 percentage points by Florida. ♦



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From the Editorial Board

Graduation rate needs improvement now

When the new NCAA academic reform standards take place next fall, MT's sports programs will have to maintain a graduation rate of at least 50 percent. The current graduation rate for athletes who came in as freshman in 1997-98 is 48 percent, compared to 40 percent for the student body.

The student athletes deserve credit for an above average graduation rate, but the student body average isn't that great either.

MTSU's prestige depends on the quantity and quality of students who graduate and get jobs. Any efforts made to increase the graduate rates for athletes should apply to the entire student body.

MTSU is here to educate students, and that means graduating them should be a priority.

The fact that athletes graduate at higher rates than average students indicates that greater school involvement yields greater success.

Not every student can join a sports team or participate in clubs, but the bonds between professors and students could be stronger.

Too many adjunct professors teach classes in which they have little interest. Students pick up on this, and their work often reflects the lack of interest.

Full-time professors are expensive. If the university is going to hire people off the street to teach lower division courses, they should be sure these people know how to teach.

Learning theories suggest that teachers with good techniques are more successful than teachers with complete mastery of the subject. The emphasis is often on what is being taught, but how things are taught is just as important.

Simply adding more full-time professors will not solve the problem. All professors must reach out to struggling students. A professor can show concern without coddling anyone.

Greater faculty-student involvement will be impossible until class sizes are reduced. No one can expect personal attention from a professor who has more than 20 students.

Of course, faculty isn't the only issue here. Students who enroll in college have a personal responsibility to graduate. The ones who want it bad enough usually do. ♦

Fewer abortions is best for all

For Argument's Sake



Jason Cox
Staff Columnist

In the pro-choice vs. anti-abortion conflict, politics usually tops compromise and empathy.

That's why Sen. Hillary Clinton's statement that she sought to reduce the number of abortions is such a surprising move toward what should be the ultimate goal of minimizing unwanted pregnancies in this country.

Both pro-choice and anti-abortion advocates have a bad habit of painting each other with a sinister brush. Anti-abortionists are portrayed as out of touch religious zealots who want to return to the days of back-alley procedures, while pro-choice advocates are labeled as purveyors of moral filth by encouraging abortion as a birth control method – or worse, as murderers.

To the reasonable mind, sending young women and responsible doctors to prison is abhorrent. Yet even the staunchest of choice supporters recognize that abortion is often a painful choice to make.

"We can all recognize that abortion in many ways represents a sad,

even tragic choice to many, many women," Clinton said at a pro-choice rally in Albany, N.Y., according to *The New York Times*. "The fact is that the best way to reduce the number of abortions is to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies in the first place."

Until the Supreme Court is loaded with more staunch conservatives, the abortion question – at least in the legal realm – is answered.

So it would seem that putting money into organizations to protest this established right is a bit futile.

The money could be much better spent by investing it in universal prenatal care, so that a woman

who chose to put her child up for adoption wouldn't have to face this tough financial choice.

Let's face it: A lot of decisions regarding child-bearing come down to a question of economics, and an abortion is much cheaper than paying the doctors for prenatal care and for the delivery itself. If so-called pro-lifers are truly interested in protecting life, they will invest their money that currently pays administrators to complain to reporters at the ground level, where it matters – and lives can actually be saved.

And how about making sure these unwanted pregnancies don't happen in the first place? Prevention methods such as education that mentions condoms and birth control pills, and social organizations that give these items out are decry by the religious right, yet it is these very same people who act so shocked when the newest statistics on teenage pregnancy come out.

Think about it: Every child is born with organs that have the power to create life, make each

other sick and even kill each other. How foolish is it to tell kids to "just say no" instead of telling them how these organs work (i.e. "pulling out" is not an effective birth control method) and how they might control when they decide to have children and prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections?

The abstinence-only movement attempts to enforce Judeo-Christian notions that sex outside the marital home is fundamentally evil and wrong, but refusing to educate children on how exactly that stuff works seems, well, anti-educational.

If we can agree that reducing unwanted pregnancies should be a fundamental social goal, then we have to find solutions that work rather than those that fit within a strict interpretation of biblical code.

After all, the road to the abortion clinic is paved with good intentions. ♦

Jason Cox is a senior journalism major and can be reached at jrc2r@mtsu.edu.

We don't need lecture on syllabus contents

This column is intended for all teachers, their assistants, substitutes and generally anyone who will be teaching classes this week. Students are, of course, encouraged to agree as well. It's always nice to have people reading with you, after all.

I have been a student here for quite some time. I have had enough "first week of the semester" time periods to be fairly used to a particular pastime that I have often found myself questioning.

Why is it that every single teacher in every single class feels the need to read their entire syllabus on the first day?

I can sympathize with someone who has to fill an entire block of time with some kind of relevant information on the very first meeting of any kind of class, but there must be a better, more than to go through, item by item, the entire class syllabus.

Yes, I understand that there is the general understanding among educators that all college kids are lazy, and that if you don't read the syllabus to them, then they will never read it themselves.

But, come on, is that entirely true? Won't students with a sincere interest in the classes they are taking have the impetus to read the syllabus on their own?

I remember being six years old and having my mother read books to me. I enjoyed that very much. But, amazingly enough, in the decade and a half since then I have grown quite accustomed to reading things on my own.

In fact, whenever someone is reading any information aloud that I have right in front of me, I tend to tune the entire thing out and begin to think about rodeo clowns, the Beatles' song I was just listening to and Jack Daniel's.

To be perfectly frank, I find it insulting that at the beginning of each and every semester I am required to sit and listen to

You Should Know This Already



Carter Fort
Staff Columnist

a new teacher read his/her syllabus. It's as if the teacher is saying, "I don't know you. You don't know me. But I don't trust you enough to read this on your own, so I'm going to read it to you now." It just feels condescending, and it's not the best way to start off a semester-long relationship.

So, in the place of reading the class outline aloud, what are some other things that teachers can do on the first day?

The obvious answer is to let the students go early, but that is almost as pointless as reading us the syllabus because then we just have to sit and wait for our next class to start and we wind up bored anyway. What about having some inventive way of drawing the students into the class material right off the bat?

No, I don't know how, but I'm not a teacher. Maybe get all the students immediately involved with each other by doing some kind of project.

The bottom line is that there has to be a better way to start the semester off than boring the hell out of, alienating, and insulting your students by treating them like untrustworthy children. Have a little faith. We are, after all, on the upper echelon of the education scheme, aren't we? ♦

Carter Fort is a senior digital animation major and can be reached at ctf2b@mtsu.edu.

Marriage amendment runs counter to ideals of founding fathers

When our fabulous forefathers were compiling the basic construct of our government, they knew one thing to be unarguably true: the majority will always work to stomp the minority. It's a rather simple truth that has been played out through U.S. history.

Knowing this undeniable fact, these wise old gentlemen created the Bill of Rights, which, unlike laws, are difficult to edit or change. As they created a system of adding, deleting and editing laws, this list of rights was created to ensure that the minority was protected, despite any forces working against them.

As a result of the Bill of Rights, larger religions cannot flush out the smaller, less prevalent ones. Law-abiding citizens cannot sweep away the rights of a few criminals. If these wise men of the days of old truly believed that democracy was perfect, they would never have created a list of inalienable rights that apply to all Americans, regardless of individual differences. There would be no need for a Bill of Rights. Instead, people could just use the law-creating mechanisms to vote in the correct protections for themselves.

It is for this reason that the gay marriage amendment is ridiculous. In attempting to define marriage as a union between a man and woman, the U.S. government is working against the basic rights of all Americans, and thus creating an inequality that our nation's founders were working against.

