

DJ Breezye
turns it up

Feb. 20, 2006
MONDAY

Staying out
of debt

page 3

Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

VOL. 81 NO. 56

MURFREESBORO, TN

Students form web design team

By Tom Cheredar
News Editor

A new web design team called W3, a group allowing students to gain experience in website and graphic design, is having contest for students to design their logo.

The winner will be decided Feb. 22 and although there is no monetary prize, the logo will be displayed on posters, banners, and press releases to raise awareness of the group.

The student-run group has already started discussing future projects during weekly meetings held Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

W3 plans to volunteer services to clients that need help designing or maintaining a web site, which would allow students to apply what they have learned.

"I learn entirely through experience, not through reading or hearing," said W3 founding member Marcus Snyder.

Snyder, who started learning web design 10 years ago, said, "What I'm trying to do now is be able to apply that to something as opposed to just doing it on my own."

"I definitely want to be pro active," he said. "We're actually talking to some people about possible projects."

The group plans to concentrate initially on university related web sites such as campus organizations or departments, Snyder said.

"Some of the different department web sites you can tell are thrown together really quickly just for the purpose of having a web site," he said. "No one has taken the time to properly do it. 'Here's a link, here's a link,' it's not very clean and really very bland to look at."

"There are some ugly web sites on our campus [homepage]," Snyder said in reference to more than a hundred organizations, clubs and departmental web sites linked to the MTSU home page, some of

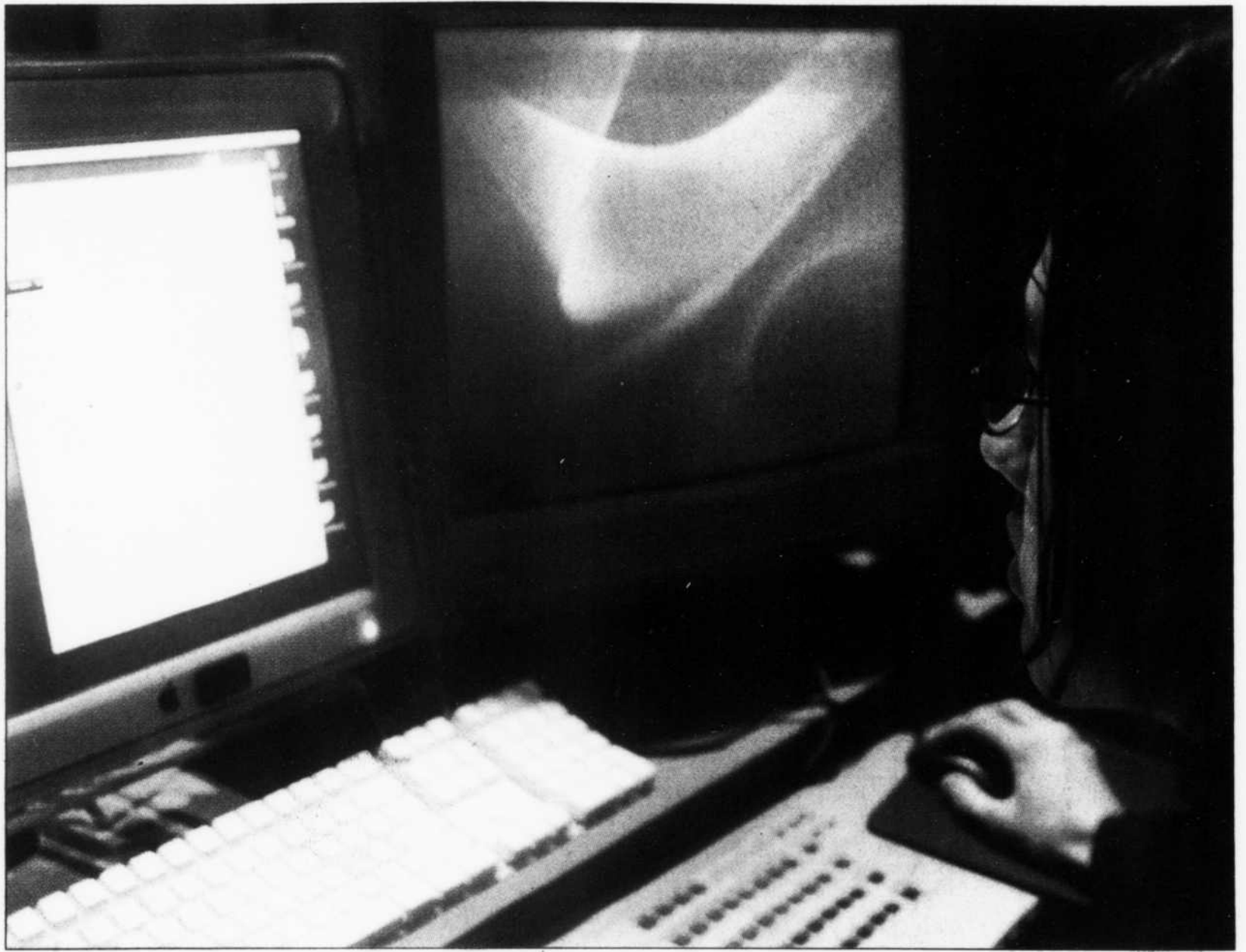


Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor

See W3, 2

W3 is now accepting logo design submissions. W3 is recently formed and is still looking for new members.

