

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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Bredesen in dark, MT in red

Governor informed after meeting
with Carr about business model

By JAY BAILEY
Staff Writer

After months of phone calls, Gov. Phil Bredesen met with Student Regent Gionni Carr and the leaders of the Coalition to Save Our Schools to discuss certain aspects of Chancellor Manning's new business model.

Carr and the leaders of the CSS were allowed to speak with Governor Bredesen for twenty minutes during his lunch break immediately following the January 14 protest at the Nashville capitol building. During that time they were allowed to express their concerns and inform him of various aspects of Chancellor Manning's business model to which he was unaware of.

Carr recapped the high points of the new model focusing on the 12 hour cap, the resulting "hidden" tuition increase, and the status of adjunct professors. He also spoke about the impact that the model will have on students across the state and the risk of a loss of the quality of education.

"A hidden tuition increase should not happen to students," Bredesen said. "Students should not bear the increase in tuition solely on themselves."

"Governor Bredesen

seemed rather surprised when Gionni Carr began speaking about the model and how it was going to impact students across the state," said Ashley Renner, a senior liberal arts major and a leader of the CSS.

After the meeting Carr began a pilgrimage across the state. He said his goal is to raise awareness of Chancellor Manning's new model by speaking to students in various schools controlled by the Tennessee Board of Regents. Carr said he hopes that by raising awareness students will be able to unify under the common goal of attaining a quality education.

Many students have contacted the CSS as well as Carr, fearing that they will be unable to return to school for the fall 2009 semester if the business model does not undergo major revisions, Renner said.

The Board of Regents is meeting on Monday Jan. 26, to discuss and vote on the way in which schools will implement budget cuts in the 2009 fiscal year. The CSS and Carr are currently organizing a protest for Wednesday at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. While it is not a TBR controlled school, UTK is facing budget cuts at the state level as well.

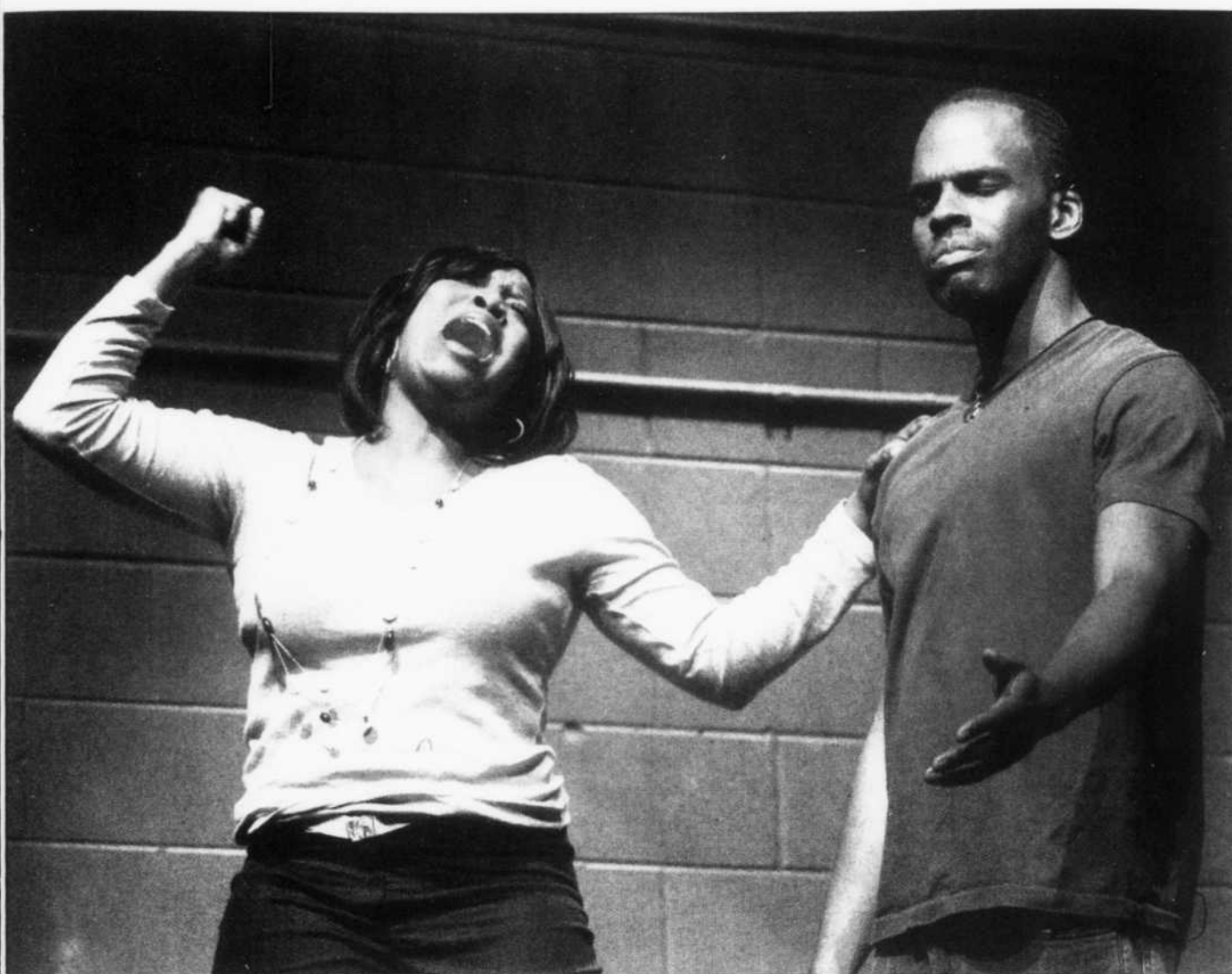


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Actors sing a gospel song while sharing their story about how they contracted AIDS. The director hoped that through songs and portrayals of the struggle of AIDS that people would learn how to prevent the contraction of the disease.

You Shall Live shines light on HIV

Students attend play that educates on effects of HIV/AIDS in black communities because of director's personal struggle

By MARIE KEMPH
Contributing Writer

The Office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs sponsored Thunder Kellie Productions' "You Shall Live" dramatic presentation to inform students about the effects of HIV.

The founder and playwright, Timothy Hampton, partnered with Nashville CARES to offer free HIV testing. Willing participants were escorted to two adjacent rooms and given an Orasure HIV test by the non profit organization.

Hampton said he was inspired to write, produce

and direct "You Shall Live" after being diagnosed as HIV positive 11 years ago.

"It has become common to tell people your mother, father or cousin passed away due to cancer, instead of telling the truth," Hamilton said. "I did not want anyone from my family, especially my mother, to ever have to lie on my behalf."

"You Shall Live" draws attention to the AIDS epidemic within the African-American community, which continues to worsen disproportionately compared to other ethnicities in the United States.

"I hope that this work will provide a new face and fresh voice geared towards and representative of African-Americans," Hamilton said. "I believe that education through entertainment will fight negative stereotypes."

The play's central character is a preacher's daughter who returns home from New York after discovering she has tested HIV positive. The woman's hopes for support are quickly shattered when she is ridiculed by fellow parishioners, prompting her father to host an educational forum one Sun-

day morning.

Following this premise, the play sheds light on how people react towards HIV and AIDS victims and how those victims contracted the disease.

Around 700 students and members of the surrounding community attended the sold-out show. "You Shall Live" received enthusiastic applause and a standing ovation from the audience.

To read more, visit us online.

online
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Nashville votes no to English-only proposal Thursday

A recent vote to make Nashville an English-only city did not pass last week

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Community News Editor

Nashville's English-only proposal, which would have made English the official governmental language, failed on Thursday after the majority of Nashville citizens denounced the idea.