It's almost hilarious, though highly dangerous, to think that our lawmakers believe that they should have the ability to alter a document that forms the foundation of our society simply because they cannot stomach the idea of two men living happily with the same rights that their "man and wife" neighbors have.

The trouble that these anti-gay legislators are encountering in passing this measure is a direct result of the fact that "inventors" of our nation specifically made amending difficult to keep this kind of "minority-stomping" out.

The essence of the United States' system of government is that the minority is protected, just as the majority is. These rights were not created to keep people from stomping one another but to prevent the government from doing so.

Sure, an employer might use modern stereotypes to label you as homosexual and deny you a job, but the government cannot deny your rights, whether you carry a rainbow flag or not.

Even if this specific issue doesn't affect you specifically, it does in an indirect way. If gay and lesbian couples are denied marriage through Constitutional additions, you could be next if you have any personal practice or viewpoint that diverges from the majority.

If President George W. Bush is allowed to win his crusade against gay America, what will come next? What will the nature of the majority be in years to come? Will your views eventually make up the minority viewpoint and thusly, put you at risk? Allowing any editing of such a document in order to take away freedom, instead of give it, only serves to stop progress in its tracks.

Creating a Constitutional amendment to deny versus protect is in fact a good practice and will open our nation to further attacks on civil liberties. When those old men, with their powdered wigs and pipes filled with tobacco, gathered around the table to discuss the nation's direction, they were working to create a nation for everyone.

As our country has evolved, those rights have been truly extended to all with the eventual inclusion of racial minorities. It has never been used to sweep rights away from U.S. citizens. Doing so is not a practice that we should start. It is against the very fiber of our country, a country that belongs to heterosexuals and homosexuals alike. ♦

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a senior mass communications major and can be reached at ceb2k@mtsu.edu.

From the Opinions Editor

'Army we have' isn't enough to keep fighting Iraq War

President George W. Bush handed a bill down to Congress yesterday, but it wasn't something he vetoed.

The president is asking for an additional \$80 billion to continue the U.S.-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, driving the total cost for military operations to close to \$300 billion, a figure equaling half the cost of the entire Vietnam War.

This coming from a White House that dismissed warnings that the cost of invading and occupying Iraq would strain the budget as well as the federal deficit, a pot of red ink that will plunge to a depth of \$427 billion if Congress approves the president's request.

When former White House economic adviser Lawrence Lindsey estimated the cost of the war in Iraq to be between \$100 billion and \$200 billion, the Bush administration scoffed at the idea while Lindsey wrote his resignation letter. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz declared "We are dealing with a country that can really finance its own reconstruction, and relatively soon."

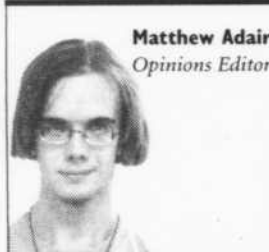
I imagine Lindsey is out there, somewhere, saying "I told you so!"

Wars cost a lot of money, and the \$80 billion dollars is supposed to go to good use: the money will be spent on equipment replacement and repair, as well as equipping three Army brigades.

The White House, however, would have been wise to listen to both economic and military advisers who cautioned that the administration's estimates of the costs and number of personnel needed to secure Iraq were insufficient, instead of dismissing these warnings offhand and charging into a battle our armed forces were not fully prepared to undertake.

Congress should approve the money; our troops need all the assistance they can be given. The Bush administration, however, should stand accountable for its error in judgment. Carelessness that severe is unacceptable, especially when the price paid for a bad decision is 1,541 dead soldiers and between 15,000 and 17,000 dead Iraqis. ♦

Matthew Adair is an art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor



Callie Elizabeth Butler
Staff Columnist

Letters to the Editor

Ballot 'secret' even to Iraqi people

To the Editor:

I was amused to read in Matthew Adair's column that "[m]ost of us may not even know who the candidates in the upcoming Iraqi national elections are." ("Upcoming elections will show Iraqis' faith in democracy," Jan. 24, pg. 4) We aren't the only ones! The Iraqis don't know either. This is a genuine secret ballot we have here: even the candidates are secret.

But Adair is right that the act of voting will say more than the choice. It won't, alas, say anything about democracy, since this "election" will hardly be democratic, but about whether Iraqis accept American rule. Only 4 percent of Iraqis living in the United States have registered, which suggests that those Iraqis not subject to the pressure of violence are voting "no."

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www.ind-music.com

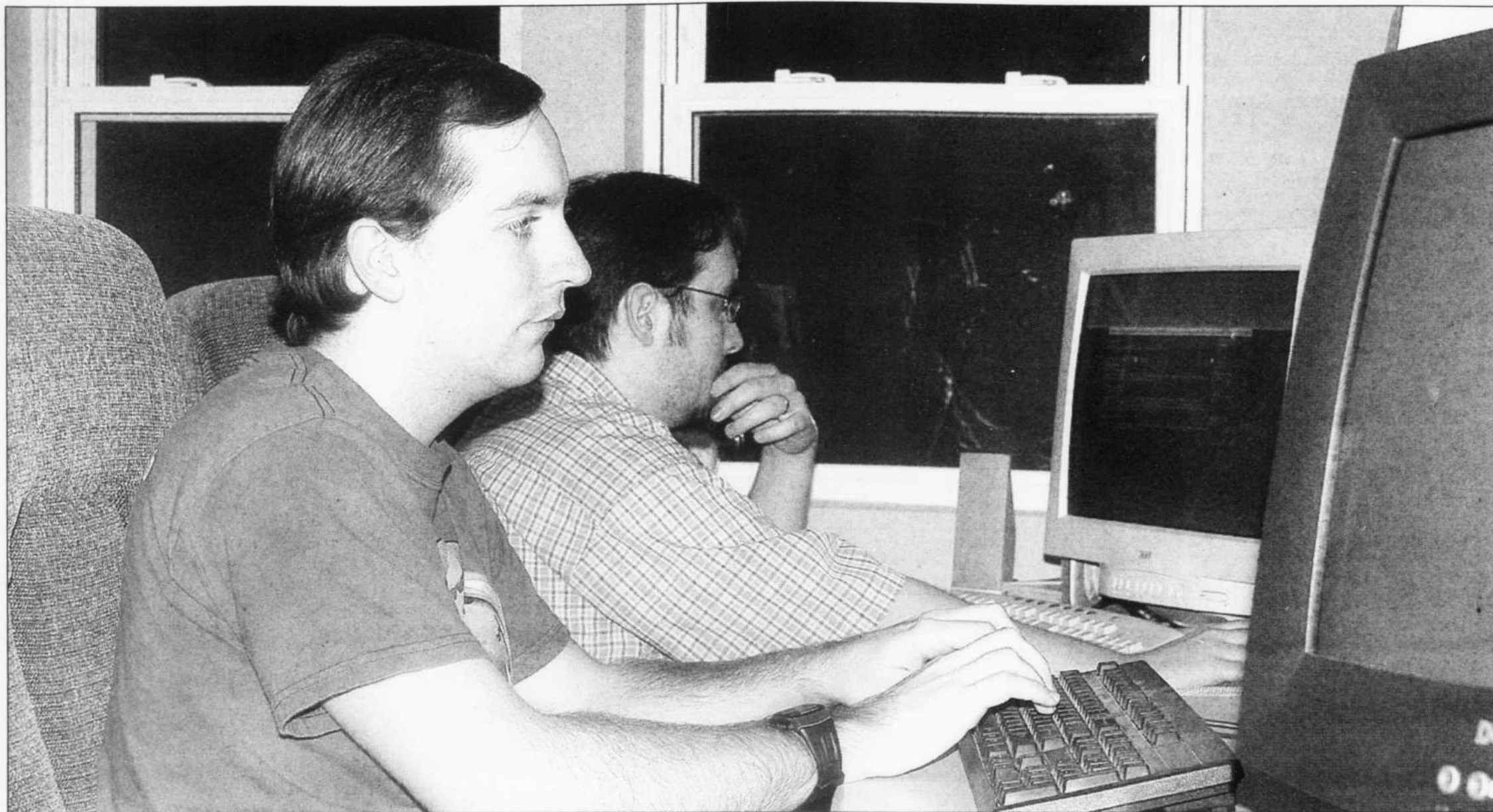


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Ind-music.com owner and recording industry alumnus Patrick Hefner and his partner Michael Brown work on the new site designed to help independent bands.