Faculty Brass Quintet plans to rock MTSU

By Brian G. Reynolds
Staff Writer

Tonight the MTSU Faculty Brass Quintet will perform six jazz and classical pieces in the Wright Music Building as part of the Stones River Chamber Series.

Admission to the performance is free, open to the public and begins at 7:30 p.m.

All performers are MTSU faculty members and include Michael Arndt and Jeff Bailey on trumpets, Radu Rusu on French horn, David Loucky on trombone and Gill Long on tuba.

"Our big push to do this began last June when we were able to get this bunch of outstanding musicians together," trumpet player Arndt said. "It's not every day that you find a group of musicians with this much talent."

Tonight will be the quintet's inaugural performance. All but one of the six were written in the past 20 years. The exception is a Baroque piece written by English composer William Boyce over 200 years ago.

The other pieces include works by Jan Bach, Allen Molineux, William Boyce, Jamey Simmons and Nashville composer Jay Dawson.

The quintet will also perform a new work by MTSU jazz faculty member Jamey Simmons. The piece, "Brass Quintet No. 1," was specially composed for this occasion.

The MTSU Faculty Brass Quintet are all members of the



Submitted Photo

The MTSU Faculty Brass Quintet will perform Feb. 20 at the Wright Music Building as part of the Stones River Chamber Series.

Nashville Symphony Orchestra and have together for many years.

"All of the pieces that we will perform are very technical," Loucky said. "They will be appreciated by many music majors, but aren't quite at their level. They are purely professional."

"There aren't any quintets that I know of that would take on a program of such technicality and magnitude," said Arndt.

"Most quintets would only put one or two of these pieces on their program, but we have six of them," Bailey said. "It's kind of like a heavy metal brass band ... if you can imagine that."

According to tuba player Gill Long, getting to this point has not been an easy task. Juggling the quintet and work can take its

toll on a musician, he said.

"This has been months of hard, hard work for all of us," Long said. "When you try to tackle this hard of a program and teach classes at the same time, it can be a bit arduous. It's really hard to find time to rehearse. But when you make this kind of commitment, it's well worth it."

Last week the quintet performed live on Nashville Public Radio network WPLN. The performance is available for download on the station's Web site www.wpln.org until Tuesday, Feb. 21.

The quintet members are hoping for a great turnout, and they promise that the audience will be thoroughly impressed.

Sexual assault on campus

Staff Reports

Sexual assault on campus

A female was sexually assaulted near Deere Hall between 1 and 2 a.m. yesterday, according to the MTSU Police Department.

The MTSU Police Department reported the suspect is a black male with a stocky build, in his mid-twenties, six feet tall with short hair and a

thin mustache.

He was last seen wearing blue jeans, a blue sweatshirt, and boots, reports indicated.

An MTSU police spokesman said the incident is under investigation. Officers declined to release any other details about the assault.

Anyone with information can call MTSU Department of Public Safety at 615-898-2424 or Crime Stoppers at 615-893-STOP.

5 ways for students to Break out of debt

1. Limit credit usage

Do not use credit unless absolutely necessary. Remember that interest will rack up and you might be paying off that pizza long after you graduate.

2. Take what you need

When taking out loans, borrow just enough to cover tuition, books and other school fees. It's probably not a great idea to take out more than you need just so you can use the excess to buy an iPod or a new stereo.

3. Remember private scholarships

There are scholarships available to students from the university. Instead of always taking loans, look into applying for scholarships or financial aid.

4. Budget, budget, budget




Set aside money for expenses such as entertainment, clothes and food. It is a good practice to use a savings account, which yields interest.

5. Make use of financial services

Banks and schools offer financial advising. These services can help you find a suitable saving plan and can also offer valuable advice on how to manage your budget.

Graphic by John Hreha

LOCAL FORECAST

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
		
Hi: 49° Lo: 33° PRECIP: 30%	Hi: 56° Lo: 34° PRECIP: 60%	Hi: 54° Lo: 33° PRECIP: 20%

SPORTS

Women beat UALR

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team defeated Arkansas-Little Rock 65-58 Saturday night at the Murphy Center.

SPORTS

Givens Reaches 1,000

In one week, Middle Tennessee women's basketball star guard Chrissy Givens received coverage in the USA Today, votes for the Naismith Award and hit a milestone of 1,000 career points in the 95-59 win over Arkansas State University on Thursday night at the Murphy Center.


SPORTS

Men Win

The Arkansas State Indians men's basketball team defeated Middle Tennessee 75-74 in a Sun Belt Conference game Thursday night at the Convocation Center.

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Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the Fall and Spring and Wednesday during June and July.

W3: "New design club formed"



Logo © John Hreha

Continued from 1

which are not updated for six months at a time.

MTSU's home page designer, Professor Randy Livingston, serves as the W3 faculty sponsor. He said the multitude of information the site must deal with is one reason why some of the university-related departmental, organizational and

club web sites are not better designed and maintained.

"In this digital age we live in it becomes less of a problem to seek out information, and more a problem of having too much," Livingston said. "How we organize all of this information is really the only way to solve it and that's what is done in web design."

Livingston said people are get-

ting their information from the Internet more than ever and anyone seeking to create media of any type must get past the obstacle of learning web design.

"I think W3 is a great way to help students that are interested in web design learn about it even if they've never done it before," Livingston said.

Anyone interested in learning

web design may be on level ground with experienced students. Most of the web design classes use Apple computers so even the founding members are learning something new.

"Some of us are just trying to learn ourselves," said W3 founding member Amanda McClellan.

