

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 10, 2003

20



36

Partly Cloudy



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

What programs should MTSU cut?

MT squeaks by Denver for win

In Sports, 6



Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

An editorially
independent
newspaper

Volume 78 No. 66

Students victims of break-ins, second robbery

Student robbed Saturday in Davis Science Building lot

By Lindsey Turner
Editor in Chief

A second student in two weeks was the victim of an armed robbery Saturday morning on campus.

According to Sgt. Matt Foster of Public Safety, the robbery happened in the Davis Science Building parking lot at approximately 2:30 a.m. Saturday. He said the victim, a female, described the suspect as being

similar to the suspect in last week's armed robbery – a black male about 6 feet tall.

"An armed robbery is rare," Foster said. "If you get somebody, any type of criminal – burglar, robber or rapist – if it's easy for them, they're going to continue to do it until they get caught."

Last week's robbery occurred as the victim, a male, was walk-

ing from Nicks Hall to Judd Hall. According to Public Safety, the suspect, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, approached the victim and forced him against a wall, producing a blue-stepped handgun. After robbing the victim, the suspect ran toward the courtyard in front of the Learning Resources Center.

See Robbery, 2

Dorm site of two break-ins

By Lindsey Turner
Editor in Chief

Two Deere Hall rooms were broken into last week, but no one was harmed and nothing was stolen, according to MTSU Public Safety.

According to Sgt. Matt

Foster, the victims in one room described the suspect as a male of an unknown race, approximately 6 feet tall, wearing a puffy red jacket.

Public Safety responded to the calls at approximately 5:30

See Break-ins, 2

Institutions set to cut 8.8 percent after budget talks

By Jason Cox
Managing Editor

Budget cuts were the talk of a Friday meeting between Gov. Phil Bredesen and top higher education officials.

A high priority of the officials involved was how to best make 8.8 percent budget cuts in institutions of higher education without forcing students to bear the brunt through increased tuition.

Charles Manning, chancellor for the Tennessee Board of Regents, said that TBR schools would be looking at making cuts in administration, student jobs and decreasing the number of available courses. He added that the issue would be passed along to schools for them to cut as they wish and that TBR would not advise schools to raise tuition.

"Shifting the burden to students is not the way to deal with this," said John Shumaker, president of the University of Tennessee.

"We're resisting raising [tuition] because we've raised tuition 72 percent over the last 10 years," said Rich Rhoda, executive director for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Lydia Lenker, press secretary for Bredesen, said the figures being discussed are not final by any means, and the final decisions would be reached by people in the field of education.

"It's important to recognize we are in the preliminary stages of budget talks," Lenker said.

The short-term plan for TBR includes freezing travel and restricting purchasing, according to Bill Watkins, chancellor of finance for TBR. He said no full-time employees would be laid off, but that this possibility was on the table for next year.

TBR's long-term plans include reducing the cost of remedial education, eliminating some programs, reducing off-campus locations and an

See Budget, 2

Activists and poets to protest upcoming war

By Jenn Howerton
Staff Writer

MTSU activists and poets will be participating in an international day of protest Wednesday against the upcoming war on Iraq.

A well-known poet, Sam Hamill, was invited to the White House by First Lady Laura Bush to read the poetry of great American poets, such as Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, at a reception called "Poetry and the American Voice."

However, Hamill had been reading about the current plans the Bush administration had to oust Saddam Hussein from his seat of power using military force.

"[President Bush is] calling for saturation bombing that would kill countless innocent civilians," Hamill said. "[He has not] ruled out the use of nuclear weapons."

Believing these actions to be unjust, Hamill planned on reading poems of disapproval at the gala. For an undisclosed reason, the poetry reading was canceled, although Hamill said he believes it's due to his promise to protest against the government.

Hamill sent an e-mail out to a few friends, urging them to join him in protest. Because of the cancellation of the poetry reading sponsored by Laura

See Poets, 2

Star parties kick off with view of Saturn

By Michael Larkin
Staff Writer

The First Friday Star Parties began last week with short lecture on the topic of the month followed by a question and answer session.

A professor of physics and astronomy leads each meeting with a lecture and question and answer session. Attendees are encouraged to ask as many questions as they want, even if they do not relate to the topic of the lecture.

The group then moves outside and looks at the object in question through the university's high power telescopes. The

parties are open to not only MTSU students, faculty and staff, but also to the public.

Professors Chuck Higgins and Eric Klumpe will head up this semester's star parties.

"The topics of the parties often reflect current astronomical events," Higgins said.

This enables Higgins and Klumpe to not only educate the public, but to also dispel any rumors or misinformation that people might have about astronomy or astronomical objects.

Currently, the planet Saturn is in favorable opposition, which means that it is relatively close to Earth and thus easier to

see through a telescope. This made it a timely topic last Friday's party.

Higgins delivered this month's lecture and presented numerous pictures of the planet and its rings, as well as information and statistics relating not only to Saturn, but also to the entire solar system. He also entertained questions from the audience, many of them young children, on a variety of subjects.

After the lecture, the group headed outside to view Saturn and its rings through a high-power telescope.

See Stars, 2

MTSU has own 'Survivors'



Photo provided

MTSU undergraduate student Chris Berry sits with a native of Brazil while in the Amazon on an exchange program. Berry will join the anthropology group in July.

Group to visit Brazil in July

By Leah Massey
Staff Writer

A small group of MTSU students is set to spend a month in a remote Brazilian village along the Amazon River.

Richard Pace, associate professor of sociology and anthropology, and several students will spend July in a small Brazilian town called Gurupá.

The students, who are mostly undergraduate anthropology students, will be conducting different ethnocentric field studies during the month long stay. Each student has designed his or her own field study to conduct.

According to Pace, the experience should help teach the

See Amazon, 2



Photo Provided

Chris Berry has been conducting research along the Amazon since May and will return to MTSU in August.

University affected by rising terror alert

By Juanita Thouin
Staff writer

The U.S. Homeland Security Department raised the terrorist alert level Friday from yellow to orange, indicating a high risk of terrorist attack.

The change comes in response to significant intelligence reports.

"You tend to think terrorism happens in places like New York City," said sophomore Emmy Eisner. "Maybe I shouldn't but I feel like around me is untouchable, like it's only real for other people."

Although many students feel safe from terrorist attacks on campus, according to Maj. Roy Brewer, operations commander for the MTSU Department of Safety, Homeland Security does communicate with the university when alerts go out.

According to Brewer, sometimes messages his department receives from Homeland Security are a little more specific than those released to the general public. And for each level of threat, the university follows a particular contingency plan.

Brewer said the plan for an orange alert level does not include additional manpower. Instead, officers on duty heighten their awareness and pay close attention to large group events, such as basketball games or university-sponsored concerts and "soft areas" of the campus. Soft areas are those places that usually do not constitute a security risk.

Biology professor and virologist Steve Wright insists that as far as MTSU's biology department is concerned there is no need for alarm.

"With regards to bioweapons, we're about as boring as all get out," Wright said.

Wright explained that periodically the biology department is required to provide the federal government with a list of biological organisms and toxins on hand.

"We do have viruses in the freezer but nothing of importance," Wright said.

The Rev. Tim Jones with the Episcopal Campus Ministry has mixed feelings about terrorist alerts.

"On the one hand, I feel an increased level of anxiety. On the other hand, this has happened before," Jones said. "But what we don't know is whether or not the other [orange] alerts kept terrorism from happening."

Brewer said that in addition to Public Safety heightening its awareness, students, faculty and staff should also pay closer attention to their surroundings. ♦

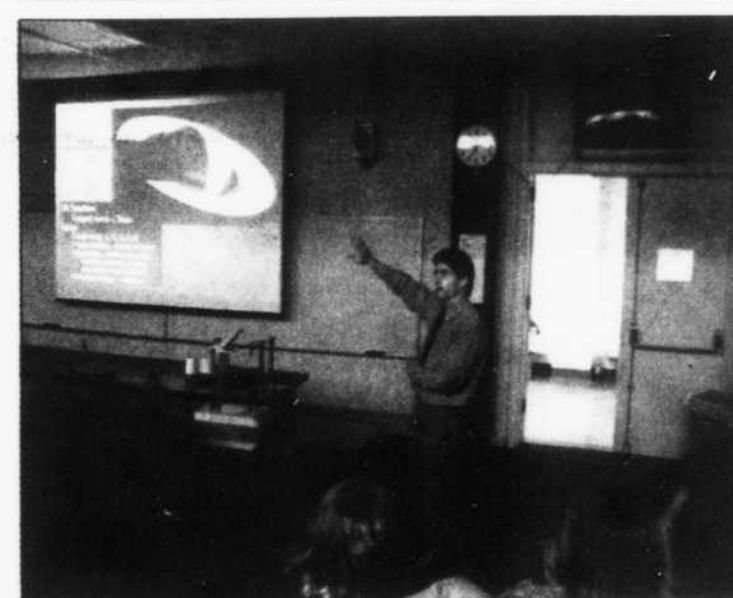


Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

Professor Chuck Higgins focuses on Saturn during the first star party of the season Friday.

Amazon: Rainforest hosts study

Continued from 1

students how to conduct field work. The trip will give each student valuable experience for applying to graduate school.

Pace has been doing studies in Gurupá since 1983.

Gurupá is located in the estuary of the Amazon River. The students going on the trip this summer will be there during the dry season, but the tide still comes in twice every day.

To prepare for the trip, not only did the students have to take the usual round of vaccinations, but they were also required to take a year of Portuguese because no one else in the area will be able to speak English.

"It's critical with anthropology," Pace said. "You have to know the local language."

The group will fly into Belém, Brazil, and then proceed on a 26-hour boat ride up the Amazon River to reach Gurupá.

Belém is located on the equator, and after the 500 nauti-

cal mile boat ride up the Amazon, the weather will still be unbearably hot and humid.

"This is not something most universities are doing," said Monte Hendrickson, senior anthropology and history major. "It's a bit intimidating to be going somewhere that's so remote and so completely different."

Most schools that take part in field work such as this choose places in Mexico that are easy to reach, which makes this trip unique. The location is very remote and Portuguese is not a common language.

Pace went on to say that no one goes to the Amazon for field work.

A non-governmental organization will help the group with housing and other basic necessities.

Pace also said the students will take part in participant observation.

The students will live with the natives of Gurupá and eat the same foods as well as work

with them on a daily basis.

There will be a few excursions into the rainforest for hunting, gathering, rubber-tapping and other tasks that the students will also assist in.

Upon arrival, the group will be met by Chris Berry, an MTSU undergraduate student who has been doing research along the Amazon since May as a foreign exchange student. He will return from the Amazon in August with the rest of the group.

While there, he joined a U.N. study to see how people lived on the Amazonian flood plane.

The project aims to find out who lives there, how they're living, and it is being done all up and down the Amazon.

At least seven students are going on the trip, including Monte Hendrickson, Lara Dempsey, Jacob Harper, Jessica Delgado, Jonathan Glover, Justin Tarrents and Tracy Beadle. Two more MTSU students may be joining them, but that is still unclear. ♦

Poets: Prof organizes speakout

Continued from 1

Bush, Hamill proposed to replace it with an "anthology of protest."

"I believe the only legitimate response to such a morally bankrupt and unconscionable idea is to reconstitute a Poets Against the War movement like the one organized to speak out against the war in Vietnam,"

Hamill said.

Adjunct English professor Andy Smith heard about Poets Against the War on the Internet and wanted to have one on campus at MTSU.

"I'm outraged that Laura Bush would try to disconnect poetry from political dissent," Smith said. "She organized the symposium and then canceled it for fear it would become

political. What better way to honor Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes and Emily Dickinson than with a poetry of protest, rebellion, defiance and hope."

Poets Against War will be held in the Keathley University Center, Room 314, at 11 a.m.

Attendees are encouraged to participate by offering commentary and even bringing a poem to read. ♦

Stars: Jupiter target for lecture

Continued from 1

The university has two 10-inch telescopes and eight 8-inch telescopes available for use. The telescopes are computer controlled and can automatically find numerous stars and planets that are sometimes unable to be seen by the naked eye.

A 10-inch telescope was set up to view Saturn. The telescope was so powerful, in fact, that the 60-plus people who came to the first meeting could see the rings quite distinctly even though there was moderate cloud cover and plenty of street and building lights to interfere.

Jupiter and four of its moons were the target of an 8-inch telescope.

The telescope was later pointed at Earth's moon and provided an extreme close-up of the surface and a clear view of its numerous craters.

"I think that everyone had a good time," Higgins said at the end of the party.

The physics and astronomy department at MTSU has been holding the viewing part of the star parties for years, but Klumpe started the lecture aspect a few years ago.

The idea for the lectures came to him at a time when Mars was in extremely favorable opposition with Earth, and many people were searching for the "Face" on Mars using their home telescopes.

Klumpe wanted to not only give people a closer view of Mars, but to also explain more about it and give people a chance to ask any questions they might have.

