

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 2005

30 51



Rainy

mtvU searches for the
ultimate college band

In Living, page 5

Tracing tracks
from France to MTSU

In Sports, page 6



Murfreesboro, Tenn.

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Volume 80 No. 53

Student teacher arrested Sexual battery charges filed

Staff Reports

An MTSU student teacher was arrested on Monday after he was accused of fondling a 14-year-old Riverdale High School student.

Ryan Christopher Davis, a senior at MTSU, was charged with sexual battery by an authority figure.



Davis

"He won't ever work for us again," said James Evans, Rutherford County Schools spokesman.

The alleged fondling took place in Nashville on a return trip from a band competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The student was riding alone in a truck used to carry tubas driven by Davis.

The student reported the incident to school officials on Monday. School officials notified the sheriff's department. Davis was arrested the same day.

The school system is conducting an internal investigation. ♦

Career fair aids students

By Esparonda Waller
Staff Writer

The Career and Employment Center will host its annual summer jobs and internship fair today from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the James Union Building in the Tennessee Room.

The fair is for students seeking summer employment opportunities and internships. Representatives of camps, parks, businesses and government agencies attend to recruit students for summer and part-time jobs, as well as internships.

"We have a fairly large database of employers to invite and this is built on previous fairs of companies that have come and expressed an interest in coming," said Martha Turner, director of the career and employment center.

"We continue to invite them, and then we add new ones as we deem that appropriate," Turner said.

Businesses will offer jobs and internships for specific majors and some for all majors. *Dish Magazine* in Nashville is seeking aspiring English, marketing, sales, mass communication and electronic media communication majors.

Students interested in business management, marketing, and sales could also consider working for Enterprise Rent-A-Car in

See Fair, 2

Two arrested with marijuana, guns

By Matt Anderson
News Editor

University police found assault rifles and more than one ounce of marijuana during a traffic stop early Monday morning.

Two men were charged with unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, possessing weapons on school property and possession, sale and delivery of marijuana, according to the police report.

The men were identified as Robert Lee Robinson of



Schader

Clarksville and Christopher Scott Schader, a freshman mass communication major from Clarksville. Robinson is not an MTSU student.

Both were released on bond Tuesday, according to Rutherford County Sheriff's Deputy Thorpe. Thorpe would not reveal the bond amount.

The weapons included a Model 26 Glock semiautomatic



Robinson

handgun, a Stag Arms AR-15 semiautomatic rifle, a Russian-made AK-47. Police also found \$1,250 cash.

Lee was listed as absent without leave from Fort Campbell Monday, MTSU interim Police Chief Roy Brewer said in a news release.

Officer Jason Myatt stopped a Ford Expedition around 1

See Arrests, 2

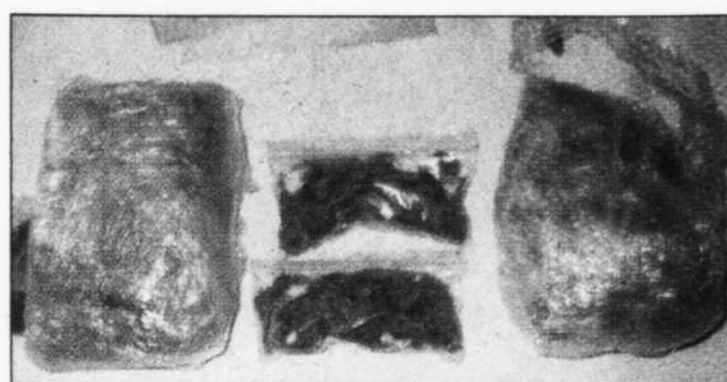


Photo provided by MTSU News and Public Affairs

University police found a large quantity of marijuana, along with bags and an electronic scale in Scarlett Commons apartment 831 on Monday.

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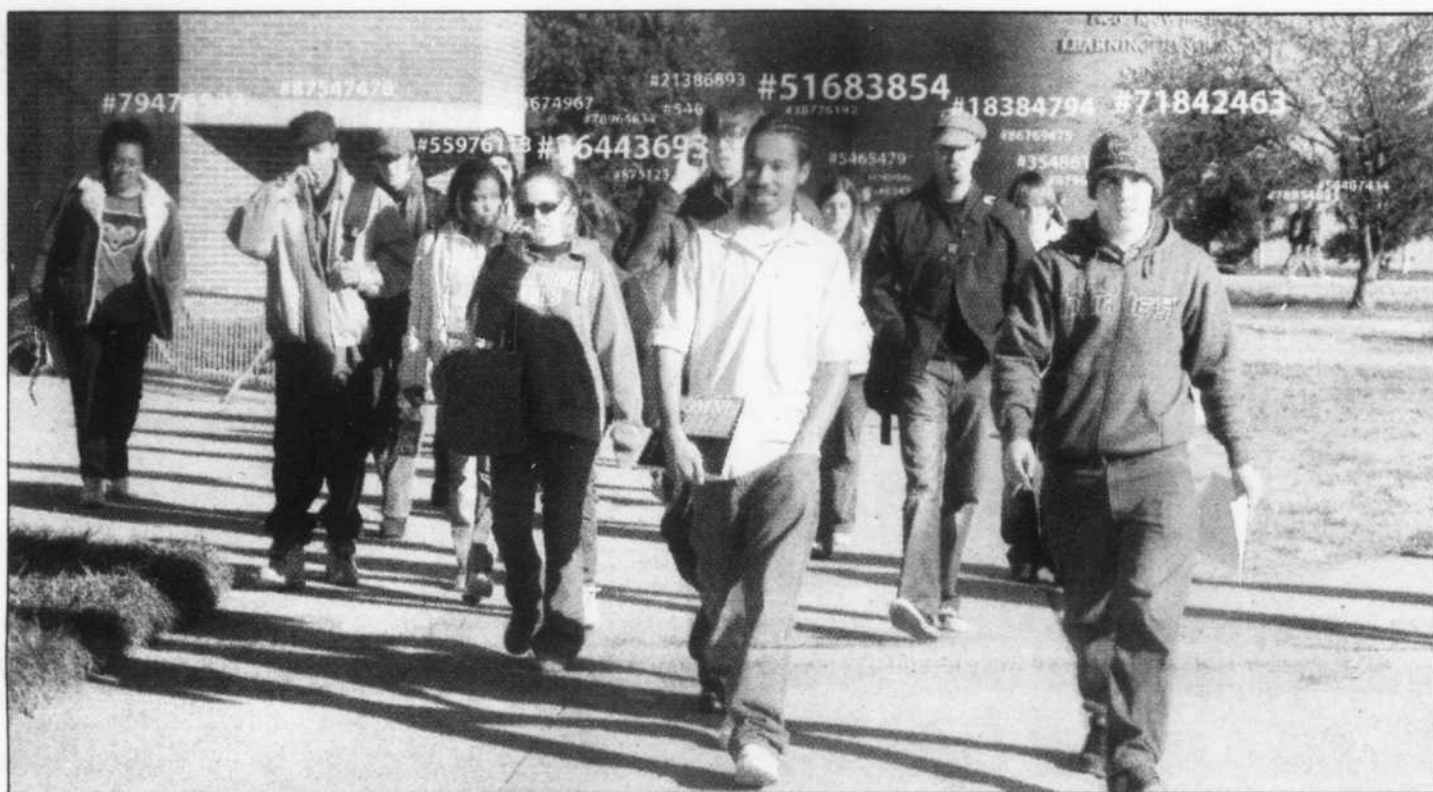


Photo illustration by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

The database, if created, would track students enrollment and tuition information at universities nationwide.

Proposed database raises privacy concerns

By Sandi Van Orden
Staff Writer

The National Center for Education Statistics is considering using social security numbers to track tuition and fees paid for college, according to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

"If it has to do with federal funding, we may not have a choice but to participate," said Teresa Thomas, MTSU director of records.

The Department of Education believes this system would allow for more accurate statistics, according to *The Chronicle of*

Higher Education.

"It seems like a good idea if they are just going to use it for that (statistical information)," said Christopher Outlaw, a junior recording industry major.

According to the NAICU's Web site, the NAICU has concerns about the privacy issues if the information collected is later used for non-statistical purposes.

Also according to the NAICU, "The proposal begins to take us down the slippery slope toward big brother oversight of college students, and of those same citizens beyond their college years."

Some MTSU students do not like the idea of having their information tracked

by the government.

"I wouldn't like that," said Rachel Rotenberry, a junior biology major. "Why does anybody need to know that?"

The new process of collecting student data would allow the Department of Education to follow students who attend more than one college during their time in school. Currently, transfer students are listed as dropouts from any institution they attended, but transferred from prior to graduation, according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

"I think it would be a good idea, but I

See Database, 2

Possible pay raise in budget

Teachers stand likely to benefit

By Daina Pretzer
Staff Writer

Gov. Phil Bredesen proposed a new \$25.1 billion budget on Jan. 31 in his third State of the State Address that includes \$94 million to increase pay for state employees, higher education employees and teachers. Essentially, it all boils down to a 1 percent permanent pay raise and 1 percent, one-time bonus.

"State employees are the backbone of state government," Bredesen said. "I want us to get in the habit of making them a priority every year."

Yet, when it eventually comes down to the university level, it may increase or decrease, or employees may not get anything at all.

