

SGA prepares for spring elections

Applications become available to students Monday

By Andy Harper

Campus News Editor

Students, both greeks and non-greeks alike, are encouraged to apply for the Spring Student Government Elections.

The Student Government Association is preparing for the spring election of the new senate and officer positions.

"As far as experience, none is required but it helps," said Ben Hall, SGA 2006 election commissioner. "It's always good to realize the problems on campus before you make changes and being involved definitely helps."

In addition to all the senator positions available, the positions of student body president, executive vice president and speaker of the senate, vice president of administration and public affairs and the position of election commissioner are available.

Hall, a junior management and marketing major, said he would not rerun for his position as election commissioner, but encouraged all students interested to put in applications to run.

"In addition to the four executives, senate seats are available for all colleges," Hall said. "It's about one seat per 750 students in that particu-

lar college, we also have five at-large seats available."

A common misconception about SGA is a necessity to participate or win an election; one must belong to a Greek Organization. It is an image that Hall said the SGA is trying to steer away from.

"While it is true being Greek means a candidate probably already has a good portion of voters, at most, Greeks only make up about 8 percent of campus," Hall said. "Overall, if a person can market to non-Greek voters, they would win easily. The association should be a voice of all students."

In the fall 2006 semester, voting was up to 23 percent, the highest voting percentage for the past couple of years, Hall said. Unfortunately, spring elections commonly have a lower voter turnout and only meet about half the percentage of fall.

However, Greeks comprise the highest demographic in campus elections and polls, Hall said. A problem seems to be a "lack of use" of the association and the ability to know that students' Greek or otherwise, opinion does matter.

"When someone says they don't have a chance because they aren't Greek, yes you do," Hall said. "All they would need to do would go and

talk to different organizations, like Republican or Democrat organizations, church groups or even fraternities and sororities."

Overall, participating in student government is a rewarding experience, Hall said.

"By working with the SGA, you are taking an active role and helping to change the campus," Hall said. "You can help make the university better and get the campus more involved. This past year we voted on the new student union center and one day it will be built and become a piece of history on campus, and we were able to help."

However, with the sweet comes the sour, and the SGA has a few minor issues to work out, Hall said.

"The largest problem we are having is we have been passing a lot of legislation, and a lot has not been of a good quality standard," Hall said. "But that is one of the goals for next year, to work on passing only quality legislation and having the administration act upon it when they receive it. The legislation we pass should be profound to them and should be respected."

Applications to run for Student Government will be available in the SGA office of the Keathley University Center on Monday. ♦

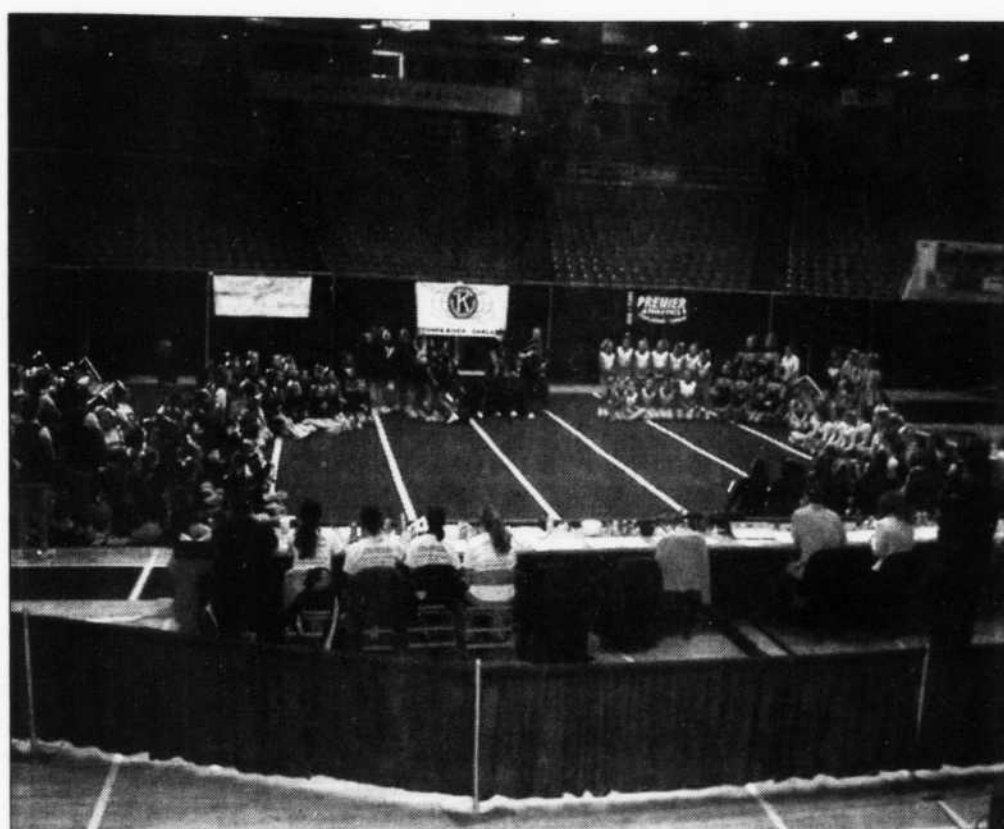


Photo courtesy of MT Cheerleading

Cheer for Humanity is being co-sponsored by various MTSU organizations and involves high school cheerleading, dance and all-star teams competing to raise money for Habitat for Humanity.

Students raise money for Habitat with cheer

Staff Reports

Cheer for Humanity raised \$15,000 in their second dance and cheer contest for Habitat for Humanity.

The event, co-sponsored by the Greek Life Programming Board, the MTSU cheerleaders and the MTSU Habitat for Humanity chapter, involved 25 high school dance and cheer teams from Tennessee and Kentucky.

"It was a big success," said Gentry McCreary, director of Greek Life. "The money we raised puts us close to our goal, which will allow for Habitat to do a blitz build."

The blitz build is a project house sponsored by the MTSU Habitat chapter and will cost \$50,000.

To date, Habitat has raised roughly \$35,000, Gentry said.

The blitz build is a plan to build a house on the MTSU campus in a week, with students working non-stop, said Jacqueline Victory, director of Student Organizations and Community Service.

"The blitz build project is for any MTSU student to participate," Victory said. "Anyone can raise money and anyone can volunteer to build."

"We are almost there after the Cheer for Humanity event and the 'See Spot Run' 5K run that was held last spring and will be again this semester," Gentry said. "We are planning on meeting our goal and having the money in hand by next fall."

Cheer for Humanity and See Spot Run are just two of the many events planned to raise money for Habitat for Humanity, Victory said.

"The best part is seeing all the

students come together and work hard," Victory said. "It should be noted that students put together this program and have done a lot of great work."

The project was started last year after Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs and management, suggested a challenge to Student Affairs to raise enough money to build a house, said Jonathan Pursley, spirit coordinator.

"Since cheerleading is always raising money, we decided to put together the Cheer for Humanity event," Pursley said. "In fact, the event is similar to Cheer for Cure events held at other colleges."

For more information on the blitz build and donating, contact the Office of Student Organizations and Community Service. ♦

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Campus Crossings intruder released, charged



Staff Reports

Thomas Eckerle, Jr., one of the suspects involved in the Jan. 14 Campus Crossing South shooting and robbery, was charged with two counts of especially aggravated robbery, two counts of especially aggravated kidnapping and one count of possession

of a handgun by a felon, said Lt. Alvin Baird of the Murfreesboro Police Department. Eckerle, 29, was released from Vanderbilt Medical Center Wednesday and booked by the Rutherford County Sheriff Office. According to the booking report, Eckerle, a Knoxville resident, was

taken in at 3:34 p.m. Wednesday. The shooting involved three other individuals, including Michael Holt, who was treated for head injuries at Middle Tennessee Medical Center, Christopher Deberry O'Connor, who was transported to Vanderbilt with Eckerle, and Alan Bell, who was fatally shot during the robbery. ♦

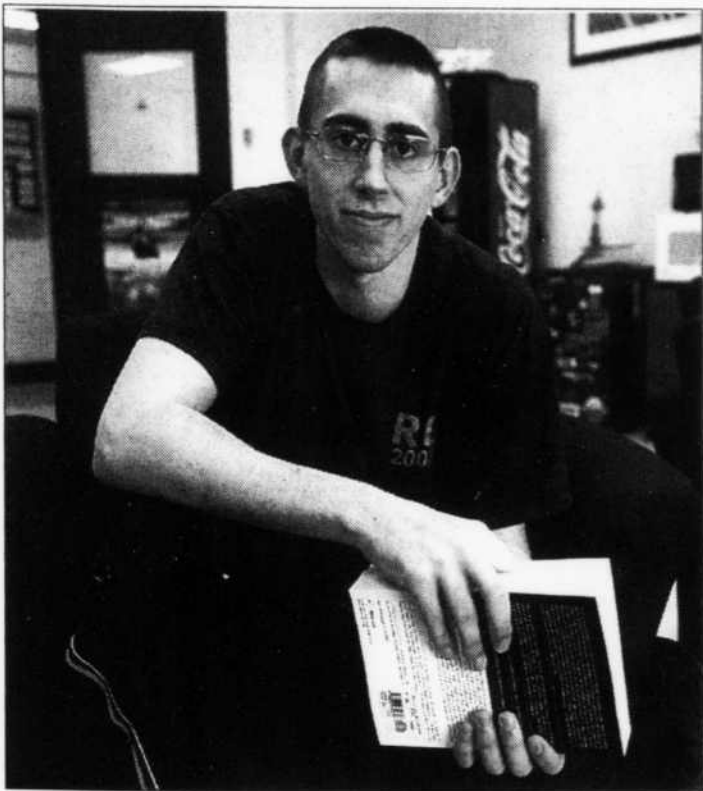


Photo by Andrea Cothorn | Staff Photographer
Cadet 2nd Lt. Robert Stewart sits in Forrest Hall discussing the troop surge in Iraq. According to Stewart, the military's efforts will help end sectarian violence in Iraq.