From there, the lectures became a regular feature of each party so that the attendees might gain a greater appreciation and understanding of what

they are viewing.

"The parties are a great departmental tool for community outreach and public good," Klumpe said.

By giving people a chance to interact with an expert, Klumpe hopes to dispel many of the rumors people have about current astronomical events.

Klumpe will be giving the lecture on Jupiter, which is the focus of next month's March 7 meeting.

The largest planet in our solar system, Jupiter will be in favorable opposition and will be easily seen from campus.

The parties take place at 6:30 p.m. in Room 220 of the Wiser-Patten Science Hall.

For more information, contact Higgins at 898-5946 or higgins@physics.mtsu.edu, or Klumpe at 898-2483 or klumpe@physics.mtsu.edu. ♦

Budget: UT cautious in cutting programs

Continued from 1

increased emphasis on private funds, Watkins said.

Watkins added that 76 percent of TBR's current budget goes to payroll and employee benefits.

"[Cuts] are going to have to come from payroll deductions," Watkins said.

Shumaker expressed concern that cuts at UT could jeopardize its research and, in turn, cost the state more money than it would save.

"A good research university is a money generator for the state," Shumaker said.

Shumaker said UT administrators were looking at cutting several academic programs as well as some athletic programs at UT-Chattanooga. ♦

Robbery: Officer shortage not reflective of increased crime

Continued from 1

Foster said over the past two years Public Safety has lost about 20 officers, but that the department has been almost completely restaffed.

"It wouldn't matter if you had 400 [officers] out there," he said.

"Crime is going to happen, and it runs in cycles. We've been fortunate lately that we've not had any serious crime. Now it's coming around. It'll run like that for a while until we catch the guy."

Foster said he personally thinks the suspect is a student.

"I'm assuming that he's a student because he knows his way around," Foster said.

Public Safety circulated several e-mails Friday warning students of several recent crime incidents involving

students both on and off campus. Among them were reports of the break-ins at Deere Hall (see "Dorm site of two break-ins," this page) and two off-campus incidents.

One e-mail mentioned an incident at Nottingham Apartments, 1311 Greenland Dr., at 11:30 p.m. Thursday, in which a male suspect grabbed a female from behind and tried to take her purse while she was taking her trash to a dumpster.

According to the Murfreesboro Police report, the suspect is reportedly a white male approximately 5 feet 11 inches tall, 130 pounds. At the time, he was wearing a green flannel shirt, blue jeans and a ski mask.

A similar incident occurred at approximately 6:30 p.m. Thursday. According to the e-mail, a

female student was sexually assaulted while she was putting items into her vehicle at University Courtyard Apartments, 1540 New Lascassas Highway.

According to the Murfreesboro Police report, the suspect is possibly a black male, 6 feet to 6 feet 3 inches tall, thin to medium build.

At the time of the incident, he reportedly was wearing a hooded sweatshirt and dark colored jeans.

Murfreesboro Police are investigating both the Nottingham and the University Courtyard incidents.

Those with information about any of the incidents mentioned above are encouraged to call Crime Stoppers at 893-7867 or Public Safety at 898-2424. ♦

Break-ins: Unlocked window helps crook

Continued from 1

a.m. Thursday. One report was from a room on the first floor of the dorm and one was on the second.

"There's always a bunch of speculation but we're going to treat it as one person," said Sgt. Matt Foster, adding that the break-ins occurred within a few minutes of each other. "You've got someone

who gets woke up from a sleep, their [timing] is going to be off a little bit so we're going to treat it ... as [happening] somewhere between 5:10 and 5:20."

Foster said the suspect gained entry to the rooms by sliding an unlocked window open and reaching around to unlock the door.

The suspect ran away in both instances when he was

confronted by the victims in the room.

Foster said he doesn't think the attempted break-ins are related to the assaults on campus that occurred in November and January.

He said he is not completely sure yet whether or not the incident is related to the armed robbery that occurred on campus Wednesday. ♦



Sleep Well, Do Well

For kids to do their best in school or at play, they should get at least nine hours of sleep every night. Kids can be Star Sleepers like Garfield. Visit <http://starsleep.nih.gov> for sleep tips and fun activities.



NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
Public Health Service
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Loves her kitten Ruby.

Sings like an angel.

Hopes to be a teacher someday.

Sheila Young.

Goes hungry again tonight.

One out of every six children in America is living in a state of poverty. And that's one too many American dreams broken. One too many American childhoods at risk, threatened by the daily struggle to secure enough food, enough shelter, enough medicine just to survive. Nearly 12,000,000 precious lives hanging in a brutally uncertain balance. Sixteen percent of all our children — a poverty rate that's higher than any other age group. But who cares to notice?

POVERTY.
America's forgotten crisis.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development
1.800.946.4243
www.povertyusa.org

SUMO

NOW OPEN

SUMO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

Sushi, Teriyaki, Noodles and **Authentic Japanese food**
Located in Northfield Plaza
in Food Lion Shopping Center

10% MTSU Discount
with a valid MTSU ID. (dine in only)

Sumo Japanese Restaurant
2053 New Lascassas Road
848-2999

Tuesday-Friday: Lunch 11-2 Sunday-Thursday: Dinner 5-9:30
Saturday-Sunday: Lunch 12-2 Friday-Saturday: Dinner 5-10:30

Got News?

Call 898-2336

Vanderbilt University Presents:

the 39th Annual IMPACT Speaker's Symposium

featuring

General Bary McCaffrey
discussing the situation in Iraq on
Sunday, February 16 at 8:00 p.m.
&
James Carville and Mary Matalin
debating hot political issues on
Monday February 17 at
8:00 p.m.

Both events will be held at Langford Auditorium. Tickets are \$5.00 per event and available at all Ticketmaster outlets.

Hey, do you want to work with youth?

what advanced youth ministry training in a certified graduate level program

where in Middle Tennessee under the supervision of a local site coordinator with placements possible through the Episcopal Church.

how two-year curriculum at local church with field-based, online and intensive courses.

who anyone who is called to minister to youth

Teach to Reach
tnspim
Tennessee school for professional youth ministry

Contact: Cynthia Seeliger
Field Education Coordinator
St. Bartholomew's Church
4800 Belmont Park Terrace
Nashville, TN 37215
615/377-4750
supercynthe@aol.com

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

SGA ELECTIONS SPRING 2003

Positions Available

- ✓ President
- ✓ Vice-President for Administration and Public Affairs
- ✓ Vice President & Speaker of the Senate
- ✓ Election Commissioner

Senators for each college

- ✓ Basic & Applied Sciences
- ✓ Business
- ✓ Educational and Behavioral Sciences
- ✓ Liberal Arts
- ✓ Mass Communications
- ✓ Undeclared
- ✓ At-Large Senators

Applications Now Available in the SGA office KUC room 208

Applications due **Monday, February 17, 2003 by 4:00 p.m. ** NO Exceptions**

For more info contact 898-2464 or votemtsu@hotmail.com

ELECTIONS MARCH 3-5 ON PIPELINE

From the Editorial Board Cutting enrollment key to fiscal bliss

The Tennessee Board of Regents met with Gov. Phil Bredesen and other state higher education officials Friday to talk turkey about the state's fiscal situation and its effect on colleges and universities across the state.

We're screwed, basically. But there's hope. Bredesen wants each institution, including MTSU, to cut 8.8 percent from its budget. That's quite a large chunk of the university's operating expenses – such a large chunk that it's definite that many jobs and programs will be cut, possibly ones we've so far of as essential and needed.

However, one glittering jewel in the otherwise dull trash heap of sad facts is that neither the TBR nor the Tennessee Higher Education Commission wants to raise tuition again this year. To the average tuition-paying student, this news is as welcome as a parking ticket that's been generously voided by the Student Government Association.

The officials must realize that raising tuition won't help the university cope with such massive cuts. Kudos to them for their insight.

Instead of continually raising tuition – which has risen 72 percent in the past 10 years, according to THEC Executive Director Rich Rhoda – MTSU, and perhaps other TBR institutions, should continue to carefully examine admission policies and get the number of enrolled students down to a manageable size that suits each individual campus. And by manageable, we don't mean as many as they can possibly cram into each classroom and closet in every building.

What we do mean, however, is a comfortable number that fully utilizes yet rarely strains the university's resources and capacities. It really isn't that important that MTSU's enrollment get dangerously close to the University of Tennessee's so we can brag that we're the biggest and best.

We'd bet that most students here are perfectly content with the university not being the largest or even second largest in the state, so long as we can get that quality education that's always promised to us. ◆

Separation of church, state eroding



American Bacon

Patrick Chinnery
Staff Columnist

Out of Washington, D.C., this week came a familiar refrain. No, not "We need to suspend more civil liberties," or, "The economy's getting better," but, "We need more prayer in public schools."

The wall between church and state is being continually eroded, brick by brick. Thankfully, some practices have been struck down, such as teacher-led prayer (which gives the impression that the school supports one religion over another) and the posting of the Ten Commandments in some public buildings (which can show bias against non-Judeo-Christian-Muslim faiths).

That being said, there is something to support in the latest guidelines issued by Secretary of Education

Rod Paige. The rules state that schools that do not allow students to pray on their own in groups outside the classroom will lose federal funding.

While these rules are self-defined as supporting religion, there is nothing inherently wrong with that. The reason why teacher-led prayer is banned is to prevent one religion from taking precedence over another. The intention has never been to ban the practice of one student's religion. So long as a student's right to a religion-free education is preserved, it doesn't matter how other students express themselves.

Consequently, it's proper that the rights of students who want to pray should be protected as well. Not to do so would be to punish someone who is religious, and that is just as horrible as attacking a non-believer. America, after all, was founded on the principle of equal rights.

Unfortunately, there are some aspects of Paige's

rules that can be exploited by those who believe it is their mission to preach to those who want to hear the message or not. For example, the guidelines stipulate that teachers are permitted to meet before school or after lunch for "prayer or Bible study."

The most glaring transgression is the mention of the Bible and the exclusion of other religious texts. What about someone who desires to read the Torah or examine the Koran? How about the Dhammapada or the Vedas?

The fact that Bible study is mentioned at the exclusion of everything else is a dangerous sign that what is good about the proposal is merely a cover for Paige's true intentions – to further entrench Christianity in the American public school system.

There's a stipulation attached to the prayer and Bible study provision that the teacher must make it clear that he or she isn't acting in "official capacity." In theory, it may seem to

prevent any clash between church and state. However, in practice, it will be impossible to implement.

How will the teacher make it known that for the moment he is not, at that moment, a teacher? Wear a sign around his neck saying he's unavailable at the moment? That immediately will be protested. Sounds a little too much like Nazism.

The other problem is the "after lunch" phrase. Before school is an acceptable time frame. Teachers can meet in a classroom, door shut, and study religious text. Students are allowed to meet before and after school to pray on school grounds; why not let the people whose tax dollars paid for the school do the same?

After lunch is more ambiguous. Is this going to be the five minutes before students re-enter the classroom? Or is Paige trying to protect teachers that want to hold prayer meetings with students nearby?

If teachers are praying, then they have to make it

clear that they are not in their official capacity, and that means that the students in the classroom have no one to officially supervise them. That's a big no-no.

Furthermore, courts have upheld that if other clubs aren't allowed to meet during the day, neither can prayer sessions. Exceptions should not be made for teachers who wish to gather, especially when they have the option of meeting in the morning.

When a group, such as the Christians, feels threatened, it's the natural reaction to fight back where possible to preserve what they feel is necessary. However, Paige's gut reaction has gone too far, by not only restoring Christians' right to practice their religion, but also giving them the opportunity to abuse their protection. ◆

Patrick Chinnery is a senior political science major and can be reached via e-mail at pwc2c@mtsu.edu.

February meaningless month



I'm Just a Girl

Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

I'm glad February is the shortest month of the year. It's the month of meaningless holidays.

First, we kick off Inane Ritual No. 1 on Feb. 2 with Groundhog Day. This I have never understood – extorting a poor groundhog for our own personal amusement under the guise of a bizarre winter-predicting ritual. The groundhog's meteorological abilities are highly overrated.

Next comes Valentine's Day, the most loved and hated holiday of the year, depending on what box you check in the "marital status" category.

As tempting as it is to go on a typical rant, I'll control myself. Instead, I want to focus on the concept of "the man of my dreams."

I think we can all agree such a man doesn't exist. No one is as perfect as we would like him or her to be. Furthermore, suppose it's been a really long day,

and your sleep somewhat resembles a comatose state. Aren't your dreams really weird then?

What if you dream that Adolf Hitler is dancing in a tutu to *Swan Lake*. By definition, wouldn't that make Adolf Hitler in a tutu the man of your dreams? That's frightening enough to make me stop using the phrase altogether.

Aren't the men in your dreams typically people you know? If you should happen to dream up a nonexistent man only to later meet him in your everyday life, run screaming in the opposite direction. That's just too weird.