"Things will change a dozen times before it gets down here at the operational level," said John High, general manager of WMOT 89.5, who will be affected by the budget. "Until the university starts sending out budget proposals, I don't pay any attention."

The process begins with approval in the legislature. Then the proposed budget is sent to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Next, it goes through the Tennessee Board of Regents, and then to President Sidney McPhee. Finally, the money is distributed through the university by way of the deans, High said.

If the legislature approves the pay raise, then McPhee must enforce it. At the department level, budget information is not distributed until March or April. By July 1, the budget will be printed and ready to go into effect.

"I hope it's more than a 1 percent raise," High said. "I'm always hopeful there will be budget growth to take care of inflation, and possible raises for the staff."

According to John Cothran, vice-president for the financial and administration division, last year's salary raise was 3 percent for all MTSU employees, effective July 1, 2004.

"In recent years, 3 percent is a pretty good rate," Cothran said.

"Twenty to 25 years ago [we] might have gotten a 6 percent raise," Cothran said. "Some years [we] don't get any."

See Budget, 2

TennCare cutbacks may be delayed

By David Driver
Staff Writer

TennCare Deputy Commissioner J.D. Hickey before the TennCare Oversight Committee said cuts may not begin until June 1.

"If the cuts do not come before May 1, then it will cost an extra \$44 million per month," said TennCare spokesperson Marilyn Elam.

TennCare does have \$100 million available in reserve in case the cuts do not go as planned, Elam said. But that money will be gone after two months so the money will again come out of the state budget.

A major cause for the delays in cuts is the pending hearings in federal court.

This past Friday, U.S. District Court Judge William J. Haynes Jr. had his first hearing between the state lawyers and

attorneys representing 323,000 enrollees who will be dropped according to the governor's plan.

On Jan. 28, Judge Haynes ruled that cuts would be halted until a hearing between the parties on whether the governor has the right to drop enrollees from TennCare.

The next hearing will take place March 28 and state lawyers have filed a motion to restrict Gordon Bonnyman's role in the hearing.

State lawyers feel Bonnyman is in a conflict of interest because he is representing both those losing their TennCare and those enrollees facing more limits.

The March 28 hearing will conclude whether or not the governor has the right to make

See TennCare, 3

Fashion 'Til Dawn

MTSU student
Serena Simpson,
right, models her
dress at Up 'Til Dawn
presents Fashion 'Til
Dawn fashion show.
The show was put on
to raise money for St.
Jude's Children's
Research Hospital.

Photos by Rachelle Morvant
Chief Photographer



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

Should single people feel left out on
Valentine's Day?

Opinions 4 • Features 5 • Sports 6 • Classifieds 7

Fair: Employment opportunities abound

Continued from I

Franklin, Tenn.

Interns at Enterprise will receive a paid internship, learn how to run a successful business and gain marketing skills. They will perform the same duties as first year, full-time professionals.

The Office of the Governor is offering internships and summer jobs for political science, public relations and communication majors.

Internships are offered during the fall, spring and summer semesters.

Interns are assigned to specific departments to develop special projects.

Target in Murfreesboro is

seeking students of any major who demonstrate leadership, effective communication and strong planning and organizational skills. Students will experience a 10-week summer program.

The Department of Treasury provides hands-on training through the "Careers Now Program," and allows students to earn money and college credit while working for the state of Tennessee.

They are interested in students majoring in information systems, science, business, accounting and marketing.

Camps and parks in the Tennessee area are seeking education and psychology majors who love children.

Other well-known businesses seeking employees and interns include the Girl Scouts of America, the Marine Corps, Walgreens, the Walt Disney World College Program, Mary Kay, Finish Line, the Nashville Sounds Baseball Club and the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere.

"The fair introduces students to potential employers, teaches them how to present themselves to strangers and gives them information about job opportunities that are available," Turner said.

Turner noted that the career center conducts workshops periodically, visits classes and discusses job search preparation in order to prepare students for careers.

The center's Web site also helps students develop effective interview skills.

"The best time for students to come to the center is during their junior or senior year. Students who wish to do an internship should begin preparing their junior year," Turner said.

"Students who only want career placement should start no later than their senior years," she said.

Those who plan to attend the fair should prepare a resumé in order to enhance their chances of receiving a job or an internship.

For a complete listing of the businesses visit www.mtsu.edu/~career.

Arrests: Suspects released on bond

Continued from I

a.m. Feb. 7 after it made an illegal u-turn on MTSU Boulevard, according to the police report.

Lee gave consent for Myatt to search his vehicle, and the weapons, marijuana and cash were found. Schader then gave written consent for Myatt to search his residence in Scarlett Commons 831B.

There police found five plastic bags with marijuana. Schader also had an electronic scale.

A court date has been set for Wednesday, March 23.

Scarlett Commons resident Brad Todd said he never noticed anything suspicious at Schader's residence. Todd, a junior business management major, lives across from Schader.

"It's scary," Todd said. "I wouldn't think they'd have an AK-47."

Robert Glenn, vice president of student life and vice provost of enrollment management, called the seizure of weapons on campus "disturbing."

"Clearly a university campus is no place for firearms," Glenn said.

The university will take "interim action" against Schader as it learns more about the situation and depending on

when Schader is released, Glenn said.

"If there's credible evidence for dealing, we're going to dismiss them from the university," Glenn said.

"They had a quantity of marijuana that would indicate they were probably distributing," he said. "It's definitely more than you would expect for a casual user ... it's hard to think of it as the tip of the iceberg."

Glenn said that MTSU is an extremely safe campus, but that in his experience, but that people who carry assault weapons are on different plane.

"They don't see the world like you and I do," Glenn said. "It's not a response to a threat on their part; it's a whole different way of looking at the world."

Glenn said that in situations like this, it's helpful to think of MTSU as though it were a small city.

"All the good things that can happen in a small city can happen on this campus and all the bad things that can happen in a small city can happen on this campus," Glenn said.

"We should anticipate that what goes on in the world and what we see in the news each night, there's always a possibility that these things can happen on campus."

Budget:

Continued from I

According to Cothorn, the governor would like to do more, but he had to look at the whole state, and build the budget in a balanced manner. MTSU would have liked to have seen higher education receive more, because the university could not get the funding needed to build a new science building, Cothorn said.

"We're hoping we'll get a little bit more," Cothorn said. "I think all employees would like to get as much as they can."

Database:

Continued from I

also think privacy issues would come up," said Mary Bean, a senior recording industry major. "It's OK if not just anyone can look at it."

Current guidelines of gathering statistical data on college students are flawed, according to the American Council on Education.

Any student who transfers is counted as a dropout at the school the student transfers from. In addition, any student who takes more than six years to graduate is considered a dropout, according to the ACE.

The ACE said using the considered database would allow more accurate statistics in graduation rates of student.

According to the NAICU, those in favor of the new system believe it will create greater accountability for educational institutions, and will show more accurate graduation and price information.

"Private college and student organizations say the proposed unit-record system is a step backward for privacy rights," according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

A report is planned to be presented to Congress sometime in February, according to the NAICU. If it is passed, the system would be tested in the 2006-2007 school year and could be put into place as early as 2007.

There are no records of the proposal having been debated yet in the House Committee for Education and the Workforce.

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For more information, call 898-2500 or visit our website at www.mtsu.edu/~career

TennCare: Benefits to be limited for enrollees

Continued from 1

enrollee cuts, but will not discuss the governor's proposal to limit some enrollees' coverage.

The governor's TennCare proposal will cut 323,000 enrollees and limit coverage for 369,000 enrollees.

"It is up to the court to make the decision," Tennessee Justice Center paralegal Diana Gallaher said, "but we will fight to continue representing enrollees because we have the experience necessary in this case."

Gallaher also said state lawyers would prefer arguing against attorneys George Barrett and Ted Carey rather than Bonnyman.

Bonnyman is the attorney for the Tennessee Justice Center and has been a major critic of the governor's cuts.

However, Nashville attorneys Barrett and Carey of Barrett, Johnson and Parsley law firm are currently representing the 323,000 enrollees who will be cut.

Barrett and Carey joined in the judicial challenges in

November. Bonnyman was the main attorney for enrollees until they joined.

Court proceedings are not the only thing holding off the cuts. The governor's task force on the health care safety net has till May 1 to give the governor suggestions on what options are there for those eliminated by the cuts.

TennCare is also looking into buying prescription drugs in bulk with other states including Michigan, Vermont, New Hampshire, Nevada, Alaska, Montana, Minnesota and Hawaii.

In Bredesen's proposal, adult enrollees will be limited to four prescriptions per month, and TennCare released a list of drugs exempt from the limits.

The drugs exempted include dialysis and drugs to treat renal diseases, cancer and chemotherapy drugs, certain drugs to treat HIV and Hepatitis C, tuberculosis drugs, blood-clotting drugs, intravenous nutrition-delivering medication, prenatal vitamins and flu vaccines for high-risk individuals. ♦

Tennessee lawmakers want more money to fight methamphetamine abuse

By Lucas L. Johnson II
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Despite a tight budget, some lawmakers say more should be spent on fighting prescription drug abuse and the methamphetamine epidemic.

"Somebody's got their head in the sand," said Sen. Tim Burchett, R-Knoxville, of the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee, which heard a budget report from Tennessee Commissioner Dave Goetz on Tuesday.