CRIME BRIEFS

Friday, Jan. 19 - 3:21 a.m.
Womack Lane
Miscellaneous
Amanda Greer of Bartlett, Tenn., was issued a State Citation for Criminal Impersonation and Consumption of Alcohol under 21.

Friday, Jan. 19 - 8:10 a.m.
Greenland Lot B
Traffic
Officer was flagged down for a hit and run.

Friday, Jan. 19 - 8:59 a.m.
Sims Hall
Vandalism
Caller requested an officer in reference to graffiti written on the wall at Sims hall.

Friday, Jan. 19 - 2:25 p.m.
Traffic
Honors College Lot
An individual filled out a report in reference to a hit and run.

Saturday, Jan. 20 - 1:38 a.m.
Greek Row
Theft

Ryan Fields of Old Hickory, Tenn., was arrested for theft under \$500; resisting stop, halt, frisk, search, public intoxication and underage alcohol consumption.

Saturday, Jan. 20 - 1:38 p.m.
Greek Row
Miscellaneous
Report of a hit and run in front of SAE house. Suspect vehicle described as a silver or gold Ford Explorer.

Saturday, Jan. 20 - 2:27 p.m.
Greek Row
Miscellaneous
Father called and advised that suspect from the hit and run on the previous date was now at his residence.

Sunday, Jan. 21 - 12:24 a.m.
Drug Abuse/Possible drug exchange
Jim Cummings Hall
Officers were dispatched after reports of a party occurring on one of the male floors.

Monday, Jan. 22 - 1:13 p.m.
Harassment
Scarlett Commons

Individual requested an officer in response to harassing phone calls.

Monday, Jan. 22 - 10:16 p.m.
Traffic
Scarlett Commons
Individual was driving on a suspended license.

Tuesday, Jan. 23 - 1:19 p.m.
Alarm
Keathley University Center
Caller advised that a trash can was on fire between the KUC and LRC.

Tuesday, Jan. 23 - 4:20 p.m.
Traffic
Alumni Drive
A silver Honda Civic left the scene of an accident.

Tuesday, Jan. 23 - 6:12 p.m.
Vagrancy
Off Campus
An individual was looking at others in a KUC rest room with a mirror.

Troops: "Discuss deployment"

Continued from 1

and say nothing about the positive things that are going on.

"There are schools being built everyday," Johnson said. "There are so many positive aspects going on that people just don't realize because the only thing the media focuses on is the negative."

People have very negative connotations regarding the war, Johnson said. They just take the media's word on something and don't research the correct information. "[People] see it more as since they physically can't see anything happening then there is nothing going on there," Johnson said.

If the United States pull out of Iraq, then it will collapse in civil war and turn into a terrorist state, Johnson said.

"It's easy to criticize," Stewart said. "Hindsight is always 20/20.

Regardless. Most of the people that are criticizing the war are also the ones that voted to approve it initially. Now that we are in this war, people are saying that we should pull out, but if we pull out, the country would collapse and become a terrorist safe haven."

The Middle East is an area of the world where democracy is very foreign, Peters said.

"When we first got into Iraq we were told this is going to be a long process," Peters said. "The military seems to understand that. Most people I know in the military know this is a long process."

There is not a quick fix or an easy solution to the war in Iraq, Peters said.

"The military is willing and ready to do what it takes, even if it does take a long time," Peters said. "Hopefully, it can be done shortly." ♦

“There are so many positive aspects going on that people just don't realize because the only thing the media focuses on is the negative.”
—Cadet/Capt. Nancy Johnson

Mall Expansion: "More shopping"

Continued from 1

Cousins Properties Inc.

Gove explained that the Avenue was first introduced in Atlanta in 1998, geared to a more affluent demographic of the population.

The Avenue will feature retailers such as Best Buy, Barnes & Noble, New York & Co., Aveda, Banana Republic and Dick's Sporting Goods, as well as a Longhorn Steakhouse and a Macaroni Grill.

According to Mike Cohn of Faison Enterprises, Rutherford County's job growth last year was the highest in the nation, and ranked 20th in the country for population growth. The population of the county is currently over 200,000.

Murfreesboro is rapidly approaching a population of 90,000. Based on these statistics, the area is an ideal location for the Avenue, Cohn said.

The major increase in the retail market of Murfreesboro – and on a larger scale, Rutherford County – will experience in the near future will have a significant, positive impact.

"Currently, there is a leak in retail spending in Rutherford County," said David Penn, an associate professor who also works at MTSU's Business and Economic Research Center. "[These projects] will help plug that leak."

Murfreesboro Planning Director Joseph Aydelott said that the city is losing money due to this retail leak.

"The local government generates [a significant portion of] its income from sales tax," Aydelott said. "These malls will keep shoppers who would normally go to Antioch or Cool Springs to shop here, bringing in more sales tax [for the local government]." ♦

Correction:

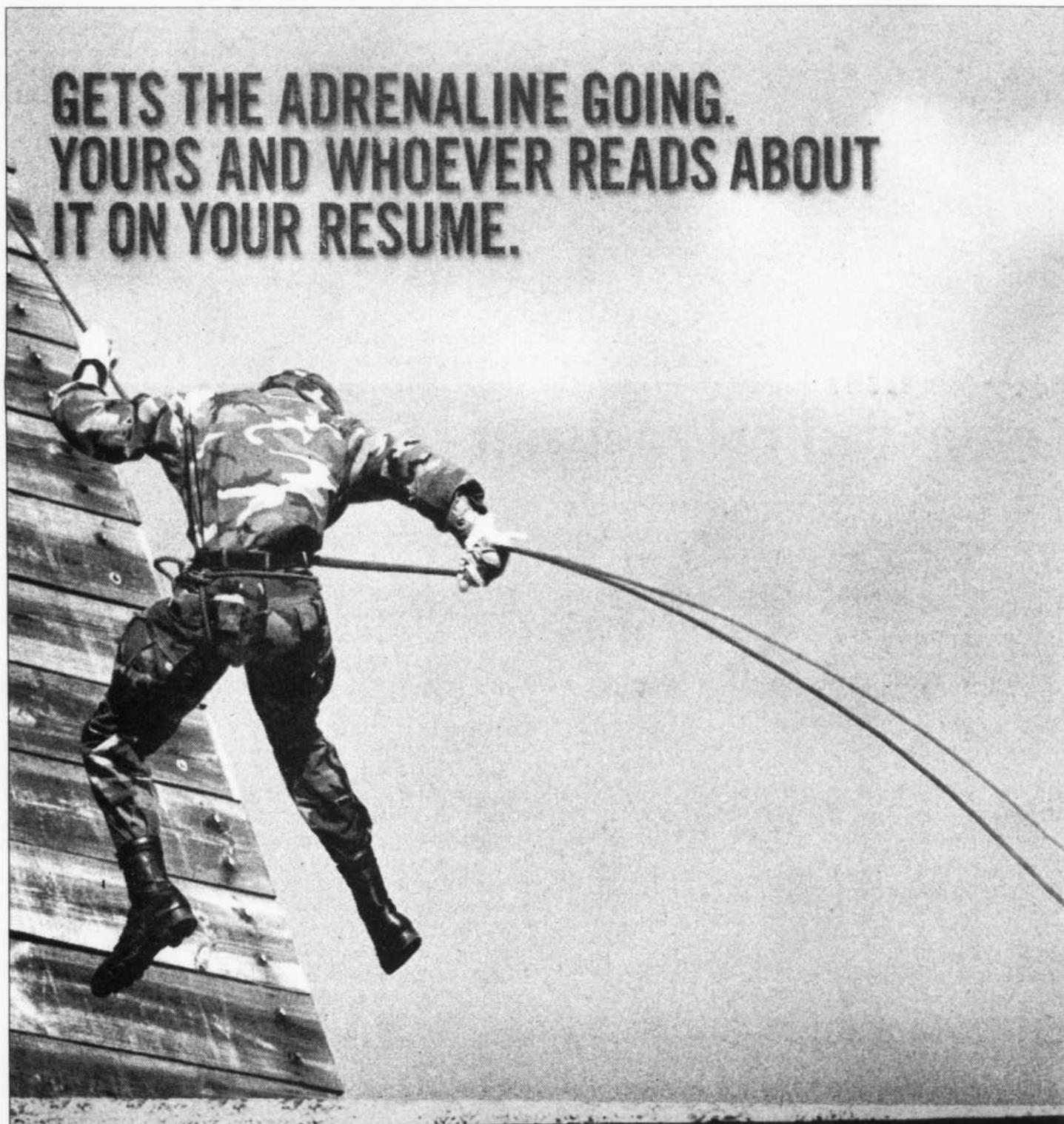
This Monday, the article "MTSU redefines HOPE standards; students benefit," reported several misleading facts for gaining and maintaining the HOPE Lottery Scholarship.

