



Photo by Matt Demonbrun | Office of Student Organizations and Community Service
MTSU students visited the gulf during the fall 2005 alternative break. (From left to right) Adrienne Robinson, Justin Phalichanh, Brittany Wilkey, Matt Demonbrun, Rachel Green, William Harper, Samantha Linton, Laurie Lynn, Larry Wilson, Jason Gerald, Jen Vaughn, Ally Wheeler, Ben Morton and Jessica Broom.

Students plan Gulf trip as alternative spring break

By Andy Harper

Campus News Editor

Instead of beach-party Spring Breaks, MTSU is offering an alternative trip to the Mississippi gulf this March.

The trip, sponsored by Student Organizations and Community Service, is a volunteer-based trip during the first week of March. Students will travel to the gulf and aid in hurricane relief.

"We did a trip to the gulf originally in fall of 2005," said Matt Demonbrun, coordinator for the trip and graduate assistant for Student Organizations and Community Service. "After watching recent television specials, we decided to do another trip."

The group of 21 students, three of which are group leaders, will split into three teams to work on more projects.

"There is still a lot of clean-up left, so we want to have a team help with that," Demonbrun said.

"We also want to do a project with Habitat for Humanity and possibly have a third group work with a homeless or domestic abuse center for children."

Plans for official projects have not been finalized, but the office is working with the various corporations in the area who are helping with reconstruction, Demonbrun said.

The last alternative-break trip was only five days long, but the gulf trip is planned to be for seven days. Three vans will transport students on the nine hour trip.

"We are going to leave in the afternoon on Friday [March 2] and leave Mississippi the following Friday [March 9] morning," Demonbrun said.

The trip is available to both undergraduates and graduate students. This year, undergraduate students will be allowed to apply for the group leader positions, in an attempt to gear the trip more towards the undergraduates,

Demonbrun said.

"Applying doesn't require any experience, just a positive attitude and a will to give back," Demonbrun said. "Students should bring an open mind."

Days consist of working on the various projects, but groups will also do a lot of breakout exercises.

"The point of the trip is that it is a learning experience that opens student's eyes," Demonbrun said.

The Student Organizations and Community Service pays for the cost for the trip. The only money required from students goes to meals and spending money.

"It will probably be between \$100 and \$150," Demonbrun said. "But to lower the cost we try to get everyone together as a group and hang out and cook dinner."

Applications are now available in the Student Life office, Keathley University Center Room 326E. ♦

Restaurant smoking ban proposed for Tennessee

By Woody Baird

Associated Press

GERMANTOWN, Tenn. (AP) — Pausing over a plate of pork barbecue, Neil Harkavy gave two simple reasons he believes smoking should be banned in Tennessee restaurants.

"It's unhealthy, No. 1," he said, "and it doesn't smell good."

That pretty well sums up the feelings of many nonsmokers who will be watching the state Legislature this year as it debates how to protect people from second-hand smoke.

A new legislative session is under way, and lawmakers are expected to take up several proposals aimed at restricting smoking in public places.

Two of the most contentious issues will be proposals to ban smoking in restaurants and to give local governments the authority to regulate public smoking in their own communities.

Harkavy, having lunch at a Germantown restaurant, said he liked that idea.

"Local governments know more than the Legislature about what the people in their areas would like," he said.

Germantown, a Memphis suburb, is one of several Tennessee cities that have debated banning smoking in restaurants, only to be blocked by the Legislature's exclusive control over smoking rules.

Historically, anti-smoking critics have struggled in Nashville where pro-tobacco forces and their lobbyists are tough competitors. The American Lung Association, on a national report card rating states for smoke-free air, gives Tennessee an F.

Nineteen states have some restrictions on smoking in restaurants, the association says.

Proponents of tighter rules on smoking in public are encouraged by a smoking ban in state-owned buildings approved by the Legislature last session. And Sen. Paul Stanley, R-Germantown, said he will ask fellow lawmakers again

this year to let cities and counties set their own rules for public smoking.

Smoking should be banned in restaurants, Stanley said, to protect the health of nonsmokers, including children, and to make dining out more enjoyable for people bothered by cigarette smoke.

Stanley said he will not propose a smoking ban for bars, however.

"It is imperative that we clearly define the difference between a bar and a restaurant," he said. "I believe when you go into a bar, you know what atmosphere you're walking into."

A business that makes most of its money on alcohol is a bar, Stanley said, while a restaurant sells mostly food.

Such distinctions don't sit well with the Tennessee Restaurant Association, which argues that its members should not have to deal with smoking bans unless all other business in the state do also.

"We're businesses no different from any other retail businesses out there," said association President Ronnie Hart. "Why do you want to single out restaurants?"

Hart said his group will also oppose efforts to give local governments the authority to set anti-smoking rules.

"We've got 95 counties in Tennessee, and if they all want to create their own nonsmoking laws and rules and regulations, how in the world are you ever going to keep up with all of them?" he said.

The Legislature took away most local control over public smoking in 1994 when it passed a law that was billed as an attempt to keep tobacco away from children and teenagers. The law also barred local governments from regulating tobacco use more tightly than the state does.

Germantown has pressed state lawmakers for several years for more authority to set anti-smoking rules.

Walker Taylor, owner of a barbecue restaurant called the

Germantown Commissary, was a longtime and outspoken critic of the city's anti-smoking efforts, but he made his business smoke-free last year.

Taylor worried that a smoking ban for Germantown restaurants would send customers to his competitors in neighboring towns, including Memphis.

That hasn't happened.

"Business is up. I think people are getting more and more used to (smoking bans). Most workplaces now require people to go outside to smoke and I have no problem with that," Taylor said.

But Taylor still doesn't like government imposed smoking bans for private businesses, at the state or local level. "I didn't like the government coming in and telling me how to run by business," he said.