"I worked with Macs a little bit, but mostly it was a whole new

world for me," McClellan said. "[The] programs are so much more intricate when switching between Indesign and Photoshop," two programs frequently used by designers.

McClellan said she has little experience in web design, a subject she became interested in after taking an Internet promotions class.

Joining W3 will allow her to learn more about web design, which is essential to her as a recording industry major with a minor in Public Relations, McClellan said.

"If an artist doesn't have a web site, it's almost like they don't exist," McClellan said. "You can't even find a list of shows they are playing."

"We want it to be at your own pace, learning a little bit when you can," she said.

SIDELINES

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SPRING BREAK HOT SPOT

Panama City Beach has been a Spring Break hot spot for as long as most Spring Breakers can remember. The Sandpiper-Beacon Beach Resort has been at the forefront of Spring Break activities in Panama City Beach since 1990.

Its popularity stems from its "World's Largest and Longest Keg Party" and on-site resort bar, giving Spring Breakers plenty to do without ever leaving the resort. DJ Big Donna has been playing the hottest dance mixes since 1995 and the Sandpiper has been host to other well-known DJ's including DJ Skribble. The Sandpiper-Beacon brings the party to you - no driving, just walk up to your room from the bar.

MTV's The Real World was at the Sandpiper in 2005 with MJ and Robin as special guests at an Axe/Stuff Magazine Beach Party. They sponsored a model search, keg party, free beer and a swimsuit competition. Alloy Marketing has also brought in model searches,

along with Classmates USA's

calendar model search. Spring

Breakers can expect plenty more of

the same this year with bikini and

wet t-shirt/wet jockey shorts contests

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FEATURES

“DJ Breezye” turning heads, tables

MTSU student, Bryan Roberson spins his way into the music entertainment industry

By Erica Hines
Staff Writer

Most students enter college dazed and confused, undeclared and unsure of what they want in life; trying to find a place in a world that doesn't come naturally to everyone.

A student may feel obligated to go to college, grab a catalog to pick a career path and then cover their eyes, circling their finger around before landing at random on a major.

Pursuing that major then becomes the most expensive challenge an unsure person may have for the next four or five years, but discovering talents and discovering the things you enjoy doing most can help make a career decision less nerve-racking.

For one MTSU student, that's exactly what happened.

Bryan “Breezye” Roberson, a junior radio and television production major didn't know what career he wanted to pursue either. He was undecided about a major, and basically came to MTSU because it seemed convenient, a cousin attended the university, and because it was “close to home and not too far away,” he says.

Now, Roberson has unexpectedly turned the tables on his uncertainties, making a name for himself with his musical expertise. He doesn't sing, lead a band or play an instrument, but Roberson is a self-employed disc jockey whose talent has helped him break out into the local music market.

While spinning beats, he manages being a full-time student, an entrepreneur and an easygoing socialite. He plans to use his musical expertise in combination with his training from the university, including a minor in marketing, to find post-graduation success.

“I want to go into the business or sales side of radio,” Roberson explains. “I also want to work for a marketing firm and help market various products.”

Known by most as “DJ Breezye,” Roberson has ventured into the marketing business by providing music to local entertainment spots from MTSU, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, the University of Memphis, the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, and various Tennessee colleges. He hosts Greek parties, birthdays, special events like concerts and sports games and he has recently added First Fridays, major parties at the beginning of every month, to his agenda.

“First Fridays are big!” Roberson exclaims. “In the Nashville area, I go to different places like John Henry's, the Gibson Bluegrass Showcase, Wild Horse Saloon and many others.”

He has been scratching vinyl since he was 16 while attending Wooddale High School in Memphis, and he now continues to exercise his talents while living in the Middle Tennessee area.

Unlike many indecisive students who are doubtful of their career choices, Roberson has taken a fun hobby and turned it into a growing business. He has allowed his love for music to direct him toward a career tailor-made to suit his talents.

When asked what sparked his interest in being a DJ, Roberson explains that



Photos by Adam Casto | Photography Editor

Bryan “DJ Breezye” Roberson spins the beats at the Alpha Phi Alpha's Glow party in the Elks Lodge.

during his junior year in high school, he began going to parties and realized he wanted to be the man behind the turntables.

He says he enjoys a variety of music from hip-hop and R&B to pop and reggae. Depending on what kind of party he's spinning, he'll play the genre that suits the atmosphere most.

“If it's a formal, dress-up party, I'll play a little more slow music and not so much rap,” Roberson says, “but some places might have a certain style, and I might put on music to fit that style, like reggae, or stay with the music that best fits the crowd.”

“My inspiration is the people, and providing music entertainment for them.”

Jerome Taylor, a junior mechanical engineering major at the University of Memphis, says he remembers Breezye when he started his first job turning tables at the Winchester Bowling Alley in Memphis.

“He was always cool with me in high school, and I knew he was doing his DJ thing then,” Taylor says. “It's good to see that he's found something he likes and

stuck with it.”

When attending UT Knoxville during his first two years in college, Taylor remembers that an appearance by Breezye meant a better party.

“When Breezye visited to throw a party, it always turned out to be a better party than some of the regulars in Knoxville,” he says. “If Breezye was going to DJ the party, then I was going to be there!”

His start to being a DJ in Murfreesboro wasn't exactly smooth.

“Ever since I got here I've been living on my own,” Roberson says. “In the beginning, it was mostly just going out on my own and asking around campus if there were any parties or programs that needed a DJ.”