The proposal failed by nearly 10,000 votes, with 32,144 in favor of English-only and 41,752 in disapproval.

"English-only [proposal] being rejected is really a reflection of a progressive population who is welcoming to a diverse population but is also considerate of the economics of the matter,"

said Vincent Windrow, director for Intercultural and Diversity Affairs.

The proposal served as a lesson for the MTSU community to learn regarding the importance of dialogue, Windrow said.

"It is important for dialogue to take place and that even when we disagree there is not a mandate to be disagreeable," Windrow said. "Dialog is necessary at all levels of life, whether it be here on a campus or in a relationship, on a job site in government and between governments that dialog is very important."

PROPOSAL, PAGE 2



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer

Tala Hobballah, an MTSU student, laughs as doctors draw her blood at the American Red Cross Donation Center. The American Red Cross is encouraging students to get involved and donate blood this month.

American Red Cross targets students to donate

By JESSICA HASTON
Copy Editor

The American Red Cross is offering donors opportunities to give blood and receive free food, from now until the end of February.

"There are lots of opportunities to get a little bonus, help patients in need,

get blood and get free food when you go to donate," said Joette Phillips, communications coordinator for the American Red Cross. "I know that's always important to college students."

After giving blood, donors will receive two Sonic coupons; one for a free

medium cherry limeade and another for a buy one, get one free Sonic burger.

"Everyone who comes to donate at the Heart of Tennessee Chapter of the Red Cross in Murfreesboro on Sundays and Mondays in February will also get a coupon for a free appetizer at Mimi's Café," Phillips

said.

According to the Red Cross's Web site, bloodisneeded.org, someone in America needs a blood transfusion every two seconds.

"Right now, we just have over a three-day supply of

BLOOD, PAGE 2

PROPOSAL
FROM PAGE 1

The proposal, if passed, would have made Nashville the largest city in the nation to have an English-only rule in its charter.

"I am very relieved that it didn't pass," said Rhonda Waller, director for MT Abroad. [The proposal] seemed to me to be very unfriendly to international visitors, so that is obviously counter to international education, which is what I promote."

Waller said, the special election and its results received national coverage, because it applies to Murfreesboro as well as the MTSU community because of its proximity to Nashville.

"I think that in a lot of ways Murfreesboro is looking to emulate Nashville as this community grows," Waller said. "Most residents, here I would assume, take advantage of the cultural activities in Nashville among many



“English-only [proposal] being rejected is really a reflection of progressive population who is welcoming to a diverse population but is also considerate of the economics of the matter.”

VINCENT WINDROW
DIRECTOR OF INTERCULTURAL DIVERSITY AFFAIRS

English-only Proposal

- All official actions that would bind or commit the government would have been required to be taken in English only.
- Official government publications and communications would have been required to be made in English.
- Meetings of Nashville councils, boards and commissions could have only been conducted in English.
- The Metro Council would have made exceptions to protect the healthy and safety of the public.

Graphic by Alicia Wilson, production manager

other things."

Waller, who has traveled abroad and lived in another country for three years where she did not speak the native language, said that she would not have

been able to have that experience if it were not for the help of the country's citizens.

"I would urge people to consider what it is like to be in the shoes of some-

one in a situation before making harsh judgments about either expectations of citizens, or new citizens or visitors of our country about learning English", Waller said.

BLOOD
FROM PAGE 1

all types combined," Phillips said. "The only one we're low on is O-, and we have less than a day's supply of that."

O- blood can be used on patients of any blood type, making it useful in emergency situations when matching blood types are unavailable or in short supply. Blood is separated into red cells, plasma and platelets, allowing each blood donation the potential of helping three different patients.

"Those red cells can be used on accident victims or people who suffer from sickle cell anemia, for example," Phillips said. "Plasma is used primarily to treat burn victims,

and platelets can be used to treat people with cancer, people undergoing chemotherapy or someone who may need an organ transplant."

"We'd like to have as many [students] come out as possible, and if you've never donated before and are looking to, that would be wonder-

ful," Phillips said. "It's important to get young people such as MTSU students involved so they can become lifelong donors."

Places to donate**The Heart of TN Murfreesboro Blood Donor Center**

836 Commercial Court

Open Monday and Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to noon.

Keathley University Center

Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Siegel Elementary School

135 W. Thompson Lane in

Feb. 12 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Requirements: 17 years of age (or 16 with parental consent,) minimum weight of 110 pounds, general good health and photo ID.

Israel ceases fire on Gaza

By JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

Special legal teams will defend Israeli soldiers against potential war crimes charges stemming from civilian deaths in the Gaza Strip, the prime minister said Sunday, promising the country would "fully back" those who fought in the three-week offensive.

The move reflected growing concerns by Israel that officers could be subject to international prosecution, despite the army's claims that Hamas militants caused the civilian casualties by staging attacks from residential areas.

"The state of Israel will fully back those who acted on its behalf," Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said. "The soldiers and commanders who were sent on missions in Gaza must know that they are safe from various tribunals."

Speaking at the weekly meeting of his Cabinet, Olmert said Israel's justice minister would lead a team of senior officials to coordinate the legal defense of anyone involved in the offensive.

Israel launched its 22-day offensive to try to halt Hamas rocket fire on southern Israel. The assault killed 1,285 Palestinians, more than half of them civilians, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights counted. Thirteen Israelis, including three civilians, were also killed during the fighting, Israel said.

At talks Sunday in Cairo aimed at solidifying the truce, Hamas official Ayman Taha said the Islamic group offered a one-year truce to Israel, including the reopening of border crossings to allow vital supplies into

Gaza. He said Israel offered an 18-month truce, which Hamas rejected. Israeli officials refused to comment.

A low-level delegation from Hamas' rival, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' West Bank-based government, was also in Cairo for talks, but was not expected to meet with the Hamas envoys.

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies and do not talk to each other, relying instead on Egyptian mediation.

In addition to the civilian death toll, Israel has faced international criticism for its use of white phosphorous, and for shelling attacks that struck United Nations schools and installations that were serving as shelters.

Israeli, Palestinian and international human rights groups have said they are seeking to build a case that Israel violated the laws of war. The groups are focusing on suspicions that Israel used disproportionate force and failed to protect civilians. They also have criticized Hamas for using civilians as human shields and firing rockets at civilian targets in Israel.

Israeli officials have said they took great efforts to avoid civilian casualties, and accused Hamas of deliberately using mosques, schools and residential neighborhoods for cover. Olmert angrily accused the "international legal arena" of "moral acrobatics" by ignoring years of Palestinian rocket salvos aimed at Israeli civilians.

"The state of Israel did everything in order to avoid hitting civilians. I

GAZA, PAGE 3

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Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Students workout in the cardio room at the Campus Recreation center. The Rec center is promoting a new fitter student body for the new year.

Rec center gets fit program

Students get chance to join new programs that Rec center is offering to promote getting fit and staying healthy

By DUSTIN EVANS
Contributing Writer

The Campus Recreation Center is offering two programs during the spring called the "Get Fit Stay Fit" program and the "Faculty and Staff Wellness Program" to get faculty, staff and students back in shape.

"Our hope is to bring people in to teach them how to exercise so that they can be efficient in the weight room or the cardio room," said Jerry Langham, the assistant director of Fitness and Wellness for the Rec center.

Langham said that each program is an inexpensive way to have fun and tone up, whatever your fitness goals may be.

The Get Fit Stay Fit program is \$30 for students and \$50 for faculty, staff and members. The participants will receive a fitness assessment, a personal training session and an aerobics punch pass good for 30 classes, the Rec center Web site said.