Taylor, a nonsmoker, said he banned smoking because smokers were trashing his restaurant, sometimes even leaving burning cigarettes on the furniture.

"I'm not going to have somebody burn the restaurant down," he said. "The smokers have nobody to blame but themselves. They don't have to clean up their mess. We have to clean their mess up."

Despite the optimism felt by some smoking critics, House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh, D-Covington, has said he expects a "pro-business attitude" to limit further moves to restrict indoor smoking.

Naifeh is expected to follow tradition and send anti-smoking proposals to the tobacco-friendly Agriculture Committee, though smoking critics say such measures are matters of public health, not agriculture.

Stanley said lawmakers will be faced with heightened public concerns over the health hazards of indoor smoking and recent moves by other states around the country to restrict smoking in public places, including restaurants.

"Clearly," he said, "second-hand smoke is dangerous," he said. ♦

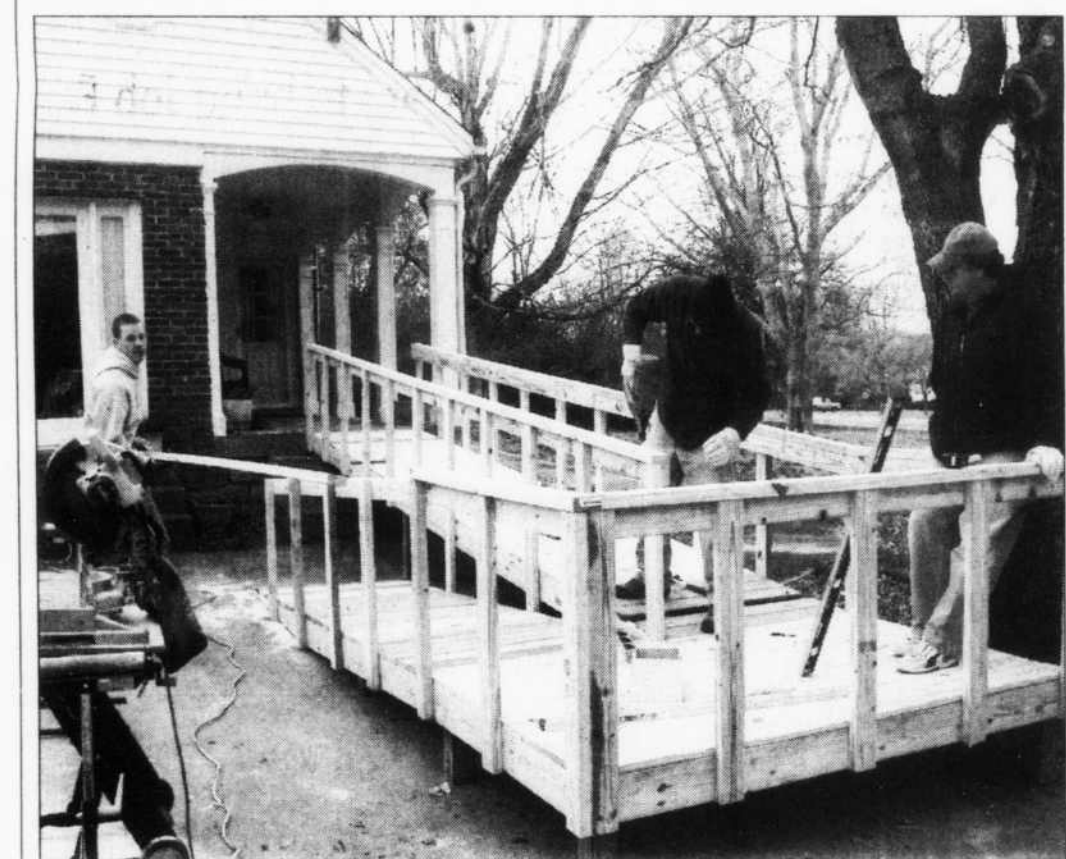


Photo by Michael Binkley | Contributing Photographer

Patrick Allen, far left, places the final board on the wheelchair ramp project in Nashville.

The project took five volunteers and four hours to complete.

Pi Kappa Phi constructs ramp for MTSU alumna

Staff Reports

Two members of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity aided United Cerebral Palsy last Friday in Nashville to help build a wheelchair ramp for Beth Hopkins, a 2006 sociology graduate.

"It was a great opportunity to help out our fellow students and give back to our community," said Michael Binkley, senior media design major. "Also, it was a great way to help bring awareness to Push America, our fraternity's philanthropy which helps raise empathy and awareness for individuals with disabilities."

The project took five volunteers, including Binkley and Patrick Allen, junior electronic media

major, four hours to complete.

"It kind of started around as an idea that we kicked around over the summer that we proposed at our chapter meeting," Allen said. "But then the guys really got excited at it took off."

According to Allen, Hopkins was really appreciative of all the help given to her by the community.

"She was especially happy that Pi Kappa Phi could help because of the friendship that has existed between her and our fraternity and especially with Push America," Allen said. "The most rewarding thing was starting with nothing at the beginning of the day, and, by the end, seeing real progress." ♦

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Graphic by Chet Overall | Graphic Designer

News: "HOPE informs students"

Continued from 1

Understanding is so important for students to not only sign, but to also read and understand. "[It is] another way of communicating information to our students and hopefully avoiding any kind of thing where they lose their scholarship," Chambers said. "They might not have to if they had only come and talked to [Financial Aid] first."

The Statement of Understanding lists the enrollment, GPA and time requirements associated with the HOPE Scholarship.

Students who did not fill out the Statement of Understanding did receive their aid this semester, but the form clearly states that "you must submit this Statement of Understanding before your 2007-2008 Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship will be credited to your account." ♦

Warmer climate affects Tennessee gardeners

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - A national arborist group has updated the U.S. Department of Agriculture's plant hardiness zone map, placing most of Tennessee in a warmer category because of recent climate patterns.