“Last semester, I finally learned how to balance it all out, but the first two of my semesters here were kind of hard.”

Once word began to spread that DJ Breezye was available, he hasn't stopped spinning the beats. His involvement with an informational Web site has helped bring in requests.

DJ Breezye is affiliated with DaStreetTalk.com, a promotional Web

site set up to inform people in Nashville, Murfreesboro, Chattanooga and surrounding areas about what's happening in the Middle Tennessee nightlife.

Gary “G2” Whitlow II, president and CEO of DaStreetTalk, is an MTSU graduate with a degree in marketing management who works with Roberson planning and promoting parties across the state. He has been working with Roberson since last year and says Breezye is talented and creative at planning music choices around events.

“As far as knowing what songs to play, it will depend on the event,” Whitlow says. “He can't play everything at every party. Like at a 21-and-up event, Breezye might throw in some old school tracks instead of the upbeat songs or Lil Jon, but he put on some Curtis Mayfield or Frankie Beverly and Maze.”

Roberson, who is the event coordinator for DaStreetTalk.com, says they are now trying to get more businesses to advertise on the their Web site since it's growing in popularity in the local scene.

“DaStreet began September 2005 and started off pretty slow,” Roberson explains, “but around November and

December, it skyrocketed, and now we get about a thousand hits per week.”

Requests are coming in from all directions.

There is going to be an MT basketball game against Western Kentucky Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Murphy Center, which has the theme “Party in the Stands,” a tribute to Black History Month. A special request has been made for Breezye to spin some flavor into the game.

Breezye's name has grown popular among many campus organizations and most Nation Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) Greeks at colleges throughout Tennessee. Whitlow met Roberson Spring 2003 at an MTSU Greek party and heard of his talents. Both decided to work together and are seeing successful results in their business by providing the best entertainment at every event they can tackle.

“We have fun, but there

also comes a time for work,” Whitlow says. “When a party or event comes up, we have to take care of it then and there. There are a lot of things that go on behind the scenes for hosting a party two or three nights a week that people don't always understand.”

Whitlow says they try to handle the pressures that come with the job the best way possible by maintaining a relaxing and safe environment for everyone and keeping out the stress.

“But in the end, it's a lot of fun,” he adds.

Now, Roberson is gaining experience in marketing, getting a heads-up in the music entertainment industry and making connections everywhere he goes.

When asked if he's hired a secretary or any booking agents, Roberson just laughed, saying, “There hasn't been a need for one yet, but lately I've been getting more invitations to host at least two events every weekend.”

Junior recording industry major, Wesley Scott, is Roberson's roommate and an active member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

“We met 3 years ago when we were freshmen,” Scott says. “About four to five days out of the week, he's working on his craft, and he has been dedicated to it since he was in high school.”

“I believe he's one of the premier DJs of the south, not just in Tennessee.”

Some college students fret and have uneasy feelings about their jobs once they're out in the working world. It takes finding out what you love most about you and your talents to relieve those pressures and help discover exactly what makes that job worthwhile to pursue.

“The best part of my job is testing out how good I'm at marketing,” Roberson says, “especially when it comes to exercising my talents and seeing the best way of drawing people into the music.”



How to avoid debt and turn your funds

MART MONEY

By Paige Presley
Staff Writer

One thing that's great for college students is the different experiences they have in their college years. Something that's not so great for them is the cost that comes with those experiences.

The National Center for Education Statistics says the average college student will graduate almost \$10,000 in debt due not only to student loans, but also to one or more credit card companies. With college students spending more and more and going deeper and deeper into debt, how can they find any money to save?

One of the most common ways students fall into the debt trap is by taking out student loans. Dawn Brummett, an MTSU alumna, recalls taking out several student loans to help pay for living expenses during her college years.

While it was great to have the money then, the resulting debt is now a huge burden. Two words she

uses to describe the financial hole she's in are “horrible and overwhelming.”

“There is no guarantee that you will find a well-paying job when you graduate, which will make paying back your loans even more difficult,” Brummett says.

“I recommend avoiding credit,” says Assistant Director of the Financial Aid Office, Bonnie McCarty. McCarty said she understands that college is a huge expense, sometimes requiring the help of credit cards and loans, but she also realizes some students abuse the privilege by using their loan money to buy pizzas, cars, and other things they wouldn't ordinarily be able to afford.

“Don't make unnecessary purchases on credit,” McCarty advises. “You may be paying for that pizza for years after you graduate.”

She suggests that students who have to borrow money to pay for college should borrow for educational purposes only. She says students should borrow just enough to cover tuition, books, and other fees related to school. Period.

“Many students don't know that they don't have to borrow the full loan amount,” McCarty says.

Another way to help keep loans to a minimum is to apply for private scholarships within the university. McCarty says there are many scholarships available most students don't know about and others

don't care about. Some students have even told her they don't want to take the time to write an essay or to apply for one.

“If you spend 10 hours working on a scholarship that is worth \$500, you are basically being paid \$50 an hour to write an essay,” McCarty points out, “and it usually doesn't even take that long to apply.”

Brummett said she agrees with McCarty, and adds that students should seek in-depth financial counseling while in school to help them manage their money in college, and to put them on the right track to managing their money after they graduate.

Kim York, vice president of marketing at AEDC Federal Credit Union, also understands that credit is sometimes necessary to help fund college. But she, along with McCarty, agrees that having an active savings plan is equally as important as finding a way to pay for college.