Alum's online music store aims to promote indie bands

By Audrey Scruton
Staff Writer

From fliers stapled to telephone poles to multi-colored chalk advertisements on sidewalks, many MTSU students are aware of Murfreesboro's independent music scene.

Now, thanks to former recording industry major Patrick Hefner and his Web site, Ind-Music.com, those independent artists now have a place to get their voices – and their music – heard.

"This [site] gives listeners and artists an alternative to the mainstream, [a place] where they can control their music," says Hefner, owner and CEO of Ind-Music.com. "There is a lot of good music out there that we don't even get to hear about."

Ind-Music.com has been in development stages since November 2002. The site went live to the public Jan. 7.

"My wife and I co-developed the basic idea behind the site, and I met a computer programmer who has been able to successfully program the site to do exactly what I need it to do,"

Hefner explains.

"The Web site was the brainchild of Patrick Brown years ago," says Michael Brown, co-owner of Ind-Music.com. "As part of an independent band at that time, he realized how difficult it is to get your music out to the world. This Web site gives them a chance to sell their music to the world without the political or financial hoops associated with going into the 'biz.'"

Who would be interested in Ind-Music.com?

"The only demographic that we have in mind are those that love music and want to support an independent music movement," Brown says.

All artists participating on Hefner's site are given a lot of breathing room to promote their music.

"We have no restrictions on genres or styles of music," Hefner says. "The only thing that we do regulate is whether someone is selling other artists' music without their consent and passing it off as their own. So I can't go upload some obscure Green Day song and sell it as my own."

Ind-Music.com allows independent artists to put their music up for sale, either in the music store on the site or as purchasable music downloads.

"The Web site is a no-nonsense approach to selling music online without any middle man to take cuts of the bands' profit," Brown explains.

There is no cost for artists to use the Web site.

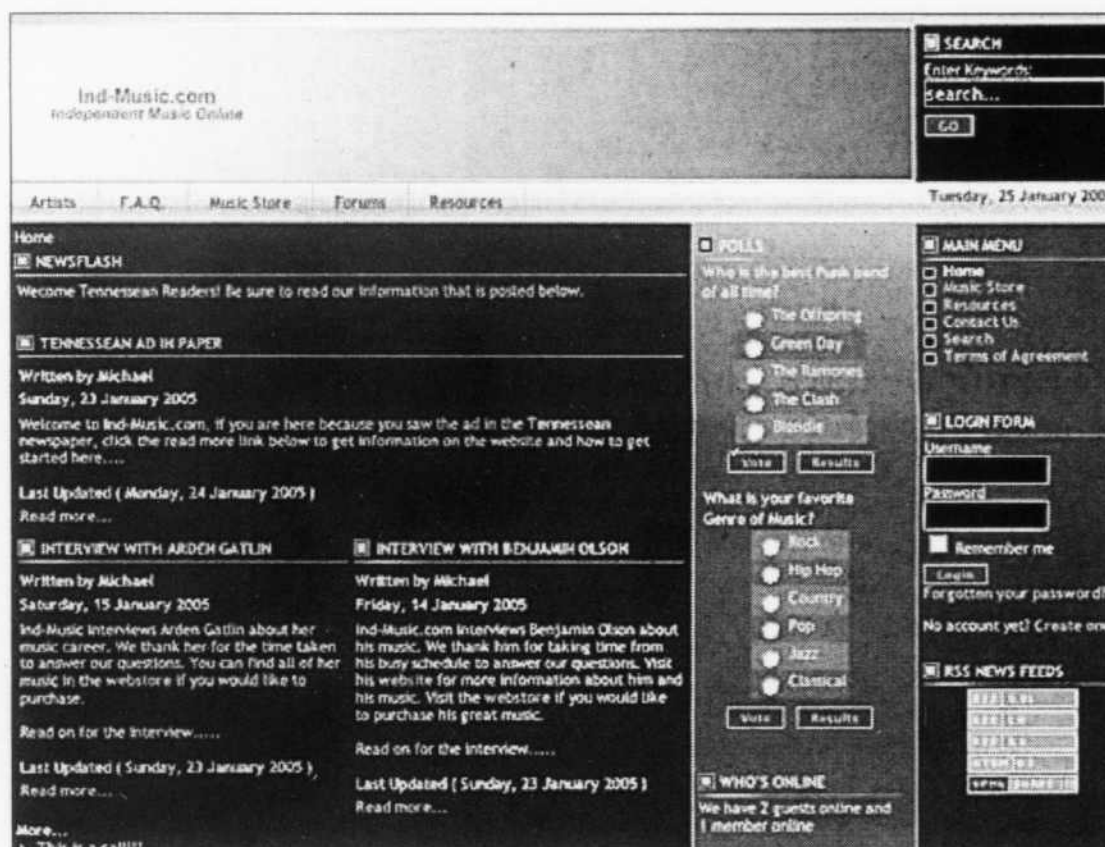
"All we do is take a commission off the net sale of the music that is sold [on the Web site]," Hefner explains.

"However, as the artist sells more music, our commission decreases and their profit increases. I won't say that a band will make \$1.2 million a year on this Web site, but it is possible."

"We want the Web site to succeed, but most importantly, we want the independent artists out there to succeed as well," Brown says.

Although the Web site has only been fully functional for a few weeks, Hefner says he has already seen a positive response to it.

"The response has been very



welcoming, and most have expressed how there is a need for something like this," Hefner says.

James Pope, a junior liberal arts major, thinks the site shows promise.

"The ultimate goal is to help bands and artists realize that there is another alternative to the mainstream, and that you don't have to give up your creative freedom to make hit albums," Hefner says.

In the weeks ahead, Hefner plans to continue increasing advertising efforts and heighten publicity about the Web site.

now."

Hefner hopes that his Web site will accomplish a many things, from creating a community to providing an artistic outlet for fledgling bands.

"The ultimate goal is to help bands and artists realize that there is another alternative to the mainstream, and that you don't have to give up your creative freedom to make hit albums," Hefner says.

In the weeks ahead, Hefner plans to continue increasing advertising efforts and heighten publicity about the Web site.

various college music scenes such as Athens, Ga. and Jacksonville, Fla.," Hefner says.

Plans are also in the works for moving the site's servers to better facilities, offering free concerts in either audio or video format and including other art forms, such as photography and theater, on the site.