Valentine's Day had a meaning back in the days of elementary school when it meant classroom parties and little cards that you gave to everybody in your class, even if you didn't like them. These days, it's just one more way to boost the economy.

February also gives us President's Day. For the record, I think we should be out of class on President's Day. Not because I think it's a meaningful day that we should spend reflecting on the past leaders of our nation – I just want a day off.

In high school, we got

President's Day off, which I never understood but never questioned. It usually meant a long Valentine's Day weekend, and that meant extended church ski trips.

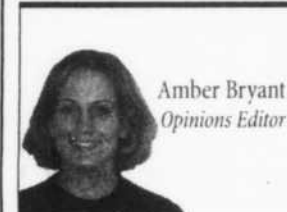
The only useful thing to come out of February is Black History Month. Finally, something worth celebrating. It's amazing that in the gloomy month of February, we can actually have time dedicated to preserving a part of our nation's history.

I don't concern myself with pseudo-psychic rodents. I don't care about roses, teddy bears and balloons that say "I [Heart] You." I don't spend my free time wondering what it was like for the people of our country almost 200 years before I was born.

In fact, I'm so angry that the groundhog saw his shadow, I'm going to spend Valentine's Day working an eight-hour closing shift, and on President's Day, I'm probably going to forget that it's a holiday and spend the whole day wondering why the mail isn't running. ◆

Wendy Caldwell is a sophomore math major and can be reached via e-mail at VISA717@aol.com.

From the Opinions Editor Animal activism set to become selfish scheme



Amber Bryant
Opinions Editor

For the first time in American history, animals are getting the promotion they deserve. However, their human counterparts are likely to ruin the raise with frivolous lawsuits.

Recently, Boulder, Colo., was recognized as the first city to deem pet owners guardians, inspiring select cities to follow suite. According to ABC News, San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez hoped the action would "promote guardianship" and encourage pet owners to "treat animals more humanely."

If Colorado lawmakers continue to have their way, domestic cats and dogs will become companions, as opposed to property. The status

upgrade will allow pet owners to defend abused animals and seek damages for up to \$100,000.

Unfortunately, many will attempt to manipulate the system, causing a copious amount of trouble for privately owned veterinary hospitals and grooming facilities. Anyone who's worked for a veterinarian will tell you that, after a devastating accident, pet owners feel an overwhelming need to blame someone other than themselves for the animal's death. Now that said behavior merits big bucks, animal activism will become a money-making scheme and veterinarians will be more reluctant to help under special circumstances.

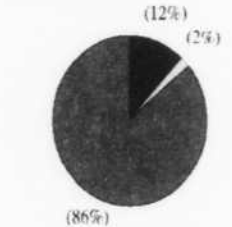
If we could count on people to be responsible with their legal claims, this would be an outstanding amount of positive progress for our furry community. Sadly, animals can always count on humans to step on their tails. ◆

Sidelines online poll results

Last week, we asked readers, "Are you concerned about a smallpox outbreak?"

■ Yes – I plan to receive the vaccination. (12%)

■ Yes – I plan to help by volunteering to administer vaccinations, but I'm not getting one myself. (2%)



■ No – I think the threat is greatly exaggerated. (86%)

Visit www.mtsusidelines.com to answer this week's poll question, "What programs should MTSU cut?"

Letter to the Editor Incorporate arts with media studies

To the Editor:

After spending several years within the university community, I've watched MTSU grow in quality and size, but there's something missing: the integration of Communication/Media Studies with performing arts.

With the exception of some good interview shows, Channel 10 produces a never-ending stream of poorly produced rubbish. In contrast, I recently watched a video produced by another university featuring a student concerto performance. The quality of the production was stunning, and I asked myself, "Why aren't similar things being done at MTSU? We certainly have the facilities, the equipment even a mobile production truck!" Instead, I tuned in to Channel 10 and saw a guy walking around campus with a box on his head.

MTSU produces many fine music, dance and theater programs every semester. Why not make the most of what we have in production ability to our advantage and show some of the best MTSU has to offer in the performing arts?

Matt Palmer
Senior, music

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee
State University
1301 East Main Street
P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editorial: 898-2337
Advertising: 898-2533
Fax: 904-8193
www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor in Chief
Managing Editor
News Editor
Assistant News Editor/Copy Editor
News Design/Production Manager
Opinions and Online Editor/Design
Features Editor
Features Design
Sports Editor/Design
Assistant Sports Editor
flash* Editor
flash* Design
Photo Editor
Copy Editors

Anna Marie Patrick
Wendy Caldwell

Lindsey Turner*
Jason Cox*
Amanda Maynard*
Callie Elizabeth Butler
Nick Fowler
Amber Bryant*
Stephanie Hughes
Nick Fowler
Brandon Morrison*
Michael Rutledge
Clay Ayers
Elizabeth Mitchell
Chris Nichols
Patrick Chinnery
Audie Sheridan

*denotes member of editorial board

Advertising Manager
Ad Representatives

Ad Design Manager
Ad Design
Adviser

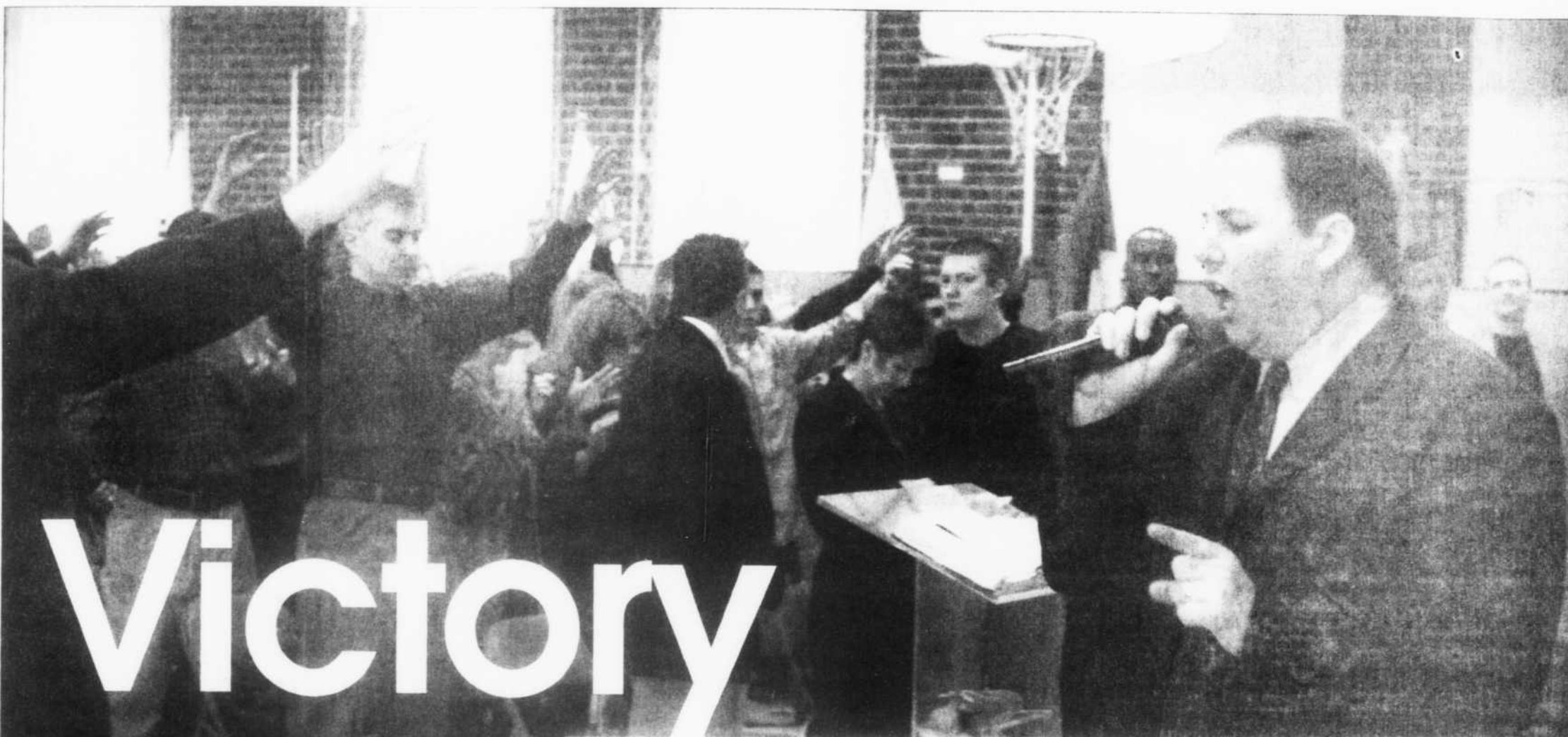
Rebecca Pickering
Erin Pauls
Bo Martindale
Tim Johnson
Justin Ward
Brian Matthews
Wendell Rawls

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. *Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

www.mtsusidelines.com

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. *Sidelines* publishes Monday, Wednesday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily of *Sidelines* or MTSU.



Victory

Murfreesboro's Victory Church seeks to glorify God

By Melissa Coker
Staff Writer

Murfreesboro's Victory Church was first conceived as a Bible study in an MTSU football locker room six years ago in May.

Former pastor Franco Gennaro came from Bethel World Outreach Center in Brentwood, Tenn., feeling he needed to start a church here in Murfreesboro. Having been a football player at Florida State, he felt most at home with other football players, and the church was born.

The Bible study moved from the locker room to Murphy Center, then from the Keathley University Center to

Gennaro's home, and finally grew to be a full-fledged church at the Pittard Campus School.

"We at Victory Church understand that where you find your people, there you find your purpose," Gennaro says.

Ron David Moore, who was already an integral part of the church in various leadership positions, is now the pastor. He is a former singer/songwriter who has also worked with other artists on both Christian and country music projects. In addition to leading the worship on Sunday mornings, he heads up the team's praise and worship band.

Murfreesboro's Victory Church is one of many churches

See **Victory**, 5

Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

Mike Cantrell, associate pastor at Victory Church, leads the congregation in worship. Cantrell, along with senior pastor Ron David Moore, minister to the church in various ways.

Campus Events

Feb. 10

This week's Honors lecture, "HIV/AIDS, South African Culture and Customs," will be held at 3 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 109A. Jo Edwards and Peggy O'Hara Murdock will be the speakers. For more information, call 898-2152.

The Health Occupations Students of America will hold their competition today in the Keathley University Center Theater at 8 p.m. For more information, call 898-2905.

The Keathley University Center Theater presents *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, which will be playing today through Saturday. The movie will be shown at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. today through Thursday, and at 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Admission is \$2.

Feb. 11

The College to Career Fair will be held on the State Fairgrounds at 11 a.m. For more information, contact 494-8911.

The Seigenthaler Lecture Series, featuring speaker Bob Herbert of the *New York Times*, will be held in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the Business and Aerospace Building at 3 p.m. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Feb. 12

Middle Tennessee activists and poets will be participating in an International Day of Poetry Against the War at 11 a.m. in the KUC, Room 314. Poets will gather to read their works as a resistance to the drive toward the war in Iraq. Contact Andy Smith at 464-3776 for more information. ♦

Nursing grant gives program a boost



Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

Nursing professors, left to right, Mary Jane Lavender, Pam Roesler, Stephen Krau and Lawren Lelko demonstrate patient care.

Million-dollar gift allows growth

By Christopher Magan
Staff Writer

The shortage of nurses in Tennessee is directly related to a shortage of money.

However, help is on the way for MTSU's nursing program.

The Christy-Houston Foundation provided a \$1.74 million grant to the School of Nursing to help fund the expansion of the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building and enlarge the nursing program.

The expansion will include adding a third floor that will increase the building's space by 15,800 square feet and provide more instructional and office space, a research center, master class-

rooms, video conferencing and four seminar rooms.

"When the expansion of the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building has been completed, MTSU will be in a position to educate an even greater number of students to enter the nursing profession," says MTSU President Sidney McPhee. "This is particularly important with the critical shortage of nurses both in Tennessee and across the nation. The matching grant provides funding that is instrumental in making this project a reality."

The Cason-Kennedy building was completed in 1994 with funding from the Christy-Houston Foundation. Now that enrollment into the nursing program is capped and there are two qualified applicants for every open space, the school needs additional space to expand its program.

"The building is only a part of what we are interested in accomplishing,"

"We have a very common goal of preparing graduates that are highly qualified and will impact the quality of life in Rutherford County."

— Pam Holder
Director, School of Nursing

says Pam Holder, Director of the School of Nursing. "In order to truly expand our program, and to effectively address the nursing shortage in Middle Tennessee, we need to add additional space, hire additional faculty and provide scholarships to attract the best and brightest students."

The total cost of the project is \$4.65

million, \$1.2 million of which has already been committed by the university. The donation from the Christy-Houston Foundation is a challenge grant that requires the School of Nursing to locate an additional donation of \$1.74 million in matching

See **Nursing**, 5

Nursing: Director voices need for nursing masters degree

Continued from 4

funds. The school is not restricted by time or where the money will come from.

