

BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

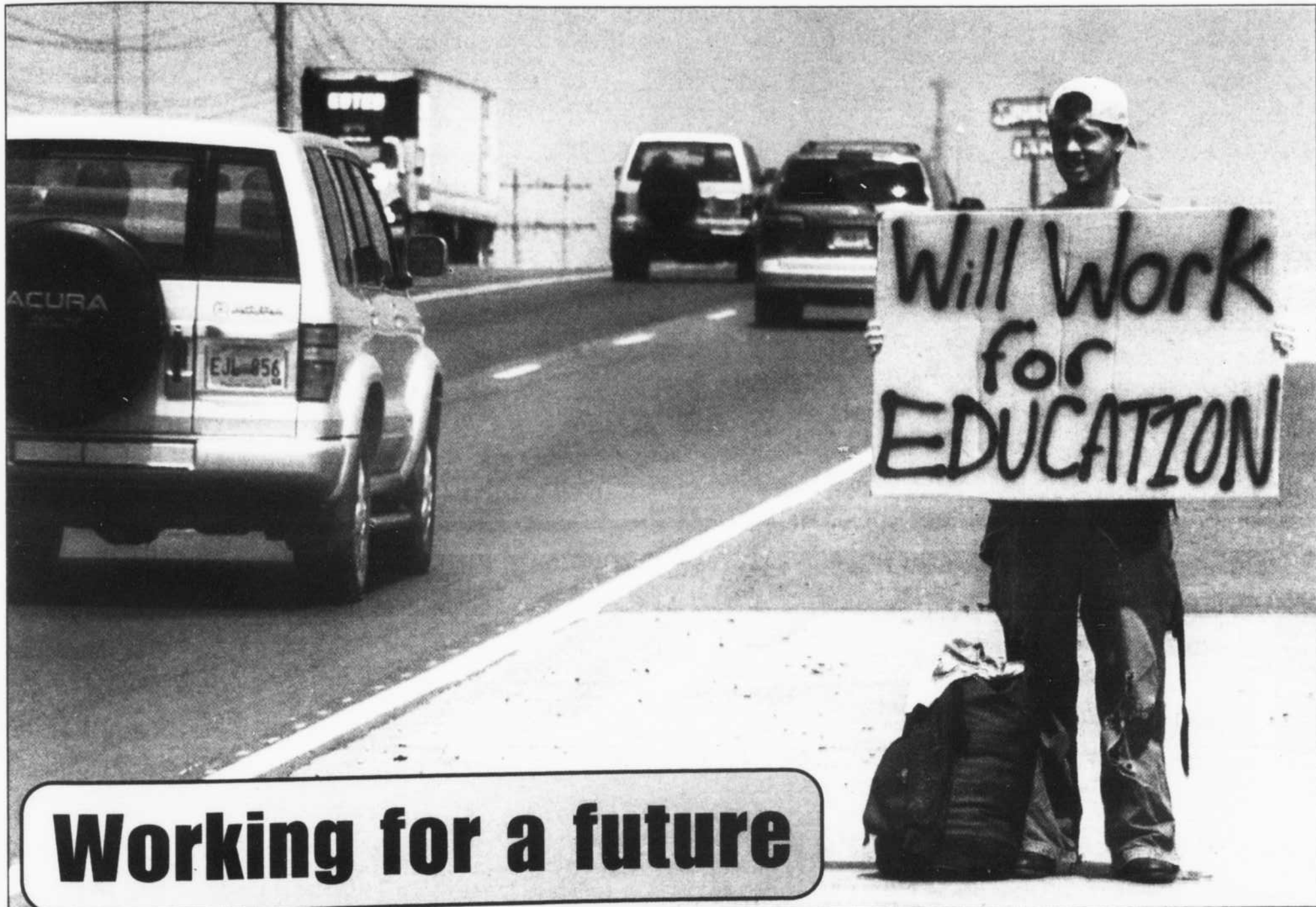
Friday, August 17, 2001

An editorially
independent
newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE



Working for a future

McPhee addresses budget cuts with realism, focus on students

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Getting to know the president

McPhee plans to focus on quality of education, the mission of the university

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

Sidney McPhee has got a heck of a job on his hands.

He came into office at a particularly undesirable time - a time of budget cuts, hiring constraints, tuition hikes and cynical students. But with all the challenges of a presidency in a time of financial peril in front of him, McPhee is curiously calm and ready to assess and address problems in an organized, rational method.

Mild-mannered and patient, McPhee is deliberate in conversation, but not hesitant. Optimistic, but not unrealistic. And perhaps best of all - experienced, but not aloof.

Strong family ties

McPhee grew up Nassau in the Bahamas with his tightly knit family of two parents and nine siblings. The middle child among seven other boys and two girls, McPhee never imagined he would one day be named president of a growing university.

His father was a high school principal, who after retirement, became a prominent businessman in the community. He, along with McPhee's mother, owned and operated department stores and restaurants throughout the area.

With strong encouragement from their parents, the McPhee children pursued and attained success in diverse fields. One McPhee sibling is a senior vice president of the Bank of Nova Scotia. Another is an executive chef at the Ritz-Carlton in Boston. Still another has his own medical lab in the Bahamas.

And now, a McPhee is president of Middle Tennessee State University.

Finding the right path

Being the president of a university was the furthest thing from the mind of the young Sidney McPhee, who was captain of the soccer team, a member of the honor society and a trombonist for the high school band.

"I really looked up to my band director and, at one point, really thought I wanted to be a high school band instructor," McPhee said.

A bright student, he skipped the 10th grade and studied for two years for a general certificate of education issued by the University of London. He earned almost 20 hours of college credit through the program while he was still in high school.

McPhee graduated and earned a scholarship to study music at Prairie View A&M University in Texas, where he soon learned firsthand the grueling curriculum music majors have to undergo.

"What I realized quickly was that the music curriculum - and it still is today - is a very intensive curriculum, and it required a

tremendous amount of time. ... After the first year, I decided, 'I'm sure I love music, but I'm not sure...I really want to commit that amount of time to it.'"

So McPhee laid aside his trombone and pursued another career path, one that would lead him to an undergraduate, master's and doctoral degree.

He changed his major to psychology and sociology and earned a degree in social psychology at the undergraduate level. He returned the Bahamas and worked for a short time as a high school guidance counselor.

McPhee went on to earn a master's degree in educational administration at the University of Miami and a doctorate in applied behavioral studies at Oklahoma State University.

Racking up some experience

After graduating from Oklahoma State, McPhee had no intention of residing there permanently. He considered moving back to the Bahamas, but received a more interesting proposition.

"My goal was to move out of Oklahoma

**"Whether you
call it a right
or a privilege,
[higher education]
is a necessity."**

Sidney McPhee, MTSU president

and to find a job elsewhere, but it just so happens that I had a very good mentor who was my doctoral adviser, Dr. Frank McFarland. He was an extraordinary person who provided good advice and good mentoring to me. He has really helped to shape my view of life and the importance of mentoring people."

McFarland offered McPhee his first job as an adviser to undergraduates. From there, he moved to director of the freshman programs division, where he helped freshmen "get settled" into a university setting.

McPhee's experience as an administrator at Oklahoma State was especially significant for him.

"It has helped shape my view of the role of the university in terms of academics - the importance of focusing on the mission of the university and understanding that we exist as a university because of students and how it's important to never lose sight of that," he said.

Being at Oklahoma State during the state's tough financial times gave McPhee a



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

President McPhee addresses the audience during his reception Aug. 5.

glimpse into what running a university on near non-existent funds will be like.

"While I was there, Oklahoma went through some tough budget times in the early '80s. It's an oil state, and in the early '80s oil went south because of the poor oil economy, and there were lots of major budget cuts."

He said what he learned from that time was that "when you're having a difficult time with funding, that you should continue to push the university forward. You develop priorities, you get a better focus on what you're supposed to do and you look at what's essential, and you cut those things out that are not essential to the mission of the university."

McPhee worked closely with athletes as an adviser, an experience he said will help him as president even more.

During his time there, such prominent athletes as Barry Sanders and Thurmon Thomas attended Oklahoma State.

McPhee calls his experience there both good and bad. He saw students rise to prominence under his advice, but he also witnessed procedures at the university that were not exemplary. Having seen both sides of college athletics, McPhee said, "It gave me a sense of what college athletics should be."

"Jumping forward to today, I would like to see more of our students develop an affection for our teams at MTSU, attend our ballgames and get excited about our football, our basketball, our golf, our tennis teams, our track teams, and really support them because that's an important part of the university."

After his seven years at Oklahoma, McPhee moved to the University of Louisville, where he became the director of the preparatory division - a freshman-based program - as well as associate provost for academic programs.

"That's when I began to really get my teeth into academics," he said. He worked on major initiatives to improve advising and served as the liaison between the provost office and the student government association. After eight years, he transferred to the University of Memphis, where he acted as vice provost and senior vice provost for academic affairs.

After five years in Memphis, he joined the Tennessee Board of Regents, where, as executive vice chancellor, he handled academic matters for all 46 of the colleges and universities in the TBR system for two and a half years. McPhee was instrumental in the creation of TBR's online degree program, which has over 1,300 enrollees.

Meeting in the Middle (Tennessee)

Despite being the new guy in town, McPhee said he already feels welcome.

"The reception has been absolutely outstanding," McPhee said. From Murfreesboro to the corners of Rutherford County, he has been made to feel at home. "The people I have met have been extremely warm and receptive."

"If I were to select any place to live or to work in terms of the quality of the academic programs, the quality of the community and the potential for further growth and development, MTSU is the place to be," he said.

Preparing for that first week

With the somewhat surprising news of budget constraints this summer, preparation for the upcoming semester has been tedious. From students flocking toward the financial aid office to get larger loans to the business office postponing mailing bills until tuition was clarified, everyone has been on edge.

See McPhee Interview, 14

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New president sends welcome to students

To the Students, Faculty and Staff of MTSU:

As the new President of MTSU, it is my great pleasure and privilege to welcome you back to campus as we begin the 90th academic year. I am very excited about the coming year and feel very fortunate to serve as the tenth president of the University. My primary goal is to make Middle Tennessee State University one of the top-rate, comprehensive universities in the nation.

Please know that I am appreciative to all who have extended a warm welcome to my family and me. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you. Towards that end, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you my vision for this institution that we all care so much about.

Let me start by saying that there is nowhere else that I would rather be than right here at MTSU. Many people asked me during the interview process why I applied for this presidency and not that of the University of Memphis, where I spent a number of years. My answer then and now is that

Middle Tennessee State University is the most dynamic institution in the state. It is the institution of choice and will be a leading institution in the years to come. My choice to seek the presidency here was deliberate on my part. I consider this opportunity to be the pinnacle of my career and I am looking forward to working very hard to earn the confidence that has been shown in me thus far.

Now let me tell you what you can expect from me as the leader of this fine institution. First and foremost you can expect me to do everything in my power to strengthen the academic programs. Our main purpose as a university is to provide a quality education to students. Sustaining the academic program and its quality is top priority for all of us. I have already set into motion the necessary procedures to fill the existing faculty vacancies. I want to provide every resource I can to keep the excellent faculty we already have here. It is my intent to recruit the best faculty available. I want to provide the resources and incentives necessary to encourage the faculty to develop

Our main purpose as a university is to provide a quality education to students.

the best academic programs. We already have some of the strongest academic programs in the country. We should not be satisfied until all of our programs are the best in the country.

What happens in the classroom is critical, but what a student encounters outside the classroom is equally important. Consequently, you can expect me to focus effort on enhancing the University community. It is important that every student feels that this is a caring and supportive community. It is critical that each student feels that this is the very best place to study

and live. School spirit, a sense of connection, call it what you will...it is vital to the success of our students that they feel pride in being a member of this community.

You can expect that I will encourage many of the programs that have already been making strides in this area such as the Raider Learning Communities, the Honors Living - Learning Community, the SGA shirt swaps, the Raider Rallies, and many others.

And because it is important that every student feel connected, we will continue to increase our efforts in the areas of creating community and celebrating diversity.

You can expect to see me working even harder on making this a student-centered learning environment. In that regard I want to thank Dr. Barbara Haskew for appointing a task force on the Student Centered Learning Environment.

I also want to thank Sherian Huddleston for her able work as the chair of that task force. The task force report provides an excellent focus on where we can best

concentrate our efforts. You can expect me to follow their advice which includes:

- * Improving the quality, availability, and breadth of career advising for students;
- * Providing more opportunities for working and non-traditional students;
- * Enhancing communications for students to increase awareness of and participation in campus programs and events and to assure that students know about requirements, expectations, and opportunities that will enrich their campus experiences;
- * Increasing opportunities for and encouraging student involvement with faculty members and administrators;
- * And continuing to improve facilities to better meet the need of a diverse student population, including addressing accessibility and pertinent safety issues while also maintaining the look of a traditional university campus appealing to students.

See McPhee Letter, 11

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For more information contact the ensemble leader via e-mail or call the Music office at (615)898-2469

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Welcome Week 2001

Schedule of Events

Friday, Aug. 17

6 p.m. - Dinner behind Corlew Hall

8:30 p.m. - Outdoor movie (*Charlie's Angels*) between Peck Hall and Cope

Saturday, Aug. 18

5:30 p.m. - Dinner and street fair behind Corlew

Sunday, Aug. 19

5:30 p.m. - Co-ed softball tournament on Intramural Fields

Monday, Aug. 20

Classes begin

4 p.m. - President's Picnic between Cope and Peck Hall

Tuesday, Aug. 21

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Volunteer Fair at Keathley University Center Courtyard

Wednesday, Aug. 22

7 p.m. - Greekfest in Recreation Center

Thursday, Aug. 23

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Student Organization Fair in KUC Courtyard

Friday, Aug. 24

8 p.m. - Darrell Hammond performs in Murphy Center

Saturday, Aug. 25

All day - The Honors Challenge

Sunday, Aug. 26

4:30 p.m. - Honors Convocation, JUB

Tuesday, Aug. 29

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Meet Murfreesboro in KUC Courtyard

Wednesday, Aug. 30

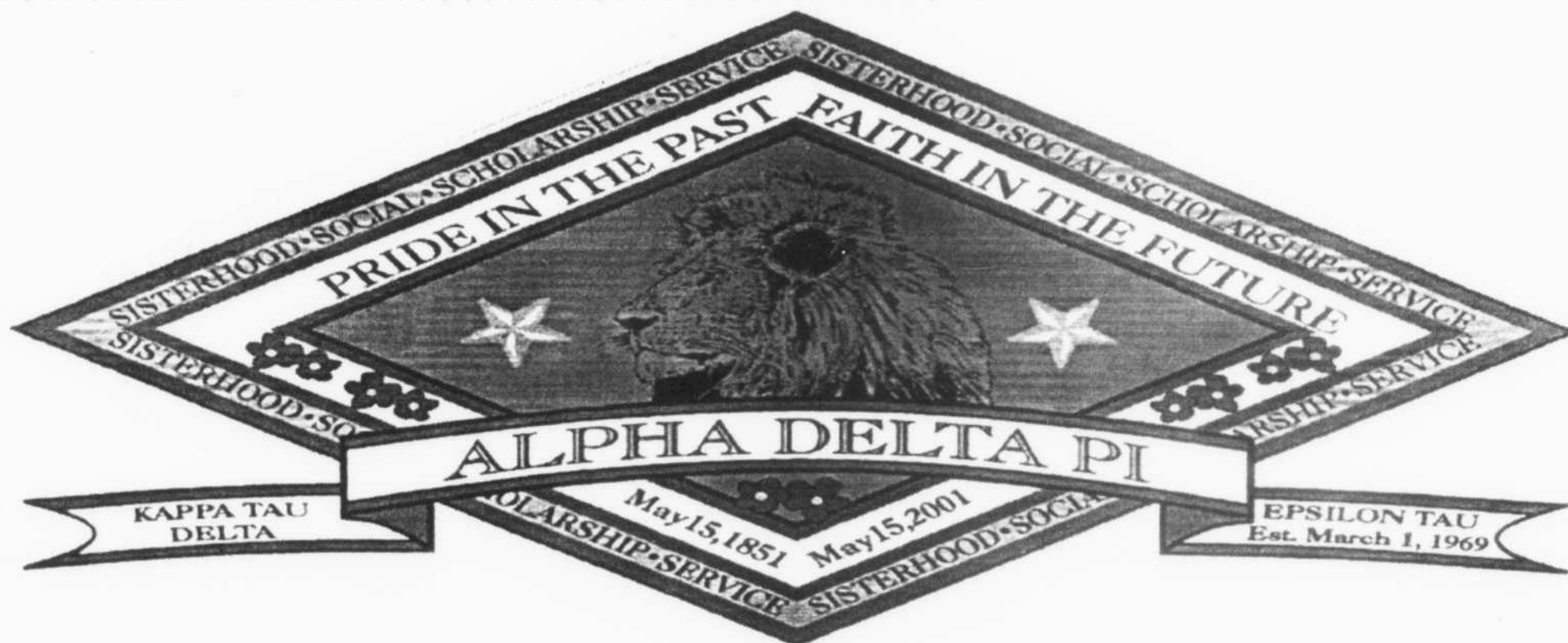
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Meet Murfreesboro in KUC Courtyard

5 p.m. - Raider Rally and Baha Men concert in KUC Courtyard

Thursday, Aug. 31

7 p.m. - MTSU Blue Raider football at Vanderbilt

*For more information, contact Becca Wilson in
Student Development at 898-2454*



Alpha Delta Pi Sorority would like to welcome all new and old students to campus! May it be a memorable year for all of us.

Welcome Week extended to feature more events

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

An unprecedented two-weeks' worth of Welcome Week activities are planned for new and returning students this semester.

Welcome Week is the university's "way of saying 'welcome back to your home away from home,'" said Becca Wilson, coordinator of Student Development.

This year's Welcome Week is larger and more event-filled than previous years, she said.

"We really tried to add some things to hopefully extend over into a two-week period. We hope there will be a larger turnout."

Welcome Week officially begins Friday, Aug. 17 at noon, when all residence halls will open for incoming students.

We-Haul will be available until 4 p.m. We-Haul is a program offered by members of community-service organizations who greet new and returning students and help them move into their residence halls.

An outdoor buffet behind Corlew Hall will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a showing of *Charlie's Angels* at 8:30 p.m. on the lawn between Peck Hall and the Cope Administration Building.

The following morning, residence halls will open at 8, with We-Haul available from that time until 4 p.m. Dinner and a Street Fair featuring carnival-inspired food and games are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. behind Corlew Hall.

Residence halls will open Sunday, Aug. 19 at 8 a.m.

A co-ed softball tournament will commence on the Intramural Fields at 5:30 p.m. All students are invited to participate and will need to provide their own gloves. Teams then will be formed according to the number in attendance; pre-registration is not necessary.

Monday, Aug. 20 may be the first day of classes, but Welcome Week activities will just be warming up.

The President's Picnic - with plenty of free food for everyone - is slated for 4 p.m. between Peck Hall and the Cope Administration Building.

Tuesday will feature the Volunteer Fair in the Keathley University Center Courtyard from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. On- and off-campus community-service organizations will be on hand to distribute information to interested students.

Wednesday, Aug. 22. MTSU's fraternities and sororities will have information tables set up in the recreation center. Free pizza and drinks will be available, along with the volleyball courts and music provided by a local disc jockey.

The Student Organization Fair will be held Thursday in the KUC Courtyard from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Over 30 student organizations will be available to distribute information about themselves to potential members.

"The fair is important because it shows new students what our campus has to offer in the way of extra-curricular activities," said Maggie Prugh, coordinator of Student Organizations and Community Service. Free drinks and popcorn will be available at the fair on a first-come, first-served basis.

"We have 170-plus student groups that new students may get involved in. This is a great opportunity for those organizations to increase their membership," she said. Student organizations have until Tuesday, Aug. 21 to sign up for a table.

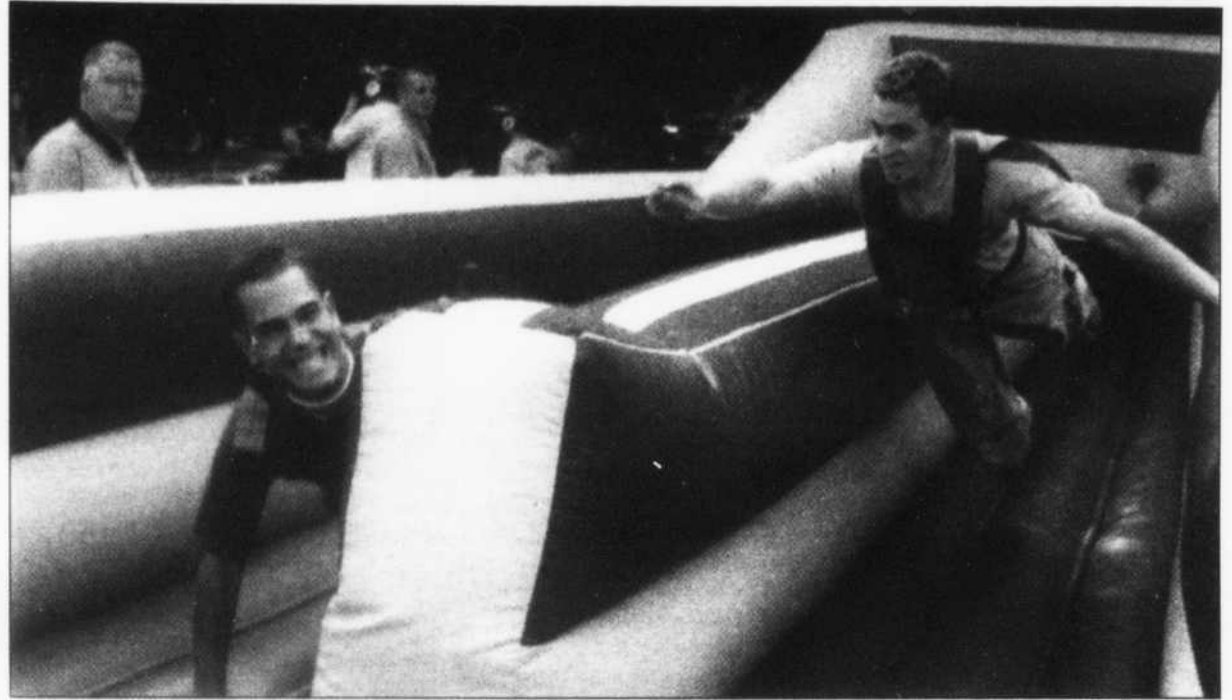
Darrell Hammond, famous for his roles on NBC's *Saturday Night Live*, will perform Friday night at 8 in Murphy Center. The performance will be free to students with valid MTSU identification.

Saturday, Aug. 25, honors students living in Wood and Felder Halls will have the chance to participate in the Honors Challenge, sponsored by the Honors College Residential Society and Housing and Residential Life. The activities incorporate in-line skating, nature walks, ropes courses, ecology hikes and canoe trips with the historic scenery of the Cumberland Plateau and Murfreesboro area.

A celebratory brunch and Honors Convocation Workshop will be held Sunday in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building for participating students.