"What is provided [with the Faculty Staff Wellness Program] is a beginning and ending fitness assessment which includes a body fat analysis, a weigh and measure, an upper and lower body strength test and a cardio test with a personal trainer," Langham said.

Heather Cusick, a graduate student in the business program said she is considering the get fit stay fit program.

"I like that it provides a fitness assessment, so that it can test where I am with my fitness level, currently," Cusick said.

Langham said that when the participants come in for their personal training session, the certified trainers help them develop a system that will work specifically for them.

"It all depends on what the person wants," Langham said. "They are not going to push anything on you. We give the clients what they want."

Langham said that addi-

tional training sessions can be purchased for \$15 if the participant needs someone to push them along through the program, which is still an inexpensive option for those who wish for more support.

"Fifteen dollars is ridiculously cheap, [because] you can't get personal training sessions for anywhere else," Langham said.

Cusick said that she feels better when she has a personal trainer because the added pressure causes her to get up and go to the gym.

"After you've been trained on the machinery, you're better off; it is easier to use and you have less tendency to get hurt if someone has shown you how to use them," Cusick said.

The deadline to sign up for the Faculty and Staff Wellness program is Jan. 30. Faculty, staff, students and members can sign up for the Get Fit Stay Fit Program anytime in the spring semester.

Pope watches You-tube

The Pope admits that You-tube is a great way to communicating with people other than at church

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

Puffs of smoke, speeches in Latin and multi-page encyclicals have all been used by the Vatican to communicate with the faithful.

Now the pope is trying to broaden his audience by joining the wannabe musicians, college pranksters and water-skiing squirrels on YouTube.

In his inaugural YouTube foray Friday, Benedict welcomed viewers to this "great family that knows no borders" and said he hoped they would "feel involved in this great dialogue of truth."

"Today is a day that writes a new page in history for the Holy See," Vatican Radio said in describing the launch of the site, www.youtube.com/vatican.

The Vatican said that with the YouTube channel, it hoped to broaden and unite the pontiff's audience — an estimated 1.4 billion people are online worldwide — while giving the Holy See better control over the pope's Internet image.

The pontiff joins President Barack Obama, who launched an official White House channel on his inauguration day, as well as Queen Elizabeth, who went online with her royal YouTube channel.

For the Vatican, it was the latest effort to keep up to speed with the rapidly changing field of communications and new media. For a 2,000-year-old institution known for being very set in its ways, it was something of a revolution.

At the same time, though, the pope warned he wasn't embracing virtual communication without some reservation.

In his annual message for the World Day of Communication, Benedict praised as a "gift to humanity" the benefits of social networking sites such

as Facebook and MySpace in forging friendships and understanding.

But he also warned that virtual socializing had its risks, saying "obsessive" online networking could isolate people from real social interaction and broaden the digital divide by further marginalizing people.

And he urged producers of new media to ensure the content respected human dignity and the "goodness and intimacy of human sexuality."

The 81-year-old pope has been extremely wary of new media, warning about what he has called the tendency of entertainment media, in particular, to trivialize sex and promote violence.

But Monsignor Claudio Maria Celli, who heads the Vatican's social communications office, said the pope fully approved of the YouTube channel, saying Benedict was "a man of dialogue" who wanted to engage with people wherever they were.

In that way, he is merely following in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II, who avidly used mass media and information technology to get out his message. John Paul oversaw the 1995 launch of the Vatican's

the text-messaging bandwagon, sending out daily texts with the pope's prayer of the day.

The Vatican's press office even alerted the world of John Paul's April 2, 2005, death by sending an e-mail with a text-messaged alert to journalists.

Asked if Benedict himself surfs the Web, Celli quipped: "Knowing him, that he's a man of research, a man who is up to speed with things, I'd have to respond affirmatively."

One of his advisers, Cardinal Crescenzio Sepe, the archbishop of Naples, has gone a step further: He has his own Facebook profile. So does Cardinal Roger Mahony, archbishop of Los Angeles.

Celli said the Vatican was mulling over a similar presence on Facebook.

While the YouTube initiative was novel, it was in keeping with the Church's history of using whatever means available to communicate: parchment, printing press, radio, television and Internet, noted Monsignor Robert Wister, professor of church history at the Immaculate Conception School of Theology at Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

What is significant about the YouTube initia-

"It's a way of communicating the church's message beyond the members of the Church."

MONSIGNOR ROBERT WISTER
PROFESSOR AT SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Web site, www.vatican.va, which today includes virtual tours of the Vatican Museums and audio feeds from Vatican Radio.

While John Paul wasn't a big computer user, he did tap out a very public online message in 2001, an apology for missionary abuses against indigenous peoples of the South Pacific.

Under John Paul, the Vatican also jumped on

top official, Cabinet Minister Avi Dichter, turned down an invitation to Britain out of concern that he could be arrested for his role in the 2002 assassination of a senior Hamas militant in Gaza.

The Israeli offensive ended with a temporary cease-fire last week, and international mediators are trying to work out a longer-term arrangement. Israel wants guarantees that Hamas will stop firing rockets and be prevented from smuggling weapons into Gaza from neighboring Egypt.

Israeli officials have said they are prepared to resume the offensive if rocket attacks start up again. Israel also has demanded the release of an Israeli soldier held by Hamas for more than two years as part of a long-term truce.

Israeli Cabinet minister Shaul Mofaz suggested that Israel would assassinate Hamas leaders if the

soldier, Sgt. Gilad Shalit, is not released. "I want to tell the leaders of Hamas, don't misunderstand us," Mofaz said. "Until Shalit goes free, none of you will be able to walk freely on the streets of Gaza." It was not clear whether Mofaz, a former armed forces chief, was voicing official policy or giving his personal opinion.

After the comments, Palestinians fled from a dozen government buildings. Hamas officials called for calm, and midlevel officials were back on the job, distributing aid to victims whose homes were destroyed or damaged. Still, top Hamas leaders remained out of sight, as they have since Israel launched the offensive last month.

Arab mediators have been trying to get Hamas and Abbas' Fatah to reconcile as part of the cease-fire.

GAZA

FROM PAGE 2

do not know of any military that is more moral, fair and sensitive to civilians' lives," Olmert said.

In another precaution, Israel's military censor already has barred publication of the names or pictures of battlefield officers from the offensive.

Israeli leaders have faced similar concerns in the past. In 2001, then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was sued in Belgium over his alleged role in a 1982 massacre in Lebanon's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. He was never convicted.

In 2005, a London court issued an arrest warrant for a retired Israeli general for his role in the bulldozing of houses in a Gaza refugee camp. The general ducked arrest by staying on his plane at London's Heathrow airport and flying back to Israel. Another

top official, Cabinet Minister Avi Dichter, turned down an invitation to Britain out of concern that he could be arrested for his role in the 2002 assassination of a senior Hamas militant in Gaza.

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Stimulus package no quick fix for economy

Government warns that even though congress is working on \$825 billion recovery package, economic trouble will only get worse before it gets better

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

The White House warned Sunday that the country could face a long and painful financial recovery, even with major government intervention to stimulate the economy and save financial institutions.

"We're off and running, but it's going to get worse before it gets better," said Vice President Joe Biden, taking the lead on a theme echoed by other Democratic officials on the Sunday talk shows.

At the end of the Obama administration's first week, the party in power at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue sought to lower expectations for a quick fix despite legislation expected to pass by next month that would pump billions of dollars into the economy. Democrats also opened the door for even more government aid to struggling banks beyond the \$700 billion bailout already in the pipeline.

Congress gave President Barack Obama permission

to spend the second \$350 billion of a Wall Street bailout package even though lawmakers have criticized the Bush administration for the way it spent the first half. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said she is open to additional government rescue money for banks and financial institutions. But she said taxpayers must get an ownership stake in return.