Freshmen are eligible for the scholarship if they have a high school grade point average of 3.0 or an ACT score of 21. A grade of an "F" will not cause a student to lose the HOPE scholarship unless their GPA sinks below 2.75 or 3.0, depending on credit hours.

Though students can regain their scholarship once it is lost, the Office of Financial Aid does not monitor students' GPA.

Instead, students who raise their GPA to meet the requirements for the scholarship are asked to fill out a Regain Option Request Form online.

Sidelines regrets any confusion.



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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

Support our troops by not killing them

Last November, most Democrats breathed a sigh of relief when both the House and Senate shifted perspectives. At first, things looked bright, minimum wage was going to go up, interest on student loans was going down and President George W. Bush actually mentioned the words "health care."

It would only be natural to assume that due to unpopular demand, the War in Iraq would be drawing to a close. However, Bush also muttered the words, "troop increase."

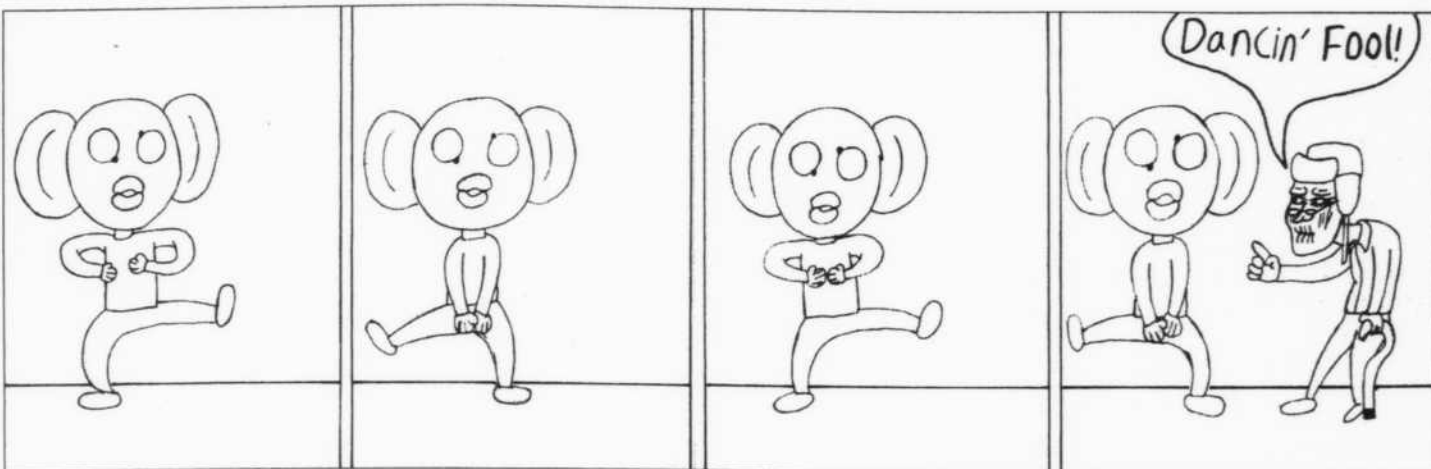
Though a number of our ROTC members and a good deal of the conservative South support the troops placement in Iraq, perhaps they ought to support them by keeping them alive and bringing them home.

Though it is impossible to know all the facts surrounding the war – and very likely that no one in the White House is aware of them either – it is easy to see that this Middle East conflict has stretched our troops thin and our patience to nearly nothing.

It would certainly be intriguing to learn how 21,000 additional troops will aid the situation.

Contrary to opinion, it is not likely that slowly withdrawing from Iraq now will destroy the fledgling government. While it may suffer at first, it would eventually stabilize like every other country the United States has mistakenly invaded and then pulled out. Look at Japan, Korea, Vietnam and Germany.

And by the way, whatever happened to Afghanistan? Why is it so hard to find people in caves? If someone we cared about were kidnapped in cave, Angelina Jolie or Elian Gonzales for example, we would have found them three years ago.



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

Repetition of failures not progress

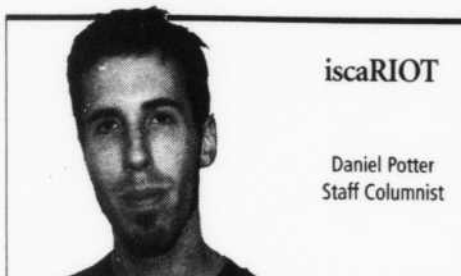
With prominent scholars like Harvard historian Niall Ferguson putting odds on a happy ending for Iraq at 1 in 100, it seems unlikely that President George W. Bush's surge in troop strength will do much to turn the tide of the war. Yet the argument defending the surge seems to primarily consist of the question, "If not, what else are we going to do?"

This reflects a flaw in logic that pervades many aspects of government, and essentially suggests that if one approach to solving a problem does not succeed, the solution must be to continue with the same method, but even more of it.

This same approach is applied not just to Iraq but to the War on Terror as a whole. It is also visible in many other "wars," perhaps most notably the War on Drugs. However, all of these initiatives share one key trait: They are all doomed to fail.

The War on Drugs provides an excellent example here. Huge amounts of resources are devoted to fighting the drug problem here in the United States, and have been for decades. Thousands of law enforcement positions exist solely for this purpose. Hundreds of thousands of people are imprisoned each year, and millions of children are educated on the dangers of drug use in public schools, yet the War on Drugs is never won – Indeed, it has become status quo.

Back to the War on Terror, also called the Long War. We have been warned by politicians to prepare for protracted conflicts and high



iscaRIOT

Daniel Potter
Staff Columnist

costs. With the current occupation evidently failing to avert civil war and ethnic cleansing in Iraq, the solution offered is a bigger occupying force – the same thing, but harder, because, really, what else are we supposed to do?

Let me borrow a metaphor from the author Daniel Quinn. Our society makes no attempt to wage war on potholes. Instead, we have acceded to them. We look for ways to prevent them, sure, but no one realistically claims that with vigilance and determination we can insure there will never be another pothole again. To attempt to eradicate potholes entirely would be a fool's errand – a tremendous waste of resources on something bound to fail.

The National Intelligence Estimate from last year neatly illustrates the inherent futility of the War on Terror – Our country's attempt to improve security has instead amplified the threat to us by fostering anti-American sentiment in a new generation. Long War indeed.

The same is true for the War on Drugs, which attempts to abolish drug abuse outright via the deterrent of strict punishment, rather than acceding to the millions of American

drug users by regulating distribution and permitting responsible use, as it does with alcohol. Incarcerating hundreds of thousands of people is tremendously costly, and offers no sign of improving the current drug problem.

It seems clear some change of strategy is necessary. Yet, we continue to elect politicians who pursue these same failed methods, with ever greater commitment and funding and manpower than before.

The only reason I can think to explain this is that, during election times, acting tough wins votes. A candidate that would offer humanitarian aid instead of further carnage to would-be terrorists would be portrayed by her opponents as surrendering. A candidate that would allow adults to smoke pot in their homes would almost certainly be accused of drug use herself. Therefore, a candidate who offers a stronger image has a much better chance of winning, even if his plans are certain to accomplish nothing.

It'd be nice to conclude on an optimistic note about Americans getting fed up with politicians that talk tough but never actually fix anything, and a change on the horizon, but I can't quite muster it. Most of us are too busy wasting our own resources in response to even more hollow imagery to bother voting in the first place.

Well, better get to the mall.

Daniel Potter is a senior journalism major and can be reached at dgp2h@mtsu.edu.

Legislation ignores freedom of speech

The Anti-Federalist George Mason carefully drew up the first "bill of rights" in the Virginia constitution in 1776. Just 15 years later, Congress ratified the Bill of Rights that most Americans are familiar with today.