Holder says there are agencies across the nation that have vacancies that cannot be filled, and projections show that the shortage will only get worse. According to Holder, the average age of a nurse today is 44 years old, and there are not enough students in the pipeline to replace them.

"We are very appreciative and grateful to the Christy-Houston Foundation. They have always been a friend to the School of Nursing and have remained true to their mission of working to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Rutherford County," Holder says.

"That is exactly what the mission of the School of Nursing is. We have a very common goal of preparing graduates that are highly qualified and will impact the quality of life in Rutherford County."

The Christy-Houston Foundation was established 15 years ago and provides grants primarily to organizations dealing in the medical profession.

"We hear about the need for nursing services across the country and are aware that MTSU is forced to turn down qualified applicants," says Bob Milfin, Christy-Houston executive director. The foundation

is once again more than willing to be a contributor to the School of Nursing at MTSU."

In addition to new faculty and more instructional space, Holder hopes to establish a Masters of Science in Nursing and discipline specific labs.

"There is a significant need for MTSU to offer the masters of science in nursing," Holder says. "In order to respond to the needs of nurses in our community, it has to be a priority. Also, it would require us to add faculty qualified to teach at the graduate level."

A state-of-the-art telehealth laboratory is also a critical aspect of preparing students for the increasingly technology based health care profession of the future.

"Based upon what we can predict in terms of the skills and the knowledge that nurses need in a telehealth type of environment, it is really important that we add the technology to our curriculum to give students an opportunity to develop those skills and have that experience," Holder says.

Holder says the once matching funds are secured, and the construction on the building would take about three years to complete.

Holder says she hopes that construction will begin in the fall but will not speculate on a completion date so early in the process. ♦

Victory: Church offers variety of services, fellowship

Continued from 4

under the tent of Morningstar International, which has ministries in more than 30 countries.

Bethel World Outreach is a part of Morningstar as well. Victory Church holds not only Sunday morning celebration services, but also Victory Home Groups, Victory Campus Ministries and Champions for Christ.

However, these are independent international organizations, and they don't fund Victory Campus Ministries. They are separate organizations that are run by some of the same leaders.

"We are mainly supported by the campus," says campus team minister and former MTSU student Jeff Stone. "Unfortunately, college students don't have a lot of money."

Victory holds small group Bible studies throughout the week at the church offices but have no traditional church building as of yet.

Sunday morning services are held at 10 a.m. in the Campus School on the corner of Tennessee Boulevard and East

Lytle Street.

Here is a further description of their various ministries:

- Victory Home Groups – the foundational ministry of Victory Church. The church family, both young and old, come together for training, fellowship and pastoral care in various homes.

- Champions for Christ – the athletic ministry arm of Victory Church. The aim is to reach athletes and coaches for Christ and to train them to excel as winners in all areas of life. This is accomplished through team and individual spiritual training sessions, conferences and chapel services.

- Victory Campus Ministries and Victory Clubs – the college and high school outreach programs of Victory Church.

The church mission statement is "to glorify God and reach our world for Christ, beginning in Murfreesboro, by the power and love of our Lord Jesus Christ; through church planting, campus ministry and world missions."

Don't let their strong focus on the Bible be confused with being out of focus

with reality.

The campus ministry is a sign of that. Some of the ministers go through a six-month study in California learning about world views and cultural anthropology.

They relate what they learn to answers in the Bible.

In this way, it is more than simply trusting what they are told.

"We should never lose the gospel, but we also should never lose contact with where the students are," Stone says. "We want to reach the people who really need God."

Stone and fellow Campus Team Minister Brock Lillis, a former MTSU football player and 2001 graduate, head up the campus ministry, which meets at MTSU every Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building, Room 121.

If you feel like Victory may be a step in the right direction, call the church office at 896-2348, or attend one of the meetings on campus for more information. ♦

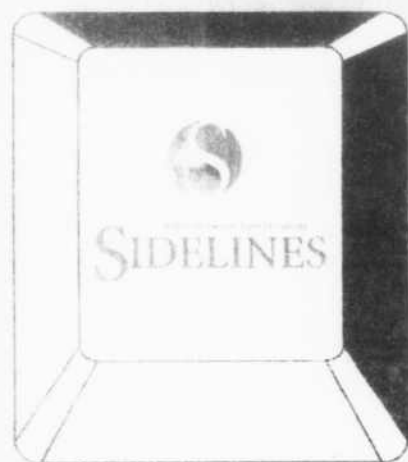
Sidewalk chalk not getting people to your group's meetings?

Don't fret.



Try announcing them in *Sidelines'* Campus Events calendar. Fill out the form in JUB 310.

Your key to campus news and events.



www.mtsusidelines.com

Come into the light.
Write features for *Sidelines*.
898.2917 or 898.2337.

HAVE YOU OR ARE YOU USING ECSTASY???

If so, and you are between the ages of 18-35 you may qualify for a research study that examines the effects of prior ECSTASY use on brain functioning that is being conducted by Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

If you qualify, you will receive a brief medical and psychiatric evaluation. In addition, you will have a series of MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) tests performed. The appointment takes about 10 hours. Participants will be compensated up to \$150.00.

For more information, call the Vanderbilt Outpatient Psychiatry Department at 615-343-9669.

 Vanderbilt Medical Center

Visit *Sidelines* on the web

www.mtsusidelines.edu

**Sidelines
Features
Line**

898-2917

**CENTURY
21**

**CD'S + RECORDS
TAPES + JEWELRY**
New & Used CD's - Records
125 Lasseater Dr.
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
OPEN MON-SAT 11-7



bbs

BLUE RAIDER BOOK & SUPPLY, INC.

1321 Greenland Drive
(Across from the Murphy Center)
890-7231

Store Hours:
Monday & Tuesday 8:30 - 6:30
Wednesday - Friday 8:30 - 5:00
Saturday 11:00 - 3:00

Change the World of Healthcare....Become a

Doctor of Chiropractic

Help People

Gain the skills to assist your patients to achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Income

Earn a substantial salary commensurate with your position as a Doctor of Chiropractic.

Be Your Own Boss

Most Doctors of Chiropractic are in private practice working an average of 40 hours per week.

Become a Doctor

Prestige, respect and expanded leadership opportunities are available as a Doctor of Chiropractic.

Call Logan College of Chiropractic today to change the world of healthcare!

Logan
College of Chiropractic

1-800-533-9210
www.logan.edu
loganadm@logan.edu

1801 Schoetter Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63006



Nursing: Director voices need for nursing masters degree

Continued from 4

funds. The school is not restricted by time or where the money will come from.

Holder says there are agencies across the nation that have vacancies that cannot be filled, and projections show that the shortage will only get worse. According to Holder, the average age of a nurse today is 44 years old, and there are not enough students in the pipeline to replace them.

"We are very appreciative and grateful to the Christy-Houston Foundation. They have always been a friend to the School of Nursing and have remained true to their mission of working to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Rutherford County," Holder says.

"That is exactly what the mission of the School of Nursing is. We have a very common goal of preparing graduates that are highly qualified and will impact the quality of life in Rutherford County."

The Christy-Houston Foundation was established 15 years ago and provides grants primarily to organizations dealing in the medical profession.

"We hear about the need for nursing services across the country and are aware that MTSU is forced to turn down qualified applicants," says Bob Milfin, Christy-Houston executive director. The foundation

is once again more than willing to be a contributor to the School of Nursing at MTSU."

In addition to new faculty and more instructional space, Holder hopes to establish a Masters of Science in Nursing and discipline specific labs.

"There is a significant need for MTSU to offer the masters of science in nursing," Holder says. "In order to respond to the needs of nurses in our community, it has to be a priority. Also, it would require us to add faculty qualified to teach at the graduate level."

A state-of-the-art telehealth laboratory is also a critical aspect of preparing students for the increasingly technology based health care profession of the future.

"Based upon what we can predict in terms of the skills and the knowledge that nurses need in a telehealth type of environment, it is really important that we add the technology to our curriculum to give students an opportunity to develop those skills and have that experience," Holder says.

Holder says the once matching funds are secured, and the construction on the building would take about three years to complete.

Holder says she hopes that construction will begin in the fall but will not speculate on a completion date so early in the process. ♦

Victory: Church offers variety of services, fellowship

Continued from 4

under the tent of Morningstar International, which has ministries in more than 30 countries.

Bethel World Outreach is a part of Morningstar as well. Victory Church holds not only Sunday morning celebration services, but also Victory Home Groups, Victory Campus Ministries and Champions for Christ.

However, these are independent international organizations, and they don't fund Victory Campus Ministries. They are separate organizations that are run by some of the same leaders.

"We are mainly supported by the campus," says campus team minister and former MTSU student Jeff Stone. "Unfortunately, college students don't have a lot of money."

Victory holds small group Bible studies throughout the week at the church offices but have no traditional church building as of yet.

Sunday morning services are held at 10 a.m. in the Campus School on the corner of Tennessee Boulevard and East

Lytle Street.

Here is a further description of their various ministries:

- Victory Home Groups – the foundational ministry of Victory Church. The church family, both young and old, come together for training, fellowship and pastoral care in various homes.

- Champions for Christ – the athletic ministry arm of Victory Church. The aim is to reach athletes and coaches for Christ and to train them to excel as winners in all areas of life. This is accomplished through team and individual spiritual training sessions, conferences and chapel services.

- Victory Campus Ministries and Victory Clubs – the college and high school outreach programs of Victory Church.

The church mission statement is "to glorify God and reach our world for Christ, beginning in Murfreesboro, by the power and love of our Lord Jesus Christ; through church planting, campus ministry and world missions."

Don't let their strong focus on the Bible be confused with being out of focus

with reality.

The campus ministry is a sign of that. Some of the ministers go through a six-month study in California learning about world views and cultural anthropology.

They relate what they learn to answers in the Bible.

In this way, it is more than simply trusting what they are told.

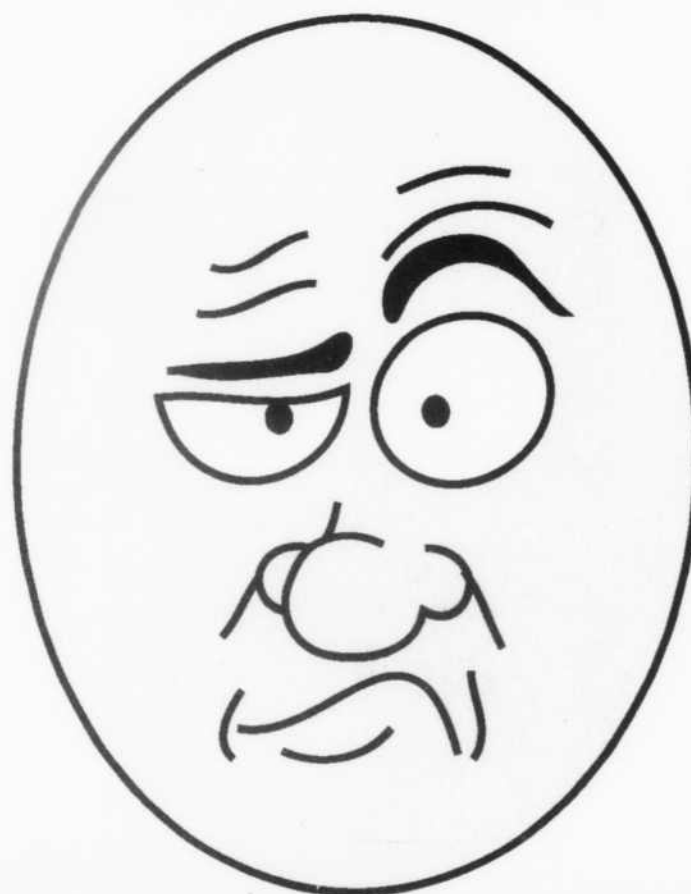
"We should never lose the gospel, but we also should never lose contact with where the students are," Stone says. "We want to reach the people who really need God."

Stone and fellow Campus Team Minister Brock Lillis, a former MTSU football player and 2001 graduate, head up the campus ministry, which meets at MTSU every Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building, Room 121.

If you feel like Victory may be a step in the right direction, call the church office at 896-2348, or attend one of the meetings on campus for more information. ♦

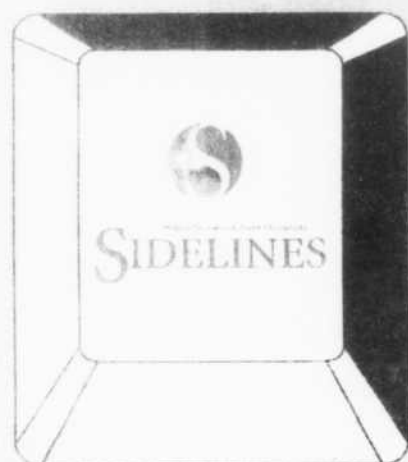
Sidewalk chalk not getting people to your group's meetings?

Don't fret.