A \$15 registration fee covers the cost of the activities, brunch, HCRS membership dues and an Honors Challenge T-shirt. Residents of the Honors Living and Learning Center can obtain an application for the challenge by contacting Laurie Witherow at 898-2860.

Welcome Week activities resume for week number two Tuesday, Aug. 29 with Meet Murfreesboro in the KUC Courtyard from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students will be able to meet merchants and organizations from the



File Photo

Two students enjoy the festivities at the President's Picnic last fall.

Murfreesboro community.

Meet Murfreesboro continues Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 5 p.m. in the Courtyard, the Baha Men will be on hand to pump up Raider fans at the Raider Rally -

the first pep rally of the semester.

Students are encouraged to come out for the free concert to support the Blue Raider football team, which will head up against Vanderbilt Thursday, Aug. 30 at 7

p.m. in Nashville.

Aside from the Honors Challenge and Convocation, all activities are free and open to all students. ♦

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Questions, answers with Marshall Law

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

John Marshall, a senior agriculture business major, has been a member of the Student Government Association for two and a half years. He spent one year as a senator in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences and one and a half years as SGA president. Marshall - who hails from Murfreesboro - was recently elected for a second term - something no other president has done.

Q How does it feel to be the first SGA president re-elected for a second term?

A I feel very fortunate and am honored to have been given another opportunity by fellow students to represent and serve as their voice to our administration and others. I believe that it strongly reflects the confidence that most students have in the job we are doing and the direction we are going in Student Government.

This success can be attributed to all the students who dedicate their time to improving student life through their involvement in SGA.

Q What's the most challenging part of your job as president?

A Trying to please everyone. All my life I have heard that you can't please everybody. This may be true, but we are going to try. We never want a student to leave our office with the feeling that their concern wasn't addressed. This doesn't mean that we will always have all the answers or solve every problem. However, we will treat every issue with the highest regard and try find a solution.

Q What are some perks?



Marshall

A The greatest perk that comes with this office is having the opportunity to work closely with our administration, faculty and staff. These people do a lot of work for little pay to give us the education and resources that we are proud to have at MTSU. I have gained a greater appreciation for these individuals and the work they do. Also, I have been able to meet a lot of students and have created lasting friendships. These experiences and opportunities alone are the greatest perks associated with serving as president.

Q Is there one person in politics or history who you admire and try to emulate?

A There are two people who aren't political and can't be found in history books who I try to emulate - my grandparents. They are good Christians, neighbors and parents who have practically raised my brother and I. Most people who knew my grandfather would agree that he was a hard worker and a man of his word. My grandmother is a very kindhearted individual that is caring and always tries to please everyone. If I can emulate half the things that these two people stand for, then I will be on the right track.

Q What are your personal priorities for SGA this year?

A Some of our priorities this year will be to continue to improve the working relationship we have with our administration, increase school spirit, extend the hours of operation for our University Library, create a veterans memorial on campus and gather support for a modern faculty evaluation procedure. Also, we would like to work closer with the Faculty Senate.

Q What SGA accomplishments are you most proud of?

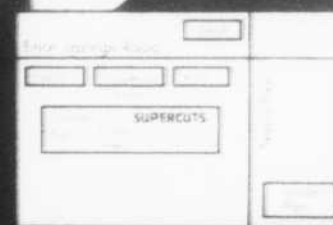
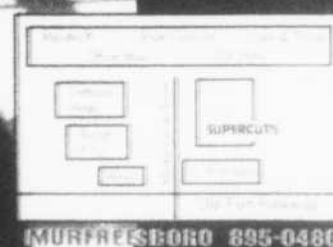
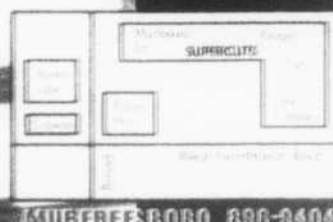
A We are proud of the work we have done with regards to campus beautification, school spirit and being able to change the student government constitution that will allow us to serve as a stronger voice for students. Also, we are proud that we have been able to work as a team in student government and increase the positive relationship we have with students, administration and others.

Q In your candidate profile for SGA president this spring, you told Sidelines that student/administration involvement is an extremely important issue for you. Why is this so important, and how will you involve more students with our administration? What can the average student do to improve their relationship with the administration?



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See Marshall, 11

Elevators being installed to increase accessibility

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

In an effort to expand campus accessibility for disabled students, new elevators are being installed in the Cope Administration Building and James Union Building.

"I've been asking for this since 1985," said John Harris, director of Disabled Student Services. "They're a blessing in disguise."

Disabled students needing to access the second and third floors of each building have traditionally used the service elevators of both, which are slow and oftentimes must be held for long periods of time to load cargo.

"Back in the time [the buildings] were built, there were really not wheelchairs on campus," Harris said. Therefore, those particular elevators were never really intended for student use.

A growing disabled-student population has prompted the construction. There were 773 disabled students registered at the con-

"I've been asking for this since 1985. They're a blessing in disguise."

John Harris, director of Disabled Student Services

clusion of the spring semester, and as of press time, more than 80 additional disabled students had registered for fall-semester classes. Originally, the elevator project was to be

split into two years, with one elevator being installed this academic year and the second next year.

Those plans changed when Duane Stucky, vice president for Financial Administration, agreed personally to fund one elevator.

"We thought we could do one one year and one the next year, but when he agreed to pay for one, that allowed us to be able to put the money in, so we're actually going to get both of them done," Harris said.

Expanding accessibility has always been a main focus of Disabled Student Services, Harris said. Depending on budget allocation and urgency, projects get shifted according to priority. Though installing efficient elevators always has been important, the project was postponed because the service elevators were available as a "backup plan," he noted.

Instead of jumping onto the elevator project, Disabled Student Services "decided to go across campus with as many things as we could, because the (service) elevators were

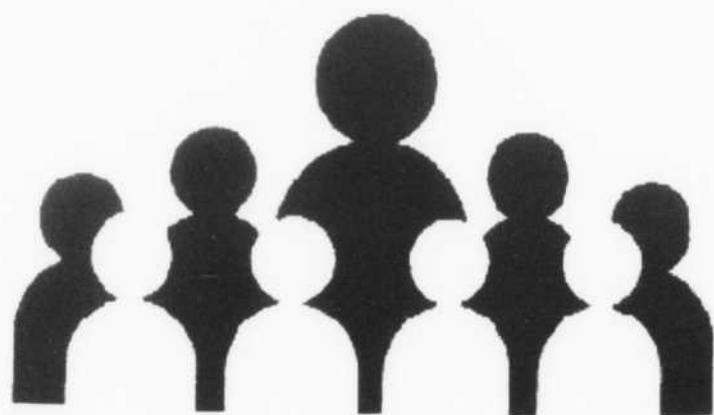
there, they were just not the most optimum situation," Harris said. Among the more urgent projects were accessible water fountains, classrooms and bathrooms.

The Cope elevator project is on schedule and should be finished by October, said Jay Wallace, administrative coordinator of Construction Administration.

However, "the JUB project is currently in a holding pattern. We ran into some unforeseen circumstances, and we are trying to get those taken care of," he explained.

Though many accessibility advances have been made, there are many more to tackle, Harris said. Some projects in the near future may include installing an elevator in Murphy Center, making on-campus housing more accessible to disabled students, expanding the offices within Disabled Student Services so the department can work more efficiently and increasing disabled students' accessibility to on-campus health services. ♦

Attention Student Organizations



The deadline to apply for student activity fee funds is Friday, September 14.

Applications for funds will be available in KUC 126 on Monday, August 20.

In order to be eligible for funds, you must have attended one of the orientation sessions presented during the fall and be a registered organization.

For more information, call 898-5812.



Presenting...

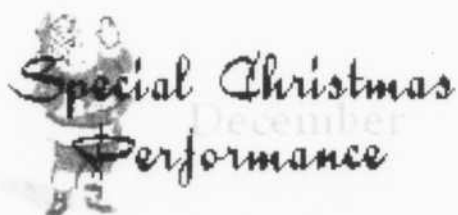
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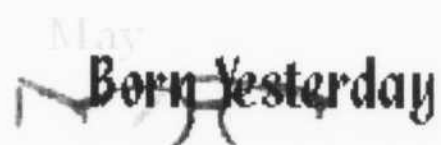


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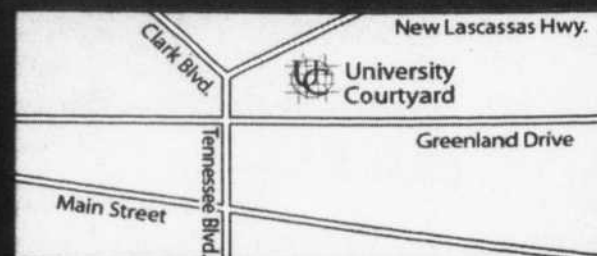
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McPhee Letter: Cooperation, collaboration needed for a bright future

Continued from 5

I know that the Division of Student Affairs is already working on some of the specific recommendations. I will be encouraging efforts to improve the quality of student services, to provide more opportunities for academic advising, and to expand the CUSTOMS and other new student programs.

In addition to enhancing student services in the short term, I also will be working diligently on long-term projects to enhance the campus. Among those projects that I feel must be high on our priority list are the Science Building and a new Art Building. In the near future we need to pursue projects such as a new Student Union and new residence halls. We have been forced by budget constraints to postpone many

essential projects. We cannot afford to allow this trend to continue into the future. I will be working with the central board office and the state legislature to move forward on essential building projects that are critical to our core academic program. We will also move forward on those projects that are funded outside of the Education and General Budget, such as the Student Union and the residence halls.

It is important that we not lose our optimism in the face of the current budget crises. We will continue to find ways to make progress. It is truly unfortunate that the lack of support from the state level has resulted in a significant increase in tuition.

One of the bedrock principles of our country has been affordable public education.

As the president of this institution, I will always be committed to keeping the educational experience here accessible, accountable and affordable. But, we must maintain the quality of your educational experience and there is a cost associated with maintaining that quality. I hope you will work with me as we seek to support the state in finding the right balance.

I am convinced that cooperation and collaboration rather than confrontation will result in a bright future for this state and this university.

As we work together in the coming years there are a number of things that I hope will become increasingly self-evident. First, this is an exceptional university because of the exceptional people who are here. The quality of this uni-

versity will be measured by the quality of the people who chose to be a part of this community. We want you to be as proud of your association with the University as the University is proud of you. When you are successful, the University is a success.

The relationship is just that simple. I recognize that I am going to be standing on the shoulders of many individuals who were here before me.

I invite you to join me in appreciating the past, but always looking to the future. Our success lies not in what we have been in the past, or even in what we are now.

Our success lies in what we chose to become next.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely yours,
Sidney McPhee

Marshall

Continued from 8

A It is important because we must work together to provide the quality of academic and student life desired at MTSU. By working together we can ensure that the mission and direction of the university will be a positive one.

As students, one thing we can do to positively contribute to this university is to become involved. There are several ways for students to become involved through university standing committees and student government. Sure, not every student can serve in these positions, but every student can help by letting these groups know what concerns students have and what stance we should take regarding issues facing MTSU. We are very fortunate to have such a tremendous group of folks here providing the tools and resources we need to become successful. If we work together, such success will only continue to improve. ♦



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MTSU's student organization for students with adult responsibilities

KUC

7:30-7:30 (Monday-Thursday)
7:30-4:30 (Fridays)

Professor Gore returns for the fall

Former VP will head expanded community-building course

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

Al Gore will return to campus this semester to conduct a three-credit hour course titled, "Family Centered Community Building."

This year, the course will have 135 seats available on a first-come, first-served basis. Both full- and part-time students are eligible, but the course is restricted to juniors, seniors and graduate students.

Students can sign up for the course with the option of choosing which type of credit they want - human sciences, journalism, political science or sociology/anthropology.

Gore will have control over course content, but will not conduct every session. Well-known speakers and presenters will be brought into the classroom to interact with the students.

W. Rodney Crumpton, a senior who took the course in spring

2001, was extremely pleased with the experience.

"Gore's class is a chance for a Harvard-level discourse on a wide variety of subjects with nothing off limits," Crumpton said.

Though Crumpton was wholly satisfied with the class, he says the criteria for enrolling in it should be based on grade point average instead of classification.

"I think the honors people ought to have first crack at it," said Crumpton, who is not an honor student. "I do believe in that class, with the people coming in and the feedback they want from us, that you ought to require at least a 3.0 to get in."

Coursework for the pass/fail course will be assigned and graded by four MTSU professors.

Mark Byrnes, professor of political science, will be working with Gore for the first time this fall. "I'm excited about the opportunity for students to have exposure to somebody who worked in the highest level of government," he said. "I think he'll do well. Being a professor involves a lot of the same skills as being a politician."

Ed Kick, professor of sociology/anthropology, worked with Gore in the spring, and will join him again this fall.



Photo by Rebecca Pickering | Staff

Gore greets students during one of his first days on campus in the spring.

Gore is a "very approachable man," Kick said. "One to one, not only is he a fine individual, but he's very eager to be a good professor."

Other participating professors are Larry Burris, journalism, and Dellmar Walker, human sciences.

The class will meet on selected Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., beginning Aug. 27 and concluding Dec. 10. All classes will take place in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the Business and Aerospace Building.

Registration for the class can be completed via TRAM at 898-2000, or on WebMT at www.mtsu.edu. For course numbers, objectives, topics and dates, search the MTSU homepage under the keyword "famcom." ♦

CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT CENTER

Career Day - Thursday, September 20, 2001
Summer Jobs/Internship Fair - January 30, 2002

Career Resource Library - KUC 328

Part-time Jobs

Career Placement Services for Prospective Graduates



Visit the Career and Employment Center
Keathley University Center, Room 328
Web site: www.mtsu.edu/~career

Cheerleader Tryouts

Tryouts for the MTSU spirit squads are just around the corner

What White Squad Tryouts
Where AMG Main Gym
When August 23, 2001
Time 7-8 p.m. (meeting)
8-10 p.m. (instruction and demos)
All Weekend (tryouts)
Phone 898-5812
Web www.mtsu.edu/~mtcheer
E-mail gritch@mtsu.edu

What to wear Shorts, T-shirt, tennis shoes
What to bring Each participant needs to bring proof of insurance and proof of enrollment at MTSU

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women!**



Tryout process There will be clinics August 22, 24 and 25 in which participants will learn materials and demonstrate skills.

Participants will be evaluated at all clinics, and cuts will be made after each clinic. Participants will be evaluated by the coach and advisor of previous experience on the following:

a) Sideline Cheer, Fight Song and Cheer, all with incorporation of stunting and/or tumbling.
b) Dance (females only)
c) Partner stunts such as: Toss Shoulders Pop Off, Walk In Extension Pop Off, Toss Liberty Pop Off,

Toss Stretch, Full Cradle
d) Standing Back Handspring, Standing Back Tuck, Standing Back Handspring Back Tuck
e) Forming Tumbling Series, consisting of at least 3 Round Off Back Handspring Back Tuck

Scholarship White Squad members will receive books during the spring semester

Search for new director of Greek Life continues

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

Applications for director of Greek Life are being reviewed, and a new director should be chosen by January 2002, said Gene Fitch, associate dean of Student Life.

"It's all going to depend on who ultimately is picked, and what their availability is," Fitch said.

A search committee consisting of seven faculty members and students are evaluating the applications.

Due to the thin budget throughout campus, a search was almost impossible.

"We wrote a memo to the president and asked for an exception to the hiring freeze, and we were granted that exception," Fitch said.

Currently, the office is being held by Stuart Eddings, a graduate student at Vanderbilt University.

Eddings is occupying the office on a temporary basis - not an interim basis, noted Fitch. Time and money constraints prevented a national search for an interim director. Eddings was chosen by MTSU because of her experience working with Greeks at Vanderbilt and her previous experience working in the MTSU Office of Student Development.

"We approached her and asked if she could just step in for now and maintain the office and get us through Rush and other things on the horizon," Fitch said.

Eddings took the reins in late May upon the resignation of Victor Felts, who had filled the position for six years. ♦

Greek Week Schedule

Monday, Aug. 20

Noon - Tug of War contest, Keathley University Center Courtyard

4 p.m. - Jell-o eating contest during President's Picnic, lawn between Cope and Peck

All day - God and Goddess contest fundraiser, KUC

Tuesday, Aug. 21 - Philanthropy Day

Field trip for Project Hope Children

Greek banner hanging, KUC

All day - God and Goddess contest continues

9 p.m. - Party at Alumni Memorial Gym, sponsored by Omega Psi Phi

Wednesday, Aug. 22

All day - God and Goddess contest continues

7 p.m. - Greekfest, announcement of God and Goddess contest winner, Recreation Center

Thursday, Aug. 23 - Academic Day

2 p.m. - Golden Apple reception for outstanding professors, Hazelwood Dining Room, James Union Building

Friday, Aug. 24

2 p.m. - Volleyball, music, refreshments at Sigma Phi Epsilon House

Fraternity recruitment will be held Aug. 27-Sept. 1, and sorority recruitment will be held Sept. 5-10.

For more information, call the Office of Greek Life at 898-5996



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- Starbucks has moved to Greta's in the K.U.C. & is open to serve you at 6:30 a.m. Monday thru Friday!
- Taco Bell is now at Cyber Café @ Woodmore!
- McCallie has added a convenience store!
- J.U.B. now has Bene' Pizza, Pasta, & Grinders!
- Mass Comm. is re-modeling to serve you better!



www.mtdining.com

McPhee Interview: 'We need to find a way to keep moving this university forward'

Continued from 3

To prepare for the first week of classes - just McPhee's third week as president - he is making sure classes are staffed, resources are plentiful and the facilities are ready for students.

The task of filling in vacant faculty positions is even more difficult because of the hiring freeze enacted by the chancellor of the TBR. However, university presidents can - at their own discretion - hire faculty as exceptions to the freeze, which McPhee plans to do.

"One of the first things I did as president of this university was to say to the deans and the provosts that I am going to go on and approve all faculty positions that come across my desk, because it's important as we prepare for the beginning of the semester that we have faculty on board to meet the needs of our students," he said.

There are currently 75 positions across campus that need to be filled.

Now, the challenge ensues

The biggest challenge facing MTSU this year is a lack of state funding, which is a headache for administrators and students alike.

With no new dollars allocated for higher education in Tennessee, tuition rates jumped in most universities across the state.

"It is unfortunate that, at this point, we

have not gotten from our legislature leadership in addressing the revenue problem," McPhee said. "That 15 percent (tuition increase) is not going to allow us to jump ahead. It just allows us to try to keep what we currently have in providing the best-quality education for our students."

He is worried specifically about the trend in university tuition hikes.

"We have been raising, over a period of time, the tuition where students are carrying a disproportionate percentage of the load of their education. Tennessee needs to do better in funding education so that we can provide the best quality education for the citizens of the state. We all know the importance and the connection between an educated person and their economic and social well-being.

"Whether you call it a right or a privilege, [higher education] is a necessity," he said.

Students aren't the only people suffering under the budget. Professors already are being paid less than in many other states, and attracting new, qualified professors to fill in the gaps presents yet another challenge for McPhee.

"I could be depressed by this situation, coming as a new president where you have zero operating funds...but I'm not going to be depressed. I think we need to find ways to keep moving this university forward. We need to be creative in our thinking. We need to start assessing everything we are doing

and asking the question, 'Is it essential to the mission of this university?'"

The student population explosion of the '90s has exceeded MTSU's resources, despite more than \$200 million worth of new build-ings and renovations.

"I don't think we can continue to explode in enrollment the way we have in the last 10 years without significant resources," McPhee said. "We know significant resources are not going to be forthcoming at least within the next few years. I would like for us to rethink and maybe take a moment to reflect and take a deep breath as a campus and ask the question, 'Do we still want to be the largest and the fastest-growing institution in the state of Tennessee, or do we want to take a look at what we have and focus a little more on quality as opposed to quantity?'"

"This can be a top-rate university. I think we have the elements for that in place. We need to build on that and really start focusing on the core, and it might mean we need to slow down. ..."

McPhee is not in favor of total enrollment caps, because they "tend to impact the people who most need education." But he also feels that continued growth at such a rate will suffocate the university.

"It might mean in some areas, in some disciplines, raising the admissions standards," he said.

But McPhee said he doesn't want to stop improvements right at the edges of campus.

He feels that the university's bond with the surrounding business community is an often-untapped resource.

"I think we need to look at partnerships - focusing on building partnerships with industry and businesses and the community in general."

Also, strengthening bonds with alumni will be "absolutely critical" to him, as they can provide a source of revenue as well.

There is already a long-range plan in the works in the development office to increase alumni support of and participation in university affairs.

Looking forward

McPhee is in the process of settling into a new home and a new university, with his family to keep him company.

His wife, daughter and Pomeranian named Dusty have all moved into the President's Home on campus with him. He also has a son who attends the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Despite the wall of challenges before him, McPhee seems optimistic about the days to come.

"I love working with students. I love interacting with students. I want to hear from students. I want to hear their views. I want them to know that I am interested in their experience on this campus.

"I see my job as making this experience the best, both in and out of the classroom." ♦



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 Noonday - Wednesdays, 12:20
 Thursday Night Together, 7:00pm
ALSO: Small group activities centered around
 Bible study, women's issues, discipleship,
 book discussions, prayer groups, etc.
Times of meeting TBA

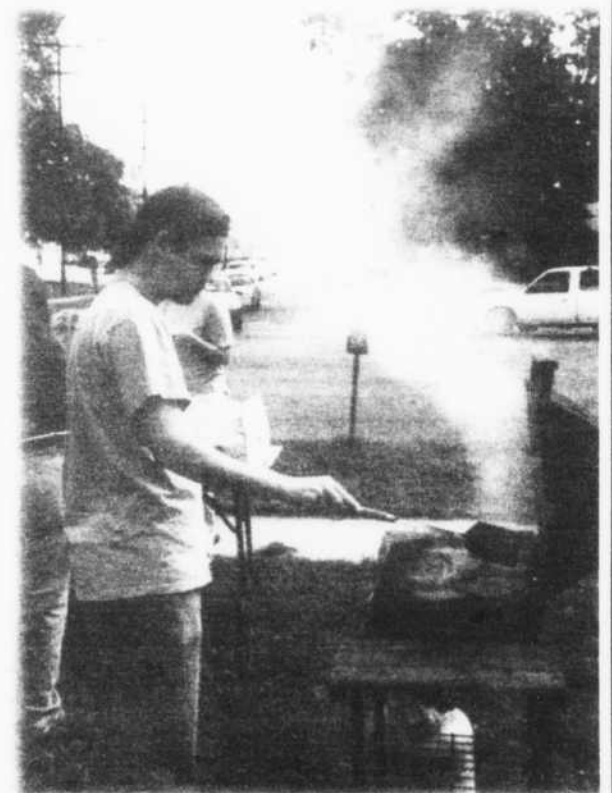
Other Activities:

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 Intramurals
 Drama Team
 Service Ministries
 Cookouts / Parties
 Mission Trips
 Conferences / Retreats

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 Murfreesboro, TN 37130*

*www.mtsu.edu/~bsu
 Email: bsu@mtsu.edu
 phone: 615.893.5035*



Courtyard taking shape

Rain takes its toll on construction, but project should be completed by end of December

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

Construction crews have been working throughout 2001 to complete the new courtyard centered between Bragg, Mass. Communications Building, the University Library and the Business and Aerospace Building.