The National Arbor Day Foundation used climate data that showed many areas have shown a warming trend since 1990 when the USDA last updated its plant hardiness zone map.

The maps divide the country into 10 zones based on average temperatures. The zones are used to identify what plants can survive at those average temperatures.

"Things are surviving further north than they did before," said Nashville plant enthusiast Mary Wilson. "The maps are good guidelines so you don't spend money on what absolutely won't work."

Both maps are based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration climate data. The 10 warmest years documented since officials began keeping records in 1880 have come within the last 15 years.

The USDA's 1990 zone map shows most of Middle Tennessee and the northern parts of West and East Tennessee in Zone 6 with average lows of negative 10 degrees to zero degrees. The rest of the state is shown in the warmer Zone 7, with average lows of zero to 10 degrees.

The National Arbor Day Foundation's new map places nearly all of the state in Zone 7, where plants such as camellias and cypress trees are acceptable to plant.

The foundation created the revised map after its members kept asking about an update and providing feedback about species that were thriving in areas contrary to the USDA data, spokesman Woody Nelson said.

"The climate has gotten so much warmer since (1990)," he said. "Our understanding is that the USDA has been working on an update for years, beginning back in 2003. They never get around to announcing when they'll get it done. In the meantime, millions of people want to plant trees and gardens, and we just want to get on with it."

A warming climate has benefited some area nurseries.

"We can sell more places," said Natalia Boyd, daughter of the owner of Flower City Nursery in Smartt, just outside McMinnville, an area known for its nurseries. "The spectrum has broadened. We can ship azaleas and things like that further north." ♦

Campus Briefs

Free Stones River Chamber Players concert on Jan. 29

The Stones River chamber Players will perform the second of its annual three-concert series at MTSU on Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall of the Wright Music Building.

"The title of the program, 'Two, Four, Six, Eight,' describes how the program will unfold to the audience," Todd Waldecker, MTSU professor of clarinet and co-director for the group, said.

The concert will feature the music of composers such as Beethoven, Stravinsky and Maxine Warshawer.

Paul Osterfield, professor of composition at MTSU, will also debut his piece entitled "Divertimento" for winds, piano and double bass. Reed Thomas, MTSU director of bands will also conduct the final piece of the evening.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information contact the MTSU McLean School of Music at 898-2493.

Step into spring with the Raider RoundUp

The Raider RoundUp will take place Jan. 23 at 11:30 a.m.

The Raider RoundUp is a bimonthly program where the presidents of MTSU student organizations or their representatives are invited to have lunch with Dr. Gene Fitch, associate dean of Student Affairs, dean of Student Life and other administrative guests.

"We started the Raider RoundUp in September of 2006 and have gotten a great response," Collette Taylor, associate dean of Students for Student Involvement and Leadership, said. "We have good discussions on how we can fix problems on campus and what student life should be like for our students."

A variety of topics will be discussed at the meeting with past topics at the Raider RoundUp, including athletics and campus planning.

Free lunch will be provided. For more information contact Collette Taylor at 898-5812.

Free Rape Aggression Defense Class For Women

The Rape Aggression defense class will begin on Thursday, Jan. 25. The system teaches defensive concepts and self-defense tactics.

"RAD is a comprehensive course for women that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance" and progresses on to the basics of hands-on defense training, according to a press release. "The class will provide women with the knowledge to make an educated decision about resistance."

The class will be held every Thursday, from Jan. 25 to March 1 between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. According to a press release, "the class is being offered free of charge to all MTSU students, faculty and staff as well as the general public."

Also, a workbook/training manual will be provided to each student, and the class will be held at the MTSU Public Safety Training Room, located at 1412 East Main Street.

Enrollment is limited; for information or to enroll call RAD Instructor David Smith at 615-494-8855.

Brass with class

The Spring 2007 Presidential Concert series begins tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the T. Earl Hinton Building with the music of Boston Brass.

Boston Brass has performed internationally and has been featured on the "CBS Morning Show" and National Public Radio's "Performance Today." "The five-man ensemble performs more than 100 concerts each year, transcending genres to present everything from classical to jazz with precision and enthusiasm," according to a press release.

This concert is free and open to the public. For more information contact Tim Musselman at 615-898-2493 or tmusselm@mtsu.edu.

Electrify the Leader Within

The fourth annual Blue Raider Leadership Summit will be held February 2-3, 2007 in Manchester, TN.

This year's conference will be student led, and is an opportunity for students to learn about the principles and techniques of effective leadership and network with other students.

This year's theme is "Electrifying the Leader Within" and will feature topics such as the rules of respect, the content of character, conflict management, and how to motivate others.

Nancy Hunter Denney will serve as the conference's keynote speaker. Denney is the author of the "How to Zing! Your Life and Leadership? 21 Insights on How to Maximize Your Influence." Denney's focus will be on how to influence others towards a greater social good.

The Blue Raider Leadership Summit is open to all MTSU students and costs \$10 per person. The group will depart at 2:00 p.m. of Friday, Feb. 2, and return by 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3. All applications and registration fees are due to the Office of Student Organizations and Community Service in KUC 326-S by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26.

For more information, please contact 898-5812.

February to bring Job Fair

The annual MTSU Summer Job and Internship Fair will be held Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. More than 60 employers are expected to be on campus to greet and talk to students.

The Nashville College to Career Fair will be held Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. Admission is free, but you'll need a ticket to enter. Tickets are available at the MTSU Career and Employment Center located in KUC 328. More than 400 employers from business, government and education will be represented.

For more information on either job fair contact the MTSU Career and Employment Center at 898-5732.

Heath and Wellnes program begins Monday

The Health and Wellness Program exclusively for MTSU faculty and staff will begin its spring session with an orientation meeting at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22 in Room 121 of Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building. The 10-week program has reached its limit for the spring session, but enrollment for the summer session (June 4- August 17) is open.