"The possibilities with the Internet really make ventures such as this a reality, instead of a dream," Hefner says. "Now I don't feel so worried that I am totally insane or something." ♦

Students, community can shimmy, shake at Recreation Center this semester

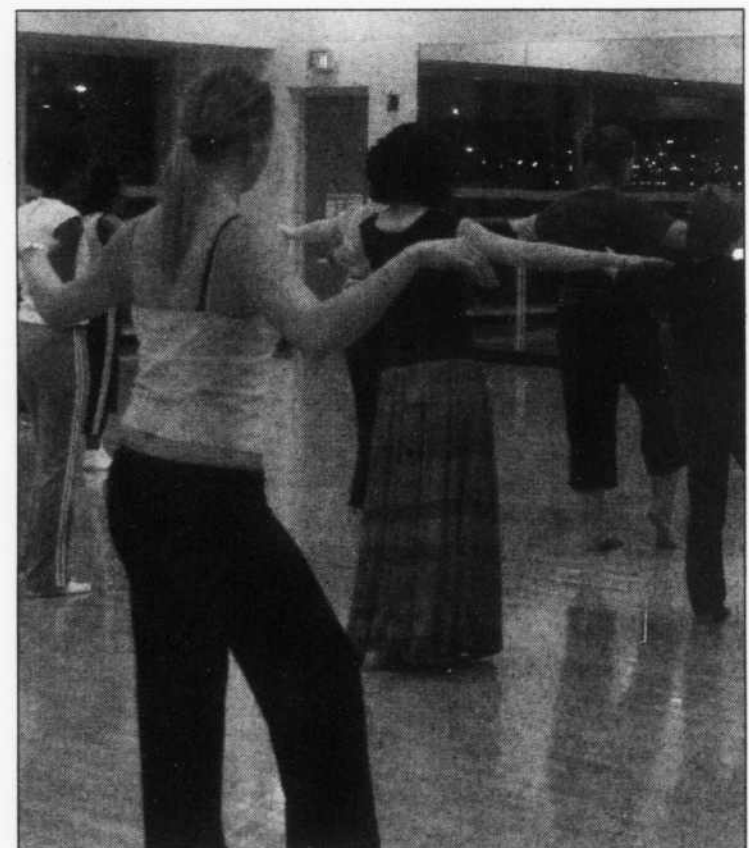


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Students participate in the first belly dancing class at the Rec Center last Thursday night.

By Erica Rodefer
Managing Editor

Belly dancers have shimmed, shook, waved and wiggled in record numbers as more and more people are turning to the ancient art form for exercise.

Now, MTSU students have the opportunity to participate in the exotic, elaborate tradition known as belly dancing.

Belly dancing is an ancient art form that originated in the Middle East, India and Asia as long as 6,000 years ago, according to www.bellydance.org.

Becky Seipelt, a biology professor at MTSU, will be co-teaching the class held at the Campus Recreation Center this semester with assistant librarian Andria Hudgens.

"We just wanted to bring a new kind of dance to the students," Seipelt says. "Belly dancing is different than the kind of dances we're used to that concentrate on feet movements."

The idea for the class came when Seipelt and Hudgens per-

formed with a group called Maqam at the MTSU Performing Arts Company (MPAC) show in December.

"There was just such an interest in learning that we decided to start a class," Seipelt says. When she saw a performer at the Renaissance Fair in 2003, she immediately started taking lessons.

Both Seipelt and Hudgens have both been belly dancing for some time (Seipelt since 2001 and Hudgens since 2003) with a teacher in Murfreesboro.

The class continued to meet after their teacher moved to New York.

Hudgens says the group continues to get together to dance a couple of times a week at one of their houses just for fun and exercise.

"I had seen it as a little girl when I grew up in Detroit, and I'd always seen it at restaurants or weddings that I had attended," Hudgens says. "I'd always wanted to do it."

Belly dancing has a lot of

health benefits, because it is based on natural body movements that can help tone and strengthen every muscle in the body. It was well-suited for the Rec Center facility, which offers group exercise classes designed to promote health and fitness.

The one catch is that in compliance with Rec Center rules, all bellies must be covered. So, instead of the traditional costuming that belly dancers perform and practice in, most of the participants in the Rec Center classes will be wearing t-shirts and exercise shorts or pants.

"It might take away when we do the undulations or the camel or the belly roll (parts of the dance that show movements in the abdominal area)," Hudgens says. "But we can still show it – just through our T-shirts maybe."

That didn't stop 35 students and community members from trying their hands (and hips) at it for the first class, last Thursday night – more than is

average for a group exercise class at the Rec Center. And that's with very little publicity at all.

"I let my classes know about it, and we did go to the MPAC club meeting to let them know we were going to be having [the belly dancing class]," Seipelt says. "I was thrilled with the turnout."

In following weeks, Seipelt says she plans to incorporate more about different styles of belly dancing as well as give participants the chance to practice the skills they may have learned last week.

"We're hoping to be starting a class here in a studio in Murfreesboro around summer time," says Hudgens, who also says she might bring some belly dancing apparel to sell at future classes.

The belly dancing class will be every Thursday night from 6-7 p.m. at the Rec Center. Admission for students \$1 per class or \$10 for 25 classes. ♦

New NCAA academic standards will force change

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

With new NCAA academic reform standards taking place in the fall, some of MT's sports programs are at risk of possibly losing scholarships.

The plan approved by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors on Jan. 10 states that college sports teams must maintain a graduation rate of at least 50 percent.

"This is a strong package of reforms, and I applaud the Board of Directors and the Committee on Academic Performance for their efforts," NCAA President Myles Brand said in a press release. "The penalties are strong, and they will hold teams accountable and

lead to increased academic success for student-athletes."

The graduation rate will be based on each individual sport. University President Sidney McPhee, who is on the Board of Directors, said it will eventually have an impact on the whole athletic department.

The new standards will be based on a six-year graduation rate. The current graduation rate for all student-athletes who came in as freshman in 1997-98 at MTSU is 48 percent, compared to 40



McPhee

percent of the student body at MTSU.

Teams with a graduation rate of less than 50 percent could be subject to contemporaneous penalties.

The penalty does not allow the school the chance to re-award the scholarship of an ineligible student-athlete who left the school to a new student-athlete. This restriction would last for one year.

The sports with the lowest graduation rate at MTSU are currently football, with 41 percent, and men's basketball, with 40 percent.

"It means that all of our coaches need to be tuned into the type of student-athletes they recruit," McPhee said. "We are telling our coaches, particularly in football, the days that you go out and

recruit the student-athlete without really focusing on their grades and their ability to adjust to a college life environment along with the demands of football — those days are over."

According to the stats released by the NCAA, the sports that would be most affected by these new academic reform standards and would have at least one player below the standard are baseball, 23.9 percent; men's basketball, 20.1 percent; and football, 30.7 percent.

McPhee said that some of the reasons for these sports being higher than the other sports would be due to the higher number of players.

Football, for instance, has 85 players on a team, whereas tennis only has eight players.

Another reason for discrepancies in numbers is the tendency of athletes in the major sports to leave college early and go to professional leagues.

McPhee has put in a three-prong plan for athletes dealing with academic policies, a mentorship program for those not meeting the standards and a summer school policy. According to McPhee, MTSU has been planning this for the past year.

If teams do not improve to meet these standards within four years, then they could lose their NCAA membership status.