James Madison drew heavily on the ideas Mason presented in the Virginia Declaration of Rights.

One of the rights included in both documents is that of "freedom of speech."

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution reads, "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech."

Congress honored this guarantee until World War I, when they passed the Espionage and Sedition Acts.

Upon the passage of these laws, thousands of investigations and prosecutions commenced.

Eventually, the Supreme Court decided that speech that created a "clear and present danger" was not guaranteed under the First Amendment. In the 1920s, similar opinions by the Supreme Court upheld their restriction on free speech. Several Vietnam-era court rulings further defined "freedom of speech."

Why do these decisions matter today? Freedom of speech is perhaps the most important guarantee in the Bill of Rights. It keeps government accountable.

Without freedom of speech, there would be no need for freedom of religion, the press, the redress of grievances or to peaceable assembly.

French political philosopher Voltaire once said, "I may not agree with what you say, but I shall defend to the death your right to say it."

Personally, the demise of liberal media pleases me. The failure of Air America and the downfall of Dan Rather prove to me that Americans are, on the whole, rational and logical human beings – that American liberalism can not defend itself against the truth.

And while I would rather restrict the rights of the Left Wing, I recognize the importance of their freedom of speech, just as I recognize my own. In that regard,



Hurtt Pride

Matthew Hurtt
Staff Columnist

I agree with Voltaire.

The Democrat-controlled Congress does not, however, recognize the importance of free speech at this time. Currently, politicians like New York Representative Maurice Hinchey are working hard in Washington to curb our freedom of speech.

Their censorship is conveniently veiled as the "Fairness Doctrine," and it is probably the most inaccurately named piece of legislation since the U.S. Patriot Act.

The Fairness Doctrine seeks to "equalize" the playing field in political commentary. Where liberal talk radio has failed miserably, the Fairness Doctrine provides those with opposing viewpoints of major talk radio personalities – nearly all conservative – to respond to any opinion made by that individual.

Not only is this not fair to conservative talk radio, but it is also not fair to those hundreds of other viewpoints not expressed by the conservative's opponent.

There are not only two viewpoints on the war in Iraq or abortion or religious freedom. There are oftentimes multiple opinions on one issue. To restrict free speech to only two opinions is obviously not fair.

Freedom of speech is probably the most important guarantee by the government in the Bill of Rights, but everyday Americans are letting that government limit that freedom by introducing unconstitutional legislation.

These illegal actions must be revealed and curtailed by the American public. If not, we soon could be living in an eerily-Orwellian America.

Matthew Hurtt is a sophomore liberal arts major and can be reached at mch2x@mtsu.edu.

Leave radical revision to professionals

It has become more and more noteworthy lately that a good part of the American public has become discontent with the way our country has been run. Of course, when I say "lately" I actually mean since before the United States became a country.

People with a keyboard and a mouth the size of Texas run around and blog, jabbering like mad beasts about the appalling state of affairs in our country. They have convinced themselves that they cannot be wrong on political matters such as abortion, religion and state separation, the war in Iraq and of course lets not forget, what they believe to be the total ineptitude of President George W. Bush.

They base this self-appointed opinion on the years of local and national political experience they have acquired, the substantial knowledge they possess of political theory and the original ideas they have had since sitting in on Congressional meetings.

Right. That's if flipping burgers counts as political experience and lurking outside of Starbucks can be equated to Congressional meetings.

A name should not be granted to the referenced "these people," because it is unfair to slap a generalization on anyone who talks about politics. However, the people in reference are easily distinguishable from people who actually know what they are talking



A Rough Trick Named Jim

Christin Pepple
Staff Columnist

about. The aforementioned people skulk in corners and hide behind the internet blogs that no one reads while they rant and rave about what better political systems we could have as a nation.

These are the people who wouldn't be able to recite their basic civil rights, like a monkey could, if they were hit in the face with them.

It should also be added that this does not apply to all people who disagree with the way our country is run. This only applies to people who have never researched their topics of conversation enough to give that aforementioned monkey a good run for his money.

There are people who are not rife with cowardice and a need to please others by allowing themselves to be swayed by popular public opinion by people who are as ignorant as they are. There are people who take a stand for things they know inside and out and cannot be persuaded on, and to those people, a salute is in order.

To the others out there, those average, empty vessels that are filled up with other people's

words and opinions and are the mouthpieces for unnecessary chaos – because chaos can be necessary at times – these people need to keep flipping burgers long enough to keep them out of the political arena where their opinion doesn't matter and they don't happen to be the center of the universe.

This bashing of ignorant people in this column should not lead to the conclusion that our government is a paragon of perfection by any means. The opinion is not that our country is making all the right decisions and spit on those who disagree. Citizens should not pretend to know what would be better for this country before they get older and wiser. They can have opinions but they should not spout them off like they have just stated something profound and original. It should be taken at face value; just an opinion, not a fact.

"These people," need to know that they aren't wise, profound, original or thought-provoking by any stretch of the imagination.

These people are committing what was, in the olden days, considered treason, against a country that protects their right to say anything without retribution. It would please many people who actually tend to think before they speak now and again to no end to see these rapid morons thrown into a country where democracy does not let freedom ring.

They praise political thinkers whose systems of governments would make them piss their drawers in actual application. They glow about anarchy and a final end to the tyrannical ways of evil Bush. For people who claim that he is the most idiotic person on the face of the planet, they sure do give him a lot of credit for manipulating billions of people, the economy and the armed forces.

Our government's decisions should be questioned or else the United States will become what so many people believe it to be now. Democracies are a risky business and often times the wrong choices are made.

Nevertheless, a challenge should be issued to all these malcontents with their big talk and lame arguments to pack up and move to a Middle Eastern or African country where their grandiose speeches and free thinking ways will not be so openly tolerated.

The solution to stupid swine with the words of fools is an impossible one to have because stupid people will always say stupid things. The only thing that can be done is to duct tape the mouths of idiots firmly shut.

If this method of enforcement does not work, large sticks always work well.

Christin Pepple is freshman journalism major and can be reached at cmp4e@mtsu.edu.

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FEATURES

Student spreads technology to Africa

World travel enriches Svarda's life, teaches value of comforts, advances

By Sarah Lavery

Features Editor

Michael spent a lot of his time in Africa with millions of dollars in his wallet. His living arrangements were lackluster, at best, with a candle by his bedside to make up for the incessantly faltering electricity. His American standards of hygiene had to be compromised, opting instead for a newfound, "oh-well" attitude. His bathtub took so long to fill up, he usually resorted to splashing his face and body clean and calling it a day.

However, for the time he was there, Michael was a millionaire.

After high school, Michael Svarda joined United Methodist Communications, based in Nashville, Tenn., as a contractor. At first thinking he was simply a general technician, Michael was thrilled to learn this career move would soon open the door for world travel and the opportunity to give underprivileged areas a taste of the American technology so many take for granted.

He first traveled to Zimbabwe in June 2006 and then again in January, spending a month at Africa University to teach a class of citizens ranging from ages 35 to 80. Just 20 years old, Michael's patience was tested while his students — some double his age — attempted to wade through the complicated world of technology, a world that he's always felt right at home in.

The language of computers has become such an integral part of American society that it's almost unfathomable that, somewhere, a simple click of a mouse sounds foreign and complicated. So many Americans have had computer skills ingrained in their head since elementary school.

Where Michael was going, though, they had to learn to operate from square one.

"Some people were more advanced than others," he said.

"But some of them had to be taught just how to use the mouse. It was crazy."

It would be unfair to say Michael's living conditions in Africa were sub par. Compared to many citizens of Zimbabwe, Michael lived like royalty.

During his 17-hour flight there, Michael met a trillionaire who helped him understand the disparity between the American dollar and the Zimbabwean dollar.

"In America, there are millionaires, maybe some billionaires ... But this man was a quadrillionaire. And, there, that's not even that wealthy."

After working a 12-hour day, Michael would unwind with his laptop and a season of "Seinfeld" — his only steadfast outlet to the American world. Phone calls could sometimes take up to 30 minutes to go through; he only talked to his family once during his last 10-day visit.

Sometimes, the impoverished areas he was regularly being exposed to started to get to him.

"The desperation is awful, just the way people have to live," he said. "A lot of times, people will ask you for your information and try to befriend you because you're American; they think you might be their ticket out. You feel bad because the way they live and the way you live. You're not going to have to live like them, you know, maybe you're going to be there for a month, but you know you're going to get out of it."

It all felt worth it, though.

During his trip, Michael went with a ministry to a typical Zimbabwean school.

After unloading pounds upon pounds of bags of food, he helped cook and serve food to hundreds of kids, all anxious to eat a decent lunch.

When Michael first arrived at the school, the cooks had to make a two-mile trek just to get enough water for the students. Before

returning to America, though, Michael was overjoyed to learn that the school finally raised enough money to install a pipeline.