Biden said Obama's choice for Treasury secretary, Timothy Geithner, will recommend whether more money is needed for the banks. Geithner could be confirmed by the Senate as early as Monday.

Congress is working on an \$825 billion economic recovery package that dedicates about two-thirds to new government spending and the rest to tax cuts. Separate proposals making their way through the House and Senate would combine tax cuts for individuals and businesses, help for cash-strapped state governments, aid for the poor and unemployed, and direct spending by the

federal government.

The goal is to infuse money directly into the economy in the hope of bringing the nation out of recession, while creating 3 million to 4 million jobs. It would be largest economic recovery package ever enacted; the White House says the scope rivals the construction of the inter-

economic adviser to Obama. "So even as we move to be as rapid as we can in jolting the economy and giving it the push forward it needs, we also have to be mindful of having the right kind of plan that will carry us forward over time."

Republicans want the recovery package tilted more toward tax cuts and

three-quarters of the proposed money in the first 18 months after it is approved.

Obama met with Republican and Democratic congressional leaders at the White House last week to listen to Republican concerns about the package. Obama plans to meet with more Republican lawmakers this week, though Boehner said there is little support among House Republicans for the package in its current form.

A House vote is expected Wednesday. Democrats, if united, have a large enough majority to pass it without GOP backing. But Obama is seeking bipartisan support on this critical early test of his presidency. Senate Republicans could block the package but they would have to be united to do so.

Summers said Obama has inherited the worst economy since World War II, coupled with a federal budget deficit of more than a \$1 trillion and soaring costs for entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medic-

aid. The nation lost a total 2.6 million jobs last year as the housing market contracted and financial markets collapsed.

The government he said, can afford to spend more than \$1 trillion to boost the economy and save financial institutions. But he warned that fiscal discipline will be necessary once the economy recovers.

Summers said Obama would end President George W. Bush's tax cuts on those who make more than \$250,000. Pelosi has said she wants to repeal the tax cuts well before they expire at the end of 2010.

Obama might be willing to simply let them expire, Summers said, though he was noncommittal. He did say Obama will fight any effort to extend the tax cuts beyond their expiration date.

"The president has made clear that the question of timing is one we're going to have to reach as we see how the economy unfolds," Summers said. "But they're not going to be with us for long."

"The president has made clear that the question of timing is one we're going to have to reach as we see how the economy unfolds."

LAWRENCE SUMMERS
A TOP ECONOMIC ADVISER TO OBAMA

state highway system after World War II.

Its success or failure defines the first years of Obama's term. On Sunday, Democrats sought to temper expectations, at least in the short term.

"These problems weren't made in a day or a week or a month or even a year, and they're not going to get solved that fast," said Lawrence Summers, a top eco-

have questioned whether government spending programs will revive the economy in the short-term.

"I just think there's a lot of slow-moving government spending in this program that won't work," House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio said. "We can't borrow and spend our way back to prosperity."

The administration has pledged to spend

CRIME BRIEFS

Jan. 17, 10:28 p.m.

Trespassing

Corlew Hall

Subject reported that two males were fighting in front of Corlew Hall.

Jan. 18, 6:48 p.m.

Alarm

Corlew Hall

Employees reported a gas leak and fire in the McCallie Dining Hall

kitchen. Police officers had the building evacuated. Murfreesboro Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire and shut off the gas.

Jan. 21, 11:22 a.m.

Theft

Honors College

An instructor reported that a book and testing materials had been stolen.

Jan. 22, 1:58 a.m.

Trespassing

Saunders Fine Arts

The ARA supervisor called and reported a subject sleeping in one of the rooms on the 3rd floor and was not waking up after several attempts of knocking on the door.

Jan. 22, 1:49 p.m.

Drug Possession

Monohan Hall

Subject called requesting an officer meet her in the lobby of Lyon Hall.

Jan. 22, 4:27 p.m.

Theft

McFarland Health Services

Subject reported their bike missing/stolen. The bike was chained to a tree.

Jan. 22, 11:38 p.m.

Underage Alcohol Consumption

Greek Row

Kathryn Nowak, Kellie Hastings, Katherine Lyles were issued citations for underage consumption.

Jan. 23, 2:05 a.m.

Drug Possession

Alumni Drive

Cameron Sloan was arrested for

simple possession of marijuana, possession of a fake I.D., and consumption of alcohol under 21. Andrew Steffen was arrested for consumption of alcohol under 21 and public intoxication.

Jan. 23, 3:07 a.m.

DUI

Blue Raider Drive

Lyndi Hayes was charged with DUI first offense.

CURRENT EVENTS

Road Closure

Beginning Jan. 20 Main Street campus entrance by Monument will only service those wanting to gain access to Cope Administration Building's visitor's circle, parking services, and the Wood/ Steagall building. Parking will not be allowed on the street to assist traffic flow. More information: visit frank.mtsu.edu/~parking

Blood Drive

Thursday, Jan. 29 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 30 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.
Location: KUC 322
Sign up at KUC 208 or stop by announced dates.

Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist

Jan. 26-30
Tuesday-Thursday 7 & 10 p.m.
Friday 7 p.m.
Admission: \$2
Location: KUC Theater

Aramark Food Committee meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 28 from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.
Location: JUB Faculty Dining room

Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra

Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.
Admission: Free to general public
Location: T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of Wright Music Building
More information: visit frank.mtsu.edu/~music

Delcho Deltchev, guest pianist

Friday, Jan. 30 at 8 p.m.
Admission: Free to general public
Location: T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of Wright Music Building

More information: visit frank.mtsu.edu/~music

Miss MTSU hosted by Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Friday, Jan. 30
More information: contact Justin McKee at 615.653.8522

MTSU Flute Festival featuring Katherine Kemler

Saturday, January 31 from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.
Location: The MTSU School of Music
More information: visit http://frank.mtsu.edu/~music

Third Annual Linguistics Olympiad

Saturday, Jan. 31
Location: second floor of the Business and Aerospace Building
More information: contact Dr. Aleka Blackwell at 615.898.5960

Lovedrug with Cactus's

Saturday, Jan. 31 at 8 p.m.
Admission: \$10
Location: Exit/In
More information: visit www.exitin.com

The Killers

Saturday, Jan. 31 at 8 p.m.
Admission: \$35 to \$65
Location: Grand Ole Opry
More Information: ticketmaster.com

Save the Jazz: A WMOT Benefit Concert

Thursday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.
Admission: Free, donations accepted
Location: 527 Main

Augustana

Saturday, Feb. 25
Admission: \$5 for students, \$10 regular
Location: Tucker Theater

Spring Elections 2009

Election packets available in SGA Office KUC 208



- Executive Positions

- Minimum of forty-five credit hours
- Completed at least two consecutive semesters at MTSU
- At least a 2.5 cumulative GPA

- College and At-Large Senators

- At least a 2.3 cumulative GPA

Important Dates:

• January 20

Candidate Election Packets Available -SGA Office

• February 3

Election Packets due by 4:00 p.m. -SGA Office

• February 10

Candidate Eligibility announced

• February 12

Mandatory Meeting for qualified candidates – 6:00 p.m. – KUC 313
Campaigning Starts

• February 14

Executive Debate – BAS State Farm @ 6:00 p.m.

• February 16

Elections

• February 24- 26

Election Results Announced

• February 27

Important Notes:

*Applicant must meet all requirements of position by 4:00 pm on February 3.

*If you qualify to run for the position, remember that there is a mandatory candidate meeting on February 12 @ 6:00 p.m. in KUC 313. If you do not qualify for a position, you will be notified in advance.