What began as a vast mud pit is beginning to take shape, as trees are being planted and sidewalks are being laid.

The courtyard should be completed at the end of the year, said Jay Wallace, administrative coordinator of Construction Administration.

"We've been hampered by the rain just like every other outdoor project has," Wallace said. "But we are still looking for sometime in the latter part of December."

"I really think that everybody will be really pleased with what it does to enhance that area. Once

it's finished, it's going to be very, very student-friendly and user-friendly," Wallace said.

The new courtyard met with much controversy during the spring semester. Many students and faculty members felt the courtyard was a misuse of money, since many buildings and academic departments were in dire need of funds.

The courtyard was actually planned to be built when the University Library was constructed. The remaining \$1.4 million after the library was built was earmarked specifically for the courtyard and could not be used for academic departments or other buildings.

When completed, the courtyard will feature several varieties of trees that will surround the university seal, as well as seating areas and plenty of lighting for receptions and other university functions. ♦



File Photo

Photos by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

(Top) The courtyard at its beginning stage in January.

(Left) The courtyard develops throughout the spring semester with planted trees and a sidewalk.

(Below) The end of summer brings further developments with more trees and a seal base.

(Below left) A model of the finished courtyard.



Aid denied to potential MTSU applicants

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

At least 26 potential MTSU applicants will be denied federal financial aid, due to an anti-drug provision of the Higher Education Act of 1998.

The provision - which takes form as question No. 35 on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid - denies funding to applicants who have been convicted of either possessing or selling illegal drugs.

All of the 26 potential applicants would have been eligible for federal student loans, totaling approximately \$91,000. Of the 26, an additional 10 would have been eligible for 10 Pell Grants, totaling approximately \$30,000.

If the 26 students decide to apply to MTSU - as they indicated on their FAFSAs they might - they will receive no federal dollars for at least one year, depending on the nature of their drug convictions.

Denial of federal funds does not necessarily equal denial of MTSU-issued funds such as the Presidential Scholarship or Academic Service Scholarship, said David Hutton, director of Financial Aid.

Although Hutton has never had a case of

that nature in his three years as director, he says no university policy exists which would further deny the student funding from the university.

He also said since no record checks are performed on students who say they've never had a drug conviction, it would be easy for a student to lie and receive federal aid.

Only students who either leave the question blank or admit their conviction are punished.

"Personally, I don't understand the rule if there's no way to enforce it," Hutton said.

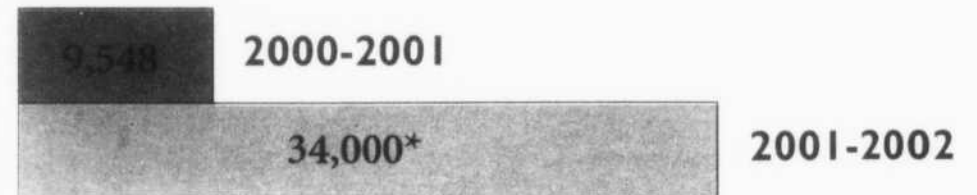
As for searching out those who might fudge the truth, the Financial Aid Office "mainly worries about GPA and the number of hours you're taking," he said. It would be too time consuming to run record checks on every applicant to see who was lying. "It sounds good, to but actually follow through is kind of hard," Hutton said.

Apparently, it's already a time-consuming matter, and Hutton said he feels the ends don't justify the means.

For every student who admits their drug conviction, a separate worksheet must be sent to them, returned and processed before a final decision can be made.

As for students who leave the question

Number of students nationwide denied federal aid due to drug convictions



* estimated number of students who may answer "yes" or leave the question blank

Source: San Jose Mercury News

blank, omission is considered admission of guilt under the mandate of the Bush administration.

The provision is the brainchild of U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., who sponsored the law after hearing that drug usage was skyrocketing among college students.

In March 1998, Souder offered an amendment to the five-year, \$250 billion Higher Education Reauthorization Act then making its way through Congress. They reasoned that poor or working-class students getting government money shouldn't be spending any of it on drugs. They also expressed the hope that students would find it easier to resist offers to do drugs if they knew they'd be putting their

financial aid packages at risk.

The law has met with controversy of late because of its discriminatory impact on minorities and working-class families.

"If George Bush or Al Gore had been caught using drugs, as I believe they did, it wouldn't have affected their ability to go to college," U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., said in a July 29 article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Frank is leading a campaign to repeal the law.

"It will hurt minorities disproportionately. They are more likely to get arrested for drug use, and they are low-income, so they are more likely to need student aid. So they get a double whammy."

Frank failed in an attempt to get the law repealed last year but has reintroduced the legislation this year with the support of 52 other congressional lawmakers.

Critics also say the law does not deter drug use, but that it is counterproductive because it takes away the opportunity for education from those who need it most. In addition, it singles out drug users, while those convicted of other felonies such as murder and armed robbery can get aid.

With applications still arriving for this year, 7,139 students nationwide have already been found ineligible for federal aid. Another 15,327 applications are pending from students who either left the question blank or had a drug conviction. ♦

Financial Aid Restrictions

Students who are convicted of drug-related offenses face these restrictions on receiving federal financial aid:

— Possession of illegal drugs:

First offense - one-year suspension from date of conviction
Second offense - two-year suspension from date of conviction
Third offense - indefinite suspension

— Sale of illegal drugs:

First offense - two-year suspension from date of conviction
Second offense - indefinite suspension

All students can regain eligibility during the suspension period if a rehabilitation program is successfully completed and two unannounced drug tests come up negative.



Photo Provided

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass.

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Women's
Justice Center

The Christian Music Society will hold FreeFest 2001 from noon to 11 p.m. on the Knoll Saturday, August 25. FreeFest 2001 will be the 1st annual all-day festival held by the CMS. National and local bands will be performing. Campus Christian organizations, Christian record companies, and local churches will have booths. There will be free food and games. For more information, access the Christian Music Society's website at www.cms.advantagecity.com.

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CAMPUS BRIEFS

Compiled By Lindsey Turner | News Editor

Signs, signs, everywhere signs

MTSU's street signs received a needed boost earlier this month as they underwent both physical and phonic makeovers.

During his term, former university President James Walker appointed a committee to brainstorm new, memorable names for streets within the campus.

Along with new names, the streets received new signs. Below, the old street names are on the left and their replacements are on the right.

C Street	Champion Way
B Street/1st Street	Blue Raider Drive
Loop Drive	Old Main Circle
In front of Cope	Visitors Circle
2nd street	MTSU Boulevard
By Forrest Hall	Military Memorial
West of Alumni Center/JUB	Alumni Drive
Womack Housing	Homecoming Circle
Along Judd and Gracy Halls	Friendship Street
Front of Art Barn	Founders Lane
Front of Saunders Fine Arts	Normal Way

The sign committee members were Sarah Barlow, professor of Biology; Bob Bullen, professor of educational leadership; John Harris, director of Disabled Students Services; Rep. John Hood; John Lynch, University Relations; Frances Rich, Student Affairs executive secretary; Bob Womack, professor of educational leadership; and Mike Gower, associate vice president. ♦

Scholarship named for biology professor

In honor of John Zamora's dedication to biology and the success of MTSU's Recycling Program, a biology scholarship has been established in his name. A graduate of Columbia University, Zamora came to MTSU 14 years ago to teach biology.

During his tenure here, he has been an adviser, a member of the Faculty Senate, a local science-fair judge and a major supporter of the Recycling Program. He also has authored a book, presented research at the local, state and national level and written for various publications.

With Zamora's help, the recycling program has raised \$450,000 through campus collections of newspaper and aluminum, as well as over \$125,000 through personal donations.

The John Zamora Biology Scholarship will be awarded to a biology student - most likely a graduate student performing research.

For more information, contact Pat Doyle at 898-2069. ♦

Circle K to hold meeting

The MTSU chapter of Circle K International, the worlds largest collegiate service organization, will hold an informational meeting on Monday, Aug. 27 at 6 p.m. in Keathley University Center, Room 324. Circle K provides college students with opportunities in leadership, fellowship and service. Membership is open to all students. Free food will be served at the meeting.

To learn more about Circle K before the meeting, please visit their Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~circlek or e-mail them at circlek@mtsu.edu. ♦

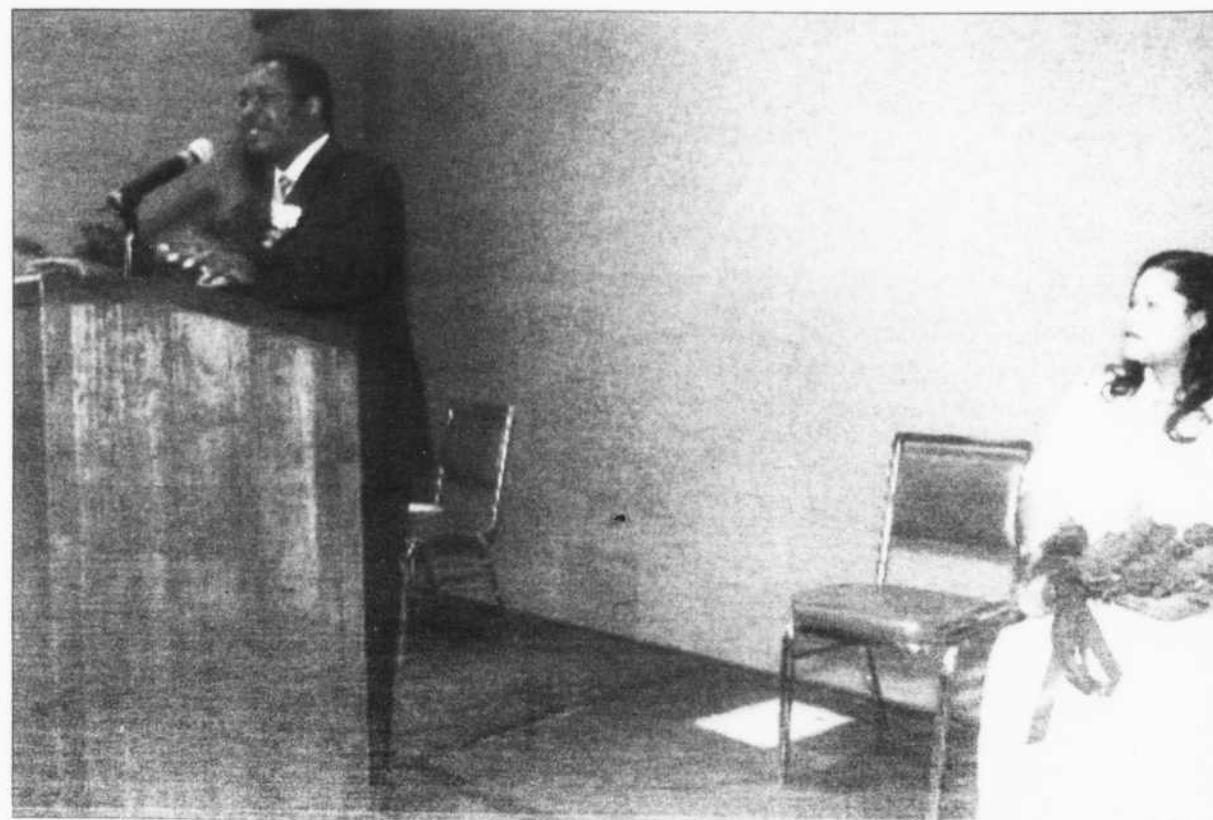
Settling in



Photos by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

(Above) President Sidney McPhee greets well-wishers at his reception held Aug. 5 at the James Union Building.

(Below) President McPhee speaks to his audience while his wife Elizabeth looks on during the reception.





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Classification: Senior

Semesters on staff: Five

Hometown: Selmer, Tenn.

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Features Co-Editor

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Semesters on staff: Three

Hometown: Knoxville, Tenn.



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Flash! Editor

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Classification: Sophomore

Semesters on staff: Four

Hometown: Saltillo, Tenn. (pop. 450)



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Major: Electronic Media

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Leslie Fike

Features Co-Editor

Major: Journalism

Classification: Senior

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available

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Opinions Editor

Major: Political Science

Classification: Sophomore

Semesters on staff: Three

Hometown: Hendersonville, Tenn.



Angela White

Online Editor

Major: Political Science-Pre Law

Classification: Senior

Semesters on staff: Nine

Hometown: Oak Ridge, Tenn.



R. Colin Fly

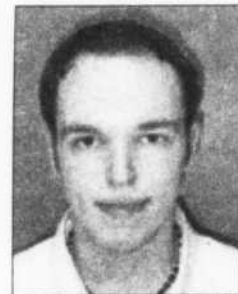
Copy Editor

Major: Journalism

Classification: Senior

Semesters on staff: Ten

Hometown: Nashville, Tenn.



Kristy Dalrymple

Designer

Major: Media Design

Classification: Senior

Semesters on staff: Three

Hometown: Aurora, Colo.



Michaela Renee Silva

Designer

Major: Graphic Communication

Classification: Senior

Semesters on staff: One

Hometown: Chattanooga, Tenn.



John-Paul Land

Designer

Major: Electronic Media Production

Classification: Junior

Semesters on staff: One

Hometown: Columbus, Miss.



Aquatics

Discover SCUBA Free on Thursday, August 30 from 6-10 p.m. in the Recreation Center pool.

SCUBA lessons September 6-October 25, Thursday Nights from 6-10 p.m. at Campus Recreation pool. Fees are: Students: \$100, MTSU Employees: \$130, Guests: \$145

Learn to Swim Program:

September 10-21:	
IPAP 3-36 months	5-5:30pm
IPAP 3-5 years	5-5:30pm
Levels 1&2	6-6:50pm
Levels 3&4	6-6:50pm
Spring board Diving	7-7:50pm

October 1-12:	
Adult Beg/Int/Advanced	6-6:50pm
Spring board Diving	7-7:50pm
Lifeguarding	TBA

November 5-16	
WSI	TBA

Master Swim Club
Practices will be
posted at the Recreation Center. Annual Dues are
\$40. Call Ray at 898-2104 for more aquatic
information.



Outdoor Pursuits

Trips	Date	Costs
Ocoee Rafting	September 8 & 15	\$22 / students only
Funyak/Kayak the Hiwassee River	September 22	\$15 students/ \$18 guests
Rock Climbing At Foster Falls	September 23	\$10 students/ \$12 guests
Climbs: Belay Clinic (Climbing Wall)	September 12 & 26	\$10 students/ \$12 guests
Kayak Roll	September 18 & 19	\$12 students/ \$16 guests
Wilderness First Aid Kit	September 25	\$7 students/ \$10 guests

Outdoor Adventures are a huge part of Recreation at MTSU. This year we are hiking part of the Appalachian Trail from October 18-21. Come join us. Student's costs are \$40 and guests can come for \$45.

We are also planning a trip to the Grand Canyon from November 21-26. See this National Treasure up close and personal. Student costs are \$450 and guests pay just \$500. Call Tim at 898-2104 for more information.

Intramurals

Campus Recreation needs a few good students. We are searching for leaders to be Officials in our Intramural Program. No Experience is Necessary. We will train you, Pay you and appreciate you. We have need in the areas of Football, Soccer and Volleyball. Come join the Campus Recreation Family and make a difference.

Fitness

September 29th is the date for the MTSU Campus Recreation Fitness 5K/10K and 2 mile fun walk. Register at Campus Recreation for this historic event. Race starts at 8:00, registration is at 7:30 a.m.

Massage Therapy Clinic at Campus Recreation. Get a Swedish massage for \$15, a 30 minute session. One hour only costs \$25 (\$20 with MTSU ID). Call 904-8457 for an appointment.

Come check out our Aerobics this fall. Exciting workouts with great instructors. Only \$1 per class. Punch pass \$20 for 25 classes.

OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Friday, Aug. 17, 2001

SIDELINES ♦ 21

From the staff

Starting the year with a positive attitude

In a genuine attempt to begin the semester on the proverbial right foot, *Sidelines* wants to take a cue from our new president and step back, take a deep breath and evaluate this university so we can build on the good things we have without being too darn pessimistic.

Take note: this may be the only time we do so this year.

MTSU - despite all its flaws - is still a relatively good deal, and our administrators are trying constantly to make it even better. We should all try to realize this, even when we get parking tickets for no reason or have to pay library-book fines.

Think of all the improvements MTSU has seen over just the past 10 years.

The new library, the Recreation Center, the nursing building, the Business and Aerospace Building and the new courtyard - the list could go on.

There also have been academic improvements.

A former U.S. vice president chose to come here to teach a class. Not Harvard (as Lamar Alexander did), not Yale, but little old Middle Tennessee State. Even if you're not a big Gore fan, you have to admit it's still kind of cool to have such a famous public figure here.

We have the first Honors College in the state, a top-ranked debate team and an outstanding recording industry department.

More Middle Tennessee high school valedictorians choose to come here than any other public university in Tennessee. All our scholarship sports have gone to division I-A and are a part of the Sun Belt Conference, and we will be facing some of the best college teams in the nation in the next two years.

We also have taken great strides recently on campus beautification. The new courtyard, which is scheduled to be finished by the spring, will accent the stylish new street signs that have been erected all over campus. (Although we all have to learn new street names now.)

If all this sounds like one of those brochures that beckoned you to apply to MTSU, it should, because those brochures don't lie.

It's important that students don't get submerged in complaints about the university, since complaining (unless it's done in large groups with poster-board signs) rarely evokes change.

If there are things on this campus that students feel strongly about, they should use their fiercest weapons - their voices - to incite change and make this a better college experience.

As for now though, we at *Sidelines* will start this year with a cheery smile. But get a good glimpse ... Although everything looks positive now, we've yet to start classes, and it's a long way to finals.

Some warnings for first-time dorm renters

Out of Leftist Field



Lindsey Turner
Staff Columnist

When you think about it, dorm life is a bizarre concept. Hundreds of acne-faced post-teen-agers crammed into tiny living quarters and forced to share bathing facilities can easily equal a churning hormone factory full of hard feelings and potential eruptions.

I hated it. But in a weird, masochistic way, I'm glad I did it.

Or maybe I'm just relieved I lived to tell about it. Either way, I won't offer you any cheesy advice, but rather assert a few warnings that may help you - the hopelessly

naïve - plan for and survive the coming nine months of sheer terror.

Warning number one: Kiss your privacy goodbye.

You can expect to spend every spare waking and sleeping moment with your roommate - stranger or friend.

Got used to passing gas at will when you had your own room? Now your gastrointestinal escapades are to be of public interest. Used to have mushy, ooey-goey phone conversations with your significant other? Well, you can either share them with your dearest roomie or go out into the hall and let the whole floor know your intimate secrets.

And girls, what about PMS-related moodiness? Ever feel like you just need to have a good cry? Believe me, it's a little more difficult with an audience.

Warning number two: Expect to feel obligated to attend floor and area events.

For recluses like me, mixers and open-house events are about the opposite from anything I would do in "real life." But living in a dorm is all about meeting people and making friends, so you can either go and meet people or stealthily avoid the events and your Resident Assistant so she/he can't guilt trip you into coming.

Guess which one I chose.

Warning number three: Anticipate the bug spraying.

OK, this is a little bit of advice, I guess, but much-needed advice. Once a month or so, the Housing Department sprays each room for bugs. I think they're spraying water, but that's a moot point.

See **Warnings**, 23

Commercialization Where will it end?

For Argument's Sake



Jason Cox
Staff Columnist

One day, on the way to Murfreesboro from my hometown of Hendersonville, as I passed the Adelphia Coliseum, the Gaylord Entertainment Center and the AmSouth Amphitheatre, I became very disturbed.

Gone are the days of naming such buildings after the cities they are in, the team they house or a legendary person from the city's past. Instead, we seek a corporate backer to pay to place their name on the building and rename it to suit them. What does this do for the consumer? Nothing, apparently. It hasn't lowered ticket prices.

Commercialization is pervading our society more and more these days. A look at any concert tour itinerary will show this.

Did you know that there are no less than four Verizon Wireless Amphitheatres located in various parts of the country? Wow, how ... creative.

Truth be told, the naming of performance venues after sponsors isn't so bad, I guess, besides the fact that it takes away the individuality of the venue. We may not understand around here, but ask an old New Yorker about Yankee Stadium or a Bostonian about the old Boston Garden, and you'll start to understand.

When will the naming end? We already had the commentators of Titans football referring to a first down as a "First American First Down" and taking the phrase so seriously that you just had to laugh.

I predict that the first corporate-

See **Commercialization**, 25

Catholic hospitals fail to provide adequate health care

Atypical Woman

Angela White
Staff Columnist



For some women, it makes little difference whether birth control and abortion are legal. Their hospitals provide neither, regardless of the law.

The Roman Catholic Church is the largest private-sector owner of non-profit hospitals in the United States. An estimated 85 million patients were treated by Catholic hospitals in 1999. In 1998, the Catholic Church was the sole provider of emergency medical care in 91 communities, a 20 percent increase from 1997. Only 5 percent of those communities have a Catholic majority in their populations. The remaining 95 percent hold many citizens who are refused control of their bodies by a religion they do not believe in.

The Catholic Church exerts its influence through mergers - it finds financially struggling secular hospitals and offers the hope of

brighter days through its plentiful monetary resources. HMOs are adding to the burden, cutting into hospital revenues and forcing them to merge to save themselves, even if it means making a pact with the "devil," so to speak. Many times an emergency health care monopoly is created in the process, leaving women with little option in a crisis.

As of 1998, there had been 127 Catholic hospital mergers since 1990, according to Catholics for a Free Choice. Forty-three of these mergers, or 34 percent, happened in 1998 alone. In nearly half of these mergers, the secular hospitals adopted the Catholic health care policies.

Catholic hospitals are required to follow the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, adopted in 1994 by the National Council of Bishops. The Directives are binding to any Catholic health care service, and any attempt to compromise with a potential secular partner during a merger attempt could lead to an "alienation of property," when a Catholic facility is no longer considered by the Vatican to be Catholic.

The Directives prohibit Catholic hospitals from offering birth con-

trol, abortion, sterilization, infertility treatments and end of life care such as euthanasia and living wills to its patients. These services are considered by the Catholic Church to "undermine the biological, psychological and moral bonds on which the strength of marriage and the family depends." These restrictions apply to all patients, regardless of their religious beliefs. In most cases, these services are quietly eliminated from the formerly secular hospital's service roster without a word to its patients, often until it's too late for them to turn anywhere else.

Not only is the Pill, Depo-Provera, diaphragms, sponges, condoms and other forms of birth control prohibited, but any information pertaining to birth control, as well as referrals to places like Planned Parenthood that would provide such services, are banned as well. Permanent forms of birth control, such as vasectomies and tubal ligation, which is the most commonly used method of birth control in the United States, according to the National Organization for Women, are not allowed. Infertility treatments such as in vitro fertilization and artificial insemination are prohibited as

well, as the Catholic Church considers them acts that separate conception from the "act of marriage."

Fortunately, for most people these services can be obtained elsewhere, although for some at a much greater (and perhaps unbearable) cost. However, the true trouble with Catholic hospitals arises in a state of emergency, when time is of the essence. This is when a Catholic hospital is most likely to fail a woman during her most dire time of need.