From then on, getting a glass of water for the students would be as easy as turning on a faucet.

Despite the vast differences between Michael's reality and that of his students, he developed some relationships that transcended cultural bounds.

"It was hard to say goodbye," Michael said, "even though I was happy to go home. You bond with people, spending everyday with them. This one guy gave me \$300, which is a lot of money to him, to get him a laptop. So, now, I'm going to find a way to get one back to him."

One student that particularly stands out in Michael's memory is Ezekiel Makunike, the 80-year old author of "Don't Call Me Sir," a story of a black journalist's encounters in overwhelmingly white Rhodesia.

"I admire the guy because he came to the United States to work for three years, and they told him that they could easily give him citizenship, but he still chose to come back," Michael said.

Although brilliant and accomplished, Makunike could hardly understand the computer screen in front of him. "He could hardly see because of severe cataracts, so I'd expand the view on the screen until he could make out the icons," Michael said. "It took a while, but by the time I was done, he could get his e-mails out."

At MTSU, Michael is an undergraduate. He has a long and arduous journey ahead of him before graduating.

In Africa, though, he's Professor Mike.

"I feel like I came back with a PhD," he said. "I thought, coming as a tech, maybe I'd just help teach some classes. I've never had any certification in teaching or any-



Photo by Michael Svarda | Contributing Photographer

Above: Svarda teaches a group of his students computer basics on his laptop. Some of his students, ranging from ages 35 to 80, were more advanced than others, but some had to be taught starting from square one.

Below: The students at the Zimbabwean school Svarda visited during his trip gather outside. When Michael visited to help prepare their lunch, the cooks had to make a two-mile trek just to retrieve water for the students.



thing. But by the end of it, they all called me 'Professor.' Prof' Mike. There's a lot 'bigger' people there with me, the uppers of where I work. But a lot of people talked about how I helped them for being so understanding. But I don't have much patience; I guess, just over there, I get them."

Professor Mike, now readjusting to the comforts of home — of a clean shower, dependable electricity and air conditioning — wants nothing more than to go back.

"I love teaching these classes, but I'm not interested in doing that here; because here, not that many people really care, they just

want the grade. But there, all of these people are anxious to learn, all of them are trying their hardest though this even though it was so new to them. And it really touches you. That's something that really makes me want to keep going back." ♦

Band director Cornish lets loose



Photo by George Riordan | Contributing Photographer

Corbin conducts the MTSU Symphonic Band. For the past five years, Corbin has been the associate director of bands and director of athletic bands.

By Deidre Ortiz

Contributing Writer

Have you ever wondered where the Band of Blue gets its rockin' sound and sassy moves?

We do have talented music students at MTSU, but the mastermind behind the music is Craig Cornish, associate director of bands and director of athletic bands. He's known to be rockin' and sassy, himself.

Kathryn Head, Band of Blue member and a junior finance major, remembers, "Every year, the Band of Blue dresses up in Halloween costumes for a contest that we host. My freshman year, Cornish showed up in a full pimp suit complete with cane. It was definitely something that not many band directors would do."

Even though he likes to have fun with his students, Cornish knows when to be professional and serious.

"I've always liked students, and I think they understand that I want to have a good time, yet be a good band at the same time," Cornish emphasizes.

When it comes to directing music, he knows what he's talking about. Cornish, 48, received his

undergraduate and graduate degrees in music education at the University of Kentucky, where he participated in marching band.

After college, he started teaching and directing high school bands. For over 16 years, he taught in Kentucky at Larue County High, North Hardin High and Paul Lawrence Dunbar High. Later, he directed college band at the University of Nebraska from 1998 to 2002. He definitely has experience under his belt.

Although Cornish has only directed the marching and symphonic bands at MTSU for five years, his students appreciate his leadership.

According to his students, Cornish has a unique teaching style.

"When it comes to his band, he is efficient, caring and tactful," describes Head. "He gets the job done without being forceful, and he communicates with us on a level that seems peer-to-peer, not instructor-to-student."

Another reason Cornish does such a good job with the bands is because of his passion for music.

"I naturally had a love for [music] when I was a little kid, and I had some great music teachers while in high school," Cornish

confirms. "Plus, my dad was a sax player, one of my brothers is a guitarist, another brother is a banjo player and a sister is a singer. So, I guess a lot of it was my family."

With his musically-inclined family and some inspirational teachers, Cornish knew early on what he wanted to do for a career. It was during his high-school-band years at Lafayette High School in Lexington, Ky. he thought about becoming a band director.

Now he directs a band of more than 300 members, and it's not necessarily an easy job. Definitely different than taking orders like he did in high school and college bands; today, he's the one giving the instructions.

"A normal day involves getting into the office early in the morning. Usually there is about an hour's worth of e-mail to get through, then another half hour of phone messages, and then I need to prepare for whatever rehearsals are that day, plus classes for that day," he says.

"Meanwhile, I have at least one meeting per day on campus. In the evenings, I may sometimes have a concert or a basketball game and on Saturdays there are football games. It's

pretty much a six-day-a-week job, sometimes seven."

As busy as he is, it's a wonder he doesn't get burned out.

Cornish admits to being overwhelmed at times, but he reminds himself to take things one at a time.

He relaxes when he needs to by partaking in activities other than music. Some of his hobbies include watching movies, playing golf and having fun with his wife, Susan and pet dachshunds, Gertie and Wolfie.

He and Susan met 11 years ago and have been married nine years.

Though he doesn't know too many people outside of the Wright Music Building he does know some athletic directors, and with his band members and other music education students, Cornish isn't lonely on campus.

People are always in and out of his office, talking about dinner plans or the latest concert.

Despite the long hours and weeks, Cornish doesn't think he'll be leaving MTSU any time soon.

"As of right now, I plan on being here," he says. "As long as the support for the band remains strong and the students remain caring and hardworking, then I see no reason to leave." ♦

Nearly horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 19

You're putting everyone off with your unfaltering "can-do" attitude. Face it — sometimes, you just can't.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

The Taurus is overwhelming generous. You might want to take a moment and realize, though, that 99 percent of the time, you're getting nothing in return.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21

Bipolar disorder is — in some cases — treatable, you know. You're not a lost cause just yet. You will spend this week trying to decide between sticking with Neurotic Nancy or Laidback Larry full-time. Pick one already!

Cancer

June 22 - July 22

This week, you will be scrutinized by your peers — as well as tomorrow, the next day, and every subsequent day of your life. Be prepared for constant feelings of inadequacy.

Leo

July 23 - August 22

Displaying confidence is a 'surefire' way to win that person's heart. Hold your head up high, walk with a swagger in your step and toss your hair, even if you don't have any. It just might work. It probably won't, but it might.

Virgo

August 23 - Sept. 22

Everyone hates a know-it-all. Stop raising your hand for every single answer in class. Trust us — your professor, peers and arm will graciously thank you.

Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

Next week will be a stressful one. Better go ahead and stock up on the booze and painkillers now. Your nerves will need their help.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 21

Shortly after reading this, you will fall in public. If you're wise, you'd put on some knee guards, immediately.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

You know how you're desperately afraid of sharks, heights and clowns? Tomorrow, you will be forced to face your fears simultaneously. Brace yourself.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

You're on the brink of finding love. Just remember, the more times you frequent that street corner, the more chances you have at finding it.

Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Next week, water signs will finally be able to demonstrate their underwater skills. Better start practicing holding your breath. Make sure you at least get your record up to three minutes. You'll thank us later.

Pisces

Feb. 19 - March 20

It must get annoying being called a flake all the time. What? You mean you didn't know people called you that? Well, then it must get annoying being called a flake behind your back all the time. Sorry.

SPORTS

Conference play continues for Lady Raiders

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders took care of business once again against conference foes in their attempt to win their fourth straight Sun Belt Conference tournament. They defeated Arkansas-Little Rock 75-62. With nine games left on the schedule the Lady Raiders are halfway to finishing the year with an undefeated conference record.

In this contest, Chrissy Givens netted a season high 33 points, and the Lady Raiders played strong defense holding Little Rock to under 45 percent from the field and under 20 percent from behind the three point line.

Offensively, Middle Tennessee committed only eight turnovers, while forcing 18. With this strong outing and the team's continued success Givens was named Sun Belt Player of the week.

As Coach Rick Insell prepares for the stretch run of the conference season he has to be satisfied with the team's record thus far.

Yet, Insell still believes the team can improve and will be well prepared for this week's match-ups between North Texas and Louisiana-Lafayette.

"We are all about our defensive pressure for 94 feet," Insell said. "We are about getting better at the game so we can get on into the tournament. We are better than how we played this weekend, and we were all looking around at each other instead of playing the game I know we could play."

Insell is confident the team will be able to move on and really play better in the upcoming weeks.