*You have been furnished a copy of the Electoral Act and a MTSU Rights and Responsibilities of Students Handbook. Any violation of either of these will be brought before the Election Commission and could be grounds for immediate disqualification from elections. **Please be sure you understand the Electoral Act and Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.**

*If you would like a banner to be hung inside or outside the KUC for your campaign, you must reserve the space through Stan McCloud at 898-2590 ASAP

Spring Break

SANDPIPER BEACON

BEACH RESORT

800-488-8828

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Panama City Beach, FL

TIKI BAR

Dancing Day & Night • DJs

Free Spring Break Model Search Calendar (1st 1,000 reservations)

OPINIONS

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Props to Davidson County voters

Last Thursday, Davidson County provided an example for cities across America that we should all follow.

About 60 percent of the county's citizens denounced the English-only proposal by voting no. The vote, which received national media coverage, failed by nearly 10,000 votes in the special election.

City leaders from the government to average citizens were, in majority, agreement that making English the only language recognized by the county's government was not a wise decision.

The proposal would have made English the only language acceptable when dealing with any aspect of city government excluding exceptions made to protecting public health and safety.

Had Davidson County voted yes, certain communities would have been affected. That would isolate not only Nashville's Hispanic community, but also anyone who does not speak English.

These communities are more than just Hispanic communities. All non-English speaking people would become isolated because of a language barrier that no government official could help with, even if he or she wanted to.

Nashville is known for its diverse population, and had this special election outcome turned out differently, the city would have been looked at differently.

Imagine the stereotype Tennessee would get had the vote in Davidson County came out differently. The state would be labeled as the isolationist state that accepts only people who speak its Aryan language, even though the vote took place in one county.

Immigrants with useful skills that speak a different primary language than English might be scared of moving to the single-language state. Even if they are fluent in English, immigrants might feel as though minorities aren't accepted in Tennessee.

We are grateful that Davidson County residents voted against this measure. With technological innovations being created at exponential rates and global communication increasing on a level bar none, Nashville cannot afford to limit its marketability in an international commerce by shunning the language of the largest minority in America.

Nashville-area residents should also be thankful because the fact the measure failed means that businesses from other regions of the world will take this into account as they consider potential cities in which to invest.

And the chance for a bustling economy is something nobody is complaining about these days.

Twilight: An eternal waste of time

What is it about the *Twilight* saga that has teenage girls and some adult women so fascinated? A good mix of romance and action, fantasy and poetic language, it seems like it would be a good read.

So yes, I fell victim to the books' charm at first. And yes, I read the entire series. Therefore, I feel qualified in saying that it was a waste of my time. As promising as the series seemed to be, and as well written as it is, it fell flat. It left me disappointed and disgusted that I had read those thousands of pages for such an unsatisfying conclusion.

Mourning the end of the



The C-Word
Courtney Watson

Harry Potter series, maybe some thought that the *Twilight* saga would serve as a suitable alternative. However, even if it can take your mind off of the fact that you'll never read a new *Harry Potter* book again, it just does not measure up.

In the *Harry Potter* series, though J.K. Rowling may have borrowed her inspirations from other sources, she created an entire world for her characters to inhabit, much like J.R.R. Tolkien before her.

In the *Twilight* saga, Stephenie Meyer decided she would just drop two different kinds of supernatural creatures into a small community. If this setting was supposed to help the reader relate, well, it didn't work for me. Seriously, what are the odds of coming into contact with not one, but two different kinds of creatures in the same place? Not only do vampires and

werewolves co-exist in the same small town of Forks, Wash. in these novels, but one member of each clan falls in love with the same girl, Bella Swan.

High school can be difficult enough without the pressure of deciding what kind of mythical creature to date.

I almost gave up after the chore it was to read the second book, *New Moon*, and took a long break from the series. After receiving the next book in the series, *Eclipse* as a gift, I decided to give it another shot, hoping it would redeem itself, which it did, at least enough for me to decide to read the last book in the series,

Breaking Dawn. I mean, I had already come so far.

To me, the worst part of this series is how utterly in love Meyer is with her own made-up character, vampire Edward Cullen. It makes me feel sorry for this author, simply for her clear desire of someone who could never exist. His sweet breath, his marble skin, his soothing voice, his piercing eyes: these are all characteristics of Edward Cullen that often appear on the pages.

To read more, visit us online.



Media should diversify news coverage

As January draws to a close, February fast approaches with the hopes of millions behind America's freshly sworn-in president.

But lest we forget the trials and tribulations that hundreds of thousands have endured so that President Obama could have the chance to turn the page on America's past, U.S. citizens of all backgrounds are preparing as much as ever for Black History Month.

The U.S. media, as well as much of the global media, has done a brilliant job of cramming the historical significance of Obama's election down the throats of its consumers. Yet I can't help but ponder the real reasons behind such specialized coverage at times, realizing that the motives of media agencies often do



Desist! Rely! Conform!
Byron Wilkes

not wholly reflect a sense of social responsibility to the public's sphere of knowledge.

Far be it from me to attack a news company for its coverage though, for I must confess that I am very proud we live in these times and, since Jan. 20th, am even prouder to call myself an American.

Nevertheless, I can't help but wonder why news agencies always seem to run stories concerning

various minorities only when it's a certain time of the year or distinctive occurrence, whether it's Obama's inauguration or a gang-related shooting death in Queens.

Pay close attention to the content of national media companies such as Fox News, CNN or MSNBC during the month of February. I think it's safe to say you will see a noticeable spike in the number of black- or black history-related coverage.

Naturally this phenomenon among publications is not solely reserved for African-Americans. In March, September and October (the starting dates for Women's History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month, respectively), I'm betting news will revolve around these groups con-

currently as it has in the past.

I find this to be an especially disturbing trend, considering that coverage of members in these different groups can sometimes be less than favorable at other times of the year.

Why don't media companies keep consistent coverage on all groups at all times? It's my thought that the compartmentalization of the histories of these different peoples and the subsequent consolidation of news stories pertaining to them during these designated periods of jubilation promote a kind of alienation between those observing the significance of the month and those who are not.

I believe the solution lies within changing current beliefs about news coverage, or at least altering them. The timeliness

of an event should surely guide what and when to print certain content, but to what extent?

Newspapers shouldn't cover local Jewish groups or organizations only during Hanukkah.

Radio stations shouldn't cover Islamic groups or organizations only during Ramadan.

Television stations shouldn't cover Hindu groups or organizations only during Pancha Ganapati.

Just because these religious holidays can coincide in December doesn't mean the media should ignore these groups for the majority of the calendar year.

To read more, visit us online.



FACES IN THE CROWD

How do you feel about the outcome of the Davidson County vote concerning English-only in government workplaces?



Durham

"I didn't even know about it. I think that people should be allowed to speak their own language."

Demetre Durham, freshman graphic design



Harris

"I don't agree with it. We shouldn't have to make up ground for others' handicap."

Derrick Harris, sophomore concrete management



Clark

"It shows that maybe we are becoming more open to other cultures and people."

Ashley Clark, sophomore recreation & leisure services



Castillo

"I agree with the outcome of the vote because not everybody here speaks English."

Christina Castillo, sophomore biological sciences

COMICS



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

**ARE YOU PLEASED WITH
THE OUTCOME OF THE
ENGLISH-ONLY VOTE?**

online TELL US ONLINE AT
MTSUSIDELINES.COM

FEATURES

YES
63%

NO
27%

**DID YOU WATCH THE
INAUGURATION?**

BASED ON VOTES FROM
MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

Thirst for a normal smile A student struggles with facial surgeries

By JAZ GRAY
Staff Writer

I am thirsty. I am so thirsty, and the nurse will not give me anything to drink.