Members of the MTSU community who have enrolled in the program will receive extensive coaching in exercise, nutrition, mental health and high performance training in the workplace. The program will begin Jan. 29 and will end April 13. The cost is \$20 per person.

For more information contact Dr. Mark Anshel, professor health and human performance at 898-2812 or manshel@mtsu.edu.

Classifieds

Marketplace of MTSU

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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

MTSU not going far enough, HOPE monies should help all

Without the HOPE Scholarship, getting a college education would not even be feasible to some. Without the support it provides, many recent high school graduates would not have much to look forward to other than a constant struggle to stand out in the crowded job market.

However, in order to reward those who deserve it and help those who need it, the Tennessee Lottery needs to spend less time fretting about grade point average standards and more time widening the distribution of their funds. It is not a matter of a lack of money, so why can't the scholarship be dispersed to those who really need it?

Rather than being punished for letting a GPA slip, students should be rewarded with a larger scholarship for higher grades, much like the Stafford Loans requirements.

After the first 24 credit hours, the GPA requirement should also be maintained at a 2.75 rather than a 3.0 to ensure that students are at least making an honest attempt. A 3.0 sounds easy enough – that is, unless you're forced to work a full-time job and must incessantly try to find a balance between maintaining a GPA and affording the basic necessities of life.

If a student's grades slip below the required GPA, they should go through a probation period until their grades improve – a change which has been recently initiated – and be given a second chance.

Though MTSU is working with the folks who dole out the scholarship, certain aspects of a college student's life should be taken into account. Rather than limiting the scholarship to only 120 credit hours, it should be increased slightly in recognition that most students change their major or simply wish to take several extra classes for personal growth.

Without the option of recovering from a mistake, so many of the same students who are already being left out of the higher-education arena may crack under the pressure.

Why not, instead, give students the funds, the support and the opportunity to get their college education?

Letter to the Editor

Mankind must repent to ensure survival

To the Editor:

I am addressing this e-mail to many of you local editors. While you will probably discard it, since I'm sending it to all, I hope you will at least read it.

My take on the world today:

Planet Earth, this place I call home, is being shot at with missiles from Satan the Devil at an increasingly alarming rate. In this email, I hope to point out several of these, and ask:

Is there hope for mankind?

Just a few moments ago, I was told that a video site where I had downloaded some uplifting songs was being degraded with pornography by others, so much so, that I was in danger of being linked to that evil.

And so, can we escape this evil, which bombards us from almost every direction we turn?

A man stands up for what is right, and he is ridiculed on TV as if he had in actuality murdered someone.

A man lashes out and uses an unwise remark, and he, too, is condemned harshly. And rightly so; yet, when such pressure is brought as to blackmail him, is that not wrong also?

Congress lashes out at President George W. Bush and he lashes back in anger, yet, not one solution is offered by either party.

Yet, what the president doesn't seem to understand is that, although Satan is seemingly in control of this world, God only allows him to go so far, as in the case with Job.

And so this gets us to the Bible, the True Word of God, which not many believe anymore. Yet, I, for one, still embrace it with passion, as I see in it our own solution in saving the human race.

If we then acknowledge God, then we understand what the Bible is saying in this startling fact: America, you, too, will someday be a weak, insignificant power, just as is England today, and what is happening in Iraq is destined to get even worse.

Why?

Because, daily, we continue to break the laws of God. If we don't read the Bible, then surely we know little about God's Law, and the Ten – great – Commandments which would save us in this dire time of need.

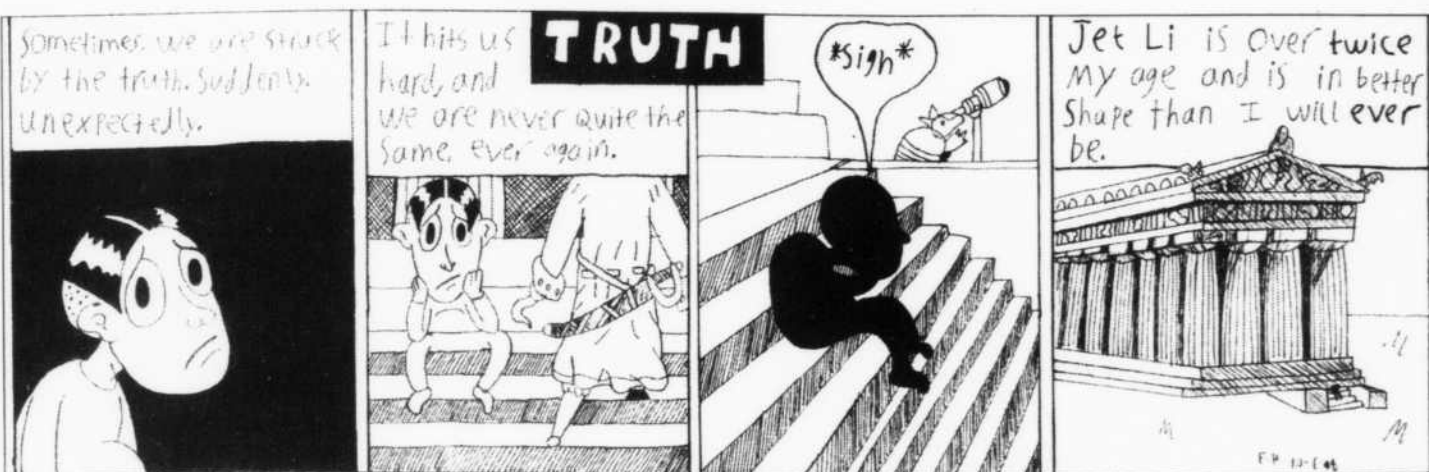
It talks about a time when the King of the South will attack a King of the North with ferocity; yet, that King of the North will strike back with a much greater power, and, then, our Third World War will have begun in earnest.