McPhee said the Board of Directors will meet in April to discuss more issues about the plan. ♦

Morrison lights up Murphy

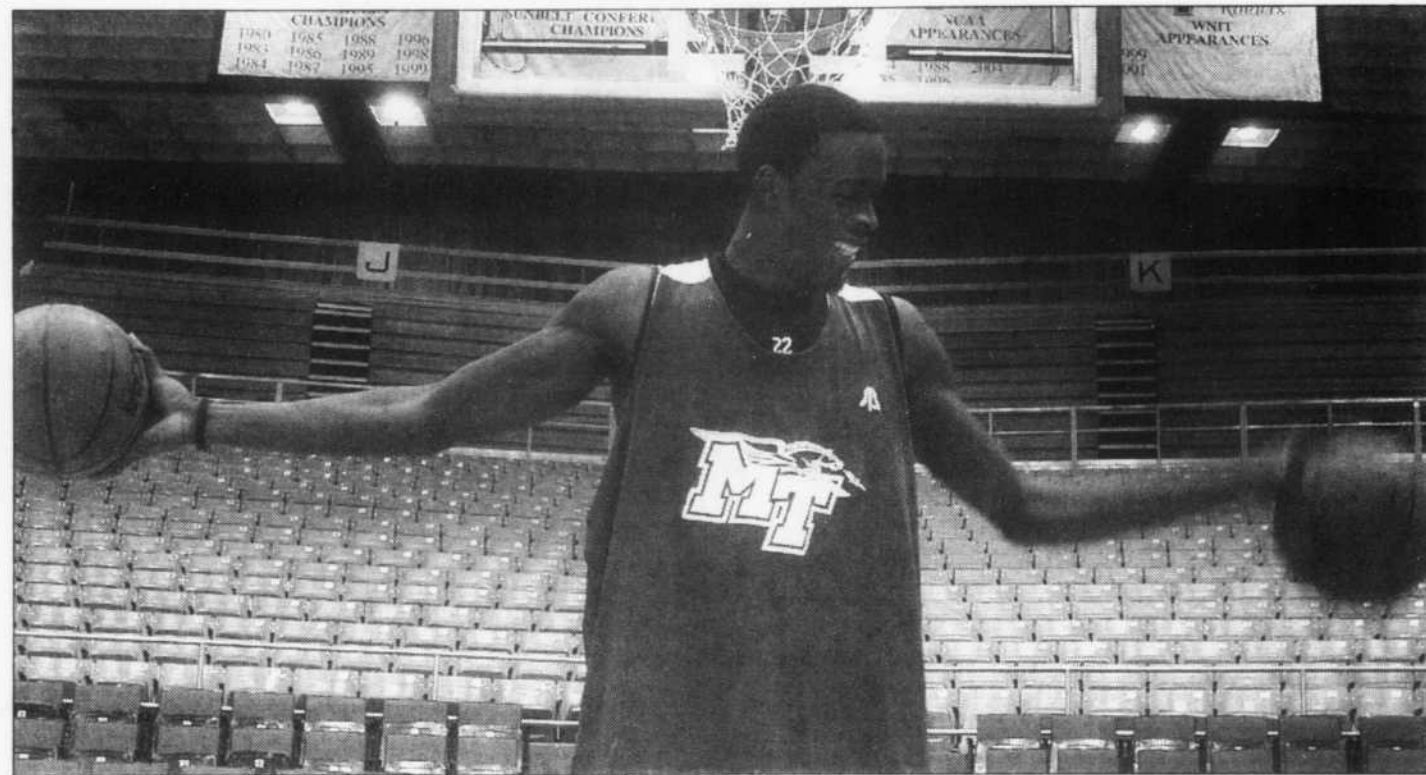


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Marcus Morrison laughs as he tries to palm the ball. Morrison has become the energy player for MT this year.

Transfer brings energy, explosive dunks to squad

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

At the Nov. 27 Belmont game, Middle Tennessee guard and junior transfer Marcus Morrison formally introduced himself to the Murphy Center crowd by grabbing seven rebounds and netting nine points, including two dunks that sent Blue Raider fans into a frenzy.

Pleasure to meet you, Mr. Morrison.

Morrison's electricity on the court may be new to MT fans, but the Florida native's sparks have been capturing the attention of his family and coaches for years.

"Once he's in front of someone, he just lights up," Morrison's mother Shelia Morrison explained. "Ever since he was about 6 years old, he's always been that way."

The 6-foot-6-inch junior's intensity on the court has

been a long time in the making: Morrison started playing basketball before he began kindergarten.

"My dad was a coach, so he just threw me out there and let me run around," Morrison said. "I scored my first two points when I was 4 years old."

Grade school basketball gave Morrison time to sharpen his skills, to stretch his legs (literally) and to prepare for what would be a memorable high school experience.

Under coach Dan Wright at Lakewood High School in St. Petersburg, Fla., Morrison fine-tuned his skills until he was averaging 18 points and nine rebounds per game.

"He [Wright] was the type of coach that knew how to keep Marcus in check," Shelia Morrison said. "He knew how to calm [Marcus] down and really use him."

In Morrison's senior year, Lakewood High went 33-2

and won the state championship for the first time in Wright's 25-year coaching career at Lakewood.

"My whole senior year was very memorable," Morrison said. "It was just a storybook ending."

Morrison's talent and spark on the court caught the eye of Southeastern Conference member South Carolina, who inked the incoming freshman in the spring of 2002.

But Morrison's only year with USC was a dramatic change from his dominating role in high school, as he averaged only two points and one rebound per game.

"He [Morrison] thought he should have more playing time, but he had a little growing to do," Shelia Morrison said.

After a disappointing season with USC, Morrison transferred to Garden City Community College, where he averaged 16.2 points per game

before transferring to MTSU in the summer of 2004.

Accustomed to the large size of USC, Morrison made a smooth transition into MTSU's ever-growing student body.

"[MTSU] reminded me a lot of South Carolina, and that's why I liked it," Morrison said. "This really seemed like a big-time atmosphere."

His first practices with MT, however, were not as easy a transition.

"From where he started, he lasted about 10 minutes in our first workouts," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "We've seen improvements in that area, but as soon as we get him to play with that toughness for a longer period of time, he's got a chance to be as good as a lot of people in our league — maybe as talented as anybody out there."

Morrison has provided

See Morrison, 8

Eagles don't have prayer against Pats

Yes, the Super Bowl is still more than a week away, but it's never too early to talk about the biggest event in sports.

The two teams meeting next Sunday have traveled completely different paths. The New England Patriots are a dynasty in the making, while the Philadelphia Eagles have defined the word "choke" for the past three seasons.

The Eagles are returning to the Super Bowl for the first time since 1981 after making it to the conference championship the last four seasons. Not surprisingly, the Eagles already have a case of the "just-happy-to-be-here" syndrome. New England has the advantage on every angle going into the game.

Let's start with coaching. Bill Belichick is the premier coach in the NFL, and with another victory he will be assured a place on the Mount Rushmore of coaching, right next to Vince Lombardi.

What's more, Belichick's top assistants will be head coaches elsewhere next season. Offensive coordinator Charlie Weis will have the task of rebuilding Notre Dame, and defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel will likely be Cleveland's new coach next season. All have had Super Bowl experience, giving them a decided edge over Andy Reid's staff.

From a personnel standpoint, the Pats have greater depth than any team in the league. It's safe to say that Belichick is the only coach in the NFL who can boast that he plays all 53 players on his roster.

The Eagles have little depth on offense, especially at wide receiver, where Terrell Owens will likely play. How effective Owens will be, however, remains to be seen.

Both quarterbacks have similar games, but Tom Brady is a proven winner in the playoffs, which Donovan McNabb cannot say. Brady's excellent game

Sports commentary



Cody Gibson
Staff Columnist

management skills will be the difference in this game. McNabb is also sometimes erratic with his accuracy, which could prove fatal against New England.

Both running backs are among the top players at their position, and each is key to his respective offense's game plan. Brian Westbrook must play a large role catching the ball as well as rushing for the Eagles to have a shot.

Defensively, both teams are very strong despite their different approaches. Philadelphia is notorious for its blitzing defense, whereas the Patriots change their look from week to week. The New England defense made the league's Most Valuable Player look like a rookie two weeks ago, and last week they made a rookie look like, well, worse than a rookie.

With all of this said, it's easy to see why New England will run away with their third title in four seasons. Giving the Patriots an extra week of preparation can only hurt the Eagles as Belichick and his staff come up with a plan to make another high-powered offense look inept.