Burchett said he was frustrated that many people were buying drugs legally through TennCare — the state's expanded Medicaid program — then selling them illegally on the street.

"It's my contention that the state of Tennessee is the No. 1 drug dealer of illegal prescription drugs on the street," he said. "It needs to be stopped."

Goetz responded that Gov. Phil Bredesen's administration did not have its "head in the sand" and was taking steps to address the problem.

"We do have things in place to deal with it," Goetz said. "I may not be as fast as you and I would like, but we do have some things in place."

He said the governor's office is working with its pharmacy benefit manager to implement programs that red-flag people who are abusing pain medications and limit their ability to

get them.

There's also \$3 million budgeted for a controlled substance database that will provide law enforcement with a way to look "comprehensively at not just TennCare, but private insurance and Medicare, where you have potential abuse of controlled substances," Goetz said.

In the battle against meth manufacturing and abuse, Goetz said \$6.9 million of the governor's \$25 billion budget is set aside for that. But committee member Jeff Miller said that was not sufficient.

"What I'm hearing from the field, is that the money to take on meth is not enough," the Cleveland Republican said.

Goetz said the war on meth is a priority, but because of budget constraints, the new money is only "a start on trying to deal with the issue."

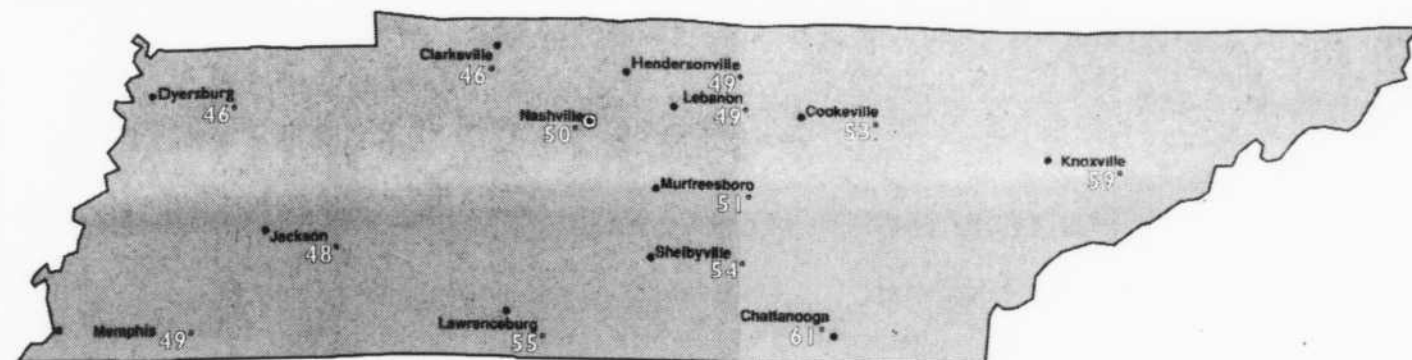
He emphasized to the committee, however, that the money to fight drugs hinges on the outcome of litigation involving TennCare enrollees. A federal judge has ruled the state cannot implement planned reforms to the \$8.7 billion health care program without his approval.

If the courts win, and TennCare is left unchecked, it is expected to eat up roughly \$650 million in new state money next year. That could mean no new money for fighting drug abuse.

"We would have to go and find \$650 million," Goetz said. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Wednesday's Highs

From the Associated Press

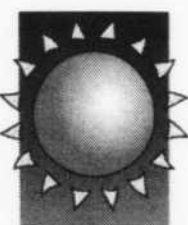


Thursday



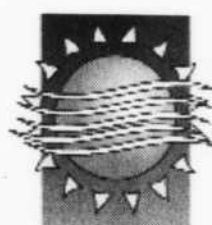
38°
24°

Friday



45°
26°

Saturday



47°
35°

Sunday



49°
41°

Monday



56°
38°

Air waves silent after unlicensed station's shutdown

By Duncan Mansfield
Associated Press Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — After warnings, inspections and finally a raid, 90.9 FM is silent.

Knoxville First Amendment Radio, or KFAR (pronounced "kay-far"), was an unapologetic voice of unlicensed "pirate radio" activism, freewheeling conversation, alternative news and music since 2001.

But Federal Communications Commission agents and U.S. marshals emptied the station's graffiti-decorated trailer — a former crack house on a hilltop near the University of Tennessee — of Che Guevara, the Cuban revolutionary, remains on a control room wall.

"Arrrrgh! ... ye scoundrels!" flashed the message board on the station's Web site.

"All the FCC did was protect Knoxville's right to listen to static. You go there now, and it is nothing," supporter Chris Irwin said of the void on the FM dial once occupied by 100-watt KFAR. "What exactly was the public benefit of crushing this station with less power than a light bulb?"

Two weeks later, Free Radio Santa Cruz in California was raided after operating nearly 10 years without a license. The FCC shut down 250 pirate radio stations of all kinds in 2004, up from 211 the year before. San Francisco Liberation Radio and tiny Radio Free Brattleboro in Vermont, both raided in 2003, continue to wage federal court battles to stay on the air.

The closings come even as the FCC considers allowing more low-power FM licenses for community radio.

Of some 3,200 applications submitted during very brief filing periods in 2000 and 2001, about 1,100 have been granted construction permits, about 260 applications are still pending, and more than 300 stations have been licensed.

"I fully support the mission of the hundreds of LPFM providers throughout the country," FCC Chairman Michael Powell said in a statement. "Low-power FM stations offer a unique opportunity to serve citizens through noncommercial community-based stations, stations that allow small communal and parochial interests to

find a voice."

But KFAR never applied for a license. The loose-knit college-age disc jockeys kept KFAR going on \$10-a-month dues. They used on-air pseudonyms like Black-Eyed Susan and Dingo Dog Dave to avoid fines.

"Originally, we were going to apply for a license. We had a nonprofit. We had a board. We were filling out the paperwork," said Irwin, a law student at Tennessee.

But after the FCC opened the door to low-power FM licenses in 2000, Congress adopted restrictions urged by traditional broadcasters. The National Association of Broadcasters and National Public Radio wanted to ensure the signals of the new little stations didn't interfere with big existing ones. So under a so-called "third adjacent channel" rule, no new station could be closer than three positions on the dial from an existing station.

"Basically it made it so that really low-power stations could only operate in very rural areas where there weren't listeners, so they wouldn't cut into any major markets," said Dylan Wrynn, otherwise known as Pete Tridish (pronounced "petri dish"), a former pirate radio now with the Prometheus Radio Project in Philadelphia, which advises community radio start-ups.

"Maybe they could have gotten a low-power station, but it is really pretty dubious," Wrynn said of KFAR. "There are about a dozen ways they could have been stopped from doing it legally through really no fault of their own."

The Knoxville market isn't huge. It ranked 71st-largest in the country in the latest Arbitron ratings with a population of 620,000. But with 21 FM stations on the air, the dial apparently was full under the third-channel adjacency standard.

So in late 2001 KFAR started broadcasting anyway as an act of civil disobedience.

Two years later, an independent study commissioned by the FCC for Congress concluded the third-channel rule was overreaching.

The FCC proposed going back to its original plan of requiring separation by only

two clicks on the FM dial instead of three — a standard that could allow hundreds of additional stations.

Legislation to make the change, sponsored by Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., stalled in the Senate last fall.

Tim Berry, chief engineer for five Knoxville radio stations once owned locally but sold to Citadel Broadcasting Corp. of Las Vegas in 2000, has no sympathy for KFAR, even though the pirate station never interfered with his stations' signals.

"If you are going to have to pay the fiddler. If you fire up a radio station illegally without a license, eventually the commission is going to shut you down," he said.

"If the (McCain-Leahy) legislation were passed ..., yes, I believe there would be some more (stations) that would be eligible," Berry said, but noted, "There already are some low-power FM stations, and they did so legally. They didn't fire up and get mad when they got shut down."

The FCC closed KFAR on a complaint from the FBI.

Special Agent R. Joe Clark, who heads the FBI's Knoxville office, sent the FCC a letter about KFAR in January 2004. The FBI refused to release Clark's letter to The Associated Press without a Freedom of Information Act request to Washington.

Knoxville FBI spokesman Gary Kidder said Clark was only passing on a tip to the appropri-

ate agency from the FBI's local Joint Terrorism Task Force.

David Icove, a former FBI Academy instructor now working for the Tennessee Valley Authority's police agency, is a member of the task force. He played a small role in the KFAR probe. Icove listened to the radio in April and June to confirm that KFAR was still on the air after FCC warnings, according to an affidavit from FCC investigator Eric Rice.

"KFAR was shut down for its content," said Irwin, who believes the station was shut down for its criticism of TVA's nuclear power plants and the government's nuclear bomb-building factory in nearby Oak Ridge.

But the FCC complaint simply says the station was closed for being unlicensed, after it was warned and tests determined the station was transmitting at 5,935 times the allowable limit. Its signal could be picked up from more than five miles away, the FCC said. A licensed low-power FM station typically reaches about 3.5 miles.

Since the shutdown, KFAR has continued an abbreviated broadcast on the Internet under a new name, Community Radio of Knoxville, or CRoK, and looks for other opportunities.