According to Catholics for a Free Choice, 82 percent of Catholic hospitals refuse to dispense emergency contraception, even to rape victims. Most aren't even told that it's an option (many women still have not even been educated as to its existence), and 31 percent of Catholic hospitals refuse to provide a referral. As emergency contraception is effective only 72 hours after penetration, women who unwittingly come or who are brought to Catholic hospitals after a rape may lose their only chance to prevent a pregnancy by their rapist.

In addition, Catholic hospitals refuse to provide emergency abortions, even to save a woman's health or life. Often times, abortion clinics are unequipped to provide

such abortions, leaving a mortal hole in the reproductive health of women.

The consumption of hospitals by the Catholic Church is leading to a crisis situation for many women. Far too many counties and cities lack a family planning clinic, and for many people, the local hospital is the only access they have to valuable reproductive services. Worst of all, this is happening silently in the background, with little or no public knowledge of the blatant stripping of patient rights.

The Catholic Church knows exactly what it's doing. Instead of creating separate, privately-funded hospitals, it is merging with public, secular hospitals that often are the only source of emergency health care in a given community. The Religious Right never fails to push its views on an unwilling public - this case is no exception.

Things can change only when women take a stand and join organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union and NOW to eliminate the use of public funds in Catholic hospitals. Everyone deserves access to services that are in accordance to his or her own belief system, not to that of the Vatican alone. ♦

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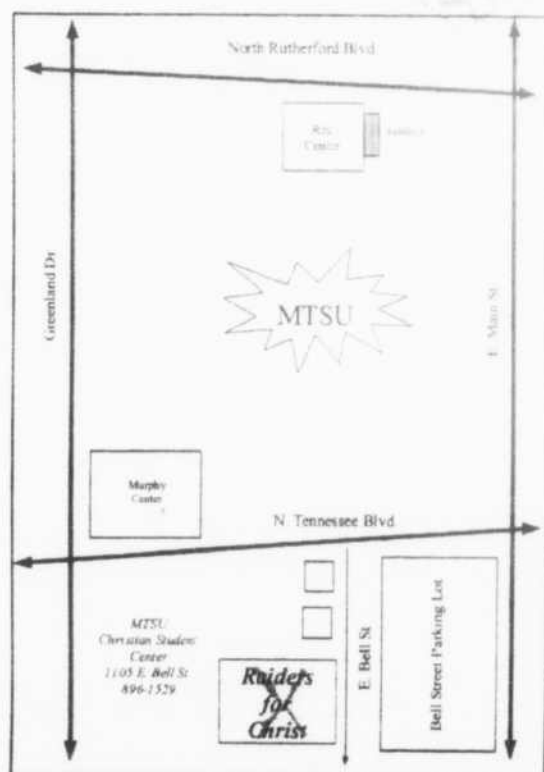
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Shut your mouth, open your mind

By Casey Sheffield
Staff Columnist

College: a place where you can mix and mingle among people who share your interests and feelings, a place where no one can judge you based on preconceived notions about how they think you are or should be, a place where you can speak your mind without being mocked or ridiculed, a place where if people don't agree with your opinion, they will be intelligent enough to not try to change you.

Well, that may not be completely accurate, but that's what I'm hoping for out of MTSU anyway. Coming from an area in West Tennessee that I often refer to as "small

town hell," I have been in frequent contact with many closed minds.

I, along with others who dare to be more than sheep, am an avid believer in freedom of expression. There have been many times in my life up to this point where my appearance, opinions, thoughts and ideas were not quick to gain acceptance.

I could deal with this. The philosophy that I live by is "whatever floats your boat, as long as you don't sink mine."

Phrased bluntly, this simply implies that I respect whatever you are doing, as long as you will give me the same respect.

The thing that I have a really hard time dealing with is non-accepting individuals who can't, or don't want to, understand any

point of view other than their own and insist on trying to convert you to their way of thinking (or shall I say lack of thinking).

To illustrate this, I will share with you an example of ignorance that will always stick out in my mind.

I graduated from a small high school (around 400 students), and, needless to say, everyone was always in everyone else's business. Being a small town, anything different from the "normal" was way too much for anyone to comprehend.

My best friend during this time was Jewish, and she would openly talk about her religious beliefs.

One day, upon returning from a Baptist youth convention, a group of girls confront-

ed her in the restroom claiming they were trying to "save" her.

Totally disregarding any form of intelligence, compassion or just plain common sense, they informed her that she was going to hell because her religion did not believe in Jesus as theirs did.

The point that I'm trying to make by all of this is that in order to be a well-rounded, successful, intelligent or compassionate person, you have to maintain an open mind. At some point you have to realize that your opinion isn't the only one out there, and you need to listen and learn from others. Keep in mind that you cannot change the way that people think, but you can give them something to think about. ♦

Warnings: Beware of room checks and annoying people

Continued from 21

Be prepared for them when they come. They will take their big jug-o-liquid and their little weed-killing sprayer and douse your baseboards. To say "spray" is so inaccurate. It's not a spray - it's a stream. And they will spray whatever gets in their way - books, clothes, sheets, furniture, shoes, you name it. So expose your baseboards if you know what's good for you. That bug liquid keeps things soggy for weeks.

Warning number four: Prepare for some boring, pointless floor meetings.

To try to eat up your precious time, your RA is supposed to schedule floor meetings every other week or so. Our meetings took 45 minutes to establish that we were all too indecisive and apathetic to get anything done. And - get this - at one of those meetings, your RA will present you with a roommate contract, which you and your roommate will have to read and sign. It contains silly, ridiculous things that somehow managed to

escape my memory.

Warning number five: Room checks are a necessary and frequent evil.

Don't get too comfortable in your filth, or you'll get a bad review. And don't worry if you won't be home the day of room checks. Your RA can check your room even in your absence. What a comforting thought.

Warning number six: You are going to live around some insanely annoying people.

My experience at Customs is

forever branded into my memory. There were people who brought their guitars for the two days we were there, just so they could prop their doors open and play covers of crappy Creed songs to an adoring and invisible audience.

Customs was just a preview of the months to come, when I learned that everyone (but me, apparently) plays a guitar and knows at least one Lynyrd Skynyrd song.

But the annoyances go far beyond that.

You'll have nine glorious

months to discover them all. ♦

To my readers: Someone once said, "Satire is the sincerest form of insult." I couldn't agree more. My ostensible outrage in last week's column that the "criminal" Robert Downey Jr. had been put on probation was nothing more than farce, since I am a vehement, vocal opponent of the War on Drugs. My apologies to those of you who misunderstood my platform.

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This plan will save our state's future

Canadian Bacon

Patrick Chinnery
Opinions Editor



Last Saturday night, I turned to my friend and said, "Let's go support Kentucky's education system. We'll give them our hard

earned money, and not worry about the 15% increase in our own education."

I didn't propose this in those exact words, I believe they were "Let's go buy some lotto tickets," but that was the point. Helping others achieve a higher education through a sacrifice of my own.

To Kentucky we drove, and ended up at

a 24 Hour Citgo station an hour and a half away from home.

Doing our part to help collegiate Kentuckians surpass us in the race for educational experience, we each purchased \$10 worth of instant-win tickets, and retired to the back of the store to scratch our tickets like lepers with eczema.

Our plan, however, did not unfold as we had envisioned. I walked out of the store with a \$25 profit, and mi amigo exited with the same Alexander Hamilton portrait he used to buy the tickets.

On the drive home, while passing by several junked car lots, four trailer parks and a seemingly infinite number of rusted trucks-on-blocks, it hit me. I had solved Tennessee's education crisis.

For years there has been talk of establishing a state lottery, with the proceeds to benefit higher education. But proponents of that plan have it all wrong. Instead of

spending millions of dollars to institute a state Department of the Lottery, the state should spend millions on other states' lottoes.

In ten short minutes, I had a 350% profit. A crisp million dollars from our state's treasury, infused into the lottery programs of Kentucky and Georgia, could conceivably turn into \$350M! That's only on instant win games.

Once that program is established as a success, we should branch out into more lucrative games like Powerball, where \$1 could become \$185M in the span of one Saturday evening.

But I digress. One problem with buying millions of dollars worth of scratch tickets is the number of man-hours it would take to uncover our winnings. Examining another problem, however, easily solves this.

The purpose of Georgia's lottery is to

establish HOPE scholarships, whereby students of need can afford college. My scratch-off plan would fund the same purpose.

I envision a warehouse full of scratch tickets and three busloads of deprived high school seniors. Open the doors, let them flood in, and whatever they scratch off that night is the amount of their scholarship.

Those who cry that people should work for their welfare would be appeased, as would all those who protest that the state should give the poor every opportunity possible. Everybody's a winner, and no one goes home crying.

Write, call, e-mail your state Senator or Representative (except for Sen. Jo Ann Graves, D-Gallatin, who is unresponsive to any legislative suggestion that would not advance her own career) and tell them of the Chinnery Education Plan. With a little luck, it will fund our future. ♦

Opinions e-mail

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Do you give a ...

Wake up and smell the international coffee

By Courtney Gundry
Staff Columnist

How many of you can tell me when the President of the DRC (Dominican Republic of Congo) was assassinated or talk about the on-going wars in Albania?

Now, how many of you are about to swap this newspaper for a TV Guide because I'm blabbering on about international news that you don't give a shit about?

Well, my friends, it's time to wake up and smell the Turkish coffee.

I'm going to let you in on a little secret ... the world does, in fact, exist outside of the little suburban bubble that we so naively dwell in.

I'm not suggesting that we all become U.N. delegates. I only propose that to think the only thing that matters is who wins the

challenge on *Survivor* is a foolish fantasy.

The majority of Europeans know more about U.S. history than most Americans do, and yet, we can't even name the Prime Minister of England, if we're even aware they aren't still ruled by a monarchy.

Are we really so ignorant as to believe that America will one day be the world's sole government? The rest of the world is laughing in the face of America's youth because that's what we're being trained to believe.

I hate to break it to you, but we're past the point of having our mommies protect us from the big bad scary world by reading us a bedtime story where everything ends in "happily ever after."

The world is just not that nice. And this time, there's nobody but ourselves to force us into that realization.

It's not as difficult as it may seem to get up to

speed on who's winning what wars as opposed to who's winning what football games. It doesn't take hours in a library with books piled high in front of you. Just glance at a newspaper every once in a while, or flip on the six o'clock news.

As an incentive, I'll tell you this - Iraq recently tested America's defense by firing a surface-to-air missile at an unarmed American U-2 spy plane over a no-fly zone patrolled by British and U.S. fighter planes.

Still think we're unaffected by international politics?

Here's another knock at the door. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are lobbying for fixed exchange rates, which would, in turn, lessen the value of the U.S. dollar in foreign currency.

Have fun on vacation this summer. Hope

you weren't planning on leaving the country.

My purpose here is not to bash my fellow citizens for their lack of international interest and knowledge. Rather, it is merely to heighten the awareness that the affairs of foreign administrations pay heavy tolls on our everyday lives.

If you choose to ignore that, well, it's your right to live with your eyes sealed tight to a world that is rapidly changing around you, without any clue as to the reasons why and completely blind as to what's to come.

Just be aware that even if you do put this paper down and go back to your TV program, the surrounding circumstances don't just vanish into oblivion.

The world, on its axis, will continue rotating, despite your decision to neglect it. The choice is yours.

The question is ... do you give a ... ♦

Commercialization: Welcome to Microsoft City International Airport

Continued from 21

ly named airport will open within the next 25 years. Can you imagine ... "Good afternoon, passengers, this is your pilot. Today's flight has us leaving the Gaylord

International Airport and arriving at the Starbucks International Airport." It isn't so far fetched, is it?

And will governments start renaming cities? Hell, our state legislature might consider it to cover up their fiscal irresponsibility.

And then we move on to children. I can honestly see corporations starting to experiment with paying parents to name their newborns for their product. The first-grade roll call might go like this: "American Airlines ... Colgate ... Febreze ... I Can't Believe It's Not

Butter ..."

Of course, there'd be at least six kids in every class named Microsoft, and, naturally, they'd break all the other kids' pencils and steal their paper and books. Of course, it's only a little friendly business competition.

I can hear some of you snickering, and maybe it is kind of funny, but don't laugh too much. One day your great-great-grandchildren Tylenol and Aleve just might come to my grave (sponsored by Nabisco) and wonder how I predicted the future. ♦

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Letters to the Editor

Turner's column erroneously named 'left'

To the Editor:

Thank you in advance for having the courage to print this letter. *Sidelines'* editorial staff has received a lot of flack lately for positions they've boldly taken. I'm sorry to contribute to this unpleasant, often unjustified, trend.

Lindsey Turner has adopted the epithet "Out of Leftist Field" for her column. When I, once, read her article advocating the reduction of penalties for possession of marijuana, I was satisfied. When she took a pro-gun-control stance based partly on the robbery of her relatives' business, I was disappointed: the cardinal rule of leftist politics is to restrain from restrictive legislation based on fear or callousness. A peer complained to me that Lindsey defends decidedly conservative opinions. I disagreed, though I noticed that she uses

tired arguments that have been dead for a decade or more, thanks to conscientious social theorists and activists.

To waste no more time on the evolution of my disdain, here is the rub: Lindsey has coweringly and unsympathetically turned her back on narcotics-convict paroling in her July 25 column (re: Robert Downey, Jr.). By so doing, she has discarded the fundamental treatment-instead-of-punishment ideology of liberal politics. She offers only petty ad hominem vulgarity and grotesque American nationalism to bolster her stance. Lindsey's opinion of drug users seems to have inscrutably reversed since she acquired some familial agoraphobia from "sick, twisted offender[s] like" Downey - perhaps, recreational users in general? - "roaming the streets, bent on getting high somewhere in my neighborhood." I wonder if Lindsey has also reversed her position on liberated sexual practice. Maybe we should sequester our nieces and nephews, too, because of the sick, filthy queers that engage in sodomy on our own campus!

One aside, if you please: Lindsey clarifies her idea of injustice by contrasting the three-year probation and medical treatment for Downey's misconduct (in which no person was injured) to the 20-year sentence of a man for "help[ing to] decapitate one of his drinking buddies." Umm, thanks.

Well said.

I don't have the patience to indicate each slippery slope, straw man, bandwagon, red herring, naive hyperbole and parochialistic folly in which Lindsey has mired the liberal. Being less a neo-fascist than Pat Buchanan isn't proof of residence in "Leftist Field." I regret that I had to waste all our time resolving this confusion. I'm sure we can expect more careful thought in the future.

Perhaps, "Out of the Gravitational Field,"

Patrick Sean Flannery, MTSU student

A note from Lindsey Turner:

Someone once said, "Satire is the sincerest form of insult." I couldn't agree more. My ostensible outrage in last week's column that the "criminal" Robert Downey, Jr. had been put on probation was nothing more than farce, since I am a vehement, vocal opponent of the War on Drugs. My apologies to those of you who misunderstood my platform.

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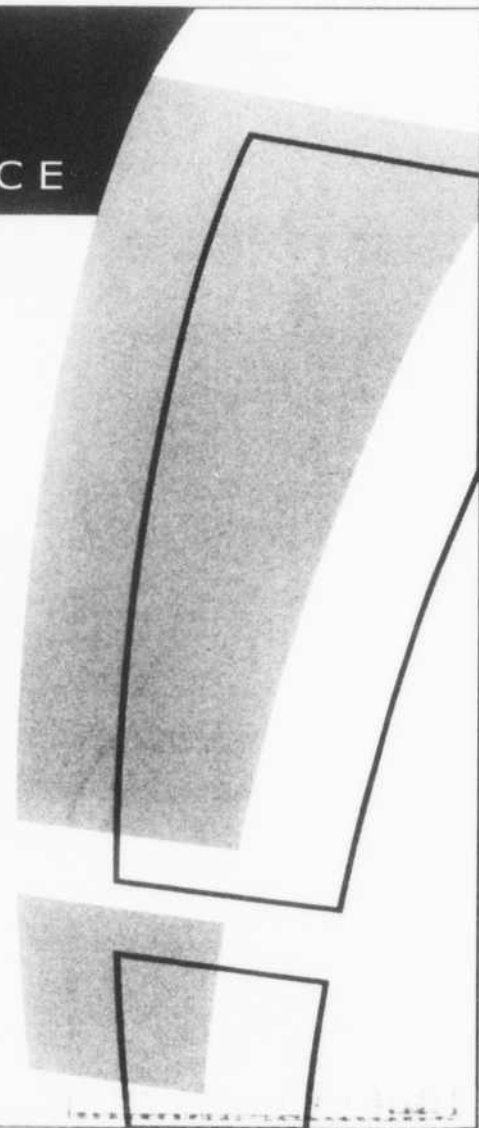
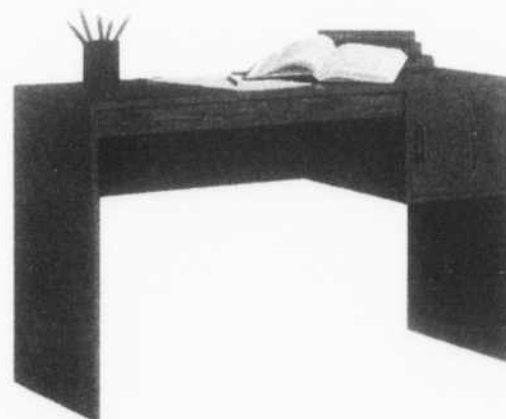
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Chinnery's views tainted with McCarthyism

To the Editor:

I'm writing to express my bewilderment over Patrick Chinnery's position on the Canadian government's decision to legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes. Not only are his arguments poorly formed, but harken to an era that the majority of Americans know is dead.

Mr. Chinnery writes that marijuana reform is "preposterous, asinine" and probably "the result of decades of socialist theory being taught in Canadian schools."

What is this, the return of McCarthyism? The last thing anyone needs is another short-sighted, reactionary pundit addressing the drug problem. Yes, there is a drug problem in this country, but Mr. Chinnery's appraisal of the situation was full of misinformation and outright lies.

He insinuates that Canadian AIDS, cancer and glaucoma patients have now been given the legal right to "destroy their brain, lungs, and heart." I won't even address the fact that hundreds of doctors and medical organizations have realized the legitimacy of medical marijuana.

More importantly, the vague "conclusions" Mr. Chinnery writes about are shaky at best.

The only medical experiments in the U.S. to conclude that pot damages the brain were a series of cruel experiments done on chimps in the '60s. These primates were fed a constant stream of pot smoke for five-minute periods, during which they were denied the right to breathe fresh air. After that, their skulls were cracked open and the brain tissue was compared to the controls'. Sure enough, the apes who couldn't get oxy-

gen and had the carbon monoxide from the equivalent of several hundred joints coursing through their veins showed evident brain damage.

Of course, the U.S. government outlawed research on psychoactive substances at the end of that decade and the only scientific experiments on the subject have been conducted in Europe.

Not only has there been no evidence to conclude pot damages the brain, some studies have actually shown marijuana has a protective effect on brain cells.

Other studies have shown the effects of pot smoke on the lungs to be much less than cigarettes. A Jamaican actually study showed reduced rates of lung and other cancer in heavy users of marijuana.

I will not deny that medical marijuana is a precursor to widespread decriminalization of recreational marijuana use. Marijuana was outlawed by Congress without any input from the medical establishment, which had realized the benign effects of "hemp" for centuries. It is time for the failed war against cannabis to end. Prohibition did not work for alcohol and it certainly has not worked for marijuana.

The only good thing Mr. Chinnery wrote was that "if you won't stop smoking pot, at least go do it in Canada." That sounds pretty good right now. Especially when one thinks about the number of Americans who boisterously declare their ignorance on the subject of medical marijuana, as Mr. Chinnery has done.

It is evident that Canada is the only government in North America that realizes the medical necessity of marijuana, and the only country with the compassion to open its mind.

Joshua Wickerham
Senior Editorial Editor, *The Michigan Daily*

Athletes deserve perks, student fees

To the Editor:

I just read a previous excerpt from the July 11, 2001 edition in which "The Staff" wrote about the increase in student fees and the "unfairness" of the extra \$40 which will go toward our athletic department.

I say our because I graduated in 1999. I enjoyed the best 4 years of my life on this campus which was damaged by fences all over (the creation of the business building & new library). It was easy to bitch then, but this is ridiculous.

First off, "The Staff" stated that most students that had to pay these increased fees would benefit from all of the hikes - except for the \$40 increase in the athletic fee.

I have to ask, "what's in the pipe at the JUB?" As this is a fee that greatly impacts the students at MTSU. This fee allows our university to recruit better and take care of our athletes better. Do you know any of these people? These are the people that represent our university bigger than anyone else on campus.

The big buzz around the state is "how bad will MTSU beat Vandy Aug. 30th?" The answer, huge — we will beat their ass and show this state that we are now the second most dominant football program in the state.

Other than that, it is what the community is talking about with the rest of the state. As an alumnus, it makes me proud to see the improvements that each of our athletic departments are making each year.

How do they do that, with more \$\$\$? A mere \$40! That is a small amount for each student to pay considering the pride and the tradition that this university is providing

them. As for the athletes getting special treatment, these men and women give their blood, sweat and tears for the opportunity to receive an education.

People must realize that lots of players come from families that are unable to send them to college. If the university sees fit to obtain a little extra money from the students that these athletes represent everytime they walk onto their individual playing field, I say kudos to them.

If students would support our teams instead of going home every weekend maybe the new fee would not be in place. If I were still a student at MTSU I would be extremely happy for the new fee. It's a joy to see MTSU trying to develop an elite athletic program.

That is why it was such a shame to read in "the campus" newspaper disagreement with a slight increase that will pay huge dividends for us all. A real surprise that "The Staff" which includes a "sports editor & columnist" agreed with this statement. Take it from an alumnus, in the real world, this is an investment for all of us involved with MTSU.

So to "The Staff" either start supporting your athletes, aka your university representatives, or put in a transfer and go somewhere else that doesn't care about being proud.

This goes also to all students and community members, our athletic programs - starting with our football team Aug. 30 - are going to give us memories to remember for the rest of our lives.

So either get on board now and support your Blue Raiders, or go somewhere else. MTSU is going to get DANDY 4 LIFE!

Alumnus of MTSU,
Fes Ashburn

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Winning the war on AIDS, Brazil style

By Andrey Vakhovskiy

The Dartmouth Free Press / Dartmouth College

(U-WIRE) HANOVER, NH - "There are two wrong approaches to the global threat of HIV/AIDS. One is to underestimate or ignore it. The other is to despair. The first can only be described as irresponsible. The second is unjustified." - Kofi Annan, secretary general of the U.N.

For too long, denial was the main obstacle in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This, however, is no longer the case. Despair has replaced ignorance as the most substantial obstacle in the battle against the disease. After recognizing the scale of the crisis, developed nations have become mired in inaction. This attitude must change before we can ever effectively wage a battle against the pandemic.

Rooted in this newfound despair, several arguments have been presented for why we cannot effectively combat HIV/AIDS in the "Third World." Some say that poor nations lack the necessary health-care system and resources. Others claim that poor "Third World" residents are incapable of adhering to the complex regimen of anti-retroviral drugs. Still others claim that "Third World" cultural norms make it impossible to wage a

battle. All these arguments are symptomatic of the despair many feel about the HIV/AIDS pandemic. But despair is unjustified. Indeed these challenges are real, but the situation is not hopeless. There is at least one nation that has defied all odds and has effectively waged a war on HIV/AIDS.