“It's important for everyone to have a budget,” York notes. She and McCarty agree that setting aside money for savings first is the best way to start a budget. York says that you should “pay yourself first,” then factor in your other expenses. She suggests setting aside a certain amount of money for entertainment after putting money aside for savings.

So where is the best place to put savings money? McCarty says that one way is to put cash in

envelopes specifically marked for certain purposes such as savings, travel, gas, food, entertainment, and so on. Another way is to put the money in a basic savings account that yields interest on your balance.

“Some banks even offer to set up an automatic transfer from checking to savings,” she adds.

She suggests an add-on certificate of deposit (CD) account where you can add money to the account and can withdraw money twice.

York emphasizes that a savings plan needs to be tailored to fit a student's specific needs. AEDC Federal Credit Union offers many services for their members, some of which include savings plans and education services.

Based on these suggestions, starting and maintaining a successful savings plan in college isn't difficult. Just be sure to make use of the financial services both schools and banks have to offer, and budget money around a savings plan.

For more details on what AEDC Federal Credit Union has to offer, you can check their Web site at <http://www.aedcfcu.org>

SPORTS

Women defeat UALR, move to 10-2 in SBC

Saturday, February 18

MT 65
UALR 58

Next Game at Western Kentucky,
February 25

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team defeated Arkansas-Little Rock 65-58 Saturday night at the Murphy Center.

"It wasn't one of our best games of the year at home, but it's a win and we will take it," MT head coach Rick Insell said. "I thought the big play of the game was when Johnna Abney stripped the ball and game it to Chrissy [Givens], who gave it to LaCondra [Mason] for a lay-up. Then she hit two big threes, which really helped us gain momentum for the rest of

the game."

MT (17-8, 10-2 SBC) jumped out to a 25-12 lead in the first half, but UALR (12-13, 4-8 SBC) did not go away. The Lady Raiders cut the lead to 44-36 in the second half, but MT still came away with the victory.

The game's victory marked an undefeated season at home for the Lady Raiders.

"One of our goals this year was to go undefeated at home in the conference, and we have done that," Insell said. "We wanted it to be in our hands when went to Florida International and Western Kentucky. We are playing the top two teams in the conference, besides us."

UALR out-rebounded the Lady Raiders by 11, 39-28.

"They are athletic, and they got to the boards hard," Insell said. "They out rebounded us because we did a poor job grabbing the balls from the glass. We didn't execute real well, we tried some things, next thing you know we can't put the ball in the hole."

"When we try something new it kind of broke our momentum. Johnna did a great job, the two threes she made late and her steal where the key plays as far as I am concerned," he said.

The Lady Raiders had two players in double figures. Givens score 21 points and Krystle Horton had 10 points.

"Chrissy had her hands full tonight," Insell said. "She had to come down and do our thing on our end."

The Lady Trojans also had two players in double figures. Jocelyn Love, who was defended by Givens, scored 20 points.

"We matched up height wise, quickness wise, ball handling, shooting, and moving off screens," Givens said "She is probably the best player I have guarded in the conference. We battled the entire game. She guarded me well and I guard her well. I think it was a good challenge."

Following Love was Rancee Renz with 12 points.

"I'm proud of my ladies, we didn't execute real well but we did what we had to do to win," Insell said.

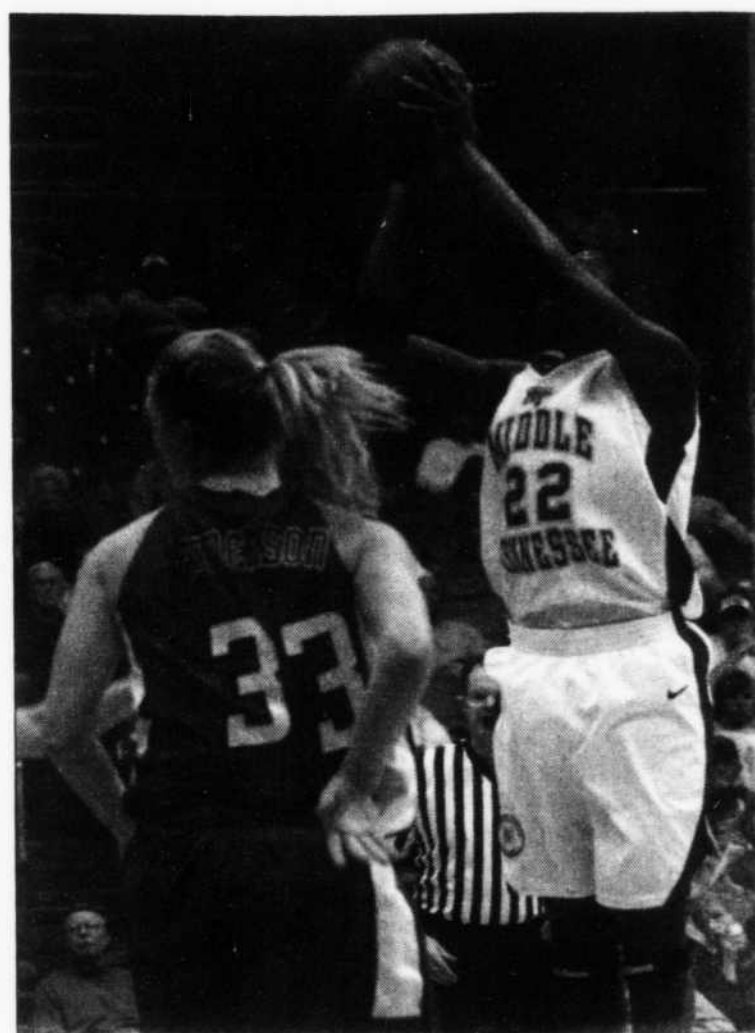


Photo by Adam Capps | Photography Editor
MT's Chrissy Givens scored her 1000th point in the team's win over ASU.