"KFAR is going to continue to survive as an idea," Irwin said, "until we can figure out some way of getting the people of Knoxville access to what belongs to them — our airwaves." ♦

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From the Editorial Board

Keep dealers off campus; your safety depends on it

There are certain things that people like to do in the privacy of their apartments or dorms. Sometimes those things are illegal, such as smoking dope, and really, that's to be expected because this is a college. But just because its expected doesn't mean students should just passively accept it.

On Monday, Christopher Scott Schader, a Mass Communications major, was found on campus in a car with assault weapons and large amounts of marijuana. After further inspection of his room at Scarlett Commons, the total amount was almost 2 pounds.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that he was a dealer and he was more than likely dealing drugs out of his apartment on campus. Police found both baggies and a digital scale in his apartment.

Anyone who has lived on campus or in an apartment unit can tell pretty quickly who is partaking of illegal substances. It's hard to believe that there wasn't one student in his building that didn't have some inkling of what was going on in that apartment. And yet, no student had the forethought to think that a drug dealer living next door might cause problems and could possibly endanger the whole campus.

Granted, most students generally want to stay out of other people's business and that's completely understandable. However, drug dealers usually don't make good neighbors, no matter how you cut it. Even if you don't particularly care either way what the guy across the hall does with his free time, it's in your interest to keep the campus safe.

At press time, it's still not clear who brought those guns onto campus. There was another man with Schader, Robert Lee Robinson, an AWOL Army sergeant. Nevertheless, these guys had enough firepower in their car to take on the entire MTSU Police Department and one of them is possibly your neighbor. Does that really make you feel safe?

Ensuring safety on campus is everyone's job, not just the responsibility of the university police department. The department is limited by the growing size of this university and MTSU Police depend on students keeping an eye out for things like this. They can't be everywhere at once. The next time we may not be so lucky. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Soldiers get mud in their eyes for irresponsible behavior

Since when did the U.S. Army turn into Wrestling Entertainment?

A group of female soldiers are feeling the burn of their mistake when photos taken of several of them mud-wrestling back in October surfaced recently in the *New York Daily News*.

The women, who belonged to the 160th Military Police Battalion, were shown exposing their breasts and rolling around in thong panties before a crowd of cheering male soldiers. It's the sort of behavior one expects out of Pay-Per-View programming; it's definitely not something one expects to see our men and women in uniform doing.

Lt. Col. Barry Johnson told Reuters on Monday that, "It does not appear that alcohol was involved, and there is no evidence to support suggestions of any type of sexual misconduct."

Still, the matter took place in a sensitive location — a camp for detainees named Camp Bucca — during a handover of control of the camp between the 160th and the 105th Military Police Battalion.

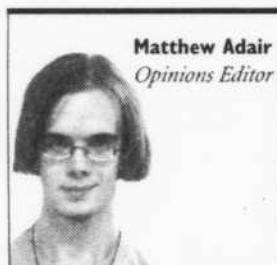
Furthermore, what took place shows an absolute lack of judgement on the part of everyone involved. The men and women in that unit represent the United States and are accountable for all of their actions while serving the country. Three women stripping down to wrestle in the mud as their testosterone-flooded comrades-in-arms watch on and cheer is hardly a positive representation of the United States.

It isn't the worst representation, by any means, but surely the soldiers involved could have exercised a little more restraint than they did. This has already proven to be a war in which public opinion, both here, and in Iraq, has been heated.

Lapses of judgement, like what happened at Camp Bucca, are hardly what the United States needs to deal with right now.

So put the hoses away, men; ladies, keep your clothes on, and both of you, from now on, wait until you get home to act like idiots. ♦

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



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

Forrest undeserving of tribute

Can the gruesome actions of one's past somehow be redeemed by the achievements they accumulate?

Such is the controversy surrounding Nathan Bedford Forrest, esteemed Confederate general, and early leader of the Ku Klux Klan. Forrest is also the namesake of our campus ROTC building, Forrest Hall.

Forrest worked in the slave trade, and also owned a plantation, before joining the Confederate Forces; both of which he was quite good at, having amassed a fortune of over a million dollars. He joined the cavalry with no previous military training, at the lowly rank of private.

However, he would soon outgrow this rank; his achievements demanded and deserved it. Forrest's talent for elusion proved priceless, having led his own troops and even some others, back across enemy lines during a failed retreat to Fort Donelson. Following a promotion to brigadier general, Forrest raised a brigade that captured Murfreesboro and etched his place in the history books of this region.

Skeptical Overtones



Brandon Bouchillon
Staff Columnist

The story of Forrest reads as it should: rich Southerner gives up everything to join Confederacy, and almost flawlessly rises to the rank of lieutenant general. But is there a case against him? Such a great general is surely deserving of an ROTC tribute, right?

Only the facts will tell.

The first major incident working against Forrest's credibility is the massacre at Fort Pillow. In April, 1864, Forrest captured Fort Pillow in Lauderdale County, Tenn. What was seemingly another well orchestrated Forrest victory would go on to be debated as one of the major atrocities of the Civil War.

Around 550 men were housed in Fort Pillow, 262 of which were African-American. A postwar

investigation would show evidence that Forrest and his men murdered almost every Union soldier, after their surrender.

Also, the Confederates were guilty of burying black soldiers alive, and burning tents, which contained immobile Union wounded. Such actions certainly worked against the case for Forrest as a hero, one supposedly deserving of a state park, Nashville statue and most notably, the Middle Tennessee ROTC building.

Unfortunately, the unraveling of Forrest's integrity doesn't end there.

The Ku Klux Klan was formed one year after Lee's surrender, and the end of the Civil War. Its founder, none other than Nathan Bedford Forrest, would lead the Klan from 1867 through 1869. During this time, the Klan's major objective was the intimidation of the empowered, and now free, blacks of the South.

The fabled night rides, cross burnings and even the lynching of those who the Klan saw as a threat to continued white power, all began during this time.

The jury remains out on the case against Forrest, but it is near-

ly impossible to comprehend the immortalization of a man who has three blaring and utterly race-related strikes against him. Forrest was a great general; he never studied at West Point, but some of their lessons are derived from his war theory.

This aside, Forrest was a slave trader. He brutally and heartlessly murdered innocent men at least once during his Civil War tenure. He began and led the Ku Klux Klan, a group who has been a major source of hatred towards blacks for countless years. Any one of these three infractions would take a man out of the running for any sort of namesake.

Ah, but we, as a society, seem to have let this one slip through. Hatred and violence should never receive positive recognition, whether it is through an MTSU building or not.

Show me another country where genocide is rewarded and I'll show you a perfect site for the relocation of Forrest Hall. ♦

Brandon Bouchillon is a sophomore journalism student and can be reached at bab2t@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Social Security crisis purely fictional

To the Editor:

Randy Thigpen says that "[President George W.] Bush was right" on Social Security. ("Social Security needs large-scale reforms" Feb. 7) But why should we believe that, when he's been wrong on everything else?

The truth is that Bush is engaging in intentional deception — has this ever happened before? He uses one set of figures to argue that Social Security will exhaust its trust fund, but by those same figures, his "solution" makes matters worse. So he uses a second set to show his plan will work, but by those figures, Social Security will be in surplus indefinitely. "Social Security crisis" is the domestic equivalent of "Iraqi weapons of mass destruction".

But this question will not be settled by reason. Those who believe in Bush will believe whatever he says, and no amount of reality will dissuade them. He is, by his own account, the light that illuminates the darkness and is not consumed by it.

Cliff Story
Instructor, department of mathematics

Withdraw not the same as defeat

To the Editor:

I agreed with Davis's article ("Isolationism no choice for nation" Feb. 2, p. 4) whole heartedly, and I am a supporter of the war in Iraq and the freedom of anyone across the world who is being oppressed. There was one part of his article that did catch my attention. In paragraph 15 and 16, he wrote, "to the United States' eventual defeat in the Vietnam War." and in paragraph 16, "Our defeat in Vietnam emboldened the Soviets".

Many people compare defeat and victory of war to the subject where the majority of Americans hear about winning and losing: sports. I have heard people say that the United States lost the war in Vietnam. I believed that the United States realized that the war they were fighting in Vietnam was a waste of time, money and many of our countrymen's lives, and with pressures continuing to mount from anti-war protests, we decided to withdraw and quit.

Now, many people's immediate reaction to the words 'withdraw' or 'quit' is to compare those words to sports. But, if we lost the war why didn't we surrender our arms, why were we not forced to pay for damages to the NVA and why didn't the NVA take all our soldiers as prisoners? Japan was defeated in WWII. Germany was defeated in WWII. Iraq was defeated in the Gulf War. Some might say that the reason we lost is because we did not do what we set out to do. But, in the war on terror in Afghanistan, we destroyed the grip of the Taliban on the country and now, people are voting and, for the most part, living free. So, did we lose the war because we have not captured Osama Bin Ladin? The United States definitely did not win the Vietnam war, but we certainly didn't lose.

Brad Lewis
Freshman, department of finance

Correction

The Spring Break tabloid that should have appeared in Monday's issue of the newspaper can be found in this issue. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Three columns a day: \$35
Consensus of opinion among
our editors: \$5
One bottle of aspirin,
extra strength: \$5

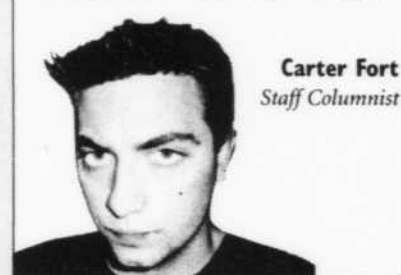
Your most part: priceless.

slopinio@mtsu.edu

Skeptical minds needed to further deep discussions

I'm absolutely sure that this is going to get me into more trouble than I can possibly fathom, but I feel strongly that this is really important stuff, and somebody needs to say it.