At first glance Brazil—a nation of 170 million people, a per capita GDP one-fifth that of the U.S., and a limited health-care system—seems an unlikely leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Brazilian government's efforts, however, have produced encouraging results.

In 1994, the World Health Organization projected that Brazil would have 1.2 million cases of HIV by the year 2000. Today, the number of infected people is estimated at 530,000 and the number of AIDS-related deaths has been cut by 50 percent since the inception of the government program in 1995. In addition to bringing down the death

The government's efforts include handing out 800,000 condoms with popcorn at city movie theaters.

rate, the Brazilians have also succeeded in another, and perhaps more important area, prevention. According to WHO statistics, the infection rate in Brazil has been brought down to 1995 levels, and has now stabilized. The government is largely responsible for this remarkable improvement. But how

did Brazil do it? The approach is two-fold: prevention and treatment.

The government's efforts include handing out 800,000 condoms with popcorn at city movie theaters and tossing them to parade goers. Government advertisements about safe sex abound. A T-shirt with a picture of a condom and the caption, "catch one of these instead of catching AIDS" is distributed in poor neighborhoods. Recently, the Brazilian congress entertained a motion that would require all pornographic films to carry a safe sex public announcement.

While prevention and education are the cornerstones of the program, Brazil has pio-

neered the area of treatment as well. It is here that it has stirred up major controversy. Brazil makes a free anti-retroviral drug cocktail available to all patients infected with HIV. American and European companies charge exorbitant amounts for the treatment, putting the drugs far out of reach of the vast majority of Brazilians. To deal with these huge costs, the Brazilian laboratories have begun to manufacture their own generic versions of patented drugs; but at a staggering reduction in cost. American pharmaceutical companies charge \$10,000-\$15,000 per year for the treatment. Brazilian generics cost \$3,000 and are expected to drop to as low as \$700. Brazil manufactures only one-third of the drugs it imports. The rest is imported at a cost of 30 percent of the U.S. price.

The Brazilian government's approach to the fight against AIDS is a combination of prevention and treatment. The government has been successful in bringing the infection rate down to 1995 levels, and has now stabilized. The government is largely responsible for this remarkable improvement. But how

did Brazil do it? The approach is two-fold: prevention and treatment.

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Co-ed sleepovers: friend or foul?

By Joseph Keith Seltzer

Kaleidoscope (U. Alabama-Birmingham)

(U-WIRE) BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - It has come to my attention that there are certain colleges and universities that allow men and women to cohabitate in the same dorm room overnight.

Some people would scream blasphemy at this, while others wouldn't see a problem with the whole scenario. Now, there is such a thing as too much information, but there is also such a thing as not enough information.

Coming from a Navy background, I am put in the latter category, because I haven't been placed in such a situation. Therefore, most people wouldn't think that I would be able to properly respond to an issue like this. But, I am capable of plowing the middle ground and speaking freely on the subject, and that's exactly what I'll do. During students' collegiate lives, there are some things that are inevitable: They will be bombarded by credit card companies, they will be piled

with more responsibilities than they're used to, and they will come in close contact with members of the opposite sex.

I should know; I've been there.

Most dormitories do have separate dorms for male and female inhabitants. I also know that most dormitories have visitation times for the members of the opposite sex.

While at Alabama State University, I know for a fact that the two dorms I stayed in didn't allow females to go any further than the lobby.

According to the administration at the time, this was for the protection of both parties involved. People thought it was a bad idea then, and they probably still think so now.

Their reasoning is simple; they believe they are grown adults, and that they are perfectly capable of making their own decisions on topics such as these. And for the most part, they're right. However, as right as they may be, they are just as wrong. For starters, the average age of a college student is 18-22 years old. During this time, their hormones are kicking in and they're probably doing things for the first time that

they haven't had the opportunity to do in the past.

Also, they are realizing a newfound freedom from their parents. The feeling of being away from home probably outweighs their usual common sense and judgment.

Finally, they feel that the person that they're willing to break the rules with is "the one."

The latter one of these is the most dangerous one, and has resulted in the tragic end of many a college student's educational career. However, I don't think that it's fair for anyone to judge a person solely because of that ... myself included. Do I think it's a good idea? Not really. I think that it's a very big mistake, and I'm amazed that some colleges would even let such a bad idea come to surface, much less allow it.

But, there is such a thing as sexual freedom; it was practiced in the '60s and is still in effect today.

Bottom line: people are going to do whatever it is they want, and if it involves breaking the rules to learn a lesson, no matter how harsh a lesson it may be, then it would be a lesson well learned. ♦

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AIDS: 'Offering treatment is a question of morals'

Continued from 27

HIV/AIDS globally. Also, the availability of life-extending treatment increases the incentive to get tested, and reduces the stigma associated with AIDS. Treatment transforms AIDS from a cataclysmic plague to a treatable disease.

The Brazilian successes are indeed encouraging, especially when compared to the rest of the world. Perhaps the most startling feature of the program is its cost-effectiveness. According to Brazil's *Jornal do Comercio*, the government's costs are 72 percent less than the prices charged by drug companies. Due to continued research, Brazilian drug prices are also falling steadily. According to the Brazilian Health Ministry's Web site, the price of domestically produced drugs went down 72.5 percent between 1996 and 2000.

Even with these savings, the program still costs in the order of \$300 to \$400 million per year. The Brazilians, however, claim that the program pays for itself: the World Bank agrees. It reported that the HIV/AIDS program was producing net savings of \$190 million per year. According to Brazilian estimates, 146,000 hospitalizations were avoided between 1997 and 1999. The program has also caused a dramatic decrease in the incidences of opportunistic infections, diseases that attack the weak immune system of AIDS patients. Cytomegalovirus, which attacks patients in the late stages of AIDS,

medical savings, there are many other positive externalities. For example, AIDS patients are now able to remain in the workforce.

The bottom line is that Brazil has discredited all the arguments that are used to justify inaction. No medical infrastructure? Brazil did not have a Western-quality health system, but was still able to institute more than 400 neighborhood clinics to provide testing and distribute AIDS drugs. What about the cost? The Brazilian program pays for itself. How about an uneducated populace being unable to take the drugs correctly? The Brazilians have disproved this as well. A recent *New York Times* article reports that the rate of correct drug usage is the same in Brazilian slum dwellers as in residents of San Diego.

Having said this, it must be noted that Brazil does have several advantages over Africa or Eastern Europe. The program does not need to battle with deep-rooted cultural norms that could hinder a safe sex message. It is also a fairly rich country, by "Third World" standards, and has a stable political system. The model is uniquely correct for Brazil and will need to be modified substantially for use in Africa, Eastern Europe or Asia. But it can certainly be used as a guide.

Having watched the Brazilian experience closely, the United Nations has finally come to realize that there is more to be learned. "The simplistic argument that treating AIDS is expensive is no longer convincing," said Pedro Chequer, head of the UNAIDS program for South America.

"Offering treatment is a question of morals and ethics."

With this new attitude in mind, the General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS has recommended establishing a world AIDS fund. Kofi Annan has said that the world AIDS problem can be dealt with "an annual expenditure of \$7 to \$10 billion. That is five times what is now being spent - but is only a quarter of New York City's budget."

In response to this, world leaders seem to cite the same old disproven arguments. Costs, inadequate health systems and cultural norms will all make a program impossible, they say. Some in the Bush administration seem to agree. Andrew Natsios, the top foreign aid official in the administration and the head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, has been quoted in the *Boston Globe* as saying that Africans "don't know what Western time is. Many people in Africa have never seen a clock or a watch their entire lives." The champion of efficiency that he is, Natsios has rejected treatment and wants to concentrate on prevention.

The numbers, unfortunately, are consistent with Natsios statements. The U.S. has pledged \$200 million to the Global AIDS fund, but this is not part of the Bush budget. The lack of resolve on the part of the Bush administration is tragic, but not unusual.

The lesson to learn here is that actions can be taken at reasonable costs and with great results. We have empirical proof. All we need is leadership. ♦



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University Square offers new choices

By Charlene Callier
Features Editor

Your stomach is growling and you realize that your taste buds are yearning for something different. Instead of running to Memorial Boulevard for some fast food, you decide to drive down Rutherford to waste a little time. To your right, after you exit MTSU's campus you notice a strip of buildings with a variety of restaurants and shops neatly assembled in line.

The University Square sign lures you into the parking lot into a swirling revelation of a vast variety of food and other stores.

Sweet and sour chicken. Szechuan shrimp. Beef gyro pocket. Straw-caribbean smoothies. Z-Bird titan chicken tenders. Cuba libre.

These are only a couple of the dishes that can be purchased at the new strip located at 225 N. Rutherford Blvd. in the new University Square.

The Gyro Café specializes in

Beef Gyro Pockets and the Falafel Plate, a vegetarian dish, as you stand and watch the cook prepare your food.

The perky owner greets you with a warm smile and invites you to try one of his specialty gyros.

"Two professors from MTSU found the location last December and asked us to build a café in Murfreesboro," said Maher Fawaz, owner of Gyro Café.

Fawaz is one of four in a partnership that owns the café located on Rutherford and another one in Nashville.

The Gyro Café offers appetizers, salads, sandwiches and platters that are served with rice or oven roasted potato, salad, and pita bread and cucumber sauce.

The next restaurant that catches your eye is the Smoothie Bear, which offers a wide variety of smoothies ranging from straw-caribbean to gran-bombay.

Once you enter the Smoothie Bear, a white teddy bear wearing a Hawaiian print shirt sits in a

chair greeting you with his outstretched paws as you walk through the doors.

Tropical flowers adorned along the marble green counter with grass hula skirts draped along the wall welcome you into an island atmosphere.

Customers enter the store to order their favorite smoothies – fruit-based drinks loaded with vitamin C and other minerals and vitamins.

"It's the only place that makes the peanut butter smoothie, and they taste good," said Chad Larue, a Smoothie Bear customer.

If you are not in the mood for a smoothie you can skip over and enjoy a taste of Asian food.

The New China restaurant gives you a glimpse of Asia as different aromas of Chinese food swarm around your head.

The restaurant is set up like a traditional Chinese café, with chairs around square marble tables with napkins placed on each.



University Square provides the newest food and fun options to the campus.

Qiang Li, manager of New China, said that he hopes each customer enjoys their meal, because they try their best to please them.

You can order anything from egg rolls and vegetable lo mein, to seafood delight or sesame chicken.

The restaurant offers daily specials of \$2.99 for one entree with rice or lo mein or 2 entrees for \$5 with rice or lo mein.

"New China opened up because University Square is in a good location and the college is right behind the restaurant," Li said.

If you aren't hungry and would rather wet your taste buds, Premium Wines and Spirits, a family owned business, specializes in fine wines.

The store will offer wine tasting Sept. 26 at Purrett's Cheese shop on Broad Street, and Oct. 23

and in November at the Art Gallery in the square.

"Our purpose is to provide and tasting new wines," said Brad Miller, owner of Premium Wines and Spirits.

There are four wine tastings paired with complimentary food that the Milles will be doing.

They will tell t



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

The Gyro Cafe is one of four options of eating establishments in University Square.

s within walking distance for students



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

area, located just down from Greek Row.

er at Sim's Fine
e Murfreesboro
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different wines
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l display at their
he tasters about

each wine, where it came from and the different grapes that are used in making them.

"We moved to this location because it is an up and growing area because all of the growth is heading this way," Tim Mills, co-owner of Premium Wines and Spirits, said.

"We have a diverse clientele, from college students to older professional people," he added.

Premium Wine and Spirits

offers gift baskets and gift certificates to their customers.

The Millses said they came from a convenient store business and progressed into selling wines because it was something they always wanted to do.

If you are a night person, then J.C. Morgan's, a sports bar that offers live music, half-priced margaritas and tasty foods, is the place to go.

They have seven regular tele-

visions and one large-screen television with cable.

"We will be ready for the NFL football package," said Thomas Atkisson, manager of J.C. Morgan's.

"This was the most convenient place in Murfreesboro to access MTSU's students," Atkisson said.

According to Atkisson the mother clucker, a grilled chicken breast marinated in olive oil, oregano and basil served on a toasted bun, is one of the top-selling items from its menu.

The sports bar offers karaoke every Tuesday, B.T. and Shannon perform every Thursday night and alternating bands perform Fridays and Saturdays.

The entertainment runs from 11 p.m. - 3 a.m. and after 10 p.m. 21 and over only will be admitted.

"Once the suitcases get unpacked we will be slammed," Atkisson said.

If you just want to lay back and work on your tan, check out Hot Spot Tanning and Travel Agency.

There are three tanning beds available for customers: a standard bed that uses 30 bulbs, a VIP bed with 32 bulbs and a face tanner and the premiere bed that contains 42 bulbs and three face tanners.

The tanning beds are equipped with built-in radios/CD players and air conditioners.

Manager Molly McPeak said that they chose their location because, "we wanted to be close to MTSU and college students."

If the urge hits you to book a vacation while you are enjoying your tan, they offer a travel agency in their facility.

The University Square is built to be accessible to MTSU's students. So the next time you crave a little something different but don't feel like driving to Nashville, feel free to take a drive or stroll down to the University Square. ♦



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

J.C. Morgan's bills itself as a sports grill with karaoke.

University Square Hours

Gyro Café:

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sun. closed

Smoothie Bear:

Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sun. Noon - 8 p.m.

New China:

Mon.-Thurs. 10:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Fri.-Sat. 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Sun. Noon - 9:30 p.m.

Hot Spot Tanning:

Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sun. Noon - 8 p.m.

Premium Wines and Spirits:

Mon. - Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

J.C. Morgan's:

Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.

LASIK Surgery

A first-hand account of the newest eye surgery and its effects on a professional photographer

- to see or not to see?

by Matthew H. Starling

Riding in the car one day in early June, trying to stay cool, I heard a commercial for a laser eye surgery center here in the Nashville area. For a long time I thought about having the LASIK procedure done, and for some reason, I had an uncontrollable urge to make the call. So the next thing I knew I was on my cell phone calling to make an appointment for an exam.

LASIK, an acronym for Laser In-situ Keratomileusis, which simply means to shape the cornea of the eye from within. The procedure, which takes no more than 10 minutes for both eyes, seems very terrifying at first.

I had the procedure done June 14 at 10:30 a.m., and the results were immediate. They say "we know you're going to look, so go ahead ...," and you are able to look around and have a glimpse of a new way of looking at the world.

After that brief look around the room, you are then told to close your eyes and keep them

closed for the next two hours. This allows your eyes to adjust and begin to heal without your eyelids rubbing against the surface of the eye.

The day of the procedure was a nerve racking one for me. As a photojournalist, my life is built around being able to see, so the fear of not seeing again was especially strong for me. I have been a working professional for 15 years, so you can imagine the thought of my life as I know it being over. I have the greatest respect for those who do not have their sight, but I was terrified of the idea I might lose mine that Saturday morning.

But, time came to leave, and I went to the doctor's office armed with the research, answered questions and the support of someone close to me. It was time for my big day.

I began the process. I checked in at the counter and was greeted with a smile and a caring voice. As I sat there, I could feel the butterflies in my stomach

begin to flutter.

One by one, patients left the waiting area and disappeared into the dimly lit room at the end of the hall. The room is known as the "Happy Room" and for a good reason.

When you are taken to the room, you sit in a chair and are told to relax - this isn't too difficult since you are starting to feel the effects of the Valium you were given just minutes before. Who would think a little blue pill could do so much? Well, I can say I was beginning to feel very happy at this point.

The "Happy Room" was filled with patients from one side to the other - a man back for an enhancement on one eye, a teenager, a woman alone and a husband and wife duo having the procedure done together - and then me. We were doing our best to have a conversation, but the drug was taking effect.

One by one, we left the magical room and never returned. My time came, and a comforting hand reached out to mine and helped me walk out of the room down the hall to the operating room. I was helped to lay down in the chair in this dark room with only one window to let light in other than the computer screen. (Remember, I am drugged at this point, so they could have put lipstick on me, and I wouldn't have noticed.)

The doctor was there with a room full of assistants, and he came up from behind my head and spoke to me very calmly to help me ease into the procedure. I held my eyes open while they placed the local anesthetic drops into my eyes. This was to numb my eyes and prevent pain. (It



worked!)

While this was going on, the laser was properly calibrated to match the reading of my eyes done prior to my surgery date. When you see a good photo-surgeon, all within a matter of minutes, the surface of your cornea is mapped by computer. It's like the laser knows what it's doing and is ready, my wife says, it's like the lid holder in my right eye is holding the eye open during the procedure. My left eye was taped down so it would not open until ready.

Now the fun part - and this always gets them when I tell the story. A device was used to apply suction to hold my eye in place (I like to tell people it sucks your eye up - you should see the look they give me), while the surgeon carefully cut my cornea and created a cornea flap. The flap was then pulled back, and the laser was applied reshaping the cornea gently with no pain at all.

Once he was done with the laser, he carefully placed the cornea flap back in place and

smoothed it out, and then the eyelid holder was removed. I seemed only like a minute or two for the entire procedure to be done to my right eye, and then he moved on to the left eye.

The same procedure was applied to my left eye, and in less than 10 minutes I was being helped out to the waiting area for patients. I sat there with my eye closed after my brief glimpse with my new eyes and waited for the doctor to take a last look at me before sending me home.

Everything went perfectly, and I couldn't be happier. I have had glasses for more than 20 years and now I am free of them.

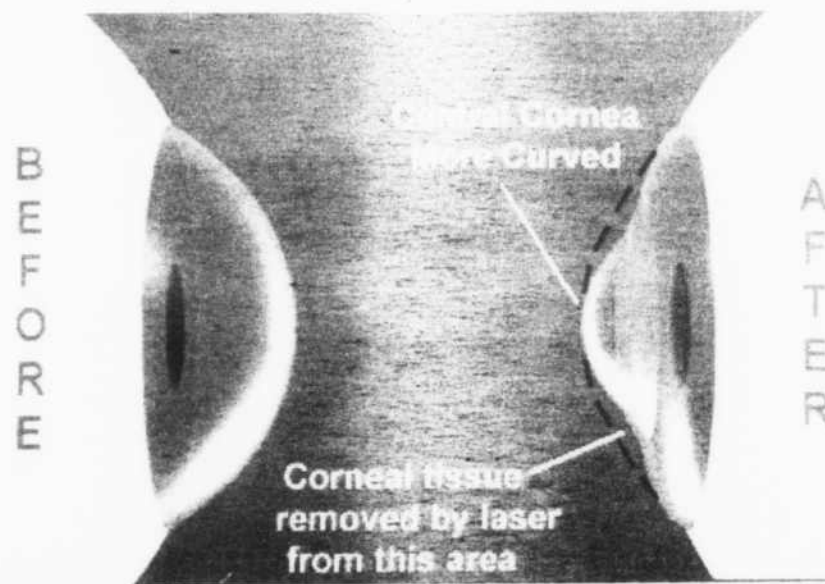
The surgery is not for everyone, but if you are a candidate, it is well worth it. My procedure was around \$1,800 for everything, which I think is a wonderful price to pay for my sight. You cannot take it lightly and think "cheaper" is better, so do your homework and know the facts.

There is no guarantee for the procedure, but if you are a candidate and are ready to have it done, I recommend it.

I am seeing things I would have never been able to see before without glasses, and from all tests so far, I am seeing 20/20 and could improve even further. The first three to six months are the most important to know what has or has not changed or improved. I will be carefully watched by my doctor, and the staff has been extremely helpful.

Just do not call someone who says they "Guarantee 20/20 or better or your money back ...," because they cannot promise anything.

See Lasik, 42



Dorm Livin' Helpful hints for surviving at MTSU

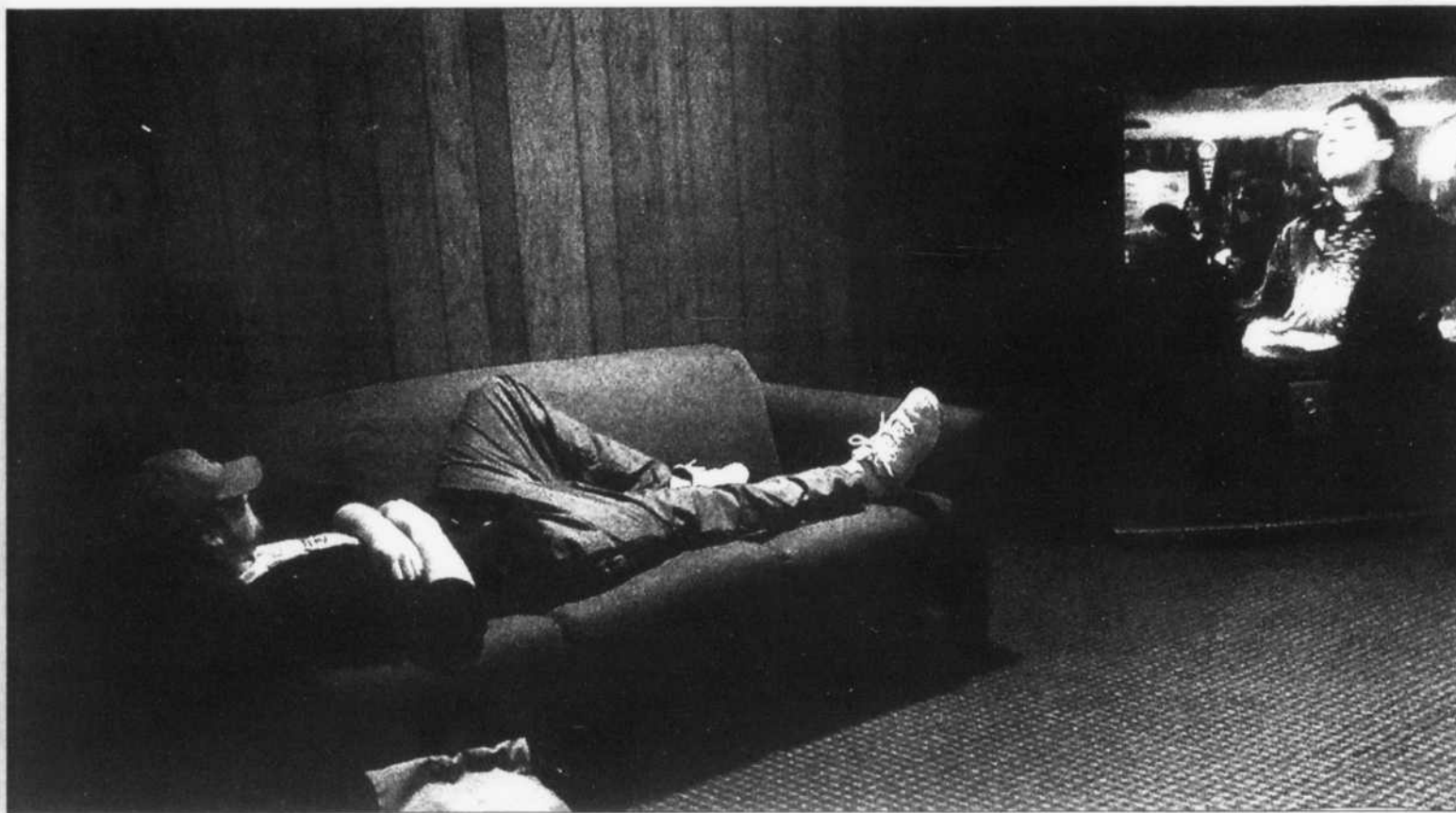


Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

A student takes a catnap in the Keathley University Center student lounge.