On Wednesday night, the Lady Raiders travel to Denton, Texas to take on the 5-12 North Texas Lady Mean Green.

North Texas has struggled mightily this season shooting the ball at a 37 percent clip.

The Lady Raiders should be able to take advantage of a team that was hit hard last season by graduation and have yet to find an offensive rhythm look for Middle to apply pressure early and try to take over the game in the first half.

As for Sunday's home match-up, Middle Tennessee faces the leaders in the Sunbelt west Louisiana Lafayette Lady Cajuns.

Lady Raiders' schedule

Jan. 24 North Texas 7 p.m.

Jan. 28 Louisiana-Lafayette 2 p.m.

Jan. 31 Denver 7 p.m.

Feb 3 South Alabama 3 p.m.

Feb 7 Louisiana-Monroe 7 p.m.

Feb.11 Western Kentucky 2 p.m.

Feb. 15 Florida Int'l 5 p.m.

Feb. 22 Troy 5:15 p.m.

Feb. 24 Florida Atlantic 2 p.m.

Feb. 28 Sun Belt Tournament Rd 1.

Mar. 3-6 Sun Belt Tournament
BOLD denotes home games

Lafayette has a 16-5 record on the season and has been dominant on both ends of the floor.

This could be a tremendous match-up for the conference and this could decide the fate of Lafayette, as they do not have another game with division leader Arkansas State.

The Lady Raiders should benefit being at home and this could allow Middle Tennessee to have the momentum.

This is a crucial week for the Lady Raiders and they must continue their strong play offensively and defensively to come out of this weekend with two victories. ♦

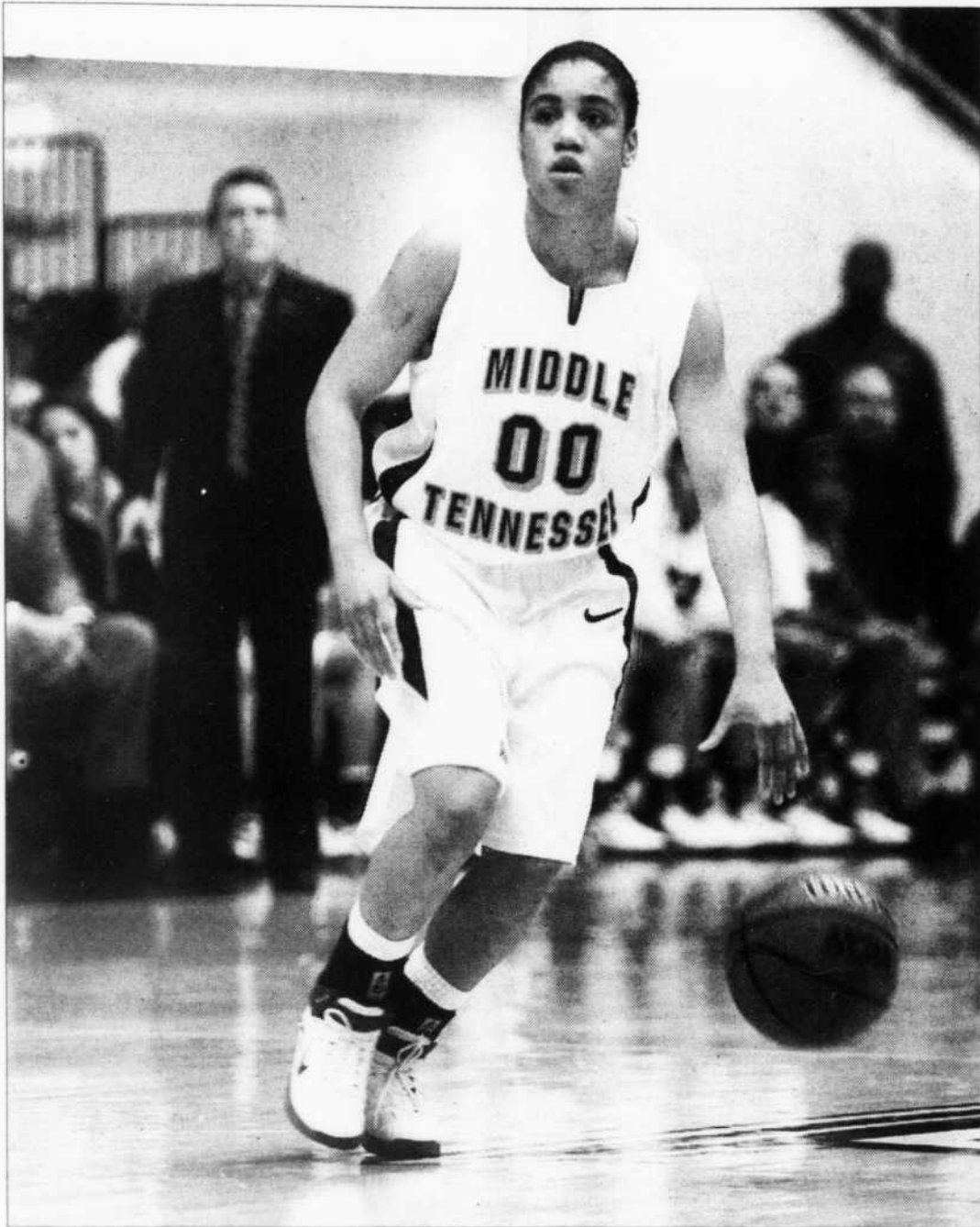


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
Freshman Chelsia Lymon went 0-4 in shooting against UALR. MT still beat UALR 75-62.

Basketball team looks to continue conference winning streak alive

By Wesley Mize
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider men's basketball team travels to North Texas tonight at 7 p.m.

Both teams are coming off Sun Belt Conference wins and are looking to climb from the middle of the pack in their respective divisions.

UNT currently sits fourth in the SUN Belt west division while MT is third in the Sun Belt east.

Middle is only two games out of first in the east and head coach Kermit Davis would lead nothing more than to escape the "Super Pit" with a victory tonight.

"Every game becomes more important as the season rolls along, so our goal is to go on the road and steal a game," said Davis. "The schedule turns in our favor after this game. We have more conference games at home down the stretch, so if we could win this game it would definitely help our confidence as well as make us one game closer to first."

MT (9-10, 5-4) is currently riding a five game SBC road-winning streak while the Mean Green is 8-1 at home and 3-0 in SBC play.

UNT (13-6, 4-4) averages 79 points per game this season while MT has only scored 70 or more points twice.

Davis knows his team has trouble scoring points, but he is confident in the game plan to hold UNT under its' average and come out with a win.

"We are going to play transition basketball because," said Davis. "There are not many teams that can say they have three scorers like that." "We have to play really well on the perimeter. Calvin, Kevin, and Nigel are going to be key for us. We must play excellent defense for the entire game and not just in spurts. Our chances of winning this game are higher if the game is in the low 70's or 60's."

Leading the way for the Mean Green is 6-5 guard Calvin Watson. Watson averages 16 points per game but has seven games this season of 20 or more points.

Davis believes containing Watson is critical for MT to win but is also aware of other potential scoring threats for UNT.