I keep thinking, "I've had so many surgeries, and I can always get some Sprite, some water, ice, chips or something when I wake up."

The nurse just tries to divert my attention. The anesthesia from my 12-hour surgery has not worn off yet, so it is hard to focus.

I concentrate on the light above the recovery room cot, and I count the white ceiling tiles around it. Then, I ask the nurse again for a drink.

Still nothing.

She walks up close to my bedside, puts her hand in mine and says "Can I pray for you?"

People I know have prayed for me before, but sometimes it seems medical personnel try to be politically correct and stay away from religion. I get a really scared feeling in that moment.

I think, "God, what's going on?"

I half-nod in her direction. She puts her other hand on my forehead and closes her eyes. I close mine.

When I wake up the second time, I realize I have been moved from the recovery room to a single-unit hospital room.

The lights are dimmed, the curtains closed, but I can make out my mother. She is giving me a strange look.

In 22 surgeries for my birth defect, I had never before gotten a look like this. It is a mixture of disbelief and hurt.

The look says, "Lord, look at my baby." Something is wrong, more wrong than usual, and I have to know.

"What?" I ask her. Momma tilts her head and starts



Photo courtesy of Jaz Gray

As part of Jaz's Jammies, Jaz and friends collect the pajamas and then take them to hospitals. She spent many days of her childhood in and out of hospitals, leading her to come up with the idea for the project. Jaz's Jammies tries to give pajamas that are comfortable and more stylish to wear than hospital gowns for children.

to move her hand in a circular motion over her right cheek.

"All of this had to be removed," she says shaking her head. "It got infected. It's gone."

I don't cry when my mother tells me that half of my face is missing.

'Normal'

At birth, I had been diagnosed with hemangioma which, among other problems, caused my tongue to be twice the size of a normal newborn.

When I was nine, after witnessing the right side of my face grow immensely, my parents decided that something had to be done.

But, after two years with the first doctor we found, my condition worsened and my face continued to

grow more distorted.

Taking a chance on the Internet, my parents came across the Web site of a prestigious, out-of-state doctor.

After extensive tests and two surgeries, he explained that my condition was too

Dr. Suen told my family that I had been misdiagnosed and that I didn't have a hemangioma.

He said what I had was more advanced. It was a disorder called an arteriovenous malformation, which created tangles of

lockjaw and facial paralysis.

Like Water

As I sit in Dr. Suen's office months after my surgery, it takes all my strength not to flood the room with my tears.

Dr. Suen tells me I will probably never be able to give a full smile again. Just like that, my naivete is gone. I feel like water.

I literally feel like I have melted. I am in another form.

I just want to deal with the situation, to be OK with what God is allowing to happen to me.

I do want to not lose my mind, though.

I just want to be liquid and flexible, so there can be no more disappointment, no more unattainable fantasies about where all of my surgeries will eventually lead.

“ Dr. Suen told me I would probably never be able to give a full smile again. Just like that, my naivete was gone. I felt like water.”

JAZ GRAY
JUNIOR JOURNALISM MAJOR

complex and complicated for even him.

He referred us to his mentor, Dr. Suen. At this point, I was still optimistic. I still had stupid dreams of family photos and dates with a perfect, "normal" face.

veins growing inside my cheek, chin and lip.

He said that, if left untreated, the AVM could cause strokes, blood clots and, in the most severe cases, death.

He forgot to mention



Photos courtesy of Jaz Gray

During her time at MTSU, Jaz has taken many opportunities to see the world. She studied abroad in London during the 2008 Winter Break (left). Jaz also studied abroad in Ghana in June of 2008 (below) and is pictured with one of the leaders of a village she visited, the man who started the local school and orphanage in the town, and his daughter.

CALENDAR

movies, music, nightlife and more

Movies

1/26 – 1/30 – Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist – KUC Theatre – 7 and 10 p.m. – \$2

Music

1/27 – Smoke & Feathers, Swagger, Subcam, Banks Nelson – The End – 9 p.m.

1/27 – Rock the Block w/ Cody Newman – Exit/In

1/28 – Dixie Whiskey, Nathan Xander, Ribbonpigeon – Exit/In

1/29 – CJ Vaughn and Highway 58 – Mellow Mushroom – 8 p.m. – FREE

1/29 – Brett Dennen and Erin McCarley – Exit/In

1/30 – Kelly Kerr and The Distractions – The Boro – 8 p.m.

1/30 – Battle of the Bands – Club 527 – 8 p.m.

1/30 – Marujah, Mood Taxi – Wall Street – 9 p.m.

1/30 – We Were The States, Sound & Shape – The End – 9 p.m.

1/30 – Dirty Dozen Brass Band, The Levees – Exit/In

1/31 – Cold Truth w/ 44 Vegas – Club 527

1/31 – Old Union – Wall Street – 9 p.m.

1/31 – Lovedrug, Cactus's – Exit/In

Other

1/26 – Poker Night – Liquid Smoke – FREE

1/27 – Karaoke – The Blue Rooster – 9 p.m.

1/28 – Live Trivia – Wall Street – 8 p.m.

1/29 – Pajama Party – Club 527

Compiled By Malarie Woods

SPORTS

Lady Raiders extend streak to 12

MT women remain undefeated in Sun Belt conference record with effortless win in Big Easy

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

NEW ORLEANS — It seems that even the swamps of Louisiana can't stop the Lady Raiders.

After a bit of an off performance from all sides of the ball, the Ladies finally capped it off with an 87-53 win over the Lady Privateers Saturday evening.

For their 12th-straight win, the Ladies traveled to New Orleans in yet another Sun Belt conference match-up. Heading in, the team had a spotless Sun Belt record that they sought to maintain, and with women's basketball head coach Rick Insell's record of 3-0 against New Orleans, it seemed a definite possibility. The UNO Lady Privateers entered with a losing record but with no less dedication than that of the Lady Raiders.

After tip-off, MT immediately took control. Junior forward Brandi Brown had a huge game, starting right from her first goal less than a minute into the match. Brown charged down the Lady Privateers and shot nine of 15 for the night.

Rick Insell's fiery coaching styles did not falter despite the 26-point lead. The head of women's basketball drove the Ladies to perfection and in the pro-

cess made a few enemies on the UNO side.

A major area of improvement under Insell is maintaining control of the ball, and the Lady Raiders showed that improvement this game. UNO managed to steal the ball once through the entire game and turned it back over to MT almost immediately.

The MT defense had an outstanding game, especially in the first half. The Ladies only allowed 18 points in the first 20 minutes, compared to their own 44 against UNO. Sophomore forward Emily Queen and junior forward Alysha Clark each had two steals in the first half.

With a Middle Tennessee nation that is used to passionate Lady Raider basketball, the crowd seemed depressed for such a hard-played game. It's nothing statistical, but the Ladies seemed to be playing comparatively low-key to their fans.

However, the lapse in excitement certainly fooled the Lady Privateers.

"[They were] by far the hardest team we've played all year," said junior guard Rachele Monroe.

UNO continued to struggle for the remainder of the game, and the Lady Raiders



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Sophomore guard Anne Marie Lanning looks for a pass to one of her teammates during the game against New Orleans Saturday.

never allowed them to gain the lead.

Insell led the Ladies into the locker room after having dominated the first half. The coach made full use of his substitutions, rotating seven girls almost nonstop in various positions. By the end of the game, ten separate girls had a chance on the court.

Junior guard Jackie Pickel and junior guard Dana Garrett both took turns rounding out the

base of the team, providing varied support throughout the first half. Junior forward Shytoria Davis and freshman forward Molly McFadden also got into the game as the clock wound down, providing an apt addition to the team.