Dorms are more than just the 10-by-16-foot rooms with concrete block walls, built-in desks and tile floors. Every room, community bathroom, lobby and person makes a community. It is your home away from home, and it can be the greatest time of your life.

Surviving the Dorms

Erin Edgemon
Staff Writer

The important thing to remember is to not be afraid. There is nothing to be afraid of, but if you have never lived in a dorm setting before, you may not know what to expect.

Living in a dorm gives you the opportunity to meet unique and interesting people. Living with different people gives you a chance to learn from other people, experience new cultures and learn more about yourself.

You can really get to know a person when talking to him or her in your pajamas in the bathroom while brushing your teeth.

There are certain things that you must have in order to live comfortably in a dorm room. These items are a television, telephone, refrigerator, microwave and wall decorations. It also helps to have a computer with a printer.

er. You also will need long cable and telephone cords and a few power strips with as many outlets as possible.

The obvious essentials that you must have are linens and a mattress cover for an extra long twin bed, pillows, blankets, towels and shower shoes. Do not go into the bathroom without shoes on.

A microwave and refrigerator are important, because it is always handy to at least keep soft drinks and snacks in your room. It is a good idea – even with a meal plan – to have some food stored away, because sometimes you just do not feel like going anywhere to eat. Plus, the dining hall hours can change without notice.

It also helps when living in a dorm to learn the fine art of microwave cooking. Anything can be made in the microwave. Ramen noodles are the traditional college staple.

They are good, and they are extremely cheap. These, of course, can be cooked in the microwave. You can also cook eggs, cakes, chicken and spaghetti. Your imagination is the only limitation.

Carpet also can be equally important, because the floor does not stay clean. It will keep your feet clean and make your room look more like a bedroom.

I entered MTSU without knowing a soul. It makes the college experience very interesting when you don't know anyone. You are

out on your own, and you have to make new friends.

When I entered Cummings Hall, I had no idea who my roommate was going to be. It

turned out that my roommate did not really know anyone either. This allowed us to bond and hang out with each other.

If at all possible, it is always best to make friends with your roommate.

Sometimes it is inevitable that you will get a bad roommate. There are several levels of severity in a bad roommate.

You could get the roommate that eats your food or wears your clothes. There are also roommates that talk to themselves or have poor hygiene. Some roommates will have conjugal visits with you sitting in the room. It is just luck of the draw if you do not choose your own roommate.

I had one bad roommate experience. We were total opposites. Our major problem was time in the room. I never felt that I had enough alone time in the room, because she never left it.

The important thing to remember with a roommate is communication. The two of you are not going to get along or solve any problems if you do not talk.

Also, the more time you are in the room, the more time you have to talk to and get to know your roommate.

It is very helpful in the beginning to get to know your roommate and to get to know his or her schedule.

Other helpful hints are to know your custodians by name and get to know the housing staff. Also, remember that the Resident Assistant on your floor is there to help you. Knock on his or her door if you have questions or just need someone to talk to. ♦

Dorm Fast Facts

Dorms	Date of Completion	Occupancy
Rutledge	1911	94
Lyon	1927	90
Monohan	1954	157
Beasley	1959	102
Reynolds	1960	139
McHenry	1962	110
Miss Mary	1962	37
Gracy	1963	102
Judd	1963	103
Felder	1964	109
Schardt	1964	141
Clement	1965	110
Gore	1965	111
Corlew	1967	394
Deere	1969	155
Cummings	1969	394
Abernathy	1973	176
Ezell	1973	176
Scarlett Commons	1999	416

The big 35

Compiled by Shawn Whitsell

A quick list of the top 35 things to do during your time at Middle Tennessee

1. Join the *Sidelines* staff (shameless plug)
2. Attend a MTSU athletic event
3. Work out or climb the wall at the Rec Center
4. Attend the Annual Greek Fest at the Rec Center
5. Go to a frat party on Greek Row
6. Attend open mic night at the Cyber Café every Monday night
7. Go to recitals/concerts sponsored by the music department
8. Go to the KUC movie theater — \$2 admission
9. Attend the annual President's Picnic each fall
10. Attend the National Pan-Hellenic Council Homecoming Step Show
11. Attend events during Black History and Women's History Months
12. Attend "Showtime on the Yard," (a talent showcase) sponsored by the Urban Music Society
13. Attend "Music on the Knoll" concert series each Friday sponsored by Student Programming
14. Attend the Honors Lectures Series and the African American Lectures Series sponsored weekly
15. Attend or participate in the Miss MTSU/ Miss Blue Raider, Miss Black and Gold and Mr. MTSU pageants
16. Attend Career Day sponsored by the Placement Office
17. Attend the annual Kwanzaa celebration sponsored by the African American Student Association
18. Check out "Expressions" (open mic spoken word) at the Cyber Café sponsored by the African American Student Association
19. Read *Sidelines* every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (another shameless plug)
20. Get your grub on at "The Feeding of the 5,000" at the Wesley Foundation every fall
21. Go to the library and read a book
22. Check out a video at the Learning Resource Center (LRC)
23. Join a student organization
24. Attend an religious ceremony sponsored by the Wesley Foundation, Raider Victory or other organizations
25. Go to the Placement Office to look for jobs and internships
26. Tour the art exhibit in the LRC
27. Run or vote for Homecoming King or Queen
28. Run and vote for SGA
29. Attend the Student Organization Fair
30. Submit poetry, short stories, essays and art to "Collage" (literary magazine)
31. Listen to 88.3 WMTS (student radio)
32. Watch Channel 10 (MTTV)
33. Meet with your advisor at least three times each semester
34. Take a nap in the Cope/Peck Hall courtyard on a warm spring day
35. Read *Sidelines* (we have no shame!)



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SNL Funny Man and Baha Men barking all part of welcome week

By Charlene Callier
Features Co-Editor

Welcome week will explode with talent on MTSU's campus as *Saturday Night Live* comedian, Darrell Hammond and musical group The Baha Men entertain students.

Darrel Hammond is known for his impressions of famous people



such as Bill Clinton, Jesse Jackson, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Al Gore, Phil Donahue and Sean Connery.

Hammond graduated from the University of Florida at Gainesville and lived in New York City for several years, appearing in off-off Broadway productions.

He returned to Florida and began his career as an impressionist by performing on local and national radio programs.

Hammond has been performing stand-up comedy for the last several years.

In 1996, he appeared as Chris McCarthy in *Celtic Pride* with former *Saturday Night Live* comedians Dan Aykroyd and Damon Wayans.



Hammond

He was applauded for his impression of President Clinton during a surprise appearance with the then-President at an event in front of thousands of government officials and members of the Washington Press Corps.

Some of his television appearances include *Access Hollywood*, *The Daily Show*, *Entertainment Tonight*, *Politically Incorrect* with Bill Maher, MTV and *Hollywood Squares*.

Hammond now lives in New York with his wife and daughter.

His performance will be Aug. 24 at 8 p.m. in the Murphy Center.

The Baha Men will bark at the audience Aug. 29 as they perform *Who Let the Dogs Out*, at 6 p.m. in the Keathley University Center Courtyard at the pep rally before the MTSU vs. Vanderbilt game.

The Baha Men are natives of the Bahamas and are proponents of the

West African inspired Junkanoo, from their homeland.

Junkanoo has been taken to new heights through the Baha Men's award-winning recordings.

The group won a Grammy for Best Dance Recording, World Music Artist of the Year and World Music Album of the Year with their infamous song *Who Let the Dogs Out?* ♦



The Baha Men

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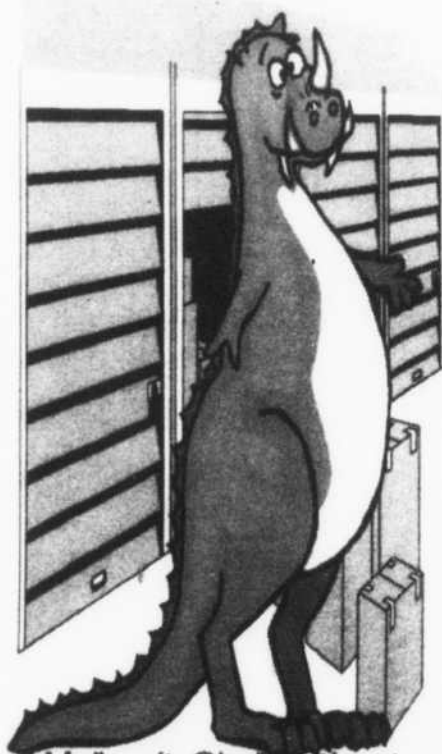
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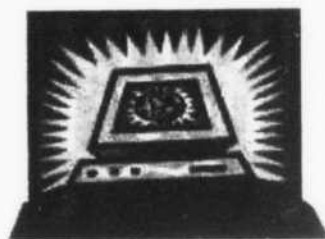
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Super Survival Tips - Getting started on the right foot this year



By Charlene Callier
Features Co-Editor

Sexy. Cool. Crazy.

These are words that bounce around in most peoples heads as they look for ways to fit into the college experience.

You can either be strong and withdraw from the temptations of following the in crowd or fall into the game of trying to be the "cool" person on campus.

The "cool" person in the crowd is considered the one that has everything going for them, popular,

laid back and easy going. These are characteristics that a lot of students would like to fall into but not everyone is deemed to be "cool".

The idea of being "cool" consumes some people so much that they lose a sense of their true self and shed their own personalities in

order to adapt to those around them.

A word of advice for anyone who wishes to be considered "cool" on a college campus. Stay focused and remember what you came to college for.

There are only a handful of students on campus that are blessed with the gift of partying every night and passing all of their classes with a C or better. (Trust me, only a

few)

So a word to anyone that is tempted with the thought of being one of the "cool" students just remember the following things.

Be independent: Never follow the crowd. Although it is very tempting, students should shy away from following the crowd. If you do a quick check of the people in that crowd, there are usually a couple of fifth year seniors, or people in their junior year that still hasn't decided upon a major.

Become a DP (Discipline Partier): There is nothing wrong with going to parties but you must maintain self-discipline. Don't let all of the values your parents spent years beating into your head slip out the door when you go to college parties. Remember you will always have to live with what you did the morning after.

If you drink at parties don't binge: It's o.k. to drink a little bit but if you can't stand up straight and walk or can't identify the people you entered the party with, you have had too much to drink.

Stay in Murfreesboro: If you stay in Murfreesboro on weekends the

See Tips, 43



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Lasik: A first hand experience of the newest corrective vision surgery

Continued from 34

So, now some facts about the risks. There is never any guarantee in medicine, so do your homework before seeing a doctor about LASIK.

According to recent projections, there will be an estimated 1 million people having the LASIK procedure done this year, and out of that number, about 50,000, will have some type of complication.

The level of complication varies – with some people having anything from dry eye syndrome to loss of vision being the extreme.

I have a little of the halo effect at night around car lights, but that will fade as time goes on. Some people are left with that effect and always have halos at night following the procedure, but that number is very small.

There is always the risk of being under-treated or over-treated, but a very small number of patients have this problem. In general, the results are wonderful, with the need for glasses or contacts being gone.

Always do your homework

and know the facts. A great Web site is the Food and Drug Administration's, which is www.fda.gov/cdrh/lasik.html, or

you can just do a search on the Web and check out as many sources as possible.

I am living proof that the pro-

cedure works, and I can't say enough about it.

I still have an adjustment period, and my eyes are still healing

and settling, but at the moment I no longer need glasses, though I still find myself reaching for them at night. ♦

For someone to be a candidate for LASIK surgery, they must fit the following criteria:

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Be nearsighted or farsighted and/or have a low level of astigmatism
- Have relatively stable vision over the last 18 months
- Have a healthy cornea
- Have no evidence of collagen vascular, autoimmune or immunodeficiency disease

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Tips: A quick and handy guide to surviving (and staying out of jail) at MTSU

Continued from 41

majority of the time you will complete your homework, because there is nothing to do. This is a good way to stay on top of your homework assignments. Each time you go home it takes two days after you return to get back into the swing of things.

Don't be a messy roommate:

Practice what you preach, if you don't want a messy roommate, be sure that your side of the room or apartment is clean. This will make the living environment a better place to stay and the roaches will move on to a nastier place to live.

Don't park in white parking spaces: You will receive tickets that add up at the end of the semester, so park in your assigned parking

spaces although it is located across campus, you will have an extra \$25 in your pockets.

Join student organizations: If you want to be sociable do it the correct way and get involved in the many student organizations that are offered on campus.

Put the correct amount of change into meters: If you enjoy movies,

ice cream, any thing that requires extra money be sure to follow all of the rules for parking because they will suck you dry. Don't put a nickel in the meter expecting to return in six minutes. It just won't happen.

Don't speed on Main Street: Don't feel lucky, just be thankful that you have not received a \$115 parking ticket for speeding down Main

Street. Pay close attention to all of the stop signs, red lights and speed limit signs in the city of Murfreesboro especially the ones on Main Street. (The cops have no mercy for college students.)

You didn't start college to become another statistic that is used in articles like this one. Your goal is to finish college so you can continue on with your destiny in life. So go ahead and do it. ♦

Features e-mail

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Survival Guide for College Success

The first days of classes have started, and you have looked over your biology syllabus to discover that your first test is in three weeks. The first paper in your English class is due the week after Labor Day, and your math class only has weekly quizzes except for the midterm and the final. The cloud that once hung over your head slowly begins to drift away, because you believe that this semester is not going to be that bad after all.

These are some of the general traps that everyone falls into during the opening of the school year. The luxury of the summer vacation still lingers in minds, clogging the thought process.

The semester only began three weeks ago, and your whole life is swirling away in the eye of a tornado. The roommate that you loved so dearly has revealed their true personality, and you make an effort to only go to your room to sleep.

Midterm time has rolled around, and you realize that you have to ace the next biology test to get a C, and your English professor hates your writing and constantly makes you rewrite your paper.

If there was only a guardian angel standing before you with a survival guide to help you avoid these mistakes, then life would be a little easier.

Well, this is your chance to glance over a survival guide that will help you have a successful semester.

Go to class: The easiest way to pass classes is to attend class regularly. Most professors give you credit for just attending the class. So make sure that you schedule classes according to your personality. If you are not a morning person, then you have the option of scheduling evening classes to assure attendance.

Take notes: If you attend classes, you should take notes to help absorb the material and have something to study for tests. If you do not like taking notes, buy a mini tape recorder and let it take the notes for you.

Talk to your professors (they are usually very helpful): The majority of the professors on campus want to make sure that you pass their classes. If you have any problems with the class, tests or papers, talk with your professors until you completely understand. There are only a handful of professors at MTSU that wake up



with a mission to fail students. The majority want you to succeed.

Do your homework: When professors assign extra readings or homework, they have a purpose behind the assignment. Take the time out and complete the assignments.

READ, READ, READ: The book is the key source in passing classes and catching the professors' mistakes. The assigned reading outline in the syllabus is there for a reason, and the books lay the foundation for the material that your professors discuss in class.

Make study partners: Study partners are great for comparing notes before tests and grasping a different understanding of the lecture. The best way to learn material is by discussing it with other people.

Get plenty of sleep: Although the sleep schedule for most college students is going to bed at 3 a.m. after cramming for an exam or partying, a good night's sleep is essential to staying up in your classes to take good notes.

Never wait until the last second to print out paper: The computer will crash 90 percent of the time and will stress you out by forcing you to make the decision of telling your professor or skipping other classes to retype the paper. Do the smart thing and print out the paper a day before to ensure you have your paper on time. This means that you can't type your paper the night before the due date. If you have to, keep telling yourself the paper is due a day before the actual time.

Follow the syllabus: This will help you be prepared for tests, papers and others assignments for the course. You will never have to worry about coming to class the day of the test unprepared if you follow your syllabus. Remember this is not high school your professors won't remind you of upcoming assignments, that's why they give you the syllabus.

Don't give up: College is the best experience anyone can endure. The sweat, pain and tears will pay off in the long run as long as you don't give up.



Battle of the Bulge

Fighting the 'Freshman 15' takes patience, discipline

By Charlene Callier
Features Co-Editor

The Homecoming game is tonight, and you are going to wear your favorite pair of jeans with a blue MTSU T-shirt.

Your hands are sweating from the anticipation of the events that are bouncing around in your head for tonight.

You step out of the shower and dry off as you go to slide into your favorite jeans.

The only problem is that once the jeans are pulled above your knees, you feel a slight snugness as you try to pull them beyond your thighs.

Instantly, the jeans stop below the hip bones, and you are pulling, sucking and tucking everything that refuses to go into your pants.

Losing your balance, you fall on the bed in a desperate attempt to fasten the pants.

You realize that this ritual has occurred for the past month, but you ignored the signs, thinking that you were just bloated that week or

the jeans were cheap and shrunk after you washed them.

This terrible experience is called the "freshman bulge."

Most college students know this bulge as the extra 15 pounds of unwanted fat that makes your clothes seem a size smaller with little room for circulation.

The late night pizzas, Krystals, candy bars and sodas have all rolled into a bulge of fat that will depress you each time you look in the mirror.

Your metabolism slows down once you hit college, and you no longer have the luxury of eating well-balanced meals to provide with you the vitamins and nutrients your body needs to help fight off extra fat.

All the activities you participated in while attending high school have turned into late night study sessions, with plenty of snack foods to munch on.

Don't worry, it's never too late

to get rid of the "freshman bulge" as long as you follow these helpful tips.

The first step is recognizing your weight gain — the truth will set you free.

The weight will not disappear, and you can prevent any more weight if you take action now.

Just say no to fat! Try eating healthy snacks between classes instead of munching on Snickers bars and chips. Pack raisins, pretzels and fruit in your book bag to help curb your appetite during the day. Stay away from potato chips and the snack cakes in the vending machines.

Drink plenty of water. This helps flush out your system and provides you with your daily intake that is essential to staying healthy. There is no excuse for not drinking water, because it's available in every vending machine on campus and in the cafeteria.

Exercise, exercise, exercise. Use

the Recreation Center (trust me, you're paying for it anyway). If you don't like to work out on the stairmaster or treadmill, then participate in an aerobics class, and dance the pounds off while listening to music.

The Rec Center is full of other activities that can help you burn calories: basketball, racquetball, karate, rock climbing — the list goes on and on.

It's up to you to make the first move and step through the doors. If you are really unmotivated about working out, start small by walking up the stairs instead of taking the elevator to the second floor, or walk to class instead of riding the bus.

Stay active.

Eat balanced meals. Although the average college student does not have time to fix a balanced meal, you can still attempt to eat some vegetables and proteins instead of pizza and Ramen noodles every night.

The most important tip of all is to avoid late night binges. When you eat foods high in fat late at night the only thing left to do is go to sleep. You will not be able to burn off the fat by being active during the day. This is the quickest way to gain weight, so try not to eat after 10 p.m.

The "freshman bulge" does not apply only to freshman but to anyone who makes the fatal mistake of late night snacking and munching on junk food.

The hardest thing about getting rid of the "freshman bulge" is admitting to yourself that you have gained weight and you need to do something about it.

College is the best time to fall into good habits and why not start with eating healthy and staying in shape. So after you read this article dig deep for the motivation that will take you help you start your mission. Getting rid of the "freshman bulge." ♦

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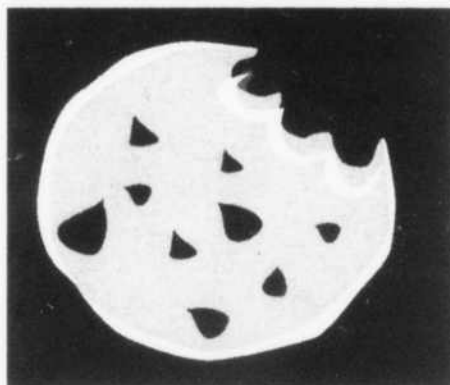
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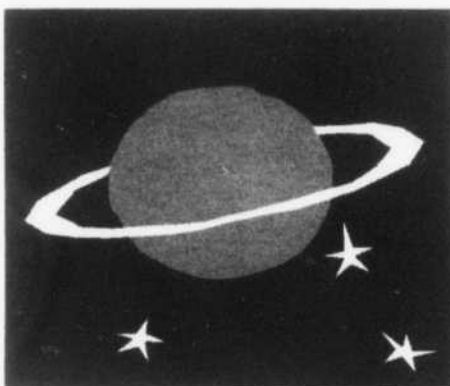
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BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION SPORTS



48 ♦ SIDELINES

Friday, Aug. 17, 2001

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

President announces beginning of AD search

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

New MTSU President Sidney McPhee announced that he will conduct a national search for a new athletic director.

McPhee said he wants to move quickly with the search but has yet to make a decision on just how the search will be conducted. The main decision is whether the search will be done internally or by an outside search firm.

The position should be posted no later than the end of September. The university is under a hiring freeze, but McPhee is quick to point out it is not restricted from filling key positions.

"This position meets that



Donnelly

requirement," McPhee said in a *Tennessean* article earlier this month.

McPhee would like the position filled by late fall.

So where does this leave interim AD Boots Donnelly?

Donnelly and McPhee have met to discuss the current status of the athletic department. Donnelly said that whatever McPhee decides is fine with him.

"I will run the athletic department as well as I can possibly run it

until Dr. McPhee goes and gets the athletic director that he is looking for or until he picks the person that he thinks can run this athletic department," Donnelly said in *The Tennessean* last week. "What I want is what is best for this athletic department."

Donnelly took over as athletic director when Lee Fowler left for North Carolina State last October. He has a deep history with Middle Tennessee, which goes back to his days as a football player. Donnelly

also served as head coach for 20 years, turning a losing team into a respectable Division I-AA team.

Recently Donnelly announced that the Middle Tennessee football team will play the University of Tennessee in 2002.

"The UT game is exactly what we need, what we have to have," Donnelly told the *Tennessean*. "We have special needs right now. We're in a very tough situation and very few mistakes can be made. We can't stomp our toe." ♦

Blue Raiders prepare for Commodores

By J.P. Plant
Senior Sports Editor

While "countdown to kick-off" to the Vanderbilt - Middle Tennessee game Aug. 30 is the buzz around town, head coach Andy McCollum is busy as a bee simply pushing his players to get better.

Middle Tennessee renews a natural rivalry with Vanderbilt in football for the first time since 1956.

Although most of the talk about Blue Raider football for the 2001 campaign has centered on the opener in Nashville, McCollum isn't seeing black and gold, instead he focuses on Raider-blue.

"All we're worried about is what Middle Tennessee can do to get better," McCollum said.

One area McCollum said the team is better at is depth, saying that it is something they have more of than in the past. And no position has more talent depthwise than the running back position.