A huge New England victory is imminent, but the final score will likely not represent the dominance the Patriots display. Expect Philly to put in a couple of garbage-time scores as the Patriots celebrate on the sidelines.

If the game is a blowout, though, there are always the commercials. ♦

Cody Gibson is a sophomore mass communication major. He can be reached at cwg2g@mtsu.edu.

Varsity Club begins Hall of Fame fund-raising drive

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

The newly-constructed Rose and Emmett Kennon Sports Hall of Fame was dedicated and officially became part of the Middle Tennessee community on Oct. 9, 2004.

Rose and former MT athlete Emmett Kennon donated more than \$1 million dollars to have this state-of-the-art structure created.

The Hall of Fame is the first building visitors see from the North side of the campus.

Now that the building — a mere thesis at the beginning of a story and an elaborate part of the history of MTSU's athletics — is finished, Varsity Club director Jim Simpson is continuing the fund-raising efforts begun by former athletic director Boots Donnelly.

The fund-raising is for displays inside the Hall of Fame that will recall the history of each sport at MT and inform visitors of what MT athletics is really about. The displays will include

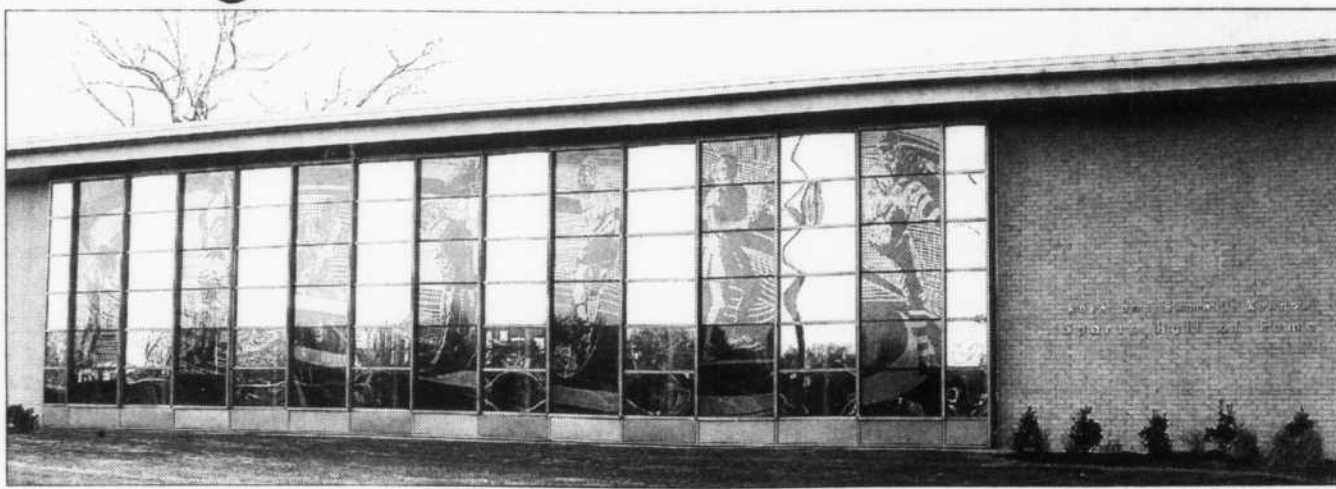


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

The Rose and Emmett Kennon Sports Hall of Fame was officially dedicated on Oct. 9, 2004.

video presentations, hall of fame inductee display cases and touch screen units.

The brochure for the Hall of Fame states three main goals for this building:

Educate and inspire a universal audience with the significant contributions and accomplishments of Middle Tennessee collegiate athletics; foster a sense of history, tradition and excellence,

allowing visitors to place Middle Tennessee's historical sports legacies in clear perspective; serve as a major resource for Middle Tennessee's students, alumni, fans and supporters interested in preserving and interpreting the university's collegiate sports history.

As soon as everything is in place and the displays are up, the university will begin using the Hall of Fame to tell

MT's history. The fund raising has already begun. The goal is to reach between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

Simpson hopes to receive the goal amount as soon as possible so construction on the displays can begin. Once the money is in account, he would like to see the displays done within a year in order to have a grand opening. If the Varsity Club unable to

raise the money altogether, the displays are likely to be done in shifts.

"That's the only thing that stands between us and actually telling our story of the history of athletics at the university," Simpson commented.

A few functions have already been held to aid in raising the money. However, Simpson and others are relying on their main benefactor: former athletes.

The building is very attractive on the outside, and Simpson would like the inside to be just as attractive. There are multiple uses for the Hall of Fame building that Simpson mentioned. The possibilities for athletics and the university as a whole are unlimited.

"This building could be used for showing all the students at CUSTOMS, all the new students, all of our alumni," Simpson said. "There's not really a good central location for them to go when they come back. Since this is in the middle of the athletic complex, when they come to games ... we're right in the middle of that." ♦

Clinic Bowl leaves Nashville for Murfreesboro

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

The TSSAA cited location and trust last week as the two main factors in approving Murfreesboro and MTSU to host the Division II Clinic Bowl.

With the added responsibility, MTSU will welcome both public and private high school teams from across the state. MTSU currently hosts the five TSSAA BlueCross Bowls, which feature only public schools.

According to MT Coordinator of Game Operations Larry Counts, the move from Vanderbilt Stadium in Nashville shows the faith the TSSAA has in Murfreesboro.

"It's a natural thing, since we already have the BlueCross Bowl," Counts said. "We have such a strong event staff, and [we] have gained the TSSAA's trust."

Money also played a large role in securing the games.

According to *The Tennessean*, the TSSAA has averaged a \$220,000 profit from the BlueCross Bowls during the five years the championships have been in Murfreesboro.

Nashville projected a \$127,500 profit if it was able to hold both Division I and II games at Vanderbilt this year.

Counts also said that the championships are a good way for MTSU to be recognized across the state, as free publicity to the school is definitely a positive.

"It's a good thing to have all of these kids here on campus," he said.

This gives students an opportunity to visit and look around campus. Future students can get familiar with the university without taking a special trip to Murfreesboro to tour MT.

The city of Murfreesboro also benefits financially, as hotels and restaurants see increased revenue with the schools in town.

Murfreesboro is a favorite among visiting high schools thanks to its central location and its large number of restaurants.

But despite persistent rumors, the Clinic Bowl may be the last of the high school championships that will be heading to MTSU. TSSAA executive officer Ronnie Carter has said that he hopes MTSU will host the annual Spring Fling event, which features several high school state championships.

Counts said, however, that MTSU does not have the facilities necessary to host such an event, especially considering the large number of baseball fields needed.

"We would have to use facilities in Franklin and Smyrna in order to get it done," he said. Counts did not rule out that possibility, however, and Carter was not available for comment.

The Clinic Bowl games begin Nov. 19, and the BlueCross Bowls kick off Dec. 3. ♦



File Photo

Floyd Stadium will host both the Clinic Bowl and BlueCross Bowl games this year.



Sports Briefs

News from around Middle Tennessee



By Jon Leffew
Assistant Sports Editor

Baseball season tickets on sale

Season ticket sales and renewals for this year's Middle Tennessee baseball season are continuing at the campus ticket office. The deadline for these renewals is a little more than two weeks away.

Renewal forms for season ticket holders were mailed before Christmas, and the deadline for these forms has been set for Friday, Feb. 4.

At this time, all chairback season tickets are accounted for. However, fans may purchase family bleacher passes for \$60 and single bleacher passes for \$45.

MT sold more than 600 season tickets last season, and hopes to push the total to 1,000 this year.

The Blue Raiders will play 31 contests at Reese Smith Field in 2005, beginning with a three-game series against Ball State on Feb. 18-20.