Try announcing them in *Sidelines'* Campus Events calendar. Fill out the form in JUB 310.

Your key to campus news and events.



www.mtsusidelines.com

Come into the light.
Write features for *Sidelines*.
898.2917 or 898.2337.

HAVE YOU OR ARE YOU USING ECSTASY???

If so, and you are between the ages of 18-35 you may qualify for a research study that examines the effects of prior ECSTASY use on brain functioning that is being conducted by Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

If you qualify, you will receive a brief medical and psychiatric evaluation. In addition, you will have a series of MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) tests performed. The appointment takes about 10 hours. Participants will be compensated up to \$150.00.

For more information, call the Vanderbilt Outpatient Psychiatry Department at 615-343-9669.

 Vanderbilt Medical Center

Visit *Sidelines* on the web

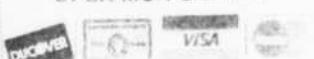
www.mtsusidelines.edu

**Sidelines
Features
Line**

898-2917

**CENTURY
21**

**CD'S • RECORDS
TAPES • JEWELRY**
New & Used CD's - Records
125 Lassefer Dr.
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
OPEN MON-SAT 11-7



bbs

BLUE RAIDER BOOK & SUPPLY, INC.

1321 Greenland Drive
(Across from the Murphy Center)
890-7231

Store Hours:
Monday & Tuesday 8:30 - 6:30
Wednesday - Friday 8:30 - 5:00
Saturday 11:00 - 3:00

Change the World of Healthcare....Become a

Doctor of Chiropractic

Help People

Gain the skills to assist your patients to achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Income

Earn a substantial salary commensurate with your position as a Doctor of Chiropractic.

Be Your Own Boss

Most Doctors of Chiropractic are in private practice working an average of 40 hours per week.

Become a Doctor

Prestige, respect and expanded leadership opportunities are available as a Doctor of Chiropractic.

Call Logan College of Chiropractic today to change the world of healthcare!

Logan

College of Chiropractic

1-800-533-9210

www.logan.edu

loganadm@logan.edu

1801 Schoettler Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63006



Football team earns new recruits

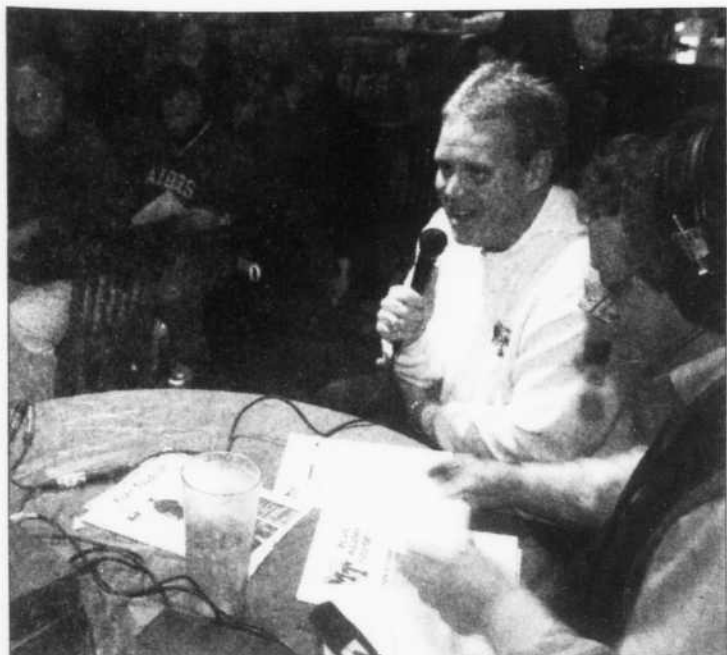


Photo by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer

Head coach Andy McCollum answers questions during a gathering at the Bunganut Pig on Wednesday.

McCollum and staff recruit 28 players to build up squad

By Christopher Brown
Contributor

While praising the talent of the 2003 recruiting class at the Bunganut Pig Wednesday night, Blue Raider football head coach Andy McCollum refused to say that this was the best class in his five years of Division I-A recruiting for MTSU.

"This is a great class, and I'm tickled to death with the work that's gone into it," McCollum said.

The 2003 MTSU recruiting class is rated No. 1 in the Sun Belt Conference, No. 46 nationally and includes four players who rank in the top 60, according to www.rivals100.com.

To put this in perspective, Vanderbilt's recruiting class is rated No. 64, Memphis No. 78, W. Virginia No. 50 and Penn State No. 71 by the same poll.

The University of Tennessee is rated No. 9 on two other prominent polls.

McCollum's announcement of the signees coincided with film highlights of each player that triggered many cheers from the audience upon introduction.

One such audience eruption occurred during the video of Jonathan Harris, a 5-foot-10-inch, 185-pound cornerback from Montgomery, Ala., who was voted honorable mention All-State and first team All-Metro for his punishing 93 total tackles in 2002.

"Jonathan Harris is a great signee that Coach Bradford had in his drill and said if this kid will hit, you he would have a great signee. And as you saw in that film, he will wear you out," McCollum said.

Some of the recruits of 2003 turned down other more nationally prominent Division I-A schools to sign with MT.

Kenyon Buford, a 6-foot-6-inch, 345-pound offensive lineman from Riverdale High School, was heavily recruited by Ohio State, Louisville and Auburn. He helped the Murfreesboro school to get to three state championship games. The Associated Press voted Buford to first team All-State and All-Midstate.

"I think it's special. The greatest thing about that and what's amazing in media and writers is he got offered by Ohio State, and committed to Ohio State, but then when Middle Tennessee gets him all of a sudden, well, Ohio State didn't really want him," McCollum said.

"We got a great player, from a great family, from a great high school program in a great city, and I really don't give a dime who else approves because we got a great kid."

Buford is among nine mid-term signees who first committed to MT.

"I couldn't be more proud of that group," McCollum said. "We started out as good as anyone in the country with those nine guys right there; everything else added to that."

John Henry, a 6-foot-6-inch, 303-pound offensive and defensive lineman from Hillsboro H.S. chose Middle Tennessee over Tennessee, Miami (Florida), Florida and Notre Dame. He was a first team All-Midstate selection.

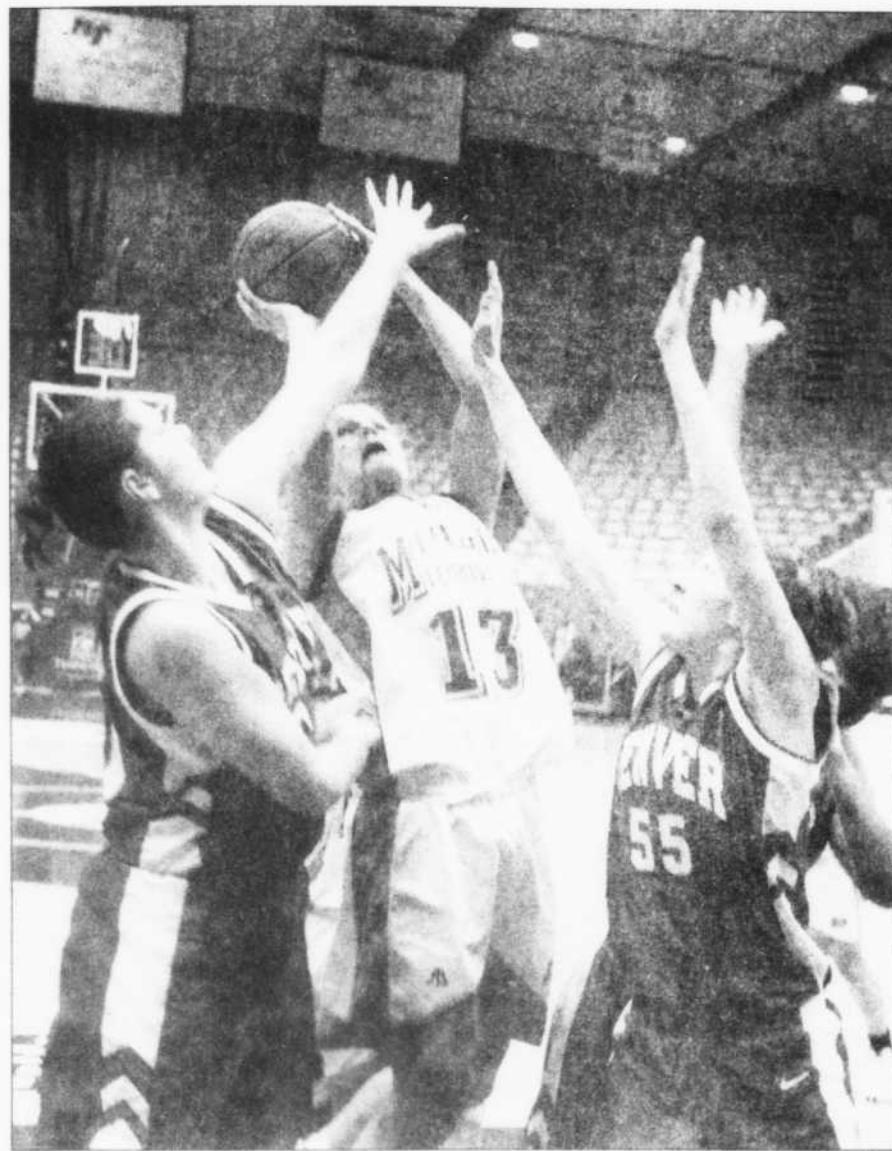
Taron Henry, a 6-foot-2-inch, 187-pound wide receiver also from Riverdale High School was recruited by Tennessee, Auburn, Alabama, Florida and Florida State before breaking his leg in the fourth game of his senior season and missing the rest of the year.

"We've gone to the doctors, he's rehabbed, and we think he's one of the best high school receivers we've seen playing out there," McCollum said.

Wide receiver was a position

See Recruiting, 8

MT squeaks by Denver for win



Photos by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

Mia Parvianen, above, tries to go over Lady Pioneer defender to earn a goal during Saturday's game. The Lady Raiders scored at the last minute to defeat the Denver Pioneers, 67-65.

Parvianen made 3 of 7 goals during the game. Guard Paula Penttila, right, nailed four out of six two-point attempts in the game. The Lady Raiders head to Jonesboro Thursday to play Arkansas State University.



Stephany Smith earns 100th win

By Osby Martin
Staff Writer

In an exciting game Saturday, Middle Tennessee didn't just get a big conference win, it also garnered win No. 100 for head coach Stephany Smith.

In her sixth season with the Lady Raiders, Smith became only the third women's coach to win 100 games in MT history, joining Lewis Blevins (182 wins) and Larry Inman (161 wins).

"Those are great accolades, and I hope to roll past two and three [hundred] and beyond. I don't plan on getting out of this racket any time in the near future. You can't

give me any of that credit; it's for the coaches and the players that come here and commit themselves to this program," Smith said. "I just happen to be the one holding the reigns. It's sweet to get the 100th win, but more so, it's sweet that we beat Denver for the first time."

Smith got into the coaching business as a graduate assistant at Harding University in 1989 before being hired as an assistant at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. She began her career at MT as an assistant coach in 1993. She was then promoted to the associate head coach position in 1996.

Later, she became the head coach in 1997.

She got her first coaching victory on Nov. 20, 1997, at the Nashville Arena over Belmont University, 65-60. She hit her 50th win at Tennessee State University, 62-38, on Feb. 19, 2000. Her 100th victory came Saturday night with a nail-biting 67-65 win over Denver in the final seconds.

Smith's teams have made three postseason appearances, once in the NCAA and twice in the women's National Invitational Tournament, and have won a regular season conference crown and a conference tournament title. ♦

Holmes hits the winning shot

By Josh Beasley
Staff Writer

Head coach Stephany Smith and her Lady Raiders capped off a successful week of Sun Belt Conference play Saturday with an impressive win over SBC Western Division leader University of Denver 67-65.

En route to a seed in the SBC tournament, Patrice Holmes led the Lady Raiders (13-10, 6-4 SBC) in top fashion, finishing with 20 points, eight boards and six assists. Isolating herself one-on-one, Holmes took control in the final seconds of the game, driving the lane for a kiss off the glass to sink the winning bucket.

"My team looks at me as a leader," Holmes said. "They instill confidence in me, and I just took what the defense gave me."

The Lady Raiders jumped out to an early 17-9 first-half lead, but the Pioneers staged an 8-0 run to tie the game at 17 with 6:51 remaining before the half. Eboni Kirby got the Lady Raiders back out to a 4-point lead, but back to back threes by the Pioneers' Nicky Eason gave Denver its first lead of the game, giving them a 1-point advantage at the halfway mark.

The Lady Raiders dominated down low, posting 42 of their 67 points inside the paint, compared to Denver's 14. The Pioneers were able to hang around due to lights out shooting from behind the arc. The Pioneers were 12 of 23 from three-point land knocking down eight of these in the second half.

However, the Lady Raiders proved to be too much down the stretch.