Returning for the Blue Raiders are junior Dwone Hicks, who had the third best single season rushing in the history of Middle Tennessee



Senior Kendall Newson will look to highlight Middle Tennessee's trip to Nashville to face off with Vanderbilt with acrobatic catches like this one last season against the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

File Photo

Players receive probation from altercation

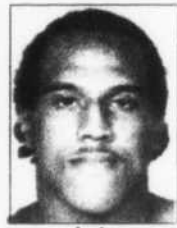
By R. Colin Fly
Copy Editor

Seniors Kendall Newson and Jason Johnson have been placed on 30 days probation by General Sessions Judge David Loughry after their involvement in a fight at a Murfreesboro nightclub April 9.

Newson and Johnson entered conditional pleas Tuesday, Aug. 6 in



Newson



Johnson

General Sessions Court on counts of

disorderly conduct. The diversionary pleas by both players will be wiped from their record, provided that they do not commit a misdemeanor offense during the next year.

Newson also was charged with public intoxication, which will fall under the terms of the plea.

Murfreesboro police received a call reporting a fight at 2:11 a.m. April 9 outside Oxygen at 301 W.

Main St. Officer Jacoby O'Gwynn told the *Daily News Journal* in April that he saw Newson strike someone and placed him under arrest after he refused to adhere to an officer's order to disperse.

Newson and Johnson were not injured in the fight, but three people did receive treatment for minor injuries at Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

Head football coach Andy McCollum said the matter has been dealt with from within and is closed.

McCollum does not disclose team disciplinary policies.

Both Newson and Johnson were unavailable for comment.

Newson is Middle Tennessee's all-time leading wide receiver in

See **Probation**, 50

Third overall pick remains unsigned by Devil Rays

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

After much speculation, the Tampa Bay Devil Rays took Dewon Brazelton with the third pick in the Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft.

Brazelton is the first Blue Raider to be selected in the first round.

There was talk that Brazelton would be the first pick in the draft, but the Minnesota Twins chose Joe Mauer, a high school catcher from Minnesota, first.

"I'm very, very happy, very elated," said Brazelton. "It's what I wanted from point blank. I heard a lot about being the number one pick, but I did not want it. I wanted to be a Devil Ray. I'm so thankful that they gave me an opportunity."

Brazelton's name became a hot topic after a standout performance for the USA National Team during the summer of 2000. He went 6-0 with a 0.65 earned run average, an all-time Team USA record, and 49 strikeouts in 41 innings for Team USA.

"I feel that God had a great deal with getting me what I wanted. I came from last year when I thought I was good, but no one thought I was good until this summer," Brazelton said about his rise to the top. "And going from where they thought I could be a first rounder to being the number three pick, and almost the number one pick."

He followed the summer with a huge season for the Blue Raiders. Brazelton posted a 13-2 record and a 1.44 ERA including 10 complete games in 14 starts as Middle tied for first place in the Sun Belt



File Photo

See **Unsigned**, 52

Dewon Brazelton remains unsigned by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. He was drafted third overall in this summer's amateur draft.

Softball coach takes middle school job

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

Karen Green, head softball coach at Middle Tennessee, announced her resignation Aug. 2.

Her resignation comes after a record-breaking season for the Lady Raider softball team. The team won 41 games, reaching the finals of the Sun Belt Conference tournament this season.

However, an opportunity arose at Siegel Middle School for a health teacher and softball coach. Green took that as a sign for her to make a move and accepted both the teaching and coaching position at the middle school here in Murfreesboro.

"I decided to make this change because the job had become my life, and I wanted a life outside my job," Green said.

Coach Green mentioned grueling, endless hours spent recruiting and competing as reasons for her decision.

"I have really enjoyed my time here at Middle Tennessee, and I haven't regretted a moment here," Green said.

Green started the softball program at MTSU in 1993. Before coming to MT, the Nashville native introduced the softball program at Belmont and served as the head coach there for one season.

In her nine seasons as leader of the Middle Tennessee softball program, Green amassed 276 wins to 217 losses. She led her team to an Ohio Valley Conference championship and the program's first-ever NCAA appearance in 2000.

In the first season as a member of the Sun Belt Conference, the Lady Raiders finished third in the

regular season. Middle used an underdog run to finish second in the conference tournament after falling to season nemesis and 19th-ranked Louisiana at Lafayette. The team also put together the first 40-win season in the program's history, while losing only 21 games this past season.

The 2001 version of the Lady Raiders placed four players on the All Sun Belt Conference team. Three-time Sun Belt Pitcher of the Week Jennifer Martinez made the first team as both a pitcher and designated player. Catcher Lindsay Azevedo also earned a spot on the first team.

Stayc Preator, who pitched the first perfect game in Middle Tennessee history, made the second team along with lead off hitter Kip Phillips. These players are just a few of the quality players who

have come through Middle Tennessee's program during Green's years.

"I am really thankful for all of the players I have had come through the program," she said. "When I made the decision to leave, I spoke to each of them in person or on the phone about my decision, and they were all very supportive."

Interim Athletic Director Boots Donnelly has begun a search for a new head coach. Despite a hiring freeze at the university, Middle hopes to have a new coach in place before classes start Aug. 20.

"We are going to advertise the position immediately and will make a decision in the next two or three weeks," Donnelly said. "It is crucial we have someone in place before school begins because of fall practice and recruiting." ♦



Green



Probation:

Continued from 49

receptions and is an All-American candidate at his position entering this season. Last year he finished with 74 receptions for 945 yards and five touchdowns.

Johnson, a transfer quarterback from Northwest Mississippi Community College, shared time with quarterback Wes Counts, ending Counts' consecutive start streak last season. Johnson played in all 11 games, throwing for 1,006 yards and four touchdowns as well as rushing for three more.

The nightclub Oxygen closed its doors this summer after a dispute over the terms of their lease agreement.

Middle Tennessee opens the season in Nashville to play Southeastern Conference opponent Vanderbilt Thursday, Aug. 30. ♦

Football: Middle Tennessee preparing for biggest game in recent history

Continued from 48

football, with 1,309 yards last season, and sophomore Don Calloway, who played in nine games as a freshman.

Adding to the depth at the position is sophomore Rashard Lee, who is expected to add pure athleticism on the field.

Nearing the end of training

camp, McCollum is excited about how his team is carrying itself, and is focusing on the physical aspect of the game.

"We've had a great work ethic," McCollum said. "We're working on being more physical."

McCollum said some posi-

tions are still up for grabs.

"We're moving a lot of people around," he added. "everyday things are changing."

Seniors Wes Counts and Jason Johnson are expected to battle for the starting job at quarterback, while senior Kendall Newson and junior

Tyrone Calico headline the receiving core to round out the skilled positions.

Senior defensive end Tanaka Scott leads a much-improved defensive unit against a much-improved offense from Vanderbilt led by senior quarterback Greg Zoleman.

"We're (Vanderbilt) pumped up," wide receiver Dan Sticker

said. "It's going to be an awesome game."

While the game hasn't sold out as of yet, the Blue Raider fans are doing their share buying more than half of their allotted 6,000 tickets on the first day they went on sale.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 30 at Vanderbilt Stadium. ♦

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- * AUG. 22 AΩ yard party (11 a.m. - 1 p.m., K.U.C. Courtyard)
- FREE MEAL (5 p.m. at Belle Aire)
- Connecting Point (7:30 p.m. at Belle Aire)
- * AUG. 23 AΩ on the Knoll (11 a.m. - 1 p.m., K.U.C. Courtyard)
- * AUG. 26 Campus-wide worship/FREE lunch (11:30 @ Tucker Theater)

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Unsigned: Contract negotiations stalled for now

Continued from 49

Conference last season.

He set the single-season record for strikeouts with 154, including a career-high 16-strikeout performance against Western Kentucky May 4. He walked only 22 batters in 119 innings of work. Brazelton also took a no-hitter into the eighth inning against Louisiana at Lafayette on March 30.

"It was a pleasure playing baseball at Middle Tennessee, and I want to thank coach [Steve] Peterson and coach [Jim] McGuire for helping me get to this point," Brazelton said after being drafted.

During the season, Brazelton was recognized as Sun Belt Conference Pitcher of the Week April 2, Louisville Slugger National Player of the Week March 5 and NCBWA Pitcher of the Week April 3.

In the off-season, Brazelton received Sun Belt Pitcher of the Year and first team All-American by both *Collegiate Baseball* and *Baseball Weekly*. He was one of 12 semifinalists for the Rotary Smith Award, given to the nation's top college baseball player. He was also a semifinalist for the Dick Howser Award.

"If you look at what he has done this summer and what he has done this year, [you can see] that he is a workhorse," Devil Rays Director of Scouting Dan Jennings said.

Throughout the season, media outlets around the country became interested in Brazelton's unique story on his rise to collegiate baseball stardom.

Sports Illustrated, *Baseball America*, *Baseball Weekly* and *Collegiate Baseball* featured stories on him.

Baseball America named the 6-foot-4, 215 pound Brazelton as one of the draft's top five players. They also ranked his fastball second only to that of Mark Prior, who was selected second overall by the Cubs.

"No doubt he's one of the best pitchers of all-time. I'm not going to go into him being better or me being better," Brazelton said when asked if he thought he was better than Prior. "I feel like he's good and I'm good too. I think I'm going to go out there and prove myself."

After the draft, Brazelton stated he felt the opportunity might arise for him to pitch in the Major Leagues very quickly. He speculated that he could be sent to either the Devil Rays' Class A affiliates in

either Charleston, S.C., or Bakersfield, Calif.

"I think that the Devil Rays believe that I am only a couple of months away from the big leagues. I hope I get the chance to learn under fire. I'm sure I'll get beat up at first because it takes a while to learn what to throw," he said.

The chance to play quickly is the main thing that attracted Brazelton to the Devil Rays. Tampa Bay is one of the worst teams in baseball, which is why Brazelton feels he will be able to play at the major league level quickly.

"You look at the stats, and I feel like with this team I can come in and play a little bit in the minors. I feel like this team needs help immediately, and that's why they were attracted to me, which I feel I was the best fit type of guy," he said.

"I don't want to sit in the minor leagues forever, and if I have to that's someone else's decision. But I feel like I can come in and make an immediate impact at the major league level, like in a month or two for instance, next year."

One thing Brazelton and those around him seemed pretty sure about was that there would not be long contract negotiations.

"I don't anticipate a lengthy negotiation process. I mean I don't see one coming. If the Devil Rays come in and do what's right, then I'm going to do what's right. I'm not trying to hold out for \$18 million. I'm not one of those guys. I want to play," Brazelton said.

"I think the quicker I can get in, get signed and get out the quicker I can make it to the major leagues. I know I stand to make a little bit of money right now, but I know the most money I can make is in the big leagues."

Head coach Steve Peterson said he was happy for Brazelton and figured negotiations would be over quickly.

The Devil Rays also hope for fast negotiations so that Brazelton be pitching in the minor leagues as soon as possible.

However, negotiations have not gone as hoped. Tony Stinnett of the *Daily News Journal* reported July 28 that talks between the Devil Rays and Brazelton had stalled due to Tampa Bay's bad financial situation.

Apparently, the Devil Rays' bad financial situation prevented a quick negotiation. Bo McKinnis, Brazelton's adviser told Stinnett, "I guess they don't have

any money."

According to the *DNJ* report, it is believed Brazelton is seeking a signing bonus in the \$4 to \$5 million range. The report also says he was offered a major league contract originally.

"I've always said I only wanted what I think is fair," Brazelton told the *DNJ*. "A couple of guys drafted in the first round were asking for astronomical amounts of money. I just want to be treated fairly."

"I wanted a situation where it's a good deal for me and for the organization. I just wanted what was best for all parties. They know what I'm worth."

Since Stinnett's report, the Devil Rays have traded Fred McGriff and Albie Lopez. They would still like to get rid of \$15 million in payroll. Tampa Bay has already trimmed \$11 million in payroll. They would especially like to dump Greg Vaughn's \$8.25 million contract.

Even with this dumping of bad debt, Brazelton is unsigned.

"We expected to be signed in late, and I'm very surprised it's taken this long," McKinnis told the *Tennessean*. "Nothing much has happened."

Should Brazelton not sign, he could return to MTSU for his senior season.

He is in the top five in every statistical category for pitchers and holds the record for career strikeouts with 335.

"I'm in a no-lose situation," Brazelton told Stinnett. "If I don't sign and I return to MTSU to play with my teammates one more year, graduate on time, hopefully win another championship and be at a place I love, I guess I'm in horrible shape then."

"There's no player on campus that loves MTSU more than I do, so returning for my senior year wouldn't be a bad thing at all."

Should Brazelton sign, he says he doesn't think the money will change him.

"I'm not rich by any means now, but I'm not poor either. I think it might change a little bit, but I don't think it's going to change who I am. It might be a different story if I was living in a dump," he said.

"MTSU might not seem like a lot to anybody else, but I'm a 20-year-old guy going to school and having everything paid for. I don't have any bills, and I get a pretty good Pell Grant. For a guy in college, I'm in heaven. There's not anything I want for." ♦

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MT picked to win conference

By J.P. Plant
Senior Sports Editor

The Blue Raider football team has been tagged the team to beat in the inaugural Sun Belt Conference football season. Coaches, sports information directors and publications from around college football have picked Middle Tennessee to win the league.

The latest tag as league champion comes from the conference coaches and SIDs at the SBC football media days in New Orleans. Both groups selected the Blue Raiders slightly ahead of Idaho.

"It's a great honor to be picked first," head coach Andy McCollum said. "Unfortunately, championships are not won on paper. They are won on the field, and we have to realize that."

The Blue Raiders, under McCollum, received three first-place votes in the coaches' poll, while the SIDs of the leagues gave Middle Tennessee four first-place votes. Both groups came up with

the same predicted order of finish for the inaugural season.

Following close behind was Idaho in second place with two first-place votes in each poll and New Mexico State in third with two first-place votes from the coaches and one from the SIDs.

Predicted to finish fourth is North Texas, followed by a tie for fifth place between Arkansas State and Louisiana at Lafayette. Louisiana at Monroe rounds out the poll in seventh place.

CollegeFootballNews.com hopped on the Blue Raider bandwagon as well picking them to represent the conference in the first ever New Orleans Bowl Dec.

18 at the Superdome. CFN predicts the Blue Raiders to finish the regular season with an 8-3 overall record.

The publication also tabbed the Blue Raiders as the 79th team in the nation entering the season out of 117 Division I-A programs.

"This sky is the limit for the Blue Raiders," said CFN. "Vanderbilt is beatable if the MT D can tighten up, then there's not another game on the slate they should not be favored in until their seventh game at Mississippi. They'll probably lose to the Rebels and LSU, but they might give them nightmares."

The publication also broke down the offense and defense with grades and here is a look at the Blue Raider report card: Quarterbacks: B+; Running Backs: A; Receivers: B+; Offensive Line: C-; Defensive Line: B-; Linebackers: C; Defensive Backs: C+; and Special Teams: A-.

Athlon Magazine, based in nearby Nashville, is on the stands, but they are not as high on the Blue Raiders as other preseason publications. *Athlon* picks Middle Tennessee second in the SBC behind Idaho and 94th out of 117 teams in its preseason poll. *Athlon* selected Dwone Hicks,

Kendall Newson, Tanaka Scott, Jykine Bradley and Brian Kelly on its preseason all-Sun Belt team.

The first mention of league champions came from *Preview Sports College Football*. The publication predicted the Middle Tennessee to not only win the conference, but go undefeated in the process with a perfect 6-0 record, 8-3 overall.

Behind Middle Tennessee, *Preview* had New Mexico State second, Idaho third, North Texas fourth, Arkansas State fifth, Louisiana at Monroe sixth and Louisiana at Lafayette seventh.

See Picks, 57

Coaches
1. Middle Tennessee
2. Idaho
3. New Mexico State
4. North Texas
5. Arkansas State
6. Louisiana-Lafayette
7. Louisiana-Monroe

Pts. (1st place votes)
43 (3)
41 (2)
39 (2)
24
19
19
11

Sports Information Dirs.
1. Middle Tennessee
2. Idaho
3. New Mexico State
4. North Texas
5. Arkansas State
6. Louisiana-Lafayette
7. Louisiana-Monroe

Pts. (1st place votes)
45 (4)
44 (2)
35 (1)
26
17
17
12

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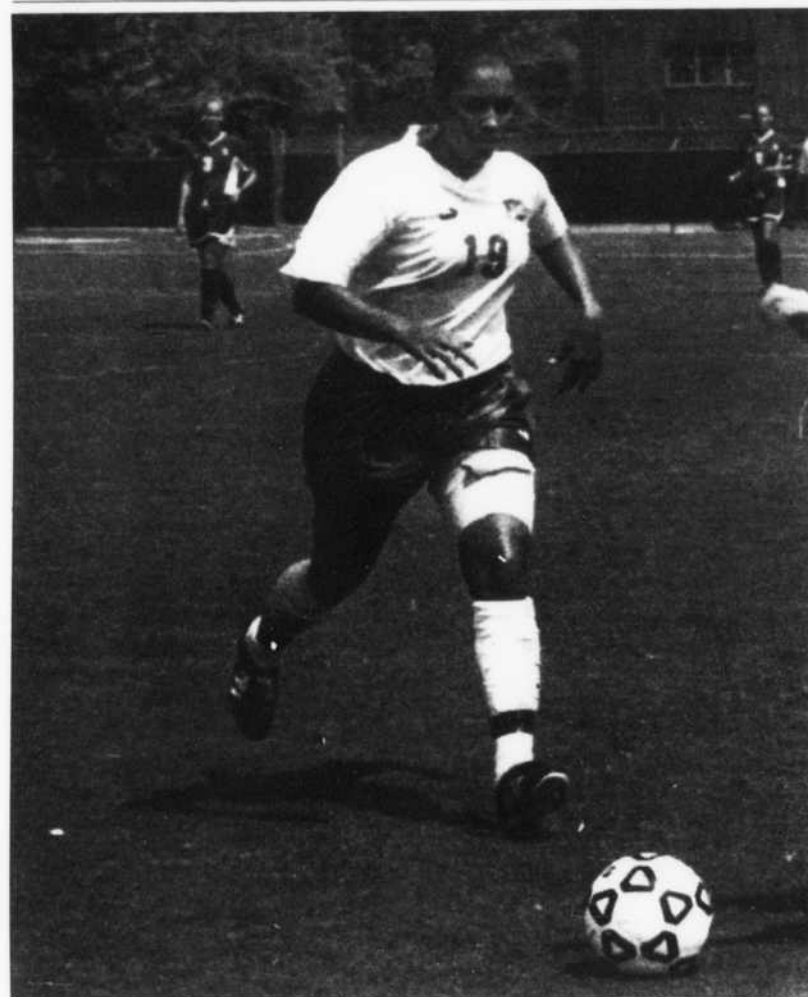
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File

Jenny Cox returns to a team full of new and old faces. Head coach Scott Ginn has recruited the largest freshman class ever at Middle and says he wants to work on "speed, athleticism, and of course, scoring goals."

MT looks to new talent

By Amy Jones
Staff Writer

After a tough 8-11 season, the Middle Tennessee State University Lady Raider soccer team is gearing up and preparing for the 2001 season, which will begin Aug. 31 at the Southern Mississippi Tournament. The Lady Raiders have been practicing hard to improve on the small obstacles that will make them a winning squad in the Sun Belt Conference.

"We're working on teaching the new players the same type of system of playing from last year," coach Scott Ginn commented. "This year we have the largest group of freshman ever recruited at MTSU, and we recruited speed. We are working on speed, athleticism and, of course, scoring goals."

Ginn also added, "We are very excited about this fall and we have a lot of expectations ahead of us. We also invite the MTSU students and the Murfreesboro community to come out and watch an exciting style of soccer during the week and

also on the weekends."

Before the 2000 season, Ginn was named the MTSU Lady Raiders' head coach replacing Colette Clilligan, who was the Lady Raider's coach during Middle Tennessee's inaugural season in 1996. Ginn came to MTSU from Barton College, where he served as the head coach from 1995 to 1999. He currently holds a career record of 47-46-1.

Assisting coach Ginn on the sidelines and returning for her second season at MTSU will be assistant coach Beth Acreman, who is from England, played at Barton College from 1995-1999 under Ginn. Acreman received her bachelors in physical education and also held a spot on the Barton basketball roster during her college career.

As a team, the Lady Raiders held a respectful 8-11-0, 3-4 (Sun Belt) record during the 2000 season. Seven of the eleven losses went to non-conference teams throughout the United States. The Lady Raiders made 30 of the 228 attempted goals, giving them a .132 shooting

percentage. The squad averaged 1.6 goals per game.

Individually, many key players stepped up defensively and offensively for the Lady Raiders during the 2000 season. Key players returning from the 2000 season are Lindsey Bopp, Jenny Cox, Sherri Robbins, Allison Shultz and Sarah Shultz. Bopp, a sophomore from Scottsdale, Ariz., played in 15 of the 19 season games, scored one goal and gained two points.

Cox, who is a returning sophomore from Clarksville, Tenn., held the top spot for the freshman class in stats. She also held top spots in most of the stats for the Lady Raiders as a team. She played in 17 of 19 games, sunk five goals and racked up 15 points during her debut season as a Lady Raider. Cox also had two game winning goals during the 2000 season.

Returning for her third year as a Lady Raider is Sheri Robbins. The North Carolina native had three assists, three goals and nine points during her sophomore season.

See Soccer, 57

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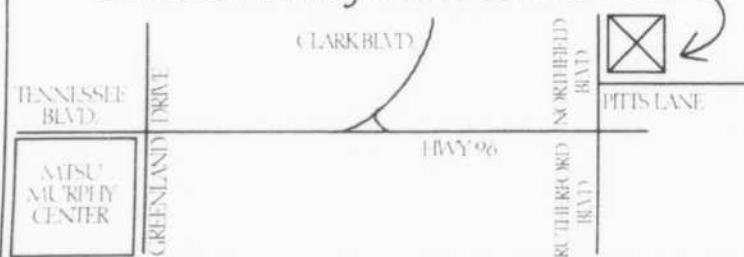
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Soccer:

Continued from 56

Returning from great sophomore 2000 seasons are the Shultz sisters from Franklin, Tenn. Allison played in 18 of the 19 matches and had a college career high season of five goals, three assists and 13 points. Sarah also had an impressive 2000 season with six assists and six points.