You Should Know This Already



Carter Fort
Staff Columnist

Not all opinions are equal. There, I said it.

Difference of opinion should always be a fertile source of discussion and debate, not just another way of trying to ridicule one another. However, we must accept the fact that some people just plain know more about certain things than we do.

For instance, when I want an opinion as to how to best build a house, I will ask a construction contractor. When I want to know about biology, I will ask a scientist. In neither instance would I ask a history professor. Should this make the history professor feel stupid, or should he be mature and realize that he just doesn't know as much about those subjects as the others?

We place our trust in other people in our constant search for knowledge. Everyone has that one friend that they are always asking for advice. They tend to believe the answer, sometimes without questioning the authority that their friend draws upon.

At the end of the day, we are forced to use our instincts regarding who we trust for information and who we don't. I find it fascinating how arbitrarily we sometimes decide whom to place in which category.

To go ahead and clear the air, someone, somewhere, thinks that you are very, very stupid. Religious conservatives, there are cynics and atheists that think that your world view is archaic and uninformed. Cynics and atheists, there are religious moderates who think that you are arrogant and selectively educated.

Some people find that certain things are taboo and inappropriate to talk about. Others view this kind of behavior as censorship and a repression of natural human instinct. Some people think that it is necessary to wait until marriage to engage in any kind of sexual activity. Some people think that the idea of a virgin bride went the way of the dodo long ago. So, while we all have opinions, what about the aforementioned inequality?

It is the idea of supporting evidence, expertise and time spent logically working out each opinion, that lends it credibility. This is why I would not ask a history professor a biology question. While he may know something about it, a scientist is much more likely to have worked out the question for himself and have a more robust and supported opinion.

A skeptical mind is not the same as a cynical mind. You are in dereliction of duty as a pursuer of knowledge when you allow someone to poison your mind with opinions that are less than the best available. Don't always question the information that you receive, but try and keep your wits about you.

Be very aware of who you are listening to. While I like to believe that people are generally good at heart, there are those out there who will lie to you for a buck, for power or just to see if they can get you to believe what they do. We cannot forget people like Hitler, Reverend Moon or Jim Jones. Be wary of decrees and dogmas, because down that road, deception lies.

Keep questioning your world. After all, the best way to learn is to ask good questions. ♦

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searches for the ultimate college band

By Mary Anne Dunavant
Staff Writer

Calling all local musicians – this could be your big chance! It is no surprise that the Nashville area, including Murfreesboro, is filled with aspiring musicians.

While some find success, many are disappointed due to the fierce competition. In an area where music is so prominent, failures are more common than record deals. It is an unfair reality. But there is hope.

MtvU, the 24-hour college music network, has joined Universal Records in the search for the No. 1 college talent in the nation in their second annual Best Music On Campus Contest, sponsored by F.Y.E. – For Your Entertainment.

"College students are at the center of everything we do here at mtvU, and we really focus on providing opportunities students can't find anywhere else," says David French, a spokesperson for mtvU.

Universal Records has signed artists such as 3 Doors Down, Nelly and the Nashville area's own The Features.

So what exactly does it take to obtain a record deal in the music industry?

"[It takes] about 10 years. [The artists need] talent, tenacity, luck and timing," recording industry professor James Beavers says.

"[People need] something unique and wonderful about [their] art/music," says William Beckett, a recording industry professor.

"We realize how difficult it can be for many [artists] to get heard ... but thanks to mtvU, we've been able to create an exciting new platform ... that will provide a springboard for a select few to begin their careers," Universal Records President Monte Lipman says.

All musicians and bands from mtvU partner schools, regardless of genre, have the opportunity to submit an MP3 file of their music and a copy of their lyrics to www.mtvu.com. Submissions for the contest must be

received prior to Feb. 28.

"We are excited to hear a variety of music," French says. "This contest is really about exposing the amazing musical talent that is on college campuses, and that transcends across all genres including jazz, rock, hip hop and others."

The contestants will be narrowed down by mtvU and Universal Records to ten semifinalists. Those semifinalists will then be judged by the mtvU audience's voting online.

The top five finalists selected by the audience will be reviewed by celebrities Akon and G. Love, and the audience will again vote for their favorites to determine the winner of the contest in early May.

The winner of the contest will receive a development deal with Universal Records and will produce a music video that will be broadcast throughout the country on mtvU beginning this fall.

"College campuses have produced some of music's best bands and artists; we are excited to partner with Universal Records to scour the mtvU campuses for the next break-out band and help launch their career," says Tina Exarhos, executive vice president of marketing for MTV, MTV2 and mtvU.

The first contest was held last year, and it was a remarkable success, French says.

"Close to 100 [bands entered the contest], and we had a tremendous response from fans voting online," he says. "Over one million people cast votes for [their] favorite bands in the competition on mtvU.com."

The music industry's Pharrell Williams and executives from Atlantic and Dreamworks also aided in the selection.

The winner of last year's contest was the band Forelle, a rising rock band from Florida International University in Miami, whose music video "Fractons" remains in mtvU's video

rotation. Forelle has also appeared on mtvU's "Freshman" and MTV's "Advanced Warning" shows.

Forelle remains independent to improve its sound before signing a contract with a major music label.

The contest's finalists, in addition to the winner of this year's contest, will receive publicity through the contest on mtvU.

"All 10 finalists in the Best Music On Campus Contest will be exposed online on mtvU.com and on air on mtvU itself," French says.

"[The contest] seems like it's focused more toward experienced musicians who are comfortable enough and willing to put their lyrics out there," sophomore recording industry major Laura Leigh Eady says.

"I'd definitely consider entering [the contest]," Eady says. "It's a great way for people to get out there and make it."

Eligible students must be 18 years old, legally residing in the United States and enrolled at a university that carries mtvU.

All entrants must be amateur artists with no record and/or distribution deal.

For bands, one member minimum must be enrolled in an mtvU partner university.

For a complete list of details and contest rules, visit www.mtvu.com. ♦



Illustration courtesy www.mtvu.com

ROTC offers civilians opportunity to be all they can be

By Emily Nance
Flash Co-editor

If you are an adrenaline junkie, MTSU's Army Reserve Officers Training Corps department has an opportunity for you.

College students from all over the United States will attend the Army ROTC Leadership Training Course this summer at Ft. Knox, Ky.

The four weeks of intense training includes activities such as small group dynamics, survival skills and team building exercises.

"[The leadership training course] prepares you for the advanced course in the fall. Between the junior and senior years, all [ROTC] students will go to the leadership development and assessment course," says Major Charles M. Giles, assistant professor of military science.

"It's 28 days, and it's going to be fast-paced, aggressive and will test you mentally and physically. It's not made for wimps," Giles says.

"You'll get up in the morning, probably 5:30. Everyday is not physical training, but you'll go outside and have some Army drill sergeants who will be doing a lot of the training and they'll take you through physical training," Giles says.

"It normally starts out with stretching, an upper-body workout and then goes on to an ability run, so depending on how fast you run two miles, you'll be paired up with other people," Giles continues. "The intent is to just get you in shape according to your own level."

"After that you'll come back, have breakfast and then go out to a training area, which could be land navigation, nuclear biological and chemical, an obstacle course or survival skills. There are a number of activities. Then you'll have lunch and train in the afternoon. After that, you'll come back for dinner and then you'll plan for the next day so that there is a new leadership chain of command every day," Giles says.

Is the leadership training course necessarily for everyone?

"It depends on the individual," Giles says. "If you're a couch potato, you won't like it, and you'll need to get in shape before you go there. You'll have to pass a physical fitness and a medical test before you go."

"The advanced course is just for students that after they graduate want to go into the active Army, Army Reserve or National Guard. And so all the juniors contract," Giles adds.

The course not only develops valuable leadership and decision-making skills, but students also

earn money for attendance. At the conclusion of the course, several scholarships are awarded.

"The Army will pay them about \$700 for the camp and MTSU ROTC department will pay \$1,000 once they complete the course and decide to contract or come in as a junior," Giles says.

Other perks of the program include receiving credit for the first two years of ROTC and free room and board.

Students who will be juniors, seniors or graduate students this fall are eligible to attend.

"When they come back for the fall semester, they'll be going straight into the advanced course," Giles says. "They'll be up to the same level or higher as the students that went through the freshman and sophomore year."

"Even the students coming back who don't want to continue in the ROTC program come back and say they've met friends from different parts of the United States," Giles says. "It's kind of like an outward bound program where they meet a number of people, acquire some new skills and then decide whether they want to continue or not."

Why should you participate in the Leadership Training Course?

"I'd tell them that most students when they graduate don't get a job in their major. They get a job, usually a sales job to get experience to get the job they want and that takes a couple years," Giles says. "At the same time, you can go into the army for four years, get the leadership and hands-on experience and after those four years, you'll have the experience to go into a civilian occupation."

An information brief will be held at 3 p.m. Feb. 9 in Forrest Hall. ♦



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

(Above) Military science students learn basic tactical principles from Major Robert Riedel.