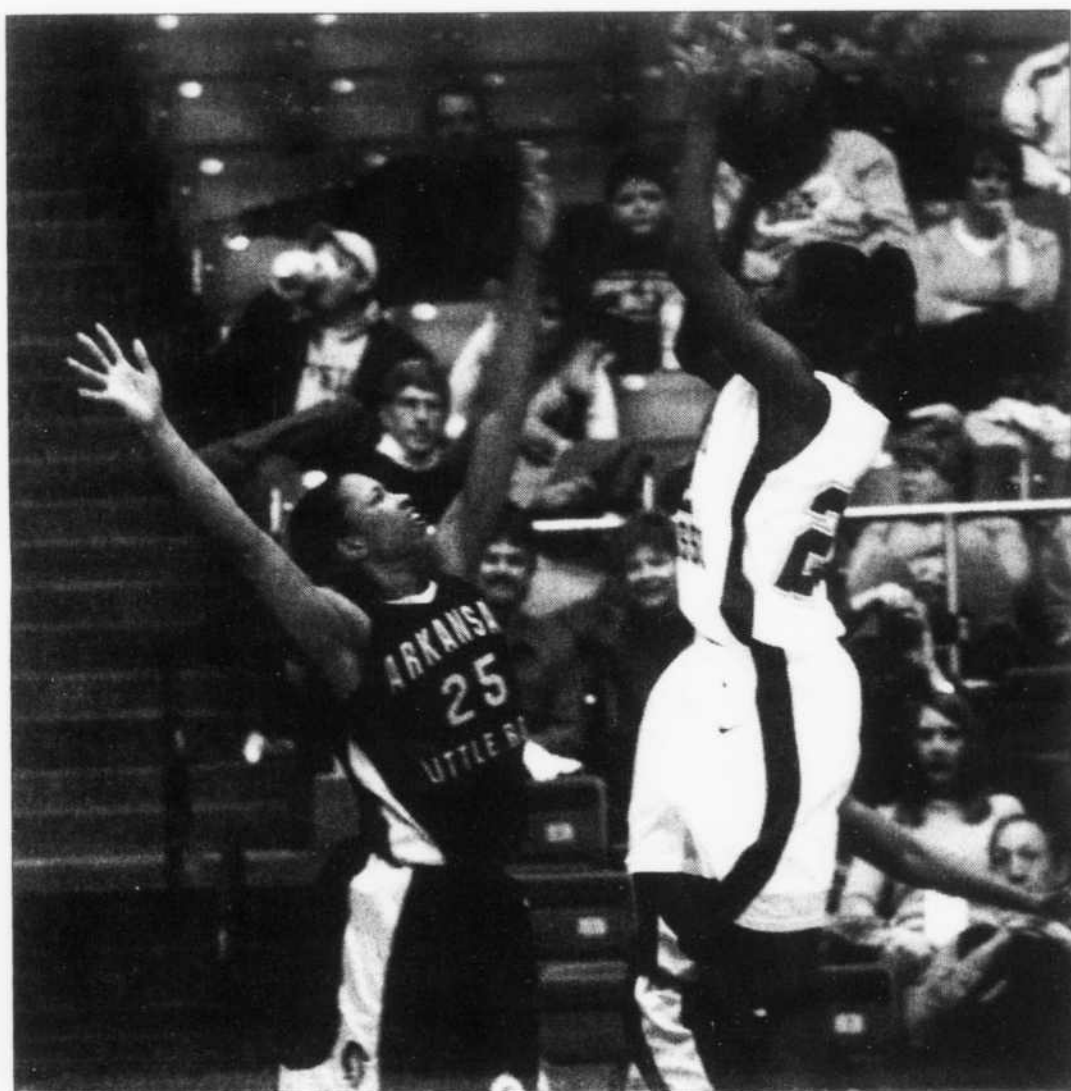


Photo by Adam Capps | Photography Editor
MT's Chrissy Givens goes up for two of her 21 points in the team's win against UALR.

Givens reaches 1,000

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

In one week, Middle Tennessee women's basketball star guard Chrissy Givens received coverage in the USA Today, votes for the Naismith Award and hit a milestone of 1,000 career points in the 95-59 win over Arkansas State University on Thursday night at the Murphy Center.

USA Today wrote a story on Givens because she is third in the nation and first in the Sun Belt Conference in scoring. The Naismith Award, which Givens had received votes for, goes to the best male and female college player in the nation, and her 1,000 point milestone is shared with 19 MT alumni.

Givens tied a career-best 32 points in the win. It was the fourth game in a row that she scored over 30 points.

Givens reached 1,000 when she nailed a three-pointer with 13:01 left in the contest. All she needed to reach the milestone

was 26 points.

"It was great," Givens told MT Media Relations. "The atmosphere, the intensity, and fire we came out with tonight was great. How often do you see five players in double figures? I can't say enough about the team effort we had tonight."

The Blue Raiders jumped out to an early 15-2 lead by going on a 13-0 run. MT's lead was as big as 17, but ASU chopped it down to 11 before the opening half ended.

In the second half, the lead was sliced to nine, but the Blue Raiders went on a 19-0 run to increase the lead to 28 with 8:52 to go in the game.