"We did not do a very good job sporadically throughout the entire game recognizing shooters and locating shooters," Smith said. "There were times when they had other people in the game that weren't necessarily shooters. We would deny them and not help on penetration. The times we helped on penetration their shooter would be wide open."

The Lady Raiders picked up their second SBC victory of the week after a road win last Thursday at the University of North Texas.

The win at UNT halted a six-game SBC road skid for the Lady Raiders, which dated back to Feb. 2, 2002. The win was also the first in school history over the Mean Green (1-3 SBC).

The Lady Raiders found themselves trailing by one at the half, only to open the second half with a 14-2 run.

"We just weren't very aggressive in the first half," Smith said, "but we really fought hard in the second half. And I am proud for the way we came back."

Sophomore sensation Patrice Holmes led the way in this one with 18 points, as she was 5-of-12 from the field and 7-of-9 from the charity stripe.

The Lady Raiders are on the road once again this week with a pair of SBC showdowns at Arkansas State and Arkansas-Little Rock. They'll return to the Glass House Feb. 22 for their final home game of the season. ♦

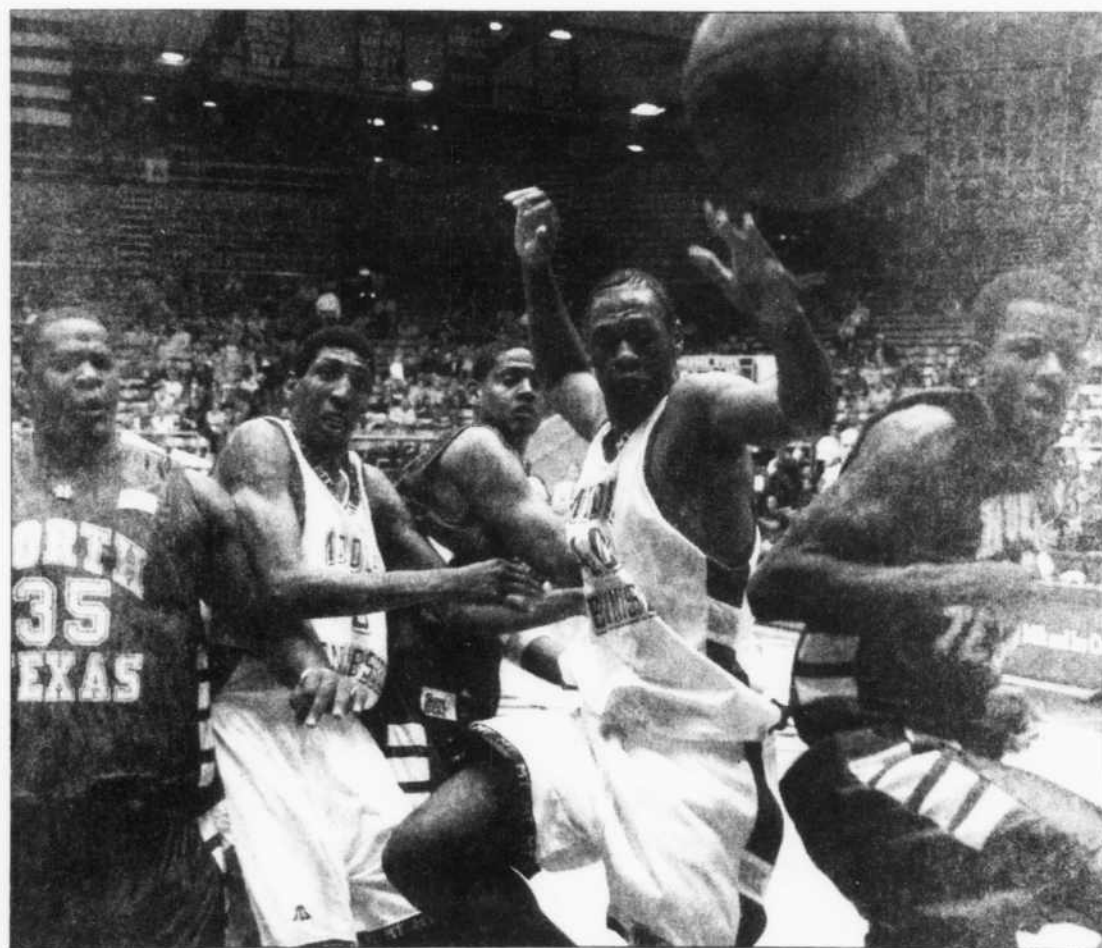


Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

A mass of Blue Raider and North Texas defenders fight for the basketball Saturday.

Men's basketball gains two more wins

By Grant Ellington
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders played hard to the Mean Green Eagles of North Texas (7-14, 2-3 Sun Belt) Thursday night.

The Blue Raiders (12-11, 6-3 SBC) came into the game winning four of their last five contests overall and three straight at home. The Blue Raiders were looking to extend that streak Thursday night and up their consecutive win total to a season-high three games.

The Blue Raiders came out looking very strong offensively,

posting an 8-0 run and grabbing 16 offensive boards and 19 rebounds overall in the first half. William Phippen posted 14 points to give the Blue Raiders a 39-24 lead at the half.

The second half started where it ended. The Blue Raiders began the half on a 10-0 run. Phippen picked up where he left off as well, scoring 10 of the team's first 12 points.

"I wasn't really on a roll, I was getting open looks, and my teammates got me the ball," Phippen said.

The Blue Raiders went on to post a 25-point lead; their

biggest of the season.

"This was one of our better games this season," head coach Kermit Davis said. "You can credit a little to the extended half where we congratulated our student athletes. The guys had a little more time to discuss their strategies for the second half."

The Blue Raiders went on to win Thursday night's game in commanding fashion with a final score of 76-55. William Phippen led the team in scoring with 27 points. John

See Blue Raiders, 8

Blue Raiders ready for championship run

By Michael Rutledge
Assistant Sports Editor

Want to talk about domination?

With the Sun Belt Conference regular season closing out, the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (12-11, 6-3 SBC) are destroying opponents on

their way to their much awaited showdown with rival Western Kentucky University.

MT finished out the weekend with a pair of wins over the University of North Texas and the University of Denver.

"We are playing well, and I hope Western finishes out well so we can see who's the best up

in Bowling Green," MT forward William Phippen said after the Blue Raiders easily handled the University of North Texas in the Murphy Center Thursday night.

Championship winners, year in and year out, have one distinguishing quality that stands

See Championship, 8



By David Lawrence
Staff Columnist

This edition of Total Nonstop Action started off with Larry Zbyszko walking out with the NWA Heavyweight title. A.J. Styles, apparently taking pity on the old man, came out and tried to act like he was grateful to be in the same ring with Zbyszko.

Jeff Jarrett ran to the ring and demanded his title back. Just as a slight beat-down started, a large group of men dressed in army fatigues swarmed the ring and dragged Jarrett off. It turned out that it was all set up by Vince Russo. Operation S.E.X. has begun, and its main goal was to try and get Jarrett to join with Russo. After the last match of the night, the assembled forces of Sports Entertainment Xtreme did a massive beat-down on the champ. Jarrett was saved when the rest of the TNA roster rushed down to the ring, beat the tar out of Russo, and carried the injured champion to the back.

The NWA title was given to Styles at the start of the show, which didn't sit well with Raven. Their fight was broken up, but not before Raven broke two of Styles' fingers and ran off with the title.

The X-title was put on the

line when the Amazing Red challenged champion Sonny Siaki. The match was too short. With these two competitors the match could have gone on for twenty minutes at least, but Siaki pinned Red in barely half that.

The NWA World Tag Team champions Triple X sought revenge against the Disciples of the New Church for the beating they received last time. The match was surprisingly decent, but in the end, both teams fell victim to a variation of the "Dusty Finish." The Dusty Finish, so-called because of its inventor Dusty Rhodes, is what happens when the referee is knocked out, requiring a second referee to enter the ring and continue overseeing the match. As soon as one of the men is declared the winner, the original referee wakes up and reverses the decision of the second referee.

As a result of this match, the tag titles have now been suspended.

In other TNA news, Disco Inferno is back, but he is no longer calls himself that. His new name is Glen "The Gift" Gilverdi, and he is continuing his feud with Jorge Estrada. Amazingly, The Gift lost the match, which caused the forces of S.E.X. to come out and strip

Estrada of his sequined jumpsuit.

Joining TNA this week is a newcomer by the name of Tenacious Z. Z is rather remarkable in that he lost his leg to cancer when he was a teen and has been wrestling professionally for little over a year. This kid has one of the best dropkicks I've ever seen. For his big debut match on the TNA Pay-Per-View, he fought B.G. James. Not a bad match by any means, and Z got a surprise win over James, but the post match beating was a bit much.

Desire and Trinity fought, and I have to say that I'm getting more and more impressed with Trinity every time I see her. She added a suplex to her move-set. Trinity defeated Desire after hitting her with a moonsault.

And finally, since I just can't make it through an entire column without making at least one joke at his expense, David Flair and his mighty burlap sack fought Ron Killings, Jerry Lynn and Mike Saunders. The only bright spot in this train wreck of a match was when Killings pinning Flair to win.

As always, if you want to the show live, head on down to the TNA Asylum at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds in Nashville. General admission is \$10 and ringside seats are \$15. ♦

NWA:TNA Wrestling Insider

Track team does well in Indiana

By Trey Porter
Staff Writer

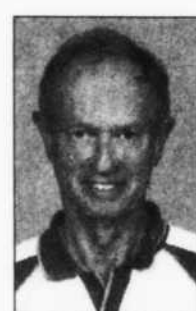
The Blue Raiders finished strong this weekend at the Indiana Invitational in Bloomington, Ind.

Mardy Scales, Sean Waller, Rosemary Okafor and both the men's and women's 4x400 meter relay teams finished with wins on Saturday, which was the final day of competition at Harry C. Gladstein Fieldhouse.

Sophomore Wesley Dupar-Scott crossed the line first in the 200-meter dash but was disqualified for running out of his lane. D.J. Spann came in fourth in the 200 in 22.08, the same time he notched in the prelims on Friday, and senior Omar Ali took seventh with a time of 22.18.

"Both teams did well this weekend, and the women continue to improve each week," said head coach Dean Hayes. "Mardy has been tremendous each week, and Wesley is really coming on as a sprinter. We have to keep working and look to peak in a few weeks at the conference meet."

Scales stayed undefeated in competition in the 60-meter dash this season by winning the finals in 6.69. Dupar-Scott took third in the 60 in 6.82.



Hayes

"Both teams did well this weekend, and the women continue to improve each week."

— Dean Hayes,
MT track coach

Waller, a freshman, continued to impress on Saturday, winning the men's 400-meter dash in 48.70. In his best finish as a Blue Raider, sophomore Victor Okafor came in second in 49.06. Freshman J.J. Strum was seventh in the triple jump, clearing 42-9.

Okafor came up big for the Lady Raiders, winning the women's 400-meter dash for the second time this season in 54.53 while Nicolette Jarret finished 10th in 59.16.

Freshman Kerry Barrow finished seventh in the women's 60-meter dash with a time of 7.85 and was eighth in the 200-meter dash in 25.92. Jerkita McClorin finished third in the 60-meter hurdles in 8.79.

Junior Letitia Eady had another impressive outing in the triple jump this weekend.

Clearing 40 feet last week, Eady finished second at IU with a mark of 39-9 1/4, while sophomore Roland Howard took sixth with a jump of 38 1/4. Freshman Meaghan Byrd marked 42-3 1/2 in the shot put, finishing ninth.