(Right) Another of Riedel's students practices strategy with toy army men.

Participants in the leadership training course will practice similar principles this summer.



Williams' win clinches victory over Troy

Despite scoffers, Canseco may have last laugh

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee defeated Troy 4-3 in a close match at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro on Sunday.

The Lady Raiders (2-0) went down to the wire with the Trojans, as the two teams headed into the last singles match tied at three points each.

At No. 5 singles, MT sophomore Jacqui Williams clinched the team victory, defeating Troy's Christina Mancheno in a hard-fought three-set battle.

After claiming the opening set 6-4, Williams fell to Mancheno in kind in the second, losing 4-6. Bolstered by the support of teammates and fans, Williams breezed through the decisive third set, winning 6-0.

"Jacqui's win was big for the team, and for her," MT head

coach Neil Stapp told MT Media Relations. "Jacqui doesn't have a lot of singles match experience, and she really showed how tough she can be in a pressure situation."

Unlike the previous day's match against Belmont, the Lady Raiders started strong by claiming the doubles point to stake an early 1-0 lead.

In the No. 1 match, Jennifer Klaschka and Ann-Kristin Siljestrom had no answer for Claudia Strauss and Tsitsi Masviba of Troy, losing 8-2 and falling to 1-1 on the season.

MT responded with wins at No. 2 and No. 3 doubles. The senior duo of Ana Marie Cibils and Emily Vest handled Mancheno and Nicole Shaw 8-3, while Williams and Claudia Szabo defeated Troy's Suzanne Jones and Shamiia Elsi 8-5.

In singles play, the Lady Raiders

came out of the gate slowly. At No. 1, Klaschka remained unbeaten by defeating Strauss 6-1, 6-2. The middle of the lineup, however, did not fare as well.

Cibils received another tough loss at No. 2, falling to Masviba in three sets, 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (8-6).

At No. 3, Szabo claimed the first set over Jones but eventually succumbed 7-5, 0-6, 1-6. Vest lost at No. 4 to Elsi 6-5, 6-0.

The bottom of the lineup was the difference for MT. In addition to Williams' win at No. 5, Siljestrom blanked Nicole Shaw 6-0, 6-0 to remain perfect in her collegiate singles career.

"Beginning the season 2-0 was big for the team and helped boost their confidence," Stapp told MT Media Relations. "With our first road trip coming up, it was important to start off on a positive note." ♦

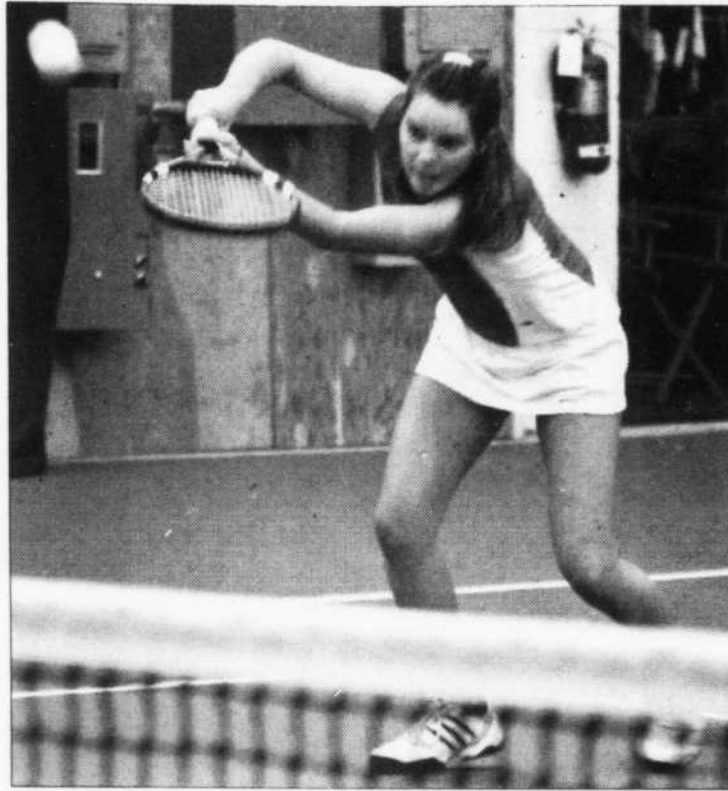


Photo by Blake Noel | Staff Photographer

Jacqui Williams clinched MT's 4-3 victory over Troy.

Tracing tracks from France to MTSU

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

Transferring to a new college is stressful. The life of a student athlete is demanding. The culture shock of a foreign country can be overwhelming. Just the thought of one of these scenarios is enough to make many reach for the Prozac.

But for new 2005 MT track exchange students Stephanie Tamgho and Mamadou Kone, the stress of a new college, demands of being a student athlete and pressures of learning a new culture are just part of the everyday routine.

Head track coach Dean Hayes has been recruiting students through a scouting agency located in France for four years now. But for many MT students who feel a little too familiar with the university, the question is not how did the exchange students get here, but rather, why would they want to come here from France?

"The opportunities for competition are not near as good [in Europe] as they are here," Hayes explained. "With our collegiate programs, you can run half a dozen times indoors and half a dozen times outdoors, and in cross country, half a dozen races. In most of [Europe] if you get two or three races, that's pretty good."

Though Tamgho and Kone were in top physical shape when they arrived at MTSU in January, they said it has been a challenge adjusting to the increase in meets and competitions.

"I've got competitions every week, and in France, it's not like that," Tamgho said. "[In France] we have a rest between every two competitions, and here it's every single week and I'm tired, really tired. But I try and do my best every time."

In addition to the increase in meets, Tamgho, a long jump competitor, is training to compete in the triple jump event for the first time in her career.

"We've been trying to teach her the triple jump and she



MT track members Stephanie Tamgho (left) and Mamadou Kone came from France for more intense competition.

made finals for that [at the Indiana Invitational]," Hayes said after the meet in Bloomington. "She did a pretty good job with it, her first jump ever was right there at the meet."

While Tamgho seems to have found her niche with the MT team, she is still searching for his best event. Though Kone says he is most comfortable in the 800-meter dash, his most recent races have been in the

400-meter race.

"We're just kind of experimenting with [Kone] to find out what he really can do," Hayes explained. "Coming in late, [Kone and Tamgho] don't get to wander around lost like people that come in the fall semester, they've missed the semester's workout, so it makes it tough on them. In the second year [exchange students] always do a lot better than the first year."

Aside from adjusting to the strenuous practice and meet schedule, Kone and Tamgho are also adapting their ears to MT's predominantly southern dialect. "[Tamgho] speaks very good English, because she has some family in the United States. But sometimes, people speak very fast and I don't understand. I just say 'yes, yes,'" Kone laughed.

Despite the occasional language barrier, at meets Tamgho

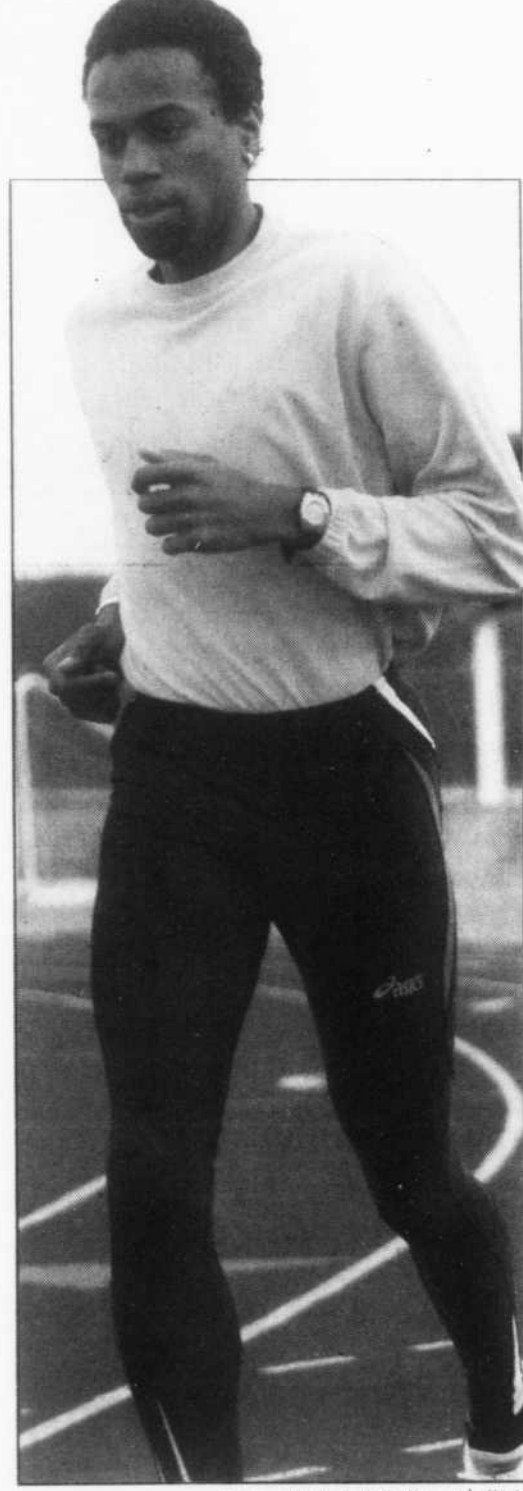
and Kone are extremely social with both their French and American teammates and friends.