"They have three guys, Watson,

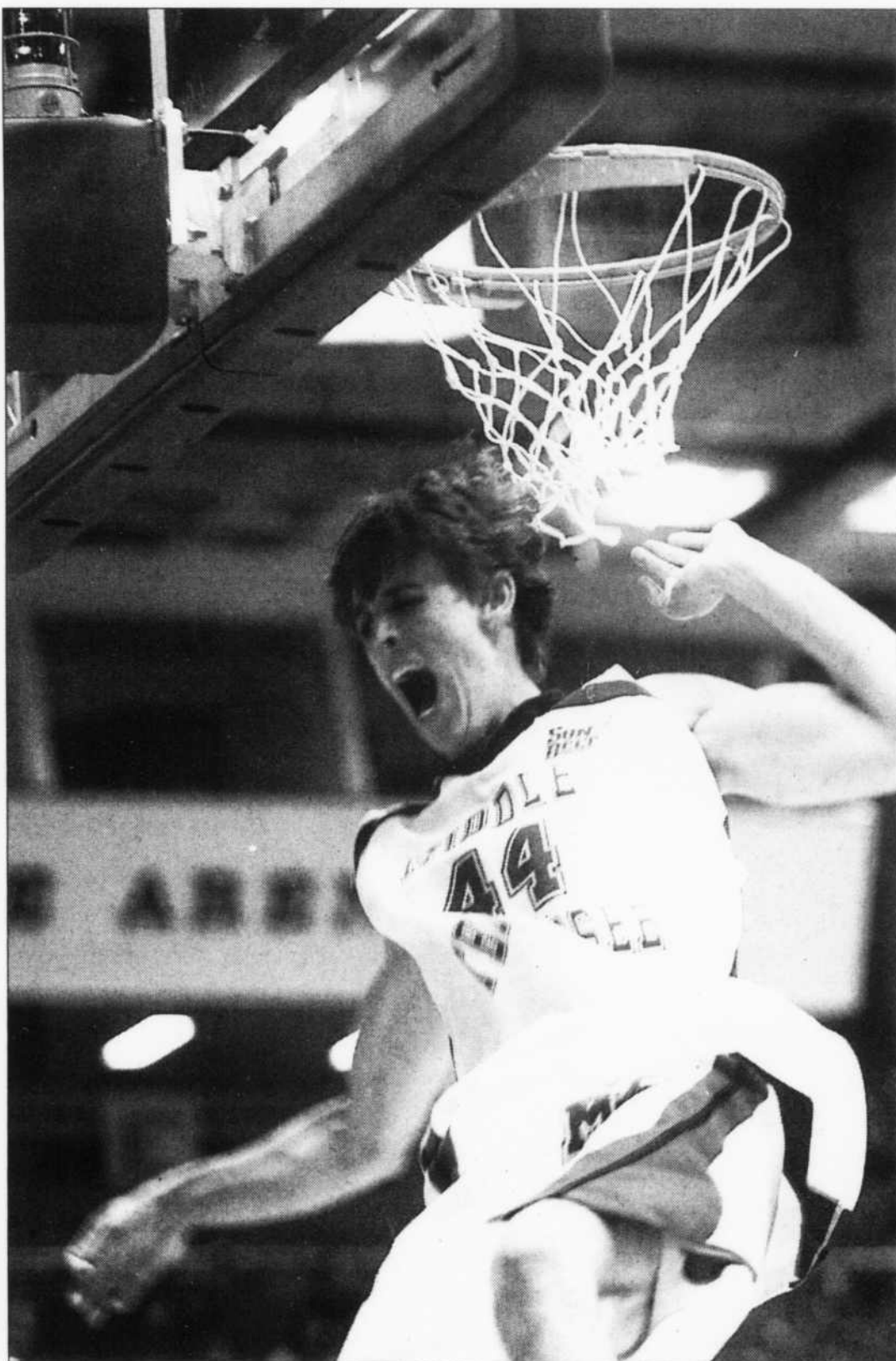


Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer
Senior Kyle Young expresses his emotion after slam dunking the ball on Arkansas State's defense.

Davis and Sturns, who are all capable of scoring 20 or more points in a game," said Davis. "There are not many teams that can say they have three scorers like that."

MT has a new leader in the scoring department in Desmond Yates. Yates recently took the scoring lead from Kevin Kanaskie by averaging 19.6

points per game over the Blue Raiders' last three games.

Kanaskie's dip in scoring does not come as a surprise to coach Davis.

"He [Kanaskie] is receiving much more attention from opposing defenses now that we've played a few conference games," Davis said. "Other teams believe that if they can

stop him they have a chance to win the game. That's why we need other guys to start shooting the ball better, so we can free Kevin up again."

The Blue Raiders will look to extend its school record SBC road winning streak to six with a win tonight over UNT. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m. in Denton, Texas. ♦



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

I am Sportacus, son of Ronald

I have to admit, sports are the last thing on my mind right now. The real world has taken over. The reason that I became Sportacus is because of my dad, who had emergency surgery just a few nights ago.

Maybe I will send this for print, maybe not. I'm not sure. Right now this is just therapy. I'm going to keep typing until I hit enough words and hope I feel better when I'm done. I know I won't come close to saying what's in my heart right now. But maybe I can explain, once and for all, why sports are so important to me.

When I first moved in with my father at the age of 12, I'd been kicked out of several schools. I was a spoiled kid who needed a tough father. That is exactly what I got. Toughness.

For a good while, my new home life had more to do with punishment than quality time. My dad came down on me like an iron hammer because he had to. I know that every time I like about myself he pounded into me during those years. And I know that every time he punished me, he cried himself to sleep.

I thank God every day for the change that overtook me in those years. Still, it wasn't an easy time. Every moment was a chance to make a point.

Every topic was an argument waiting to happen. It seemed like my dad would never be my best friend again. He was too busy raising me.

Luckily, there was one thing we agreed on all the time: We loved sports. No matter what happened during the week, the weekend was our time to bond. Sports became the only language we spoke. I had to study stats in my spare time just to keep up with him.

He quit the band he was in to watch me play football. Once I had graduated, I begged, borrowed and stole to get the gas money to visit him on game

days. For eight months of every year, every Sunday has been a holiday for us.

This weekend was not supposed to be any different. My dad, a rabid Vols fan, has been following Peyton Manning ever since he first declared his intent to sign at UT. For the last decade we have been watching Manning lose the big games. I wanted this win for my dad, and I was excited about the Colt's chances.

But then I found out about the surgery...

I don't know how to convey how devastating it is to see the strongest man you've ever known with tubes coming in and out of him, too weak to even move around on his own bed. My older brother, Cody, tried to prepare me for it but it was still one of the toughest things that's ever happened to me.

With tears streaming down my face, I asked my brother what I should do.

"Watch the game with him," he said without hesitation. And I knew he was right. It was the only thing I could do to make him feel better. It was all I wanted and I knew my dad would feel the same way. But I was worried. I didn't want what might be the last game I ever saw with him to be another Peyton Manning meltdown.

But for the first time in my life, he didn't tank when it mattered. And my tough-as-nails father fought off the morphine haze to watch every play of that amazing game. He may have had to cheer through gritted teeth but you could tell how good the win made him feel.

I never expected one football game to mean so much to me.

I had tears in my eyes as I left to let him rest, thankful beyond thankful that we had something to smile about. Sometimes, the most important thing in the world is good news, and that's why I love sports.

I love you dad. Get well soon. We have a Super Bowl to watch..

SPRING 2007 INTRAMURAL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Event	Entries Due	Play Begins
5 on 5 Basketball	1 / 23 / 2007	1 / 29 / 2007
Indoor Soccer League	1 / 30 / 2007	2 / 5 / 2007
Wiffleball Tourney	2 / 21 / 2007	2 / 26 / 2007
Softball League	3 / 13 / 2007	3 / 19 / 2007
Arena Football	3 / 20 / 2007	3 / 26 / 2007
Dodgeball League	3 / 27 / 2007	4 / 2 / 2007
Racquetball	3 / 27 / 2007	4 / 2 / 2007
Sports Trivia Contest	3 / 29 / 2007	4 / 2 / 2007
Table Tennis	4 / 5 / 2007	4 / 10 / 2007
Kickball Tourney	4 / 11 / 2007	4 / 16 / 2007

For more information please call the Campus Rec office at 615-898-2104.



Clean Energy Fee Funding Available

A Clean Energy standing committee has been established to administer the funds generated by the \$8 per student per semester Clean Energy Fee.

All Clean Energy Projects
and Proposals Should
Focus Primarily On:

Renewable Energy
Energy Conservation/
Efficiency
Alternative Fuels
Sustainable Design

To submit a Clean Energy fee
funding proposal, please visit
SGA's website at
www.mtsu.edu/~sga.

Eligible Spending May Include:

- On-site generation projects that utilize and publicize renewable energy technologies, such as solar array displays on campus;
- Opportunities that may arise to gain additional funding or offset costs through rebate programs, such as the *Generation Partners* program provided by Tennessee Valley Authority and Murfreesboro Electric Department;
- Up to 10% of the total annual appropriations may be allocated to perform studies that analyze energy efficiency initiatives;
- Up to 10% of the total annual appropriations may be used for research grants, as well as academic programs for educational, training, and research purposes, to help develop awareness of energy use, consumption, and conservation to be awarded within the MTSU community.

For more information, please contact Dr. Gene Fitch at 898-2750 or gfitch@mtsu.edu.

MTSU Master's Swim Club Wave Raiders Team Scores

The MTSU Wave Raiders traveled through the heavy rains on Sunday January 21, to compete with 10 teams at the Barbara Steven's Memorial Swim Meet sponsored by the Western Kentucky Green Gators. Nine Middle Tennessee Masters Swimmers scored 150 points. MT won the WKGG overall team division trophy and the women's WKGG Highest Scoring female team plaque.