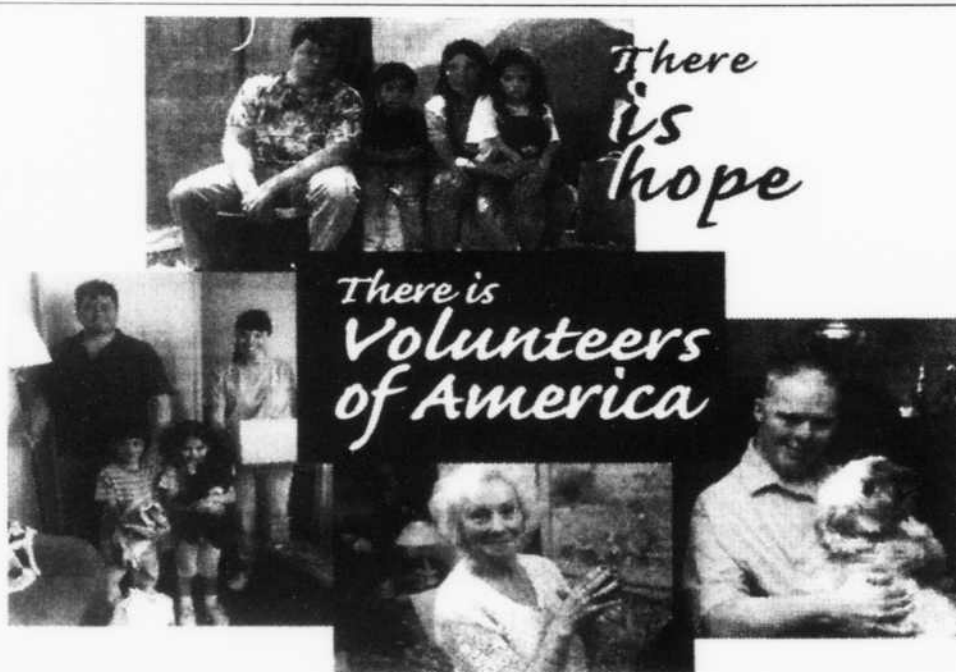
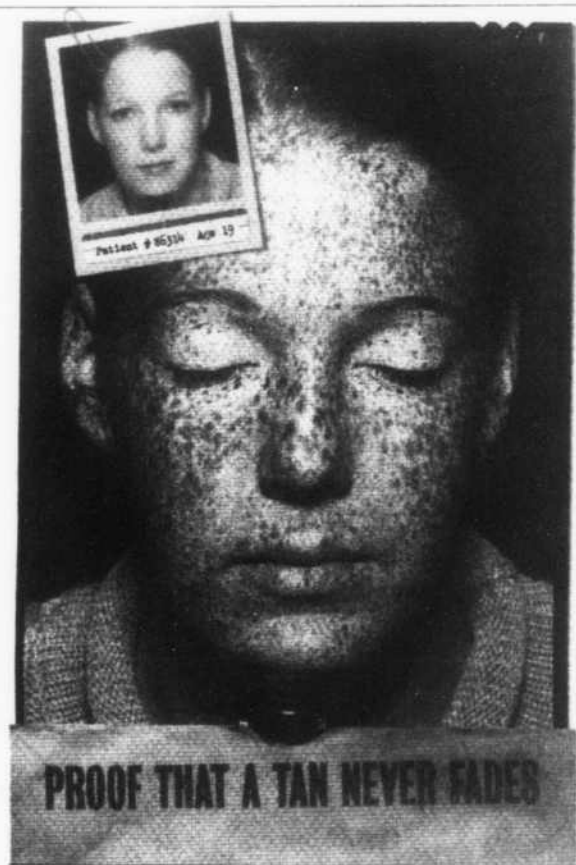
The men's and women's 4x400 meter relay teams won Saturday. The men's squad of Dupar-Scott, Ali, Tim Hicks, and Waller ran 3:14.91, while the women's team of Jarret, Kishara George, Lanora Gray and Okafor finished in 3:45.77. The men's 4x800-meter relay placed third, finishing 8:12.38.

The Blue Raiders run at home next week as the Murphy Center will host the Middle Tennessee Classic next Saturday in the final meet before the conference championships. ♦

A special ultraviolet camera makes it possible to see the underlying skin damage done by the sun. And since 1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime, what better reason to always use sunscreen, wear protective clothing and use common sense.



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY
888.462.DERM www.aad.org



For people who have to deal with the harsh realities of life, Volunteers of America is there to help. We are one of the nation's largest nonprofit providers of affordable housing to families, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

The need is great. And we are there to offer support and compassion to help create positive change in a person's life.

Find out how you can help. Call 1.800.899.0089 or visit www.volunteersofamerica.org.

Volunteers of America
There are no limits to caring.™

CLASSIFIEDS

INDEX			
Sales	100	House for rent	155
General	105	House for sale	160
Help Wanted	110	Roommates	165
Internships	115	Subleasing	170
Career	120	Lost & Found	175
Electronics	125	Personals	180
Textbooks	130	Pets	185
Tickets	135	Services	190
Misc.	140	Travel	195
Garage Sales	145	Wanted to buy	200
Apt. for rent	150	Other	205

Sidelines Classifieds
James Union Building
Room 310
615-904-8154

Classifieds are free to students, faculty and staff.
Call for off-campus rates.

100 Sales

Mongoose bike bought new in 2000 for sale for \$150 or BO. It has hardly been used. If interested, call 217-8813 or email MECB@aol.com '94 Honda Accord EX, 2dr, Green, Alloy Wheels, CD Changer, Power Sunroof, 195K miles, \$4,750. Call: 615-893-7513. Electric Guitar-Gibson Epiphone, Les Paul pickup. One owner, like new condition. Comes with hard case. \$425. 898-3449. Trumpet-Silver Bach Mercedes. Very good condition, sounds great. Comes with hard case. \$550. Call 898-3449. Pontiac Grand Prix, 1994. Great

Condition, \$5,000. Call 896-9395. 1994 Geo Tracker. White, great gas mileage, runs great. \$2,100. Call Ryan at 485-0701. Canon ES8200r 8mm Camcorder w/LCD flip-out screen, image stabilizer, 22X optical zoom, 700X digital zoom, remote control, photo mode, 2.5" color LCD Screen-rotates 180 deg., built in video light, flexi-zone auto exposure, programmed auto exposure, sports, portrait, spotlight, and sand and snow modes, time base corrector, preset titler function, built-in mic. Includes battery, compact power adapter, AV cable, shoulder strap, remote control. \$300 call 907-1338 or 631-5366 ask for Lofay.

1995 Chevy Beretta with heat and air. 45K on engine, gray in good condition. \$3,500. Call Forrest at 220-2469 or 506-6446. Steel Buildings - year end clearance, factory seconds. Freight Damaged. Repairs. Thousands Off. Financing Available. 1-800-222-6335. Made in USA. '91 Dodge Daytona 2D Hatchback, auto, blk, \$800 FIRM. Go to: www.dd911k.com for more info. Or Call/email me: 615-273-4075, jac3w@mtsu.edu 33X 12.5 TSL Thornbird All Terrain tires 25% tread \$200 obo. 2002 Model Half sliding glass soft windows for Jeep Wrangler 88-96 Models. Brand new in Box. \$275 obo. Call Jeff at 417-3157, jasjeepster@cs.com Cannondale MT800 Tandem Bike for Sale. Yellow, new, fully loaded, ridden once. \$1,200. Call 631-9578 for more info. Many items for sale. Brown recliner in good condition \$65 OBO. Large rap around sectional, multiple light colors, has a recliner on both ends, seats 6 people, great condition \$680 new will sell for \$250, OBO. Two nice end tables \$50 OBO. Brand new kitchen table, four chairs, Oak top not laminated, green base on table and chairs, looks great \$120 OBO. Large computer /school desk with book rack on top, must see \$45 OBO. Very large entertainment center, excellent condition cherry finish, great for getting all of your entertainment needs organized \$235 OBO. 26" mountain bike with 21 speeds, bike lock and bike rack for car, all for

\$150. Full range kick-er subwoofer system, hardly used will sell for \$225 OBO. 540-849-0192. 1995 Mercury Tracer. 73,000 Miles. \$2,800. Call 501-8785. Keyboard case: Anvil ATA Flight Case. Fits KORG T-1, 01/W, Triton Pro-X or similar 88-Key keyboard. \$325, obo. Call 898-2635 or see Dr. Piekarski in Mass Comm, Room 207. Keep the holiday weight off with Total Control! Burn fat, block cravings and boost energy! All natural, ephedra free, 6-week supply \$38.00 with a 30-day MBG. We do accept Visa, MC and Discover. Place your order today, 615-874-8232. '88 Volvo 740 Turbo. Black, lots of options, newer engine and turbo. Less than 70K miles. Must see! Sharp, sport ride cheap! \$2,900, obo. Call 615-217-8599. STEEL BUILDINGS Winter Clearance, Factory Seconds. Repo's. 20X26, 25X34, 35X54 Make Offers. Financing. 1-800-222-6335. Cap + Barbell Professional Weight & Bench. Preacher Curls & Leg Lift. Includes 300lbs. of weights. \$210.00 Call 907-1957. Downhill skis, ski poles bindings and ski boots (men's) good for teen/adult beginners \$275/OBO call 615-904-3947. Firewood, split, seasoned, red oak and cherry. 340 rick, 70 cord U-Haul it. Barfield area. 867-5077.

110 Help Wanted
WRITERS WANTED
Get experience and material for

your portfolio by writing for a university publication. Apply in JUB 306. Needed: caring, experienced, reliable child care workers for Church Nursery, near campus. Hours are every Sunday morning and some evenings as your schedule permits. Good Pay, New Facilities. (Avail during summers a plus but not nec.) lease stop by the St. Mark's Church Office for an application at 1267 North Rutherford Blvd. **Bar tender Trainers Needed** \$250 a day potential Local Positions 1-800-293-3985 ext. 305 **International telecom company expanding into the area. Needs representatives. Flexible scheduling. Call 884-2679 for more information.**

120 Career

Gear Up Institute. Objective: To work with at risk adolescent youth in a four week college preparatory program. Qualifications to include: Bachelors degree preferred or senior status with a university with a minimum of 95 undergraduate hours earned in Child Development and Family Studies, Psychology, Secondary Education, or Sociology/Social Work. Pay commensurate to education and experience, additional compensation for traveling is available for persons willing to ride with students to and from Nashville daily. send resume to Box 86. Are you interested in bath and beauty products, gifts for the whole family, clothing, and more? Are you looking for great prices or an opportunity to sell these products and

make up to 50% commission on your sales? If you would like to buy or sell AVON, please call Karen Miles at 867-0245 or 804-0547 today! **ATTENTION STUDENTS!** Great jobs inside. Super pay, Fun, Easy to learn. Paid Weekly Call Max at 907-3032 Today. **SPRING BREAK '03 WITH STUDENTCITY.COM!** FREE FOOD & DRINKS AND 150% Lowest Price Guarantee! REPS WANTED! Earn 2 FREE TRIPS, VIP treatment, cash and prizes! Call 1-800-293-1445 or e-mail sales@studentcity.com

150 Apt. for rent

Duplex right across from MTSU library. 216 Airport Ave. 2 bd, living, dining, kitchen with appliances and hook-ups for W/D. Hardwood floors, no pets. \$500/month. Matt Ward 849-2223. ext 288, leave msg. One bedroom and private bath for female available at University Courtyard. \$354/m. Call 867-7497. Apt. for rent @ Univ. Courtyard. Rent \$385. Dep. \$300 but I will pay half. Move in immediately. Lease ends July 31, 2003. Call 907-2261 or call-forbrent@comcast.net. Room for rent. Male preferred. 1 bedroom with private bathroom in a 2 bedroom apartment. Move in anytime after exams. \$425 includes, furniture, appliances, shuttle service to school. Ground floor at Sterling Apartments. Call Nick at 423-503-6187 with any questions. Hurry! Hurry! One bedroom for rent in a two bedroom apt. Rent before Dec. and pay

only \$385, includes everything water, phone, cable, and bedroom items. Lease ends July 31st. Call 308-9700.

155 House for rent

Murfreesboro area. 4BR, 2.5 BA, Completely Separate Master Suite with BA. Den with Rock Fireplace, DR, Hdwd, C/H/A, new carpet & paint. Large deck with fenced backyard. \$1,275 mo. \$1,275 deposit. 615-453-2884, 615-545-9296. Large 2-story house 3 miles from campus. 5 spacious rooms for students. Female students preferred. \$250 a month + utilities. Discounts available. \$50 off 1st month rent for the first lease. \$300 security deposit. Fully furnished, washer & dryer, dish washer, microwave, central H/A and Culligan drinking water. Call 898-2005. Condo- 3 bed/ 2 1/2 bath near 124. 1/40 sq. ft. All appliances. Large master and kitchen, pantry, vaulted ceiling, laundry, garage, lawn care, pets. \$880. 615-423-6272.

165 Roommates

Roommate needed for small apt. \$255/month includes all utilities except phone and cable internet. Male or female. Small pets allowed. 896-3226. Spacious room with private bath. Laundry and kitchen privileges. Grad student preferred. \$350. 867-6994. Looking for 2 female roommates for a nice 3 bed/2 bath house near campus. \$360 a month per person, all util., cable and internet included. Call Ashley

at 474-0002. Roommate needed for 3 bedroom apt. at SUH. Available at the end of fall semester. \$420/month includes washer/dryer, all bills (including cable.) I will pay you \$100 on move-in. Call 898-3588 or email jwh2q@mtsu.edu. Roommate wanted: \$100 deposit, \$385 includes all utilities, washer & dryer, fully furnished. Call 615-907-3962 or 931-278-0043. Roommate Needed. Female or Gay-male to share 2 bedroom 11/2 bath apartment 5 mins from campus. Liberal Arts major preferred. Smokers preferred. Must be clean, courteous, open-minded and like cats. Rent \$225/month and half utilities. Please call 217-9470 for an interview & more details!! Ask for Jenny or leave a message. One bedroom avail. in Raider's Crossings. Furnished w/W/D, ethernet hook-up, premium cable. Walking distance to MTSU. Rent is \$420/m. Call Jesse at 615-268-4114. Roommate wanted at Chelsea Place. \$295.00+ 1/2 util. call 896-3612. Roommate needed to fill extremely large bedroom w/own bath in local townhouse. \$260/month + 1/3 utilities. 615-867-7775.