"American people are more open, more friendly," Tamgho said.

For Tamgho, MT students' open attitudes toward religion have aided in her adjustment to American culture.

"I like American culture; God

See French, 8



Photographs by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Lady Raiders drop second straight road game

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Florida International women's basketball team defeated the Lady Raiders 66-55 Monday night at the Pharmed Arena in Miami, Fla., sending Middle Tennessee to its second consecutive conference loss.

After Middle Tennessee suffered an overtime loss against Western Kentucky last Thursday, the Lady Raiders (14-7, 6-2 Sun Belt Conference) were unable to re-focus and pull off a victory.

"We were very lethargic, and our defense, which we have been hanging our hat on

since the start of conference play, was bad throughout the game," MT head coach Stephany Smith told MT Media Relations.

FIU (14-7, 4-4 SBC) took 24 shots in the first half and hit 16 for an incredible 66.7 percent shooting percentage.

"FIU made a lot of great shots," Smith said. "They knocked down every open shot, and they got a lot of open looks."

Despite the Golden Panthers' hot shooting, the Lady Raiders held the largest lead of the night at 15-9 with 12:48 remaining in the first half.

FIU caught up, however, when LaQuetta Ferguson hit a three-pointer to

put FIU up 22-21 with 8:09 remaining before halftime.

The Lady Panthers led 38-35 going into the second half, but MT tied the game at 38 less than a minute into the second half.

After Ferguson scored on a jumper to give the Lady Panthers the lead again, however, MT never came back.

Smith was disappointed in her team and didn't look favorably upon any aspect of Monday night's performance.

"It's a very disappointing loss," Smith told MT Media Relations. "Our effort, leadership and execution were all poor, and there's not much positive to look at

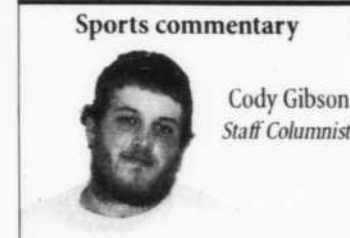
from tonight's game."

Chrissy Givens led the Lady Raiders with 17 points, five rebounds and four assists. Krystle Horton scored 12 points, all of which came in the first half, and Tia Stovall added 10.

Ferguson, who came off the bench, led FIU with a career-high 19 points.

The Lady Panthers also had two other players in double figures. Milena Tomova scored 17 to go along with seven rebounds, while Eva Makela had 11 points and three assists.

MT next hosts Denver at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Murphy Center. ♦



Sports commentary

Cody Gibson
Staff Columnist

Amid all of the Super Bowl festivities, we tend to shift our focus away from all of the other sports.

Yet, when I read the allegations that Jose Canseco was spewing in his new book, *Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big*, I was shocked.

Canseco claims that he personally injected Mark McGwire with steroids and said he watched Jason Giambi and McGwire inject each other.

He also writes that such big name players as Rafael Palmeiro used steroids after he introduced them to other players.

I believe Canseco originally planned to release this book in order to make a ton of money simply by naming names.

But the odd thing is, he is actually trying to help baseball, albeit through his greed.

Calling out all of the players, such as Giambi, is a step in the right direction. Giambi finally admitted that he used steroids, but Canseco had been alleging this months before the test.

Now, even if it takes something like a book written mainly as backlash against a Hall of Fame snub, I say it's a good thing. Maybe Canseco's allegations will actually scare players into not using steroids, for fear of being named by one of their peers.

The fact is, the whole situation is going to get even worse before it gets better. More players will be named, and the fans will once again lose trust in the game that has just now regained its reputation as "America's Pastime."

Baseball is at a crossroads now, and if they do not handle it correctly, it could be years before the fans come back.

With all of this said, however, Canseco doesn't know when to stop. Calling out President George W. Bush isn't exactly the smartest thing you can do, but it's exactly what Canseco did, saying that Bush "had to have been aware" of steroid use.

This point really tarnishes the already questionable credibility that Canseco possesses, especially when combined with his outrageous claims about how 80 percent of baseball players use steroids.

Since that number was reported as 80 percent, Canseco has retracted his however, Canseco statement saying that the "numbers have probably changed."

So, does this solidify the argument that Canseco is doing it for the money and publicity?

I don't know the answer to that question yet. What I am saying is that while Canseco's intentions may not be in the right place, baseball may thank him for calling out players for steroids, because someone had to speak up.

Even if that someone was a guy who slowly declined into a punchline instead of an outfielder. ♦

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

Coaching staff, analyst praise football recruiting class

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee head football coach Andy McCollum was very pleased with his staff's performance on signing day last week. He had nothing but positive things to say about the 2005 recruiting class.

"We went after them hard, but we are very proud of the ones we do have," McCollum told MT Media Relations. "I'm also proud of all the support staff that helped us. Our numbers were a little limited this year because we only had eight seniors, so we didn't have the numbers we usually have, but it's a

good class."

According to Rivals.com, Sun Belt recruiting expert Chris Childers, MT had a very impressive class.

"This is definitely one of the better classes in school history," said Childers, a recent MTSU graduate. "There are three guys that are at the top of the list: J.K. Sabb, Brandon Perry and Alton Sanders."

Sabb, a linebacker, was the most highly touted recruit the Blue Raiders signed. Sabb Georgia Military who was named Georgia's all classification player of the year in 2002.

Sabb believes MT will be a perfect fit

for him.

"I really like their program," Sabb told Rivals.com. "I always have and know I will fit in there."

Perry is a defensive tackle who is also from Georgia. During the recruiting process he was interviewed by Rivals.com and talked highly of MT.

"I'm looking for a team with a winning tradition, I don't want to play for a school that doesn't compete for championships," Perry said. "I want to get a great education. A school telling me that they can offer me early playing time doesn't matter."

According to Childers, Sanders is "one of the best kept secrets in Georgia."

During his senior year of high school, Sanders rushed for more than 2,000 yards and looks to contribute immediately to MT.

MT heavily recruited at the wide receiver position and collected six wide-outs on signing day. Eddy Brown is considered the best of the bunch, and others who are looking to fill the voids left by Pedro Holiday and Kerry Wright are Jay Robinson, Raphael Ousley, Dale Galvin, Joey Moultry and Michael Cannon.

Another area in which the Blue Raiders upgraded was along the defensive line.

"I think it's as good a group of defensive linemen as we've signed,"

McCollum said. "The hardest thing in recruiting is defensive linemen, and to come out of this class with a Trevor Jenkins, David Johnson, Chris McCoy, Brandon Perry and a Nick Mobley is a huge boost."

Overall, signing day turned out well for the Blue Raiders and the rest of the SBC. In fact, Rivals.com has the SBC ranked higher than the Mid-American C conference in team recruiting.

"I believe we will find out there are freshmen in this class who will make an impact for us in our first game against Alabama [in 2005]," McCollum said. "It is a good class." ♦



Sports Briefs

News from around Middle Tennessee



Compiled by Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

Rhoden signs defender Hutter

Middle Tennessee soccer coach Aston Rhoden announced the signing of Elizabeth Hutter to a scholarship with the Blue Raiders.

Hutter, who is from Miami, Ohio, will provide depth at the defender position and is expected to be an impact player for Blue Raiders after the graduation of two-time All-SBC defender Jessica Northcutt.

Hutter was a four-year letterwinner at Miami High School, where she is the school's all-time leader in assists (42), points (102) and is third all-time in goals (30). She earned first-team All-South Area during her junior and senior years, as well as first-team All-Conference in each year.

Hutter starred from an offensive standpoint, but she also was one of the team's best defenders at Miami, as evidenced by finishing her career seventh in defensive steals at the school.

"[Defender] is an area where we felt we need-

ed more depth," Rhoden said. "We were looking for players we felt could have an immediate impact, or at least challenge for a starting position immediately, and we found that in [Hutter]. All of our returning defenders are basically in the same class, and they are all going to be juniors, so we didn't want to have to replace them all at once."

Hutter could also see playing time at other positions.

"[Hutter] will be a very solid player for us," Rhoden said. "Even though we recruited her as a defender, she's very capable of playing in the field, as well."

Women's basketball holds reunion

The MT women's basketball program will host a reunion for all former players, managers and trainers during the weekend of Feb. 25-26.

The Lady Raiders host Florida International on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 2 p.m., with Senior Day activities prior to the game.

A reception for all former Lady Raiders will be from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, at the Rose and

Emmett Kennon Sports Hall of Fame.

A brunch will take place prior to the game at the Doubletree Hotel, and there will also be a halftime recognition for all of those in attendance at the game.

For those interested, online registration may be found on the women's basketball page at www.goblueraiders.com by clicking on the Lady Raider Alumni Weekend link. Interested parties may also contact the women's basketball program at 898-5207.

Softball picked to finish third

Middle Tennessee softball has been picked to finish third in the Sun Belt Conference by the league's coaches.

Blue Raider softball received 24 votes by the six coaches. MT just missed a second place selection, as Florida International entered the poll with 25 votes. Defending Sun Belt Tournament champions Louisiana-Lafayette swept all the first place votes for the top spot. Second-year program North Texas tabbed the fourth spot, New Mexico State was fifth and Western

Kentucky rounded out the poll.