So why send more American troops to Iraq to be killed needlessly? If we as a nation will not heed and will not listen, then it is inevitable that the civil war in that nation will drag us into the dust.

What I am trying to say is this fact of life: if we change not, when we are told in God's word to change the directions of our lives for a more righteous way of living, then it is a foregone conclusion that God keeps His Word, and that many here in the now great and affluent United States will ultimately die in our sins, many being slaughtered even more viciously than what the madmen in Iraq are now visiting upon that nation.

God help us to see; to open our eyes; to kneel on our knees and ask God for help in seeing all of this with the clarity that only the great God can impart.

Everett Corbin
Halls Hill Pike, Murfreesboro



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

Treatment denies girl dignity, rights

Raising children with disabilities is never easy, but for most families, giving more of themselves than they ever expected to is a small price to pay for knowing that their child will live as fulfilling a life as is possible. For one family, however, caring for their child has gone far outside the realm of what most of us would think of doing.

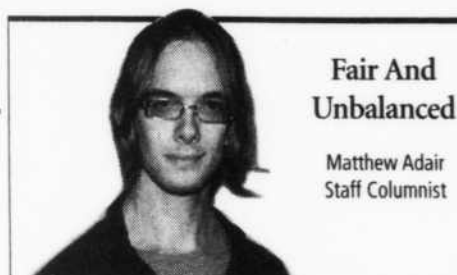
Ashley, age 9, whose surname has not been disclosed to the media, has a condition called static encephalopathy – a type of severe brain damage that leaves the brain permanently at a younger level of functioning. Regardless of her age, Ashley will always have the mental capacity of an infant. She is conscious and alert, but cannot walk, talk or manipulate objects.

This state prompted her parents to ask for drastic medical measures, which they refer to as the "Ashley treatment." In 2004, Ashley was given a hysterectomy and had her breast tissue removed. She also received estrogen hormone treatment to slow her growth, which continued until recently, after her parents deemed the treatment a success. Ashley is now 4-foot-5-inches and weighs 75 pounds as a result of the procedure, stunting her growth by about a foot and her weight by around 50 pounds.

Ashley's parents had to argue the case for the "Ashley treatment" to a panel of medical ethicists, who agreed that the procedures were in the young girl's best interests, that the parents concerns that an older, taller, heavier daughter would be more difficult for them to properly care for were reasonable and that it was better to spare Ashley the physical discomfort of puberty as she is mentally incapable of understanding what she is going through.

Her family also has a history of breast cancer, and it was felt that removing Ashley's breasts before they developed would spare her from developing or having to go through treatment for that disease.

With so many concerns, it is easy to think that Ashley's parents are acting out of love and doing the right thing for their child. Caring for



Fair And Unbalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

children with such severe disabilities is an immense responsibility and can place a great deal of strain on the family as everyone rearranges their lives to accommodate a family member that is unable to care for themselves.

However, Ashley's parents have gone far outside the realm of moral behavior into a realm of thinking that disregards Ashley's essential humanity. This girl is a conscious being and is mentally aware, even if her body and brain lack the ability to express that awareness. Inside of her mind, she knows, on a very basic level, that she is a person, and that there are other people in the world who can interact with her – her parents say that she is "alert and aware of her environment" on the blog they established to discuss Ashley's treatment.

As a conscious mind, whatever the state of her body might be, we owe Ashley the same moral dignity that we would give any other human being. We expect parents to adapt and meet the needs of their children, to be self-sacrificing and clever in order to help their child get the most out of life. Ashley, however, has been adapted to suit her parents, her body made to fit what her parents are capable of doing for her, instead of them finding new ways to expand their capacity for care-giving.

It would be inconceivable to take away someone's arms and legs, even if they had been paralyzed from birth and unable to use them. We would never deny a person with autism the right to interact with other people, even though we know that they will never develop the same social skills as someone who is not

autistic. We could not bring ourselves to take away the eyes of those who are blind, the vocal cords of those who are mute or the ears of those who are deaf, even though all these organs could do is provide a source of tissue that could become diseased. We most certainly would never dream of lobotomizing anyone with severe brain damage, even if those parts had become useless, even if doing so would not take away anything the person would have been incapable of, anyway.

We act in such a way because we are more than just complex organic machines, devices whose parts can be removed or altered if we want to. Even when our brain lacks the capacity for logic, or the ability to judge, at our very core we know that we exist. Even if we are unable to communicate our feelings, we still have them, and others must consider how we might feel before acting on our behalf, because that is the morally correct thing to do.

I do not know how Ashley feels, and I understand that neither I, nor anyone else, will ever really know. Perhaps her parents are correct, and that she would have been scared and unable to cope with her body as it grew, changed and responded to pain, disease or discomfort. Perhaps they are correct in believing that what they did was in her best interest.

However, I cannot help but wonder if Ashley would have been soothed by the embrace of her mother while having her period for the first time, or if she would have been fascinated by seeing herself change. I wonder if she is aware enough to have felt joy if her father told her she was beautiful while he used all his strength to help support her while giving her a bath. None of us will ever know, of course, and for that reason more than anything else, the "Ashley treatment" should be seen for what it is: a failure of conscience.

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

Punishing "obscenity" not solution

The great state of Tennessee is in the national eye once again. This time, it's not for our "It's still edible" road kill legislation, or trying to ban the sale of any violent video games within the state. Dickson state senator Doug Jackson, a Democrat, has assumed the position of "Supreme Arbiter of All Things Inappropriate" in our fair state.

In a decidedly Republican move, he's introduced a bill to fine television broadcasters up to \$50,000 for airing "obscene" advertisements, specifically those for the "Girls Gone Wild" video series. We may now rest assured; this man is keeping us safe from the big, scary boobies.

Jackson anticipates intense support from parents and family types, who are afraid that this rampant display of breasts will corrupt the youth, render working men idle and possibly cause the gum disease known as gingivitis.

He would do well to remember, however, the segment of the population that has neither small children, nor is offended by things such as breasts.