Also returning and bringing years of experience to MTSU are 24 other Lady Raiders from across the country. The seniors are Jessica Busey, Rachael Sulkers and Megan Holsten. The juniors and sophomores consist of Veera Viljainen, Tiffany Moore, Breann Nevins, Emily Shrum and Emily Carter. The 2001 roster contains the most freshman players ever signed at MTSU. The freshman Lady Raiders are Britney Carnden, Danielle LaDuke, Megan McGregor, Meagn Schwanke, Lisa Langrish, Leigh Peacock, Ashley Hicks, Jessica Northcutt, Erin Kaye, Laura Miguez, Nicki Fell, Megan Perry, Paige Pearson, Emily Winfree, Sarah Linder and Sarah Welsh. ♦

2001 Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Aug. 31	Southern Mississippi	Hattiesburg, Miss.	5 p.m.
Sep. 2	Nichols State (N)	Hattiesburg, Miss.	1 p.m.
Sep. 5	UT at Martin	Martin, Tenn.	4 p.m.
Sep. 8	Jacksonville St.	Murfreesboro	3 p.m.
Sep. 14	Appalachian St.	Boone, N.C.	6:30 p.m.
Sep. 16	East Tennessee St.	Johnson City, Tenn.	1 p.m.
Sep. 25	Murray State	Murfreesboro	4 p.m.
Sep. 28	Florida International (SB)	Murfreesboro	4 p.m.
Sep. 30	Lipscomb	Murfreesboro	1 p.m.
Oct. 5	Arkansas-Little Rock (SB)	Little Rock, Ark.	4 p.m.
Oct. 7	Arkansas State (SB)	Jonesboro, Ark.	1 p.m.
Oct. 12	Denver (SB)	Murfreesboro	3 p.m.
Oct. 14	North Texas (SB)	Murfreesboro	1 p.m.
Oct. 19	Western Kentucky (SB)	Bowling Green, Ky.	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	Belmont	Murfreesboro	2 p.m.
Oct. 23	Georgia State	Murfreesboro	2 p.m.
Oct. 26	South Alabama (SB)	Mobile, Ala.	7 p.m.
Oct. 28	UL-Lafayette (SB)	Lafayette, La.	1 p.m.
Oct 31-Nov 3	TBA (N)	Sun Belt Tourney	TBA

Home games are bolded.

(SB) - Sun Belt Conference Game

(N) - Neutral Site

Picks:

Continued from 54

Two of the key games are Middle Tennessee vs. Idaho and Middle Tennessee vs. New Mexico State. Both contests are scheduled as home games for the Blue Raiders.

Individually, seven Blue Raiders - more than any other team - were selected to the pre-season all-conference team. Running back Dwone Hicks, wide receiver Kendall Newson, offensive tackle Brandon Westbrook, place kicker Brian Kelly, defensive end Tanaka Scott, defensive end Anthony Hood and defensive back Joe McClendon. Hicks was also voted the Offensive Player of the Year.

The Blue Raiders will begin the 2001 season on Thursday night Aug. 30 at Vanderbilt. Middle Tennessee will open its Sun Belt Conference campaign on Sept. 22 at Louisiana at Monroe in what will be the first-ever SBC head-to-head matchup. ♦

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Lady Raiders spike for SBC gold

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team is striving for a championship in only their second season in the Sun Belt Conference.

This season marks the 25th year of Middle Tennessee volleyball. While this may be a silver anniversary for the Lady Raiders, the team is seeking to turn it into gold with a Sun Belt championship.

If Middle wants to win a championship, it will need to replace the leadership and clutch play of Lindsay Pritchard. Pritchard was a team leader, key blocker and a force on offense in her senior season last year. She also thrived in pressure situations.

"We waited all spring for someone to step up and take the lead of this team, but no one ever did," head coach Lisa Kisse said. "I think this will be a group effort by this team, with certain people stepping up in key moments of a match."

Also departed after her senior season is Abby Hartup. Hartup spent most of her season playing in a limited role due to a broken hand. She played mostly in the back row and served as a defensive and passing specialist.

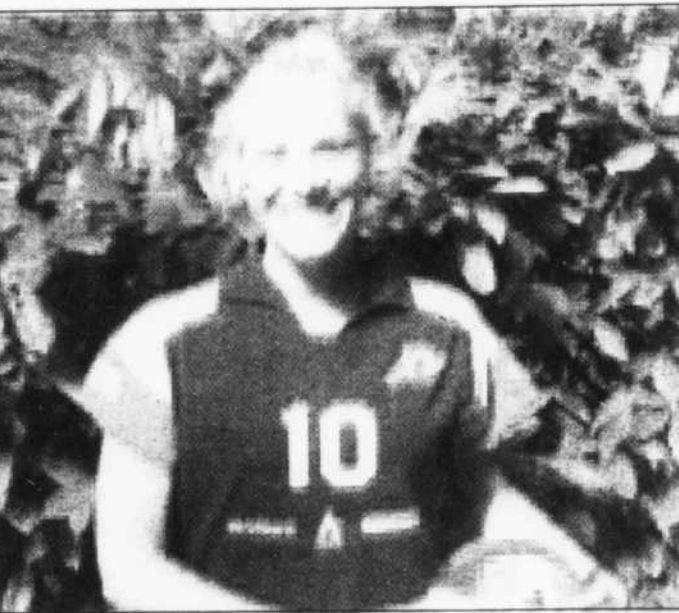
Last season the team amassed an overall record of 16-18 and a 7-9 Sun Belt record. Middle finished fourth in the Sun Belt Eastern Division for the regular season.

The Lady Raiders played spoiler, upsetting the western Division's No. 1 seed Denver in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. Middle Tennessee then advanced to the semifinals with a win over South Alabama. The underdog run came to an end with a 3-0 loss in the semifinals to New Orleans.

The 2001 Lady Raiders is relatively young. The team has no seniors. However, Middle has five juniors, four of which have seen significant playing time the past two seasons. The team also returns four starters from last season in a system in which eight players are classified as starters.

This season's starting lineup is healthy. So far the Lady Raiders have stayed away from injuries like the one that happened to Hartup just weeks before the start of the season last year.

Junior Katie Thiesen could be the one to step up and fill the hole left by Pritchard this season. She proved to be a go-to player last season as a key hitter and blocker for the Lady Raiders. A player who is seldom seen not smiling, Thiesen works on encouraging her teammates and should be a potent lead-



Thiesen

er for Middle this season.

Thiesen traveled to Italy for the second time this summer to strengthen her volleyball skills. Last summer she, along with teammate Erin Hillstrom, went to Italy and played teams from Bulgaria, Hungary and Yugoslavia.

Juniors Jennifer Hignite and Hillstrom will see significant time as hitters for the Lady Raiders this season. Hignite will work more in the middle while Hillstrom will work from the left side. Both of these players should start this season.

The other two juniors for the Lady Raiders are Kelly Quinn and transfer LaToya Brown. Quinn started as a setter last season and should start again this season in that role. Last year it was not uncommon for Quinn to have 20 to 30 sets in a game.

Middle's roster also includes four sophomores, three who saw playing time in 2000. Goldie Bilyeu, Karisse Baker and starter Caia Morstad will all be significant role players in the Lady Raider lineup. Shakeithia Deckard has been cleared to play in 2001 after sitting out last season.

Bilyeu was perhaps the most popular Lady Raider last season. Her fan club was often seen at games. On the court, she served as a key setter along with Quinn.

Baker and Morstad served as hitters last season and will play there again this season.

See Volleyball, 60

Thiesen goes to Europe

Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee Lady Raider volleyball player Katie Thiesen played in the Sibillini Italian Tournament in Sibillini, Italy, June 29 through July 9.

Thiesen, a junior from Rockford, Ill., competed in the tournament with Bring It Sports Promotions. Two groups of 11 players were chosen to play in the tournament, which lasted for two weeks.

The teams trained in Rome, Italy, June 29 and began match play July 1 ending July 7. The team was limited to players under the age of 20 with NCAA experience. The tournament featured teams from Russia, Yugoslavia and Italy.

"I think this will really prepare Katie for the fall season," Middle Tennessee head volleyball coach Lisa Kisse said. "I am really looking forward to seeing what Katie has learned when she returns for preseason in August."

Thiesen led the team in kills per game with 3.56 and total attacks with 1048 in 2000. She also averaged one block per game.

Thiesen's team, Volleyhut, placed second at the tournament.

Volleyhut, which won the title last year, lost 3-1 to Poster Belgrade. The team had to play its American teammates from About.com to advance to the finals. ♦

Lady Raider volleyball team reports to campus for training

Staff Reports

The 2001 edition of Middle Tennessee's Lady Raider volleyball team has reported to campus and are in two-a-day practices in preparation for the upcoming season.

Thirteen of the 15 players on the MT roster were in attendance at the team meeting, as two players will be making their way to campus in the days to come. Freshman Dara McClean, who hails from Belmont, Manitoba, Canada, and freshman Evi Gargalianos, who is from Anixi, Attiki, Greece, have both returned to campus.

The team will have had three weeks to work out together before they travel to Charlotte, N.C. to compete in the Charlotte Invitational Aug. 24 through Sept. 1.

The team has no seniors and has four juniors, three sophomores and seven freshmen. The team also will have returning players from last season.



Photo Provided

Lady Raiders pose during a break from practice.

Raiders in the World

Former MT QB makes waves



By R. Colin Fly
Copy Editor

Former Blue Raider Jonathan Quinn has had an eventful summer.

Allocated by the Jacksonville Jaguars to NFL Europe, Quinn stormed through Europe with the Berlin Thunder, winning the league MVP and the World Bowl MVP en route to a World Bowl Championship against the Barcelona Dragons.

Now Quinn, a virtual lock for the back-up position for Jacksonville with the injury to Jamie Martin, is back in NFL training camp and played his first preseason contest last week against the Carolina Panthers, where he played the majority of the game.

Quinn threw for 86 yards on 11 of 27 passing, and kicker Mike Hollis nailed six field goals to lead Jacksonville to a victory over Carolina, 18-16.

The former MT star hasn't thrown a pass in the regular season of the NFL since starting two games as a rookie in 1998 when injuries decimated the Jaguars roster of Mark Brunell and Jay Fiedler.

Quinn threw for 2,257 yards and 24 touchdowns during the 10 game regular season for Berlin. He shined throughout the championship game, connecting on touchdown passes of 46, 17 and 53 yards and throwing for 308 yards.

Quinn becomes an unrestricted free

agent after the 2001 season and should attract attention from teams around the league.

Quinn told Sportsline.com that all he's looking for is a chance to earn a starting job.

Berlin Thunder coach Peter Vaas sang Quinn's praises all year, calling Quinn the best quarterback in NFL Europe and arguably the best that NFL Europe has ever seen.

Former NFL quarterbacks include Kurt Warner, Damon Huard and Jon Kitna.

"Do I hope he's played his last game in Berlin? Yes," Vaas said. "I want him to have an NFL career. I'd love to see him back here, but only in an American Bowl in Berlin with an NFL team."

"Quinn is the best quarterback in [NFL Europe] and arguably the best this league has ever seen," Vaas said.

The former Blue Raider standout tied an NFL Europe record for consecutive games with a touchdown pass at 10.

Quinn, a Hermitage, Tenn., native, originally played high school football for McGavock High in Nashville before signing to play football for Tulane.

After one year as a Green Wave, he transferred to Middle Tennessee, where he threw for 4,864 yards and 28 touchdowns, earning him All-Ohio Valley Conference first team honors. ♦

Photos Provided

Blue Raider alumni Jonathan Quinn (above) and Fred Niemeyer (below) excelled to the top of their respective sports during the course of the summer.

Former MT star helps Canada in Davis Cup

MT Media Relations

Former Middle Tennessee tennis player Fred Niemeyer helped Canada clinch a Davis Cup victory July 23 with a 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 triumph over Mexico's Miguel Angel Gallardo in Mexico City in the fifth and deciding match of the tie.

Niemeyer, a three-time All-American for the Blue Raider tennis team and coach Dale Short from 1994-97 and a native of Deauville, Quebec, helped his native Canada win in Mexico for

the first time ever. He defeated Gallardo after countryman Simon Larose fell 6-7, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-0 to Alejandro Hernandez earlier that day.

"It was the toughest match of my life," Niemeyer said after the match. "I was so nervous before the match, I could hardly stand up."

"It was the best moment of my career so far," Niemeyer said in an e-mail to Short.

"I have never felt this happy before. I had so much pressure all this weekend. I am relieved it is

over. Apparently all Canada was following this tie very closely. It was such a tense moment. You can't imagine how hard it was to win this match. The surface, the altitude, the pollution and the rough crowd made it so hard! I am really, really happy. I am so tired right now."

Canada is assured a spot in the America Zone Group I until next year and will not play another David Cup tie until next season. ♦



Women's golf tees off inaugural season this year

By J.P. Plant
Senior Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee women's golf program begins its inaugural season this fall. Head coach Kim St. John has compiled a team of young local talent with experienced college transfers.

The latest to join the Lady Raider squad is Tamara Munsch from Hays, Kan. Munsch, who will be a sophomore for the Lady Raiders, was the No. 3 player as a freshman for Texas Tech.

"I am elated to have a player of Tamara's ability joining our program," St. John said. "She will give us immediate experience and will be one of our top players."

As a freshman for Texas Tech, Munsch competed in eight of 11 tournaments and had an 81.0 average. Her top finish was a tie for 22nd at the Alltel Huskers Invitational, while her low round was a 73.

Prior to arriving in Lubbock, Munsch was a National High School All-American, the 6-5A State Champion and a three-time all-state selection. She won 17 of 26 high school tournaments, and also achieved the low 18 hole state record while playing for Hays High School.

Joining Munsch as late signees is Amanda Harter and Nicole Biles. Harter, the 2000 TSSAA State Champ, played at Soddy-Daisy High School, while Biles is a junior college transfer from Tyler Junior College in Texas.

"Both players mix really well with the four we signed in the early period," St. John added. "Nicole will bring us experience and maturity, while Amanda rates as a strong player who is very focused on the golf course."

Harter, from Hixson, Tenn. has enjoyed a storied career that includes All-American honors in 2000 and being named the Chattanooga Free Press Player of the Year in November. Harter also placed second at the Tennessee Junior Amateur and won the district title three straight years. A standout in the classroom as well, Harter was rated the No. 3 player in Tennessee and the 128th best in the nation.

Biles is from League City, Texas where she attended Clear Creek High School before enrolling at Tyler. There, Biles finished among the top 20 in the National Junior College Tournament.

Biles, the granddaughter of for-

See Golf, 62

MLB picks 4 Raiders

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

Dewon Brazelton wasn't the only Blue Raider baseball player selected in the 2001 Major League Baseball First Year Player's Draft.

Three other Blue Raiders were selected throughout the draft. The Minnesota Twins with the first pick in the 11th round took second baseman Josh Renick. Pitcher Jason Moates went to the Detroit Tigers in the 20th round. The Philadelphia Phillies in the 24th round chose Kris Lammers.

Head coach Steve Peterson commented that having three players drafted on the first day and four players chosen overall shows that his program is getting attention around the country. "It's an honor for three guys to go on the first day. It shows that we're getting the right kinds of players to come to Middle Tennessee and play baseball."

Renick went undrafted after his junior season, but used an impressive senior season to move himself into the draft. He batted .420 with eight homers and received Sun Belt Player of the Year honors for the Blue Raiders this season.

"There was no doubt that Josh wanted to play pro ball," Peterson said. "His 11th round selection shows that [the Twins] think he can play. I'm happy for Josh because I know this is what he really wanted."

Renick is Middle Tennessee's career batting average leader with a .381 mark. His season average rates as the second highest of all time. He holds the school's record for runs scored in a season with 74. He also tied the mark for hits in a season with 94.

"I'm fired up," Renick said of his draft status. "It's even more special

since my dad coached in Minnesota and won a World Series with the Twins in 1987. I still know some people in the organization. I'm just glad to get an opportunity to play."

The Twins gave Renick his chance to play with a contract and assignment to the Ft. Myers Miracle, one of the Twins A league teams.

Moates was drafted for the second time as a Blue Raider. The Cincinnati Reds selected him in the 26th round last season, but Moates didn't sign. He was not completely healthy because he was recovering from Tommy John surgery. He chose to come back to MTSU and show scouts his abilities.

"I am very pleased with where I was picked. I thought that I might go a little higher, but with my surgery it's sort of a crapshoot," said Moates. "I'm very excited about this opportunity."

The Blue Raider coaching staff chose to bring Moates back slowly, so he began the season in the bullpen. He became the Saturday starter for Middle Tennessee. He finished the season with a 6-2 record and a 3.19 ERA.

"For Jason to come off of what could have been a career-ending injury and have a great year for us shows what kind of player he is. He improved each time out. I think Jason has a big decision to make because he could return here next year with the opportunity to become our No. 1 pitcher. He also could try to make a run in pro ball. It's a good situation for him to be in," Peterson said.

Moates has been clocked in the mid-90's. During his career with Middle, he racked up 72 strikeouts.

Tiger's scouts said they liked Moates' wide body and arm

strength. They also commented that his best pitch was his fastball and that he needed to develop his breaking ball to help get hitters out. He has been assigned to the Oneonta Tigers of single A.

Lammers was a star for the Blue Raiders as both a pitcher and first baseman. The Phillies have said they will use Lammers as a pitcher.

"They [the Phillies] were one of a couple of teams that seemed to keep tabs on me this year," said Lammers. "I'm very excited to get started. This is what I've been waiting on for 22 years. I want to go out there and show them that they made the right choice when they drafted me."

He compiled a 3-6 record and posted a 4.98 ERA for Middle Tennessee this season. He struck out 24 batters in 2001 including a career high 10-strikeout performance against Jacksonville State. At the plate, Lammers batted .252 with one home run.

"Kris has always been a competitor with a lot of heart," Peterson said. "He has been a good player for us and his hard work has paid off with a chance to play pro ball."

Lammers signed a minor league contract with the Clearwater Phillies of the A league.

The Middle Tennessee baseball program has had a player selected in the Major League Baseball draft in each of the last six seasons and 14 of the last 15. Seven Middle players have played in the major leagues with a total of 65 men making it into professional baseball.

The four Blue Raiders selected in this year's draft is the largest class since four players were drafted in 1990. ♦

Volleyball: MT faces tough non-conf. schedule

Continued from 58

The Lady Raiders have added four freshmen to the squad this season. The additions are: Natasha Bowen a 6-3 middle blocker from Chattanooga, Kelly Cannon a 5-10 setter and outside hitter from Quebec, Tenn. Amy Carpenter a 6-0 defensive specialist from Wittier, Calif. and Dara McClean a 6-1 outside hitter from Belmont, Manitoba, Canada.

Middle opens the season with an exhibition alumni game Aug. 25 at 2 pm. After the alumni game, the Lady Raiders will participate in three tournaments in preparation

for the Sun Belt schedule. The team also faces the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Miami, Tennessee, Tennessee at Chattanooga, Wake Forest and Sanford in non-conference action.

"I think the tournaments and non-conference games we play will be great competition for us," Kisse said. "The most important part of non-conference play is to prepare us for the conference games and the conference tournament."

The Sun Belt Conference seems to be an open field this year. The Lady Raiders' goal is to be in the mix at the end of the season.

"I think the conference is wide open this year," Kisse said. "On any given night I believe any team could win or lose."

Middle will start its Sun Belt schedule Sept. 22 against Florida International in Miami. The Lady Raiders will square off in a rematch with Denver at Denver Oct. 12 and with New Orleans at home Oct. 20. Middle Tennessee will host seven Sun Belt contests in its quest for gold in 2001.

The Lady Raiders first home contest after the alumni game is Sept. 18 against Belmont. ♦



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Golf: Women get underway

Continued from 60

mer Houston Oiler head coach Ed Biles, placed second in the high school region tournament for Clear Creek while also earning All-Houston Texas Region honors.

Signing early for St. John include Crossville's Kimmerlee Pennington, Louisville's Becky Newell and McLennan Junior College transfer Kandace Burnett.

"I am really pleased with our early signees," St. John said. "The four we have at this point will give us a chance to be extremely competitive in our first season."

Highlighting the early signees is Pennington, who was recently named Tennessee's Class 3AAA Player of the Year. At Cumberland County High School, Pennington was a three-time district player of the year (1998-2000), the regional player of the year in 2000 and a four-time qualifier for the state tournament. Pennington, a regular at The Vinny each season, placed a career best sixth at the state tournament this past season.

"Kimmerlee will have an immediate impact on our program," St. John said. "She's a very strong player and one who will continue to get better. Blue Raider fans will hear a lot from her during her career."

Newell, another prep signee, hails from Ballard High School. Newell placed second at the Kentucky Women's State Amateur during the summer and has also won the Pepsi Junior Tournament (1999) and the Jefferson County Invitational (1998). During the summer, Newell was also rated among the 100 Best Girl Junior Golfers on the Baker-Gearry Dunne Championship Tour.

"Becky is a very hard worker and a team player who will bring a lot to our program," St. John added. "She has a bright future with the Lady Raiders."

Burnett, who will be counted on for immediate leadership, is rated 11th nationally in the junior college ranks.

"We are very pleased to have Kandace representing our program and this university," St. John said. "She brings with her, not only a strong golf game, but also much needed maturity and experience."

Rounding out the first recruiting class ever for the Middle Tennessee's women's golf program is local standout Kristin Lynch from nearby Tullahoma.

Lynch, the No. 1 rated player in the state last season, was a National High School Coaches Association All-American in 2000. Lynch, a two-time all-state performer, led Tullahoma to the Region 4 championship last year and finished third overall in the state.

"You could not ask for a better player to start your program with," St. John said. "Kristin is a leader, an excellent student and simply a great person. She signifies what our program will be about."

The Lady Raiders will compete in five tournaments to jump-start the first year of women's golf.

"We are in some excellent tournaments," St. John said. "It's a schedule that should really advance our program as we gear toward the spring season and the Sun Belt Championships."

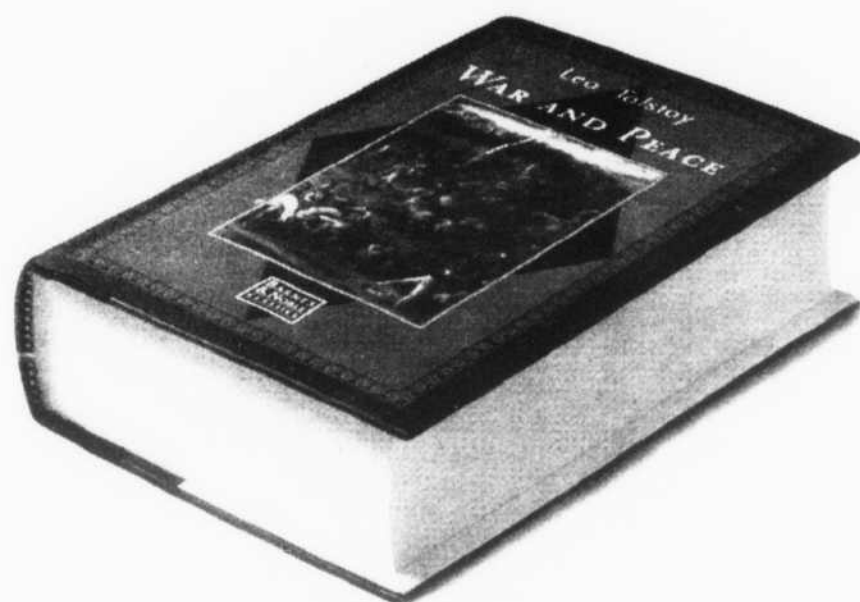
The Lady Raiders will begin the fall schedule at the Memphis Women's Intercollegiate on Sept. 17 and 18 before traveling to the University of Arkansas on Oct. 1 and 2 for the Lady Razorback Invitational. On Oct. 8 through 10 Middle Tennessee will head to Las Cruces, N.M. for the NMSU Collegiate Women's Golf Invitational, then will compete the following week in Arkansas at Little Rock Invitational. The Lady Raiders will conclude the 2001 fall season Oct. 28 and 29 at the John Kirk Lady Panther Invitational in Atlanta, Ga. ♦

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