"We put a team away tonight," MT head coach Rick Insell said to MT Media Relations. "We haven't been doing that. I'm real pleased with our athletes because they're not out there to be the referees, or draw attention to themselves. They are out there to play basketball. They don't

have attitudes. Our players have a passion for the game and they want to win every game they play. I'm fortunate to have those types of players."

MT scored 34 of those points by forcing ASU into 31 turnovers.

"I always say our defense is what pumps us up," Givens told MT Media Relations. "The feeling was no matter how close they came back, we knew it was a matter of time before we were going to break away. Our defense pressure really forced them [Arkansas State] to make bad passes and create turnovers, which allowed us to capitalize on them."

Four other MT players scored in double-digits. Krystle Horton had 15, Tia Stovall included 12, Johnna Abney added 11, and LaCondra Mason included 10.

The Blue Raiders stayed tied for first place in the SBC with the win.

Cuyler, Howard lead Blue Raiders to road victory

Saturday, February 18

MT 68
UALR 58

Next Game against Western Kentucky,
February 23

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team defeated Arkansas-Little Rock 68-58 Saturday night at the Stephens Center.

"I'm very proud of our basketball team and the

manner in which they responded to a tough road challenge against a quality team," MT head coach Kermit Davis told MT Media Relations. "We had so many people step up and make contributions to this win."

The game marked a possible second-place spot in the Sun Belt Conference Eastern Division.

"This was a game we really needed and I think you saw everyone on our team play with passion and make contributions," junior guard Bud Howard told MT Media Relations.

UALR (13-12, 5-7 SBC) began the first half with a 13-7 lead over MT (14-11, 6-6 SBC), but the Blue Raiders came back with 4:37 remaining on the clock by scoring 14 points. MT took a 29-23 lead into the half because of the comeback.

"I thought Middle Tennessee did an outstanding job tonight," UALR head coach Steve Shields told

UALR Media Relations. "We got the ball inside early, which we wanted to do against their man defense, but then they switched to a zone we had some perimeter shots that we weren't able to knock down."

MT had three players in double figures. Fats Cuyler scored 17 points, Howard had 16 points and Marcus Morrison scored 11 points.

"Fats Cuyler showed great leadership and Bud Howard was huge," Davis told MT Media Relations. "He was the MVP of the game. We showed a lot of character here tonight and we made the big plays down the stretch to get the win."

On the offensive side for UALR, three players also were in double figures. Zack Wright was the leader of the offense with 16 points. Rash Jones-Jennings had 11 points and Lekheythan Malone scored 10 points.

"It was great to see our fans come out tonight in this kind of weather to show their support," UALR Director of Athletics Chris Peterson told UALR Media Relations. "On behalf of our entire department, I would show how thankful we are for their efforts."

The Trojans shot 16 of 51 from the field for a total of 22.2 percent. MT also struggled with field goal percentage, shooting 19 of 42, but the Blue Raiders overcame the problem.

"Even guys that were not in the game were on the bench pulling for one another and making a difference," Howard told MT Media Relations. "We are playing well right now and this is a big road win and gives us momentum going back home."

Men end winning streak with 75-74 loss to ASU

Thursday, February 16

ASU 75
MT 74

Next Game against Western Kentucky,
February 23

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Arkansas State Indians men's basketball team defeated Middle Tennessee 75-74 in a Sun Belt Conference game Thursday night at the Convocation Center.

The game marked the end of a seven-game winning streak for MT against the Indians.

"It was one of those games where I really felt like we were going to win all along because of the way the game was going," MT head coach Kermit Davis told MT Media Relations.

"But give credit to Arkansas State, they made a lot of tough plays, especially down the stretch, and they kept battling even when it seemed we had things under control," Davis told MT Media Relations.

MT (13-11, 5-6 SBC) jumped out to a 20-9 lead over ASU (12-14, 7-5 SBC) in the first half with 12:16 remaining on the clock.

However, the Indians eventually came back in the second half with a 74-74 tie at 32 seconds before the final end.

"We wanted to take the shot with five or six sec-

onds remaining and either win the game there or take it to overtime, but, we took the shot too soon," Davis told MT Media Relations.

The Blue Raiders gave Fats Cuyler a chance to win the game or send it into overtime, but his 10-footer came short. Then, Tim Blue fouled Dereke Tipler, who made one of his foul shots, which led ASU taking the victory.

"I tell you, if you have to have a guy go to the free throw line with six seconds to go and the game is on the line, you want Dereke Tipler or one of your seniors on the line," ASU head coach Dickey Nutt told ASU Media Relations.

Four ASU players scored in double-figures. Marcus Ardison was the leader of the bunch with 22 points.

"Marcus had a great night tonight," Nutt told ASU Media Relations. "He's improved so much as a

ball player and a person over the last couple of years and I can't say enough about him."

Following Ardison in scoring was Tipler with 15 points.

On the offensive side for MT, four players also were in double figures. Adam Vogelsberg finished with 17 points. Kyle Young had 14 points; Tim Blue scored 10 points, while Theryn Hudson had 12 points.

The Blue Raiders out-rebounded ASU by 6, 36-30, but it was not enough to stop the team from a disappointing loss.

"It's a good win for Arkansas State coach Dickey Nutt and his team, and it's a tough loss for us," Davis told Media Relations.