Humor aside, Jackson's legislation is troubling for several reasons. First, it offers a rather nebulous definition of "obscene," which could easily apply to all of MTV, Comedy Central or perhaps "Sex and the City," a mature,



Tenacious E

Evan Barker
Staff Columnist

hour-long show that airs during prime time. Instead, Jackson picks the most flagrant offender of all, the 30-second late-night commercials during which "Girls Gone Wild" videos are advertised.

This is a prime example of what may be called the 'slippery slope.'

In this situation, one small step leads to many others, with the cartoon snowball effect, which always spirals out of control.

In this case, however, it's not funny. By relegating what should be a personal decision to the control of the shadowy Federal Communications Commission, parents would actually be short-changing themselves the right to conduct their own business.

What else does Doug Jackson call obscene?

The Coyote may no longer get to chase the Roadrunner, because such violence is unsuitable for children's television. Stephen Colbert's criticism of the religious right may be heresy, and therefore, too hot for TV.

Are these examples outlandish?

Certainly. You can bet your bottom dollar, however, that somewhere, someone is getting good and offended by "Looney Tunes," and someone else is tremendously tweaked by Stephen Colbert. You can't please everyone.

The Tennesseean's editorial board refers to this as "Censorship Gone Wild," and I agree. The slippery slope is an applicable way to describe the potential that this legislation has to sterilize our media.

Every time some self-righteous chap tries to do away with mature TV content, or ban violent video games, a huge group of people loudly agree. They think that since they're bothered by what they see, nobody else should have to see it. The problem is that these people aren't the only ones watching TV, and that they have a choice to do it if they want to.

Color me conservative, but I believe in taking responsibility for one's own children. If you don't want them watching mature content, then block everything but "Sesame Street," or don't buy extended cable. If you don't want them playing Grand Theft Auto, then don't buy it.

The television is not your babysitter, and you can't have control over what other people watch. Your kids may be exposed to material you find questionable, but this will only happen if you

leave them completely unsupervised in front of the TV. Either way, the onus is on the parent to control their own household, not to whine about what their kids are seeing while unsupervised in the room.

Exercise your right to turn off the TV. I personally think that Bill O'Reilly is a schmuck, so I exercise my right not to watch his show. I don't cry to the FCC to take Fox off the air because he annoys me. Someone else might want to watch.

The "Girls Gone Wild" ads are ridiculous, and somewhat demeaning to women. They're brash, and annoying, in my humble opinion, but that's why God invented the 'power' button on the remote control. The fact remains that these ads run late at night, on channels that primarily air edgy material. Your kids only see this stuff if you allow it.

If your 9-year-olds are up at 11:30 watching Comedy Central unsupervised and they see one of these ads, then your problem is not the television broadcasters. Your problem is that you're an idiot, and you forfeit the right to complain about it.

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SIDELINES

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FEATURES

Career outlook promising for graduates

MTSU graduates have better chance finding employment in 2007

By Becca Cook
Staff Writer

As graduation draws closer, seniors are beginning to look for jobs in the "real world."

According to the Job Outlook 2007 on the MTSU Employment Center Web site, the class of 2007 has an even better chance of finding a job than in previous years. In fact, MTSU graduates might even stand a chance at finding the perfect entry-level job.

The top 10 degrees in demand at the bachelor degree level are accounting, business, administration/management, computer science, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, information sciences and systems with marketing/marketing management, computer engineering, civil engineering and economics/finance.

With a degree in accounting, there are several job opportunities awaiting a new graduate. Employers in banking, accounting and utility companies are seeking out accounting graduates.

What about the college students who are graduating with a master's degree? The top five master level degrees are master of business administration, electrical engineering, computer science, computer engineering and mechanical engineering. Graduates with a computer science degree of any kind are in high demand.

I have the degree, but what are the employers looking for in potential employees?

Companies are looking for new college graduates for a variety of reasons. They would rather have a fresh, young and motivated man or woman than someone who has been burned by the business after being in it so long. They want fresh ideas and the cutting-edge skills the college graduates of 2007 can offer.

It's important to have more

than just a degree to win that prized job. Employers are looking for potential workers with great communication skills, honesty and interpersonal skills.

For those anxious seniors that are worrying about their grade point average, as long as you keep above a 3.0, you should be fine. Although a high GPA is important, there are more important qualities to work on such as computer and organizational skills. Throw in teamwork skills, creativity and some bilingual skills and employers will be chasing you around the job market.

However, the biggest road block for a new college graduate is experience. It has been said before and will be said again. The biggest opportunity you have while in college is doing as many internship or field-related experience jobs as possible.

This is the biggest resume builder you can do while in college and it will make your job searching a lot easier in the end. By getting this experience before you graduate, you will have a distinct advantage over other candidates in the harsh job market.

Well, I have the degree, and I know what employers are looking for, but where do I find them? There are many ways to find a job from an on-campus interview to advertisements in the local newspaper. Remember those student organizations you joined as a freshman? Now is the time to take advantage of those networks you created to get an interview with the company of your choice.

The first step in job searching is to know who is hiring and then research to find a potential employer. Once you have gotten the job interview, it is time to spice up that resume with all your new work experience. Finally, a well-prepared college graduate will ace their interview. Be sure to wear the appropriate attire and be ready to respond to questions. It's



Sophomore Ashley Serro and Sophomore Courtney Cox browse job postings at the MTSU Career and Employment center. The Employment Center hosts job fairs and provides career guidance for students and recent MTSU graduates.

a good idea to research the company so you can provide them with an explanation about how your skills will benefit their company.

Networking is unarguably vital when it comes to making your mark in the workforce. In the age of information access, though, be careful of the image you make for yourself on places like Myspace or Facebook.

In 2006, ExecuNet, an executive search firm, found that 77 percent of recruiters run searches of candidates on the Web to screen applicants; 35 percent of these same recruiters say they've eliminated a candidate based on the information they uncovered.