170 Subleasing

4 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. 1 or 2 male roommates needed at Sterling University Gables, poolside view. Furnished, free rent for February. 2 Excellent Roommates to live with. Lease ends in August. Call 494-3913 or 481-5600 as

for Marcus Bell. One male and one female needed to sublease 2 bdrms in a 4 bdrm/4 bath apartment @ Univ. Courtyards. Will pay 1/2 of 1st months rent and security dep. Call 347-3956 or 347-3954 ask for David or Sarah. Apt. for sublease at University Courtyard for summer. Last 2 weeks of May are discounted. June & July are \$339 a month. Includes all utilities, furnishings, private bedroom, share bath. Call Kelly @ 893-6354. Female needed to take over lease @ Univ. Courtyard. Private bed/bath. \$365 a month, reg. \$385! 5 minutes from campus. Call Leigh (615) 482-3090. Female wanted to sublease 1 bedroom in 4 bed/2 bath apt. one mile from campus. Fully furnished. \$325 a month/utilities included. call Amber at 615-758-3333 or 615-430-7333. Male sublesser needed at Sterling University Gables starting in January. Rent is \$330 a month and I will pay you \$100 to move in! Apartment is fully furnished with W/D and has a view of the pool. Call 893-3118. Apt. for sublease at Sterling Univ. Gables on S. Rutherford Blvd. 1 bedroom available out of 4 WD included, \$300/month. Move in after finals. Call Jacob at 931-286-0207. I need a sublesser! \$485 per month includes everything, phone cable - full-size W/D, smoking is fine. Large 2b/2b apt. Male or Female is fine. Call 218-7447. Free 2 months rent, Free refrigerator and freezer w/lease agreement. \$370/month all utilities included. Sterling Gables (male)

call 604-7400 or 289-0720 or go by Sterling and ask for 933C. Sublease apartment. Nottingham Apt. Across from campus 2 bedroom 2 bath. email chrispytaul@yahoo.com.

190 Service

Student needs a tutor for college algebra. Reply at RNBtutor@aol.com or call 615-273-2314 or on cell 542-4231.

195 Travel

#1 Spring Break Vacations! Cancun, Jamaica, Bahamas & Florida! Best Parties, Best Prices! Space is limited!!!! 1-800-234-7007. www.endless-summer.com SPRING BREAK Mexico, Jamaica, Bahamas & Florida! Free Parties & drinks! Lowest prices! www.breakertravel.com (800) 575-2026.

205 Other

Looking to start a band. Influences are mainly Radiohead, Smashing Pumpkins, Failure, Quicksand, and Hum. Let's see what happens! Call me at 896-3226 if interested. Fraternities/Sororities Clubs/Student Groups Earn \$1,000-\$2,000 this semester with a proven Campus-Fundraiser 3 hour fundraising event. Our programs make fundraising easy with no risks. Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so get with the program! It works. Contact CampusFundraiser at 888-923-3238, or visit www.campus-fundraiser.com

Recruiting: McCollum remains optimistic

Continued from 6

that the Raiders needed more depth in because they lost four players including David Youell and Tyrone Calico from last year.

The only position on the team that lost as many players as the receiver position was the linebacker position, most notably Sheldon Durham.

Some of the other wide receivers recruited include Seneca Chambers, Pedro Holiday, Jerrin Holt, Tommy Manus and Bradley Robinson.

Holiday and Manus were also midterm signees. In addition to football, Holiday ran on his high school track team.

"Pedro is a kid we tried to get out of high school," McCollum said. "He was a 100, 200 and 400 meter state champion in Georgia and signed with Auburn out of high school, and then we got him back."

McCollum said he believes that some of the receivers like Seneca Chambers "are playmakers, and could come in and

make an immediate impact."

Addressing the loss of Sheldon Durham and three other linebackers, the Raiders got commitments from five linebackers for this year's class.

Sean Mosley, a 6-foot-3-inch, 245-pound linebacker from Sylvania, Ga., was the *Savannah Morning News* Defensive Player of the Year. He finished his senior season with 129 tackles, including 11 for a loss of yards.

"I felt like maybe he was one of the top players in the class," McCollum said. "He visited some major, major colleges and had a great visit here, and our guys did a great job recruiting him."

"He's a physical, bring-it-down-hill, don't talk about it player," McCollum added.

MT addressed the loss of last year's top two running backs, Dwone Hicks and Reshard Lee, by recruiting four interesting prospects including Terry Jackson, Eugene Gross, Demarco McNair and Justin Rainey.

McCollum said he believes that the running back position, with the return of Calvin German and Don Calloway, will make for a competitive camp.

"We've got seven guys that have a chance, and we'll find three or four real good ones," McCollum said. "We've got to find the ones who are going to take care of the football and break it down hill."

Overall, MT lost 22 of last year's players, but it has managed to add 28 players to fill those voids.

McCollum mentioned at least 10 players from this year's class that he expects to make an immediate impact.

However, the coaches will "have to wait and see how they mature over the course of the summer, what kind of shape they are in, and when they will be ready to play," McCollum said.

"I think we are at a point in the program where the young ones don't have to play right now but some of the ones we had here will have to." ♦

Blue Raiders: MT 6-3 in Sun Belt

Continued from 6

Humphrey held the Mean Green's leading scorer and last year's No. 9 scorer in the nation, Chris Davis, to 17 points.

"He's a hell of a basketball player," Humphrey said. "We kept it out of his hands, and I have to give credit to my teammates. We played a good game."

Humphrey was the second leading scorer with 14 points.

The Raiders finished with 18 assists, five of which were by senior Eric Parham, who leads the team with 76 assists.

"I have to give credit to Eric. He really led our team out there tonight," Davis said.

The Blue Raiders' leading scorer, Tommy Gunn (16.4 PPG), was limited to eight points and was a little banged up in the first half.

"Tommy has a little thigh bruise, but I expect he'll play Saturday night," Davis said. "He's been carrying this team on his back all season. We had a lot of players step up, and I'm really proud of the effort these guys gave tonight."

One of the biggest factors in Thursday's game was the number of rebounds. The

Blue Raiders out-rebounded North Texas, 45-27, and pulled in a total of 18 offensive boards. MT was also able to outscore North Texas in the paint, 38-18.

"This is a team that is playing for first place," said Eagles' coach Johnny Jones. "They came out with a little more fire than we did."

For the Blue Raiders this victory could not have come at a better time. Not only did they improve their home record to 8-4, but they also edged one more game closer to Western Kentucky and improved to 6-3 in conference play.

The Raiders traveled to Denver (12-12 4-6 SBC) Saturday night. They took advantage of the Pioneers' sluggish start, taking an early 10-4 lead.

The Raiders led the entire game despite 19 turnovers. Tommy Gunn was MT's leading scorer with 22 points, shooting a perfect 11-11 at the line. Humphrey was a close second with 18 points and was 3-6 from behind the arch. With this victory, MT has now won four in a row and six of its last seven games. The men's team will play host to Arkansas State (9-11, 2-5 SBC) on Thursday at 7 p.m. ♦

Championship: Next game on Thursday

Continued from 6

them out from the contenders – chemistry on and off the court.

The players of MT showed that type of chemistry before Thursday night's contest moments before they took the Monte Hale Arena floor.

"I looked outside and saw the players all talking to each other about how and who was going to guard other players," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "That kind of team leadership is what teams like Duke have. I'm not comparing us to them, but it is nice to see things like that get started here."

With North Texas' Chris Davis on the floor Thursday

night, the MT players knew it was going to take more than one player to hold down the Mean Green's leading scorer. The Blue Raiders defined team play Thursday night to shut down Davis and UNT, and the result looked like a team determined to make a long run in the upcoming SBC tournament.

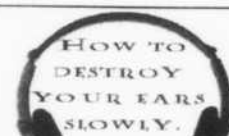
"First of all, I want to say Chris Davis is one hell of a basketball player," MT guard John Humphrey said after defending UNT's premier player, "but, I can't say enough about my teammates. We all worked together, and we are playing well right now."

Davis, who leads UNT in points per game, was complete-

ly shut down by MT as he scored only 17 points, and the Blue Raiders dominated the boards on both sides of the court. MT avenged a blowout loss to Denver last year in Murfreesboro.

Western Kentucky (14-8, 6-2 SBC) is a game ahead of Middle Tennessee in the SBC East standings, will meet MT for the regular season crown if both teams finish out the conference schedule unbeaten.

The final regular season game for both schools is scheduled for March 1 on the Hilltopper campus. MT beat Western in the team's first meeting at the Murphy Center. ♦



Daily exposure to high noise levels can cause gradual hearing loss. A certified audiologist can evaluate your environment and your hearing health. For information, contact the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association at 1-800-638-TALK or visit www.asha.org.



digital planet

MORE THAN A USED CD STORE!

BUY SELL & TRADE

- CD'S
- TAPES
- VIDEOS
- VIDEO GAMES
- RECORDS
- POSTERS

2 locations

Murfreesboro
230 Stones River
Mall Blvd.
(next to Sir Pizza)
849-4070

111 1/2 W. Lytle St.
898-1175

Look for Sun Belt basketball statistics every Wednesday and Thursday in Sidelines.

Sports Department - 898-2816
slsports@mtsu.edu

Signs of Love
For Your Valentine

I Love You Maze
From \$24⁹⁵ & Up
In Sterling Silver & Gold Filled

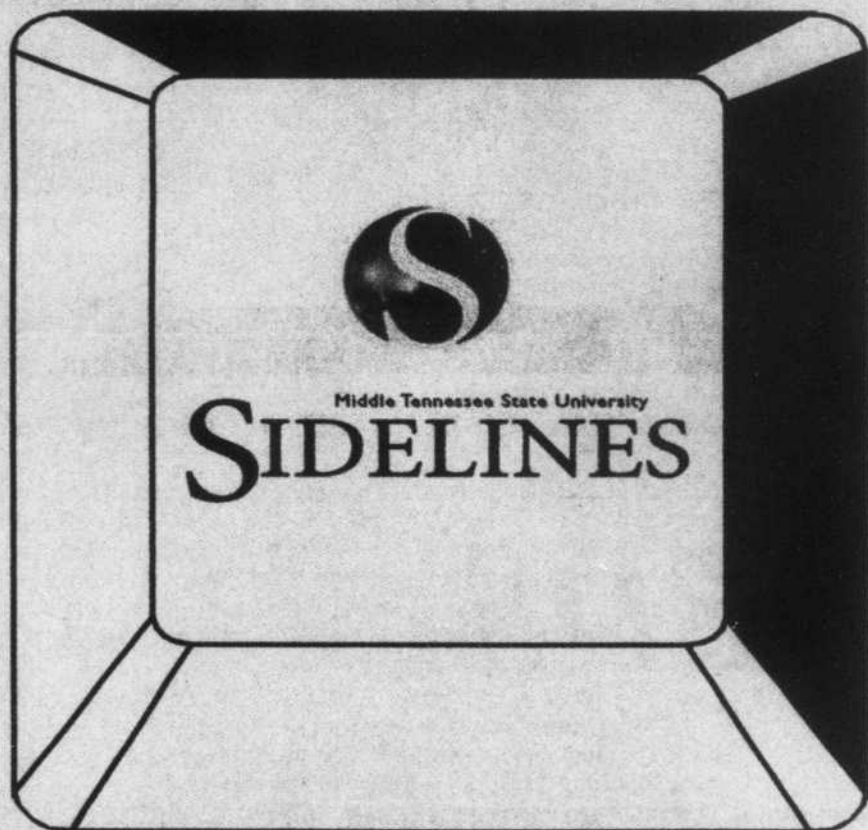
Give Her a Kiss That Will Last Forever
From \$24⁹⁵ & UP
In Sterling Silver & Gold Filled

Heart Bracelet w/ Diamond Accent
14K White Gold or Yellow Gold \$100 & Up

Bell JEWELERS
Since 1879

821 NW Broad Street
(across from Toots)
615-893-9162
Mon - Sat
www.belljeweler.com

Your key to campus news and events.



www.mtsusidelines.com

**Nashville Area
College to Career Fair
For Juniors, Seniors, Graduate
Students, and Alumni**

**Networking Bonanza!
Job Opportunities!**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2003
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Tennessee State Fairgrounds
Nolensville Road, Nashville**

Free tickets and rosters of employers are available in the MTSU Career Center.
KUC 328 and BAS S123



**Nashville Area
Teacher Recruitment Fair
For Juniors, Seniors, Graduate
Students, and Alumni**

Meet recruiters and have on-site interviews with many school districts.

**Tuesday, February 11, 2003
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Tennessee State Fairgrounds
Nolensville Road, Nashville**

Free tickets and rosters of employers are available in the MTSU Placement Center.
KUC 328 and BAS S123

Student Teachers who are unable to obtain their ticket on campus must present their MTSU ID at the Fair Entrance