At 15:46 in the second, the Ladies led 50-24. After 11 straight MT wins, the underpowered UNO was a very feeble match for the apt Lady Raiders. Despite

a game that was played just slightly below par, the Ladies proved that they are capable of victory even on an off-day.

The only things that seemed to go awry were the penalties.

"We're an aggressive team and I have no problem with how we played the game," Insell said, when asked about his team's fury.

The Ladies took no prisoners on the court, and played the second half

along the same lines as the first.

After a continued barrage of baskets rained down on UNO, the game finally drew to a close with an MT win, 87-53.

The Lady Raiders will stay home for the next game as yet another Sun Belt team, Louisiana-Lafayette, will come to Tennessee for an inter-conference showdown on Jan. 28. Tip-off is at 7 p.m. in the Murphy Center.

Blue Raiders men's basketball lose 69-65

Another disappointing SBC loss for boys in blue as they drop to 6-3 in conference

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

NEW ORLEANS — The Blue Raiders fought hard for dominance in New Orleans, but just couldn't come out on top Saturday evening.

Fighting not only the opposing team, but a hostile crowd and less-than-cooperative referees, MT hashed it out all 40 minutes. But the team finally fell to the New Orleans Privateers in a dramatic last-second showdown.

After winning the tip-off, the Raiders wasted no time charging down the court. However, the effort was stopped short by the Privateers, who stole the ball and returned to their own goal for a 3 point score.

The underlying theme for the majority of the night was the brawl for possession. Rebounds were the desired commodity, and both teams struggled to come out with the rebound after a basket by either team. MT won 25 hard-fought rebounds throughout the night, led by senior guard Eric Allen.

By 10 minutes into the first half, the score had already been tied twice. Both teams seemed to enter into a call-and-response type of play, trading goal for goal throughout the first quarter. At 9:50 remaining in the first, MT led New Orleans 20-18. Another 30 seconds and New Orleans answered back.

During the timeout at

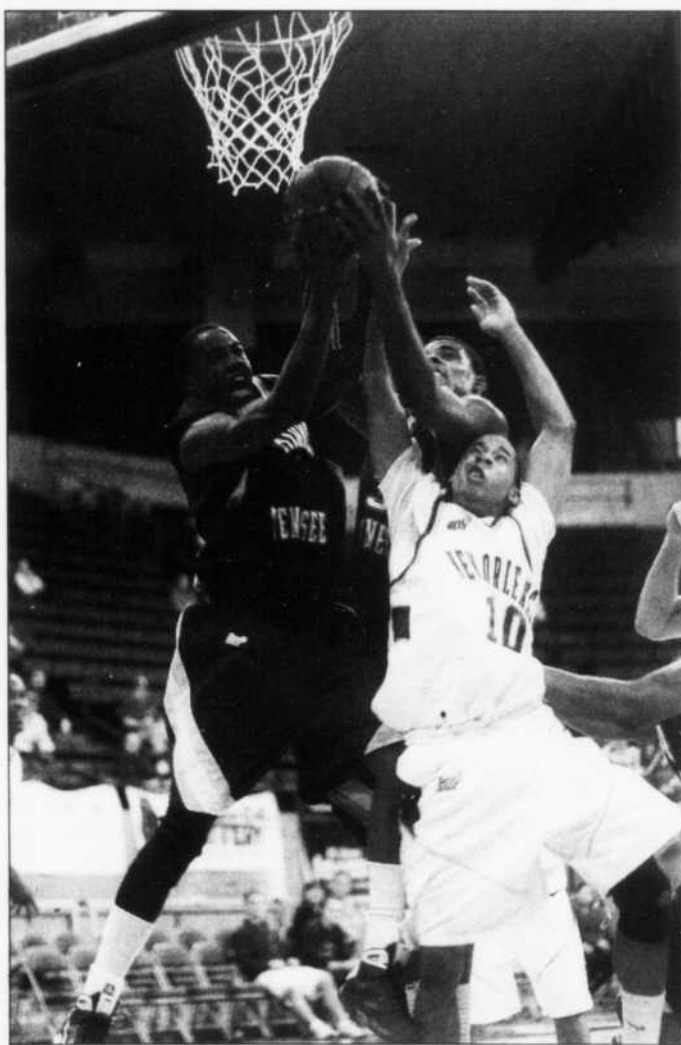


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Montarrio Haddock assists Desmond Yates in grabbing rebound.

9:50, MT Head Coach Kermit Davis expressed his frustration with the defense, exclaiming "Who's going to guard who? Nobody's guarding anybody!"

The defense had been trailing from its usual prominence, though the offense made up for whatever the defense lacked.

After the timeout, the chaos began again. UNO's senior forward Kendall Dykes led the Privateers down the court again and again on an attack against the MT defense. Dykes hit seven of his 12 attempts

for the night, adding to the team's total of 26.

The scoring war droned on throughout the remainder of the first half. Both teams had a huge energy boost, and were fighting to dominate. A huge dunk by Desmond Yates late in the first helped put MT back in the momentum of the game but was immediately responded to by yet another UNO 3-pointer.

MT ended the first half down 32-37. Despite major efforts by senior guard Kevin Kanaskie and ju-