Faith-based, security clearance or, essentially, any organization that is mindful of its image can, and most likely will, access and evaluate profiles on social networking sites during pre-screening of candidates.

As long as you don't have pictures of yourself as a contestant in a wet t-shirt contest, you should be safe. After all, internet net-

working is still a potential way to connect with people who may, in the future, benefit your career.

The MTSU Career and Employment Center provides many outlets for students hoping to enter the workforce. Feb. 7, in the James Union Building, there will be a Summer Jobs and Internships fair. Even if you're not teetering on the brink of graduation, landing the perfect summer job or internship could be your ticket to, one day, scoring your dream job.

On Feb. 13, the Tennessee State Fairgrounds is hosting a College to Career and Teacher fair. Though tickets are required, juniors, seniors, grad students and alumni can pick up free tickets in the Career and Employment Center.

So, class of 2007, the opportunities ahead of you look pretty good. Just make sure to buff up your resume, and you will find yourself enjoying the job you always dreamed of, complete with your own 401k retirement plan and the company car. ♦

What do employers look for?

Employers rate the importance of certain qualities

Communication Skills	4.7
Honesty/integrity	4.7
Motivation/initiative	4.5
Strong work ethic	4.5
Computer skills	4.4
Analytical skills	4.3
Flexibility/adaptability	4.3
Organizational skills	4.0
Self-confidence	4.0
Friendly/outgoing	3.9
Well-mannered/polite	3.8
Creativity	3.7
GPA (3.0 or better)	3.6
Sense of humor	3.2
Bilingual skills	2.3

The MTSU Career and Employment Center website lists the qualities employers find most valuable, where 5 is extremely important and 1 is not important.

Hillel unites MTSU's religious minority

By Zachary Roe
Contributing Writer

Religion is big at MTSU. There are large numbers of religiously-based groups – mostly from different Christian traditions – who call MTSU their home and who are very active on campus and in the community. One lesser known group, though they are equally devoted and active, is Hillel.

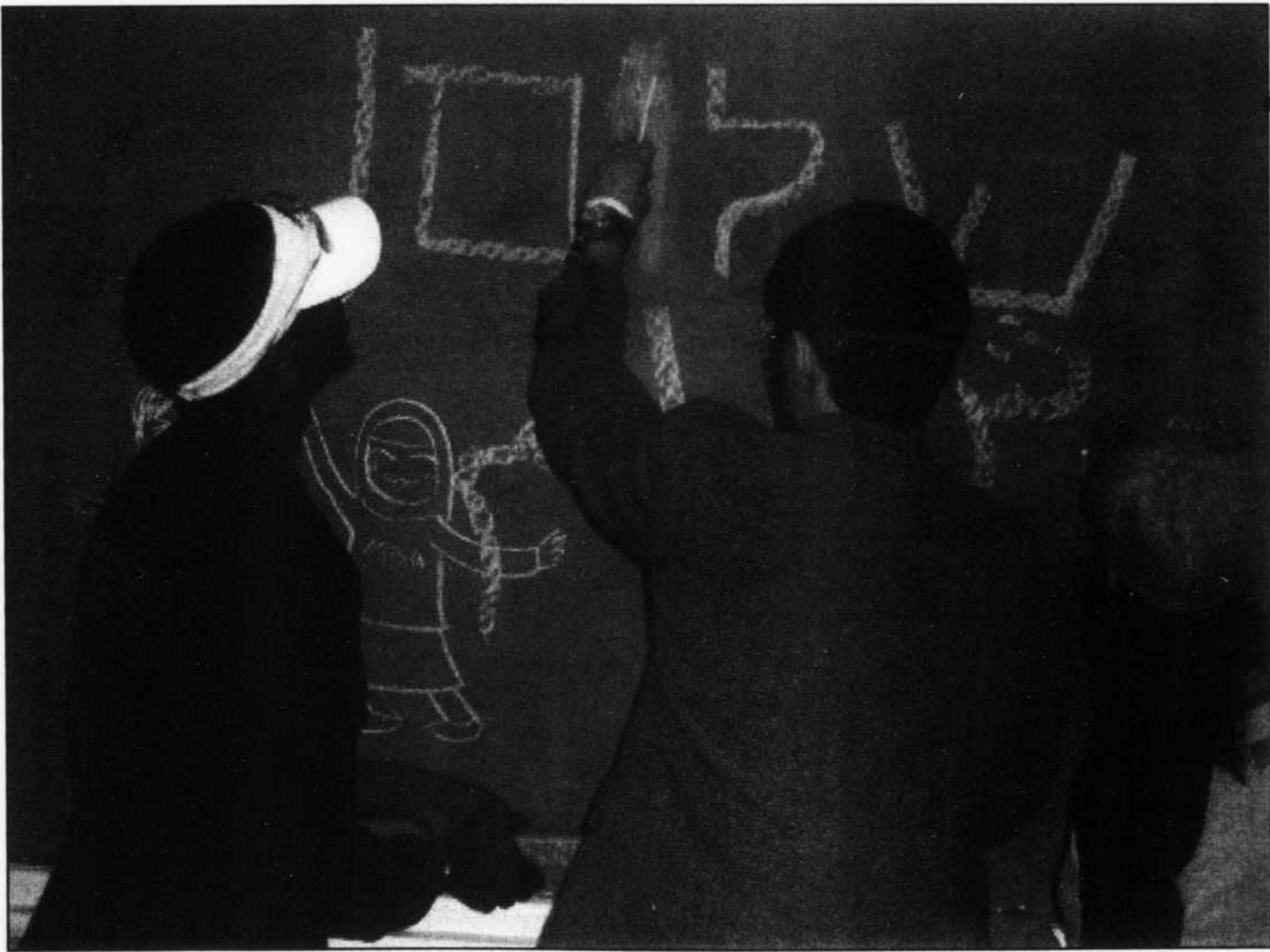
Hillel is the Jewish student organization here on campus. The name is taken from a man who was regarded as one of the greatest sages of the Second Temple period, 1st century C.E. Hillel is non-denominational, and the members span the Jewish spectrum from secular to Orthodox.