Middle Tennessee returns 11 players from last year's squad, including senior pitcher Crystal Bobo, who was the 2004 SBC Newcomer of the Year. Other returning players include senior catcher Leah Grothouse, who was a 2004 All Sun Belt Tournament selection and sophomore Melissa Weiland, who was also voted to the team.

MT begins the 2005 season at the Georgia Southern Tournament on Feb. 25.

Rugby teams shut out opponents

The Middle Tennessee men's rugby team dominated Georgia Tech 86-0 last Saturday, while the women's team shut out Vanderbilt 41-0.

The men's team will travel to the University of Florida this weekend, but the Lady Moose will play two home matches this Saturday against Western Kentucky and Lee University.

Action starts at 11 a.m. on the pitch on Main Street across from Slick Pig. ♦

www.mtsusidelines.com

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, waiters - good listener, hard working and quick learner. Apply in person between 2-4 pm Tu. - Fr. 1502 W. Northfield Blvd. Suite 515 (Georgetown Park)

CHILD CARE

Nursery caregivers, \$7.00/hour, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Competitive wages, great environment. Must be over 18 years of age, have experience with young children and provide excellent references. Apply in person at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 1267 N. Rutherford Blvd.

FUN IN THE SUN!
Lifeguards wanted in North Myrtle Beach "Will train", no experience
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EARN 7,467 THIS SUMMER! Did you wait too long to find a great summer job last year? If so, call John @ FASTRACK 615-394-2134 for more information.

PT positions available. Earn \$10/hr + commissions, work 20-24 hr/wk, including weekends and evenings. This is a sales position for local fire departments in local counties. Earnings paid weekly. Valid drivers license and reliable transportation required. Call 615-893-8773.

For Rent

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 898-0809.

NEWLY REMODELED CONDO FOR RENT. 4 BDRM/2 FULL BATH - WASH/DRY INCL. WALKING DISTANCE TO MTSU. \$900/MONTH. CALL 804-3817.

4 BD 2.5 BA condo for lease. 3,000 sq. feet. Washer and dryer in unit. \$1,200 a month + small deposit. Available immediately. Call Valerie for details. 943-8274 or 893-0809.

New 3 BR, 2BA House, CH/A, stove, refrig, 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; \$258 per month / per bedroom. 615-795-9298.

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.

Miscellaneous

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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 at 898-2917.

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.

The Anointed Ladies of Alpha Theta Omega Christian Sorority will be hosting an informational for undergraduate and graduate students. The informational will be Sat. Feb. 19, 2005 at the KUC. Call Alisha Vaughn at 615-893-1012 for info.

BASSIST NEEDED. Established band in need of talented and committed bass player. Must be melodic and solid. Must have own equipment. Must be serious and positive. Call Ryan @ 615.653.2456 www.mellmusic.com

Pets

Free hemingway kittens. One black, one white, one mixed. 931-505-5002.

Roommates

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. w/h has never been lived in! 3 BR, 2 BA w/ garage not far from MTSU campus. For more information, please contact Elyn at 615-419-6696.

CONDO NEAR MTSU FOR LEASE 3 BR, 2 BA flat. 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. 943-8274 or 893-0809.

Mature female roommates sought to occupy new 2 bed cottage with private entrance, located 2 blocks from MTSU. \$375/month includes heat/air, water, electricity and cable TV. 1 yr lease, \$500 deposit. No pets. 615-364-1004.

Female roommate needed ASAP to share 3 BR, @ BA house in stone gate subdivision, located off S. Rutherford 5 minutes from MTSU campus. Washer/Dryer included, with high speed internet & 2 car gate. Very nice, brand new house with vaulted ceilings. Rent \$325-480 or plus 1/3 utilities. Call 615-585-4802 or 731-693-9595 for more info.

Female looking for female roommate. 10 min from MTSU in a town house. Private bath, and walk in closet. \$350 including utilities. Needs to be neat. 584-0797, ask for Rachel.

Roommates needed to share 3bd/2ba home in M'boro. Incl. all utilities \$450/mo (furn.rm.) & \$400/mo (unfurn.) 615-867-7689.

Responsible female roommate wanted to share a 3bd, 2 bath house located 1 block from campus. All hardwood floors, dishwasher, W/D included. house is very clean and in great condition. Kitchen, dining

rm, dining rm, living rm, good size front & back yard, carport & shed. Rent is \$325/mo plus 1/3 utilities. \$200 deposit. No pets. Call 615-419-0802 for appt.

Sales

2000 Chrysler Concorde LXI: silver with charcoal interior; one owner; purchased new; excellent condition. Call 615-563-2399 or 898-2623 for more info.

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.

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.

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.

Two white semi-new microwaves for sale. \$20 each. Great condition. Just moved into place with built in microwave. Call Andrea at 364-0634.

1992 Buick Century, runs great! Only 108k miles, new battery, power steering pump, 4 new tires, CD player, good air & heat. Only \$2,000-OBO. Call cell (615) 525-6249 LEAVE MESSAGE.

Services

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MTSU student needs ride to campus and back. In the Manchester area. Call 931-723-8177 or email rmb2t@mtsu.edu.

Sublease

University Courtyard sub-lease 1 bedroom, 1 private bath in 4 bed unit. Coed. Jan through Aug. available now. Furnished. Utilities included. \$375/month or best offer- Kevin at 615-429-7929.

Sublease for the University Courtyard. Call 615-48-1531 to move in immediately.

Sublease for room in 2 bed apartment at Campus Crossing. Less than actual rent, will pay \$100 of each month's rent or first month when you move in. Fully furnished, high speed internet, own bathroom, shower, 24 hour computer lab and fitness room. Next to greek row. Call Mark 901-487-2716.

Room available for sub-lease in a 3 bed apartment for a male at Campus Crossing. For info call Campus Crossing about apt K-203.

Female Sublease needed for 3BR/3BA apartment at Campus Crossing. Lease ends July 31, 2005. Apartment is fully furnished, w/ W & D. Rent is \$439/mo (utilities included) Call Chelsea @ 615-364-5355 or email cms3k@mtsu.edu

Female roommate needed. University Gables. 1bd/bath in 4bd apt. Fully furnished, 24 hr internet, pool, fitness room, w/d. Rent is \$5K (utilities included). Will give \$200 or pay half rent. No Deposit. Call Evelyn @ 615-631-6220 or email emm2q@mtsu.edu.

Sub-leaser needed for apt. at Campus Crossing. Less than actual rent!! High speed internet, fully furnished, own bathroom, free tanning, shuttle bus to school, 24 hr. computer lab and fitness center. Call Mark 901-487-2716.

3 bd/2 bath, looking for one more roommate. Rent is \$325 plus utilities. No pets. Very close to Campus, on Beu St. Living room, dining room + kitchen, fully furnished, w/hardwood floors. Call Nichole @ 419-0802.

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.

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French: Track teammates enjoy America

Continued from 6

is important for Americans and it's important for me," Tamgho said. "When you say in France you believe in God, nobody cares about it. Nobody really cares about your religion."

Though religion, nationality, history, language and event specialty are all vital parts of Tamgho's and Kone's lives, when you boil all this away, what you have left, through a sports perspective, are simply two athletes.

"Maybe I'm crazy, because [track] is very hard," Kone said. "But I like it."

Tamgho and Kone will compete this weekend in the MT Valentine Invitational, the first of MT's final two indoor races of the season. ♦

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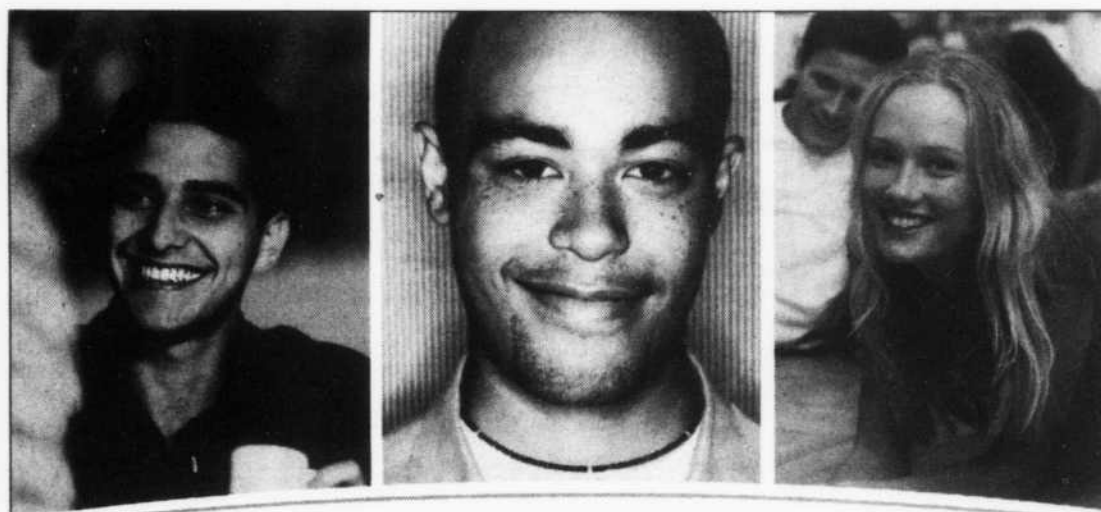
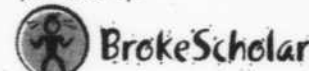
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