For season ticket information, contact the MT ticket office at 615/898-2103 or 1-888-YES-MTSU or order on-line at www.GoBlueRaiders.com.

Soccer squad wins academic award

The MT soccer program has been recognized with the National Soccer Coaches Athletic Association (NSCAA) team academic

award for the third consecutive year.

"I think it speaks well for the type of kids we bring into the program and it also speaks well to the academic support we have on campus once we get our student-athletes on campus," MT head coach Aston Rhoden said.

"Jeanne Massaquoi (director of the Middle Tennessee Student-Athlete Enhancement Center) and her staff do a great job with our student athletes."

To earn the award, the Blue Raiders earned a team grade point average in excess of 3.0.

The NSCAA covers all member schools from Division I, II, III and NAIA.

Rhoden, who has now been at MT for three years, led the Blue Raiders to a first place finish in the Sun Belt Conference during the 2004 regular season.

Football recruiting review Feb. 2

The "2005 Recruiting Review" will be held at the Bunganut Pig Restaurant in Murfreesboro on Wednesday, Feb. 2, beginning at 4 PM. The annual event will introduce and celebrate Middle Tennessee's 2005 football signing class.

MT football fans will be given a small preview of next year's season on Feb. 2.

The "2005 Recruiting Review," which will be held at the Bunganut Pig, will give fans all the insight and viewpoints about each signee. A video highlight tape of each recruit will be shown, and head coach Andy McCollum will provide comments and in-

depth analysis on the 2005 class.

The entire Blue Raider staff is expected to be on hand to answer questions and share all the interesting recruiting stories.

This year's event will be broadcast live for two hours on two different radio stations.

On WGN-AM 1450, All Sports Talk with Monte Hale will broadcast live from the from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. with two guests, McCollum and recruiting coordinator Kevin Fouquier.

From 6-7 p.m., Neil Price will host the "2005 Recruiting Review" call-in show on WBOZ-FM 104.9. McCollum and Fouquier will once again be guests.

The number for fans to call and talk about Blue Raider recruiting is 1-888-643-8366 (MID-TENN).

Middle Tennessee's official media press conference to announce the 2005 class will be held on Feb. 2 at 3 p.m. in the Gameday Room on campus.

Baseball field gets new scoreboard

Reese Smith Field, which was named in 1982, dedicated in 1983 and eventually remodeled in 1989, now has a new state-of-the-art scoreboard.

The addition includes a message center and clock as well as inning-by-inning scoring.

In addition to the scoreboard, the stadium is scheduled for a new pressbox before the start of the season.

Work will continue on the scoreboard to have it up and ready for the season-opener on Feb. 18. ♦

Classifieds

Employment

You determine your own hours, your own pace and your own compensation. Great way to work around your current schedule, earn extra money and try a new financial services career. For more information... Valerie 904-1817 or 943-8274.

The Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is seeking student tutors for the following ETIS courses: Statics, Instruments and Controls, Technical Drawing, Industrial Electricity. Please contact Barbara Knox at 898-5311 for more information, Jones Hall Room 333.

Need Money? Student advisors are needed for 120 unit off-campus MTSU apartment community. On-site training, cash referrals and generous hourly salaries are included. Call toll free, 1-866-594-5470 to make an appointment with Kimberly Sanders.

Now hiring full-part time for front desk help. All shifts open. Please apply in person, prefer experience. 1-24 - exit 64 Waldron Road. Super 8 - LaVergne. 615-793-9999.

Five Senses Restaurant & Bar is now hiring cooks, requirements - good listener, hard working and quick learner. Apply in person between 2-4 pm Tu. - Fr. 1602 W. Northfield Blvd. Suite 515 (Georgetown Park)

Opportunities

VINYL SOUP is looking for very serious Drummer and Keyboardist to Tour. Must be able to rehearse once a week. We are based in Franklin. www.vinylsoup.com. Call 615-397-9634 or 931-682-3878.

Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girl's Rock Flash show in March 2005. If interested, contact Brandon 898-2917.

Models Needed! 3-4 female models needed for exciting new web project. No experience necessary. Applicants must be between 18-23, and should be between 100-130 lbs, be in good physical shape, and have an outgoing personality. No nudity involved, and there's no cost to the model at all. Project has long-term potential, with average model earning

\$750 per week for more. For more information, send an email to models37@southernangelz.com indicating interest. Serious inquiries only, please.

Movie Extras and Models Needed! Movie Production Co. Needs Candidates to Work For Various Productions. Musicians and Dancers Also Needed! No Speaking/Experience Required! Have Fun While Being a Movie Extra! Local/State/Nationwide Work! Variety of Looks Needed! Earn Up To \$300 A Day! Call 1-877-CAST-DIRECT

Are you an Undergraduate student interested in pursuing a PhD? If so, we would like to talk to you. Undergraduate research is beneficial for prospective PhD candidates. To find out more information visit www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair for qualifying criteria.

Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girls Rock" Flash show in March. If interested, contact Brandon 615-898-2917.

Services

STEEL BUILDINGS Prepare for Almanac's Harsh Winter Forecast! Garages and Equipment Storage 20x30, 20x26, and 30x52. Quick Assembly! CALL for Details 1-800-405-7501

ATTORNEY Christine Barrett 890-1300 320 West Main St. Suite 121 Murfreesboro, TN 37130 Visa/MasterCard Accepted.

Travel

Condo in Myrtle Beach for Spring Break! Sheraton Broadway Plantation Resort. March 5-12, 2005, 7 nights. 1 BR (sleeps 4) \$90/night with minimum of 4 nights. 615-975-4792.

Spring Break Bahamas Celebrity Party Cruise! 5 days \$299! Includes Meals, Parties! Cancun, Acapulco, Nassau, Jamaica From \$459! Panama City & Daytona \$159!

www.springbreaktravel.com 1-800-678-6386.

Sales

Microwaves and dorm refrigerator for sale in great condition. \$50 each obo. Call Julian 907-1807.

1988 Chevy Blazer for sale. Great condition. 4x4, 4 dr. \$5,500 obo. Need to Sell!! 931-592-2494.

Steel Buildings Be prepared for Almanac's Harsh Winter Forecast! Garages and Equipment Storage 20x30, 20x26, and 30x52. Fast and Easy Assembly! CALL for Details 800-405-7501

Two Cheap Computer desks. One desk type with cabinets overhead. One is a stand type with 1 drawer, no cabinets. \$30 for both. Email: deb.mtsu@yahoo.com. Call 615-563-4488 after 5:30.

New Toshiba Laptop computer w/ Intel Celeron Processor, DVD/CD-RW, 256-MB Ram, 40 GB Hard Drive with Windows XP, 56K Modem. Call 615-491-4656.

For Sale. 8 ft. pool table descent condition and accessories. One set of normal balls, one set of clear balls. Eight sticks including a short stick. Love the table but moving. \$350 or best offer. Call and leave a message. Joe @ 904-2035

CB Maxx SP series 5 piece drum set, 14 inch Wuhan hi-hat, one ride, crash, throne. Barely used, great beginner set. \$350 or best offer. Love the set but not enough room. Call and leave a message Joe @ 904-2035

Roommates

Female roommate needed now!! Very nice sub about 2 miles from MTSU, corner lot, fenced back and, vaulted ceilings, central heat and air, super clean. Please call 653-8003 or 217-7737 ccj2g@mtsu.edu. Rent \$315 + utilities.

Female non-smoker roommate needed for 3 BR, 2 BA flat. 1 block from campus. \$300 per month including utilities. Call Toni @ 615-476-5916.

Responsible female roommate needed to share new house. room has never been lived in! 3 BR, 2 BA w/ garage not far from MTSU campus. For more information, please contact Ellyn at 615-419-6696.