SPORTS

Women's tennis loses close match at Troy

Friday, February 17

MT 3

Troy 4

Next Game at

By Casey Brown

Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's tennis team battled a close match Friday, but lost 4-3 to Troy in Alabama.

MT eventually lost to the 72nd-ranked Trojans after losing a fairly comfortable lead in singles play.

The Blue Raiders continued a common theme of the season thus far, losing the doubles point to begin the match.

Troy's Tsitsi Masviba and Claudia Strauss handled Marlene Chemin and Claudia Szabo 8-0 at No. 1.

At No. 2, Rawia Elsi and Nicole Shaw were 8-4 winners over MT's Ann-Kristin Siljestrom and Kelly Adams.

With the point already decid-

ed, the Blue Raiders notched a win at No. 3 when Pooja Kommireddi and Elvira Yusupova defeated Annabelle Bares and Shamiaa Elsi 8-6.

MT head coach Alison Ojeda could not be reached for comment, but spoke to MT Media Relations after the match.

"Right now we're still trying to figure out what our best doubles combinations are and that's just going to take some more matches to find out who to play together so we can win two of the three doubles matches," she told MT Media Relations.

In singles play, the Blue Raiders were unable to hold on to leads in two matches at the top of the lineup.

At No. 1, Chemin jumped out to a one-set lead before falling 7-5, 5-7, 2-6 to Rawia Elsi.

Szabo met a similar fate, surging ahead early then losing a 6-4, 0-6, 1-6 match to Masviba at No. 2.

"We could have easily won 5-2 today. We were in control at 1 and 2 and lost both," Ojeda told MT Media Relations.

Troy opened the scoring in singles when Strauss defeated

Yusupova in straight sets, 6-2, 6-1 at No. 3.

The Blue Raiders did win all three matches at the bottom of the lineup to tighten the final tally.

At No. 4, Siljestrom dropped the first set but came back to defeat Bares 3-6, 6-2, 7-6.

MT won the other two contests in straight sets to conclude the match.

Adams was a 6-2, 7-5 victor over Caroline Jouanin at No. 5, and Kommireddi upped her singles record to 6-1 on the season with a 7-6, 6-3 decision over Shamiaa Elsi.

"It was a very close match and Troy is a good team," Ojeda told MT Media Relations. "One other thing today was that we played outdoors and that's good, but it's also not so good because we haven't been able to get outside to practice because of the weather."

The loss dropped the Blue Raiders to 3-4 on the season.

MT faced Alabama-Birmingham Sunday morning. Results were not available at deadline, but will be featured in Thursday's edition.

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Women's golf finishes third in first spring tournament

Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee women's golf opened the spring season last week at the BajaMar Invitational at the Bajamar Resort in Ensenada, Mexico.

The first day deemed windy for the golfers. They came out third in the first round. After 36 holes of the 54-hole event, the Blue Raiders had rounds of 332 and 318 to place.

Nebraska had the lead for the first day with a 618. Brigham Young came in second with a 619.

"The course is right on the ocean and the wind was extremely strong and we did not adjust very well," said Head Coach Rachael Short as reported on golblueraiders.com. "We played better in the second round but we still left too many shots out on the course. Hopefully, we can finish strong in the final round."

Sophomore Taryn Durham came in ninth overall

with a 161 total after bouncing back from a poor opening round 85. Durham is ranked third in the Sun Belt Conference. The sophomore bounced back to score a 76 in the second round.

In the final round on the next day, the Blue Raiders shot a 313 in which kept them in the third position with a finishing score 963. Nebraska won the event with a score of 928, and BYU came in second with a 932.

Taryn Durham finished the tournament in eighth with a total score of 238. Maggie McGill came in ninth with a 240. Leigh Wilkins was 12th with a 243. Jamey Dillard was tied for 13th with a 245. Mallory Bishop was 15th with a 247. All five golfers finished the tournament in the Top 15.

Stephanie Ruiz won the tournament with a 223.

The Blue Raiders next travel to Mobile, AL for the USA Lady Jaguar Invitational Mar. 6-7.

MT Softball drops first game of 2006 season at Evansville

Staff Reports

The Blue Raiders softball team dropped its first game of the season 9-1 at Evansville Tuesday.

The Evansville Aces were first on the board when senior Alicia Laraway hit a triple to right field and scored on a wild pitch by freshman Laura Moore in the bottom of the second inning.

The Aces were up 4-0 in the third inning after some heavy playing from Evansville. Weslie Gladfelter set up a two-run homerun with an infield single. Laraway sent the ball into left field to bring in the Aces for the score.

Laura Rather picked up her own home run to center field, while Evansville picked up four more runs in the fourth before Middle Tennessee brought one

home.

Melissa Weiland hit a home run in the fifth inning to put the Blue Raiders on the board.

However, one run and only four hits for the entire game was not sufficient enough for MT to leave with a win. Jennifer Dorais, Melissa Wilkes and Kristine Reed were the other Blue Raiders to get a hit in the game.

Moore took the loss in her first start of season as a Blue Raider. She allowed five runs and struck out five in the four innings tossed. Returning pitcher Ashley Katinas tossed 1.1 innings and allowed just one hit and one run.

The Blue Raiders traveled to Auburn for the University of Auburn Tournament this past weekend. Results were not available at press time.

SBC Basketball Standings

TEAM	SBC	OVERALL
Middle Tennessee	10-2	17-8
Western Kentucky	10-2	20-5
Florida International	8-4	15-10
Arkansas State	5-7	11-14
Arkansas-Little Rock	4-8	12-13

Women's East Division

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