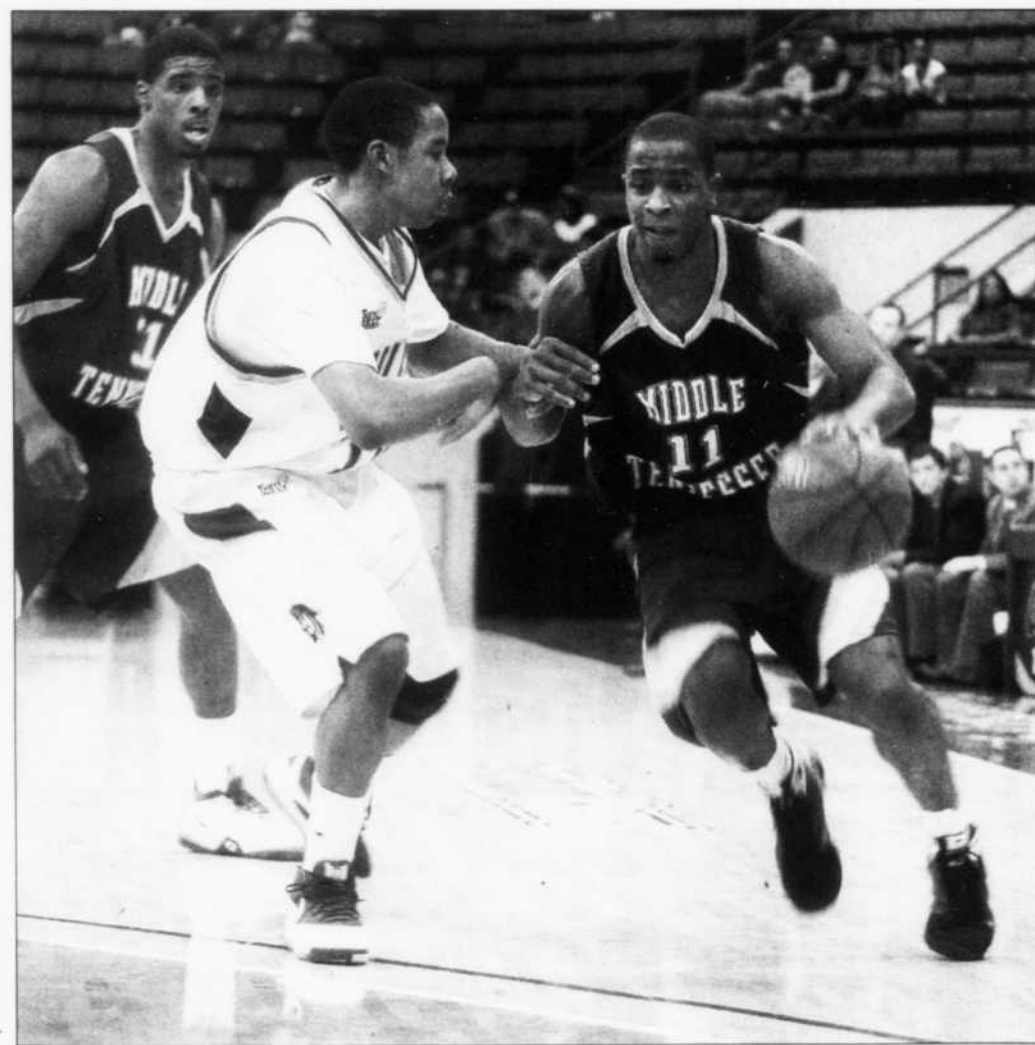


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Senior guard Nigel Johnson barrels down the court for a two-point basket against New Orleans.

nior forward/guard Montarrio Haddock, the Raiders could not top UNO before the first twenty expired. Coach Kermit Davis ushered the Raiders into the locker room for revised game plans to help counteract the UNO offense.

The second half brought more of the same for MT. New Orleans knocked out five of their first seven baskets five minutes into the second half, while MT struggled for their 2-of-6 baskets.

Penalties ran rampant for

both teams and the game clock seldom ran for more than 30 seconds at a time in the second half before a penalty stopped it. MT tallied 19 personal fouls before the game would be called.

The continued fouling from both sides of the ball helped to make an already hostile crowd all the more angered. As the game clock wound down to the final four minutes of play, the penalties increased. Junior guard Calvin O'Neil's foul with .42 remaining started a series of

three MT fouls to help end the game.

MT struggled to keep up with UNO for the rest of the game, staying just far enough behind to lose the game 69-65. Despite major efforts by almost all MT starters, the Raiders could not keep up with UNO.

The Blue Raiders will stay home for their next Sun Belt match-up. The Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns will travel to the Murphy Center Jan. 29 for inter-conference play. Tip-off is at 7:00 p.m.

Men's tennis earns a set of wins

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

With victories in both halves of Friday's doubleheader in Nashville, the MT men's tennis team can claim a perfect beginning to the 2009 dual-match season.

The men's team lost only one match all day, as they defeated Chattanooga 7-0 and Tennessee Tech 6-1 in both singles and doubles action.

"I am really happy we got off to a good start this year," MT Head Coach David McNamara said. "I thought we played pretty well overall."

The victories are especially impressive considering many of McNamara's players are newcomers to the team this season. Half of the Blue Raider starting six on Friday performed in their first ever matches for the university.

Newcomer freshman Victor Melo anchored the top spot for the Blue Raiders. The Brazilian native won his first match against Chattanooga's Peter Saukska 6-2, 6-3 but lost later in the day to Tennessee Tech's Dean O'Brien 3-6, 6-3, 4-6.

Freshman Matthew Langley and senior Robert McKenzie also enjoyed great debuts with the tennis team. Langley registered a pair of wins over

Dakota Pate 6-0, 6-3 and Justin Kirstein 6-0, 4-6, 6-3. McKenzie never lost a set in both of his singles victories over UTC's Alexandru Butnarciu 6-5, 6-0 and TTU's Josh Girling 6-1, 6-2.

Not to be outdone, the veterans of the team also posted impressive wins over their opponents during single match play.

In the No. 2 slot, sophomore Josh Peers earned a hard and long fought vic-

tory with a third set tie-breaker earlier in the day with the score of 6-3, 6-7, 7-5 (8) over a very game Pavel Vostikov of Chattanooga. Later in the day, Peers enjoyed an easier win over TTU's Alex Chen 6-2, 6-1.

Senior Morgan Richard and sophomore Richard Cowden rounded out the field with four single-play victories to provide a clear margin of victory for the Blue Raiders.

In doubles, the Blue Raiders never dropped a match as they went undefeated on the day. Richard and Cowden teamed up in the No. 3 spot for a pair of victories over UTC's R. van de Bovenkamp and Sam Parfitt 8-4, and TTU's Girling and Mario Gutierrez 8-4.

The Blue Raiders will try to build upon their opening success next against Northwestern on Feb. 7 at 1 p.m. in Nashville.

Track, field team scores seven event victories

MT displays skill and speed against six other schools at Blue Raider Invitational

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

The Blue Raider track and field team did not disappoint in their first hosted indoor competition in 2009.

On Saturday, MT walked away from the Blue Raider Invitational at the Murphy Center with seven event wins and a couple of new personal-best times in both the men's and women's mile.

Leading the Blue Raider charge was sophomore Nyeisha Wright, who took first in two events and placed second in another. Wright won the women's 200-meters with a time of 26.43 seconds and the long jump with 18-07.00. She also posted a time of 7.17 in the women's 55-meters to achieve a silver ranking.

"It was a good meet," MT Head Coach Dean Hayes said.

"Nyeisha won two events and took second in another. She had a great day."

In other women's events, MT earned the top two spots in the 400-meter race when senior TraMayne Gillyard clocked in first with a 56.53 and junior Sarah Nambawa followed with a 58.01. The Blue Raider's also took first in the women's mile when junior Zamzam Sangau set a personal best with a time of 5:03.21.

Rounding out the women's victories, junior Britany Cox won the weight throw by a sizeable margin with a 57-06.50. Cox also finished second in the shot put with a 44-5.00 only behind her teammate junior MeLyn Thompson, who threw a 45-3.00 for first place.

The men also posted some remarkable times and scores in their events. The men's mile was won by ju-

nior William Songcock as he posted a personal best time of 4:17.46. Sophomore Robert Carter clocked in with the second fastest time of the day in the men's 400-meters with a 50.54. In the 55-meter hurdles, junior DeRay Sloss clocked in at 7.39, good enough for a second place finish.

Apart from the Blue Raider track and field team were some familiar athletic faces competing in a somewhat unfamiliar role. During the off-season of their primary sport, a couple MT football speedsters competed in the 55-meter dash unattached from the MT track team.

Wide receivers Malcolm Beyah and Chris McClover and defensive back Rod Isaac all participated in the races. Beyah and Isaac made it out of the preliminaries and into the final race of six. Isaac finished



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
Sprinters get set at the start of the 100-meter race at the Blue Raider Invitational on Saturday. Competing against other schools, MT walked away with six wins in women's events.

in fifth with a time of 6.50 and Beyah scored second with a 6.39.

The Blue Raider track team will return to action with their second hosted

event on Jan. 31 with the Middle Tennessee Classic inside the Murphy Center.

10th Anniversary Birthday Bash

Feb. 20-21 from 7 pm - 3 am
In your new and improved Rec. Center

Up 'Til Dawn and MTSU students have been working to make this year's Grand Finale one that YOU don't want to miss!

MTSU students pay only \$5 to be entertained by a live band, enjoy refreshments all night, bounce around in many inflatables, have the chance to win delicious cakes in our cake walk, meet a St. Jude Cancer patient and much more!

If YOU are on an Up 'Til Dawn team, YOU get in free.

This party is sure to be the most fun YOU will have while helping St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Do something good.

Do something fun.
Stay Up 'Til Dawn!



How to Join the Party:
Facebook: Up 'Til Dawn 2008
www.mtsu.edu/~uptildawn
615.904.8270