Need a house for the coming semester? Wanna be a neighbor of the President? Live at 1212 East Main Street! Near Davis Market and the President's House! Covered garage included with room. Must be able to live with 5 other guys in a 6 bedroom, 3,000 sq. ft. house. 2 baths, basement, covered garage, kitchen, dining room, living room, and reading room. Rent is 280/month plus utilities. Contact Thomas Hilton @ 615-294-1053. Move in asap. House is non-smoking inside.

Sublease

Sub-leaser needed to share 4 bd apt. at University Courtyard with two guys. Move in TODAY! Lease thru June 2005 for \$365/month. Fully furnished, includes utilities, cable (HBO), fitness room, pool, spa, computer lab, high speed internet in each room. No security deposit required! Call Adam @ 615-319-7054 or email Talanguy17@aol.com.

CONDO NEAR MTSU FOR LEASE 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath condo for lease. 3,000 sq. ft. Washer and dryer in unit. \$1,200 a month + small deposit. Avail. immed. call Valerie for details. 943-82-74 or 893-0809.

University Courtyard Sub-lease One bedroom-one private bath in four bed unit-Coed-Jan through Aug-Available Now-Furnished-Utilities Included-\$375/month or best offer-Kevin at 615-429-7929.

For Rent

Apartment for rent, private entrance, 2 miles from campus in quiet neighborhood. No smoking, no drugs, no pets. \$300/month, \$100 deposit. 907-9914.

4 BD, 3.5 BA condo for lease. 3,000 sq. feet. Washer and dryer in unit. \$1,200 a month + small deposit. Available ASAP. Call Valerie for details. 943-8274 or 893-0809.

4 BD 2.5 BA condo for lease. 3,000 sq. feet. Washer and dryer in unit. \$1,200 a month + small deposit. Available immed-

diately. Call Valerie for details. 943-8274 or 893-0809.

Very Nice 3BD, 2BA House for rent. Perfect for 2 or 3 people. 10 minutes from MTSU campus. Convenient location. \$975/month. Call 473-7127

New 3 BR, 2BA House, CH/A, stove refig, D/W, washer/dryer, screened back porch, 1 mile from campus. \$975/mo. \$500 deposit, 1 yr. lease, no pets. 895-0075, 417-4009.

Got friends? Looking for an apartment? 4 BR/2 BA, remodeled apartment; very close to campus; \$295 per month / per bedroom. 615-758-2998.

Room for rent, plenty of storage, dishwasher, washer/dryer. All utilities included plus cable. Very close to MTSU. \$100 deposit, \$300 monthly. Contact 615-904-2035, leave message.

Walk to MTSU from this beautiful house on Greenland Drive. This house is ready for your new and exciting 2005 Academic Year. Available 2/1/05. Fantastic Location, Quiet environment, Spacious rooms for 4 students as a group. \$300 x 4 + 1/4 utilities. \$350/person security deposit + lease. Circle drive, patio, 2-car carport, hardwood floors, new carpets, new roof, refrigerator, Built-in oven, washer n' dryer, dishwasher, central H/A, fireplace, gas logs. Call 898-2005.

Pets

Beautiful white kitten with bright blue eyes needs a loving home. He is neutered and will give paperwork. Please call 516-457-0904.

Policies

Sidelines will be responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. *Sidelines* reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the *Sidelines* office in Mass Comm, Room 269, or faxed to (615) 904-8193. For more information call (615) 904-8154. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty.

Committee: Will hold meeting this week

Continued from 1

recruitment penalties issued for schools that show a pattern of poor graduation rates.

"We need someone who understands fully that the ballgame has changed and that athletes must succeed in classrooms," Whiteside said. "We need to move more athletes toward graduation and to graduate or we get penalized."

It's important to note, however, that 48 percent of MTSU athletes who entered MTSU as freshmen in 1997-98 graduated within six years, compared to 40 percent of the overall student body.

Those figures are the latest numbers available, a problem the NCAA is looking to address (see "New NCAA academic standards will force change," p. 6).

Of course, the new athletic

director will also have to develop a good relationship with the coaches.

"I'm going to approach this from the standpoint of a coach," Moore said. "I'd be interested in how the new athletic director structures the athletic department ... I'm not going to go at it from a fund-raising [standpoint]. I know other people are, but I think my job will be to look at it from a coach's perspective."

In addition to garnering alumni support, raising graduation rates and developing relationships with coaches, the new athletic director will also have to find a solution to low football attendance numbers, which do not currently meet NCAA Division I guidelines.

"This is a super important hire," Whiteside explained.

"There are a lot of unique challenges in our division. We are going to get the absolute best person for the position."

McPhee plans to meet with the committee first before bringing any candidate names in for discussion. Jamison told *Sidelines* that advisory committee members expect to hold the first meeting within the upcoming week.

Smith emphasized, however, that the committee would heavily scrutinize all interviewees before suggesting a candidate to McPhee.

"I'm looking for a leader and a salesman and someone who has exhibited a 100 percent record on integrity," Smith said. "98 percent won't do." ♦

Sports editor Colby Sledge also contributed to this report.

Morrison: New fan favorite

Continued from 6

much-needed depth to the Blue Raiders' bench advantage this season.

Though Morrison didn't start in MT's loss to New Orleans on Saturday, he still played 29 minutes, netting eight points and grabbing three rebounds.

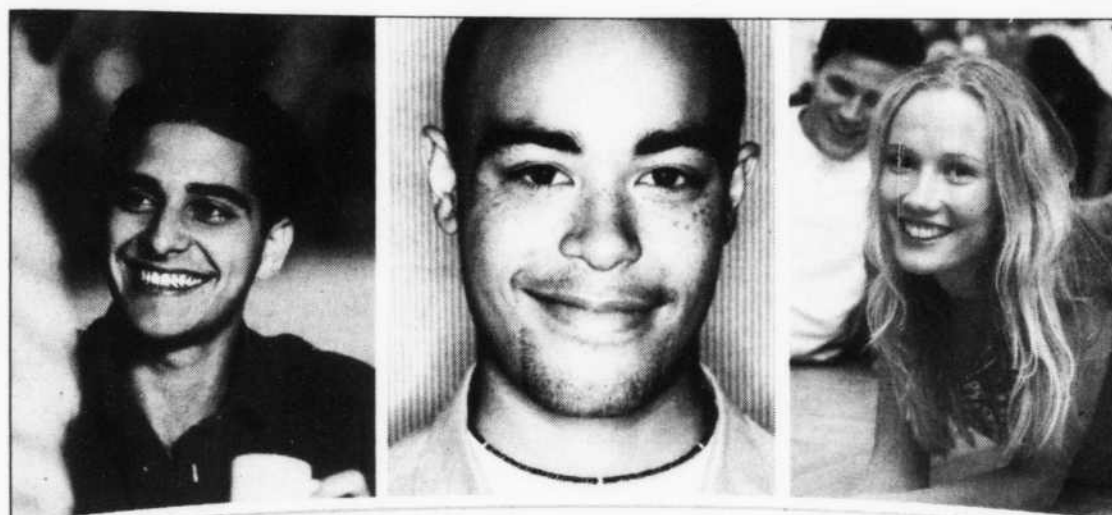
Morrison's sparks also carry off the court, where his personable demeanor and thoughtful quotes make him a media favorite.

"Marcus is a really nice person, easy going and has a great smile. He's real pleasant, and he's good with kids. Heck, he's good with my kids," Davis laughed. "I think he represents us really well."

MT fans can catch Morrison in action with the rest of the Blue Raiders on Feb. 3 at Murphy Center, when MT will host conference rival Western Kentucky. ♦

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