Team Stats:

500meters Freestyle	Meet Times	Points/Place
Karen Wallace	7:49.52	5pts 2nd
Sue Ann Holton	8:11.88	4pts 3rd

Men's Relay	200m Medley Relay	Points/Place
Luke Robbins:	2:03.86	14pts 1st
James Brendle:		
Chad Farmer:		
Hap Parsons:		

Women's Relay	200meters Medley R.	Points/Place
Bethany Powell:	2:19.96	14pts 1st
Desirae Selitsch:		
Karen Wallace:		
Sue Ann Holton:		

50meters Butterfly	Points/Place
Karen Wallace:	42.26 7pts 1st
Pam Footit:	1:01.16 7pts 1st
Chad Farmer:	26.42 7pts 1st
James Brendle:	30.43 5pts 2nd
Hap Parsons:	32.28 7pts 1st

100m breaststroke	Points/Place
James Brendle	1:18.63 7pts 1st

Women	50meters Freestyle	Points/Place
Desirae Selitsch:	27.72	7pts 1st
Bethany Powell:	29.76	5pts 2nd
Sue Ann Holton:	36.50	4pts 3rd

Men	Points/Place
James Brendle:	28.72 4pts 3rd
Chad Farmer:	24.13 7pts 1st
Hap Parsons:	26.27 7pts 1st

100m Backstroke	Points/Place
Pam Footit	2:08.24 7pts 1st
Bethany Powell	1:19.35 4pts 3rd
Chad Farmer	1:07.44 5pts 2nd

100m Freestyle	Points/Place
Bethany Powell	1:08.66 7pts 1st
Karen Wallace	1:08.90 5pts 2nd
Hap Parsons	1:01.80 5pts 2nd
Chad Farmer:	52.75 7pts 1st

50m Backstroke	Points/Place
Desirae Silitsch:	33.25 7pts 1st
Karen Wallace:	41.32 4pts 3rd
Pam Footit:	53.44 7pts 1st
Hap Parsons:	34.94 7pts 1st

200m Freestyle	Points/Place
Sue Ann Holton	3:00.77 5pts 2nd

100m IM	Points/Place
Desirae Selitsch	1:10.00 7pts 1st
Bethany Powell	1:22.66 4pts 3rd
Pam Footit	2:06.57 7pts 1st
Chad Farmer	1:03.14 5pts 2nd
James Brendle	1:09.24 4pts 3rd

Men's Relay	200m Freestyle Relays	Points/Place
James Brendle:	1:47.52	14pts 1st
Chad Farmer:		
Hap Parsons:		
Luke Robbins:		

Women's Relay	2:13.45	14pts	1st
Karen Wallace:	31.17		
Bethany Powell:	38.83		
Sue Ann Holton:	32.62		
Desirae Selitsch:	30.85		

Team Points=	262	MTSU Finishes
Men's pts=	112	19 - 1st
Women's pts=	122	9 - 2nd
		7 - 3rd

Individual pts:

Women	Points
Pam Footit	35
Desirae Selitsch	28
Karen Wallace	26
Bethany Powell	20
Sue Ann Holton	13

Men	Points
Hap Parsons	33
Chad Farmer	31
James Brendle	20
Luke Robbins	0

Relays: 200 Freestyle - Place	200 IM - Place
Men's 1:47.52 1st	2:03.86 1st
Women 2:13.45 1st	2:19.96 1st

Up 'Til Dawn

Friday, January 26th

Open to the Public from 7 p.m. - Midnight

Campus Recreation Center

\$5 per Person or 5 St. Jude Letters

- * Live Entertainment
- * Hypnotist
- * Free Food
- * Human Foosball
- * Inflatable Games

- * Patient Guests Speakers
- * Great Door Prizes
- * Singled-Out
- * Step Performances
- * Eating Contests

And Much More!

Track team travels to Illinois to compete in Invite



Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer

Sophomore Frederick Middlebrooks is caught in mid-leap as he competes in the men's long-jump.

By Brendon Henson

Contributing Writer

The Track team is traveling to Champaign, Illinois this weekend for the Carle Health Alliance Invite.

This is the second trip to Champaign for the Blue Raiders, but it has been a long time. The last time Middle Tennessee was in the Carle Health Alliance Invite was in 1986.

Going into this weekend events Juan Walker is currently ranked No. 1 in the nation in the hurdles competition.

Walker nearly beat former Blue Raider Jasper Demps last week of 7.75 in the Kentucky Invitational. He was off by two hundredths of a second in beating 7.77.

Joining Walker in the jumping events is Carlos Morgan, who is the brother of Carl Morgan. Both of the Morgans push each other to do their very best.

Middle Tennessee will be competing 10 out of 12 meets this weekend, with other track teams. Western Kentucky and Illinois to just name a couple.

Walker had a NCAA provisional qualifying mark in the long jump and set a personal-best in the 55-meter hurdles for the senior trackster.

Walker ran 7.28 in the prelims and PR of 7.24, that was good enough for first place. He has two first place finishes in three weeks.

Morgan set a personal-best in the long jump 25-5 and set a NCAA provisional qualifying mark, as well. He also finished in second in the triple-jump with a 48-5.25 mark.

Morgan is currently ranked fourth in the Sun Belt. Stephanie Tamgho finished in first in the long jump and second with a season-best in the triple-jump.

The tracksters will be working on improving

**Middle Tennessee Indoor
Indiana Invitational
Bloomington, Ind.**

**Middle Tennessee
Valentine Invite
Murphy Center**

**Sun Belt Championships
Jonesboro, Ark.**

**NCAA Last Chance Meet
Ames, Iowa**

**NCAA Indoor
Championships
Fayetteville, Ark.**

for the remainder of their indoor season, as the team will be on the road for the rest of the season until the return to Murfreesboro for the Middle Tennessee Valentine Invite on Feb. 10.

Look for a recap of the Carle Health Alliance Invite in Monday's edition of *Sidelines*.

Next for Middle Tennessee is the Indiana Invitational in Indiana. ♦



Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer

Junior Stephanie Tamgho won the long-jump and finished second in the triple jump last week at the Blue Raider Invite.

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Men's Basketball Schedule

Jan. 25	North Texas	7 p.m.
Jan. 27	Louisiana-Lafayette*	7 p.m.
Jan. 29	South Dakota State	7 p.m.
Feb. 1	Denver*	7 p.m.
Feb. 3	South Alabama*	7 p.m.
Feb. 8	Louisiana-Monroe	7 p.m.
Feb. 10	Western Kentucky	1 p.m.
Feb. 12	Florida Int'l*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 22	Troy	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	Florida Atlantic*	7 p.m.
Mar. 3-6	SBC Tournament	

* Denotes home games

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Track team travels to Illinois to compete in Invite



Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer

Sophomore Frederick Middlebrooks is caught in mid-leap as he competes in the men's long-jump.

By Brendon Henson

Contributing Writer

The Track team is traveling to Champaign, Illinois this weekend for the Carle Health Alliance Invite.

This is the second trip to Champaign for the Blue Raiders, but it has been a long time. The last time Middle Tennessee was in the Carle Health Alliance Invite was in 1986.

Going into this weekend events Juan Walker is currently ranked No. 1 in the nation in the hurdles competition.

Walker nearly beat former Blue Raider Jasper Demps old time of 7.75 in the Kentucky Invitational. He was off by two hundredths of a second in beating 7.77.

Joining Walker in the jumping events is Carlos Morgan, who is the brother of Carl Morgan. Both of the Morgans push each other to do their very best.

Middle Tennessee will be competing 10 out of 12 meets this weekend, with other track teams. Western Kentucky and Illinois to just name a couple.

Walker had a NCAA provisional qualifying mark in the long jump and set a personal-best in the 55-meter hurdles for the senior trackster.

Walker ran 7.28 in the prelims and PR of 7.24, that was good enough for first place. He has two first place finishes in three weeks.

Morgan set a personal-best in the long jump 25-5 and set a NCAA provisional qualifying mark, as well. He also finished in second in the triple-jump with a 48-5.25 mark.

Morgan is currently ranked fourth in the Sun Belt. Stephanie Tamgho finished in first in the long jump and second with a season-best in the triple-jump.

The tracksters will be working on improving

**Middle Tennessee Indoor
Indiana Invitational
Bloomington, Ind.**

**Middle Tennessee
Valentine Invite
Murphy Center**

**Sun Belt Championships
Jonesboro, Ark.**

**NCAA Last Chance Meet
Ames, Iowa**

**NCAA Indoor
Championships
Fayetteville, Ark.**

for the remainder of their indoor season, as the team will be on the road for the rest of the season until the return to Murfreesboro for the Middle Tennessee Valentine Invite on Feb. 10.

Look for a recap of the Carle Health Alliance Invite in Monday's edition of *Sidelines*.

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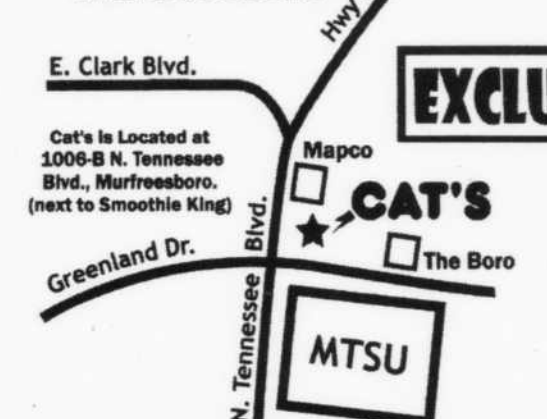
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