There are about 60 students on campus who identified themselves as Jewish when registering at MTSU, but there are only about 10 to 15 members of Hillel. The group's small membership is attributed to a lack of visibility on campus – whenever flyers have been placed on campus they have been torn down by students within hours – and fear from more secular Jews that belonging to Hillel would require them to be more religiously observant.

On the first issue, Hillel will not be deterred. They have every intention of continuing to make their presence known as best as possible.

Regarding the second issue, all are welcome at Hillel, regardless of observance level. As stated before, Hillel membership is comprised of Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, and secular Jews.

Despite their small numbers, Hillel is involved in an abundance of activities and offers many opportunities to those who wish



MTSU Hillel President Jonathan King and graduate student McFall Castleman join the Muslim Student Association for Iftar, the breaking of the fast for the Muslim holiday Ramadan.

to become involved. Each week, a different member will host a Shabbat gathering in their home where there is food, friendship and conversation.

There are a variety of guest lectures planned for this semester covering topics such as Jewish history, Israel and more. Plans for a Hillel Birthright Israel trip – a national program that sends Jewish college students to their homeland for free – are also in

the works.

Aside from organized events, many members of Hillel get together on a regular basis to go out to eat, go to the movies or just enjoy each other's company.

For those who go to services, there is carpooling to Nashville available every week since there are no synagogues in Murfreesboro.

Hillel also hosts joint activities with other groups; for example,

following a Sephardic Jewish tradition (Sephardic refers to Jews of Spanish and Arab decent), Hillel cooked a meal for the Muslim Student Association so they could break their fast during Ramadan.

When asked why Hillel was important for her, McFall Elisheva Castleman, an MTSU English graduate student, said, "I grew up in a small Jewish community in the South, and it is easy for Southern Jews to feel like they

are alone amongst the sea of evangelical Christians here in the Bible Belt. It was refreshing to meet others Jews at MTSU who had similar experiences growing up as a Jew in the South."

McFall's sentiments are felt by many. They feel it is important to have a community of fellow Jewish people who can relate to the experience of living as a Jew in the predominantly Christian southern United States.

Though Hillel is obviously geared toward the Jewish students on campus, students of all faiths are welcome to be involved. Many non-Jewish students come to Hillel as a way to learn about Jewish life and faith.

The national Web site for Hillel states that the organization is "the largest Jewish campus organization in the world. The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life provides opportunities for Jewish students at more than 500 colleges and universities to explore and celebrate their Jewish identity through its global network of regional centers, campus foundations and Hillel student organizations. Hillel is working to provoke a renaissance of Jewish life."

Hillel's mission is to enrich the lives of Jewish undergraduate and graduate students so they may enrich the Jewish community and the world. Hillel student leaders, professionals and lay leaders are dedicated to creating a pluralistic, welcoming and inclusive environment for Jewish college students where they are encouraged to grow intellectually, spiritually and socially.

Hillel helps students find a balance in being distinctively Jewish and universally human by encouraging them to pursue "tzedeq" (social justice), "tikun olam" (repairing the world), and Jewish learning, and to support Israel and global Jewish peoplehood. Hillel is committed to excellence, innovation, accountability and results.

Anyone interested in learning more about Hillel or about becoming involved can contact Jonathan King, president, at jbk2p@mtsu.edu, or Zachary Roe, vice-president, at zsr2a@mtsu.edu. ♦

SPORTS

BMX madness in Middle Tennessee

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

Murfreesboro, Tenn. — The Tennessee Miller Coliseum hosted the American Bicycle Association BMX Volunteer Event January 19-21 this past weekend.

This was the first time that the ABA has held a national in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The nationals were original scheduled to be in Chattanooga, Tennessee this past weekend, but things fell through.

BMX has been around for years and has grown slightly in popularity over the years in some states just not here in Murfreesboro.

BMX is something that the whole family can do together because it is not impossible for the parents to pick a bike and start competing in the many different stages the ABA has to offer.

"The family aspect of it is what makes it grow," President of ABA Clayton Johns said. "We're in our second generation right now. It's a great place for the dads to get involved with the kids because they want you to be."

Clayton has been president of ABA since 1981, and the ABA has over 60,000 members nationwide.

Mark Mitchell, who has been competing for nine years, and he enjoys being apart of the ABA.

"It's always a good family environment. There's parents helping kids, families helping families," Mitchell said. "It's not just for kids, there are a lot of adults that get involved in riding and they are looking for advice to help them along."

The ABA was started in 1977 in southern California for many people that may not know anything about this organization or who have forgotten about BMX racing.

There are over 1100 tracks nationwide where anyone can go to ride.

It does not matter about being sponsored only if the individual is serious about competing on a regular basis.

Most sponsors help with entry fees, hotel and some travel expenses.

Both young and old compete in individual classes for trophies and points that help them move up in the ABA ranking system.

The door is open for men, women, boy and girls, but it depends on the rider's ability. All riders start off as a novice, and after they are successful in winning eight races, they move on.

Riders at this level move into intermediate class after 25 wins they move on to the expert classes

and later pro.

Each individual starts out as a novice and goes at his or her own speed to improve as they get more track time.

Jason Carnes races in the veterans' professional class, which is the over-thirty class and used to race in the AA pro class. He has been with the ABA for ten years.

Carnes has won five national titles in the veterans' class, and helps out with fundraisers with the ABA.

Another racer is J.J. Moore from Cleveland, Tenn., who raced on Friday and Saturday, but he failed to make the main event for his class.

Moore runs the track in Cleveland and he came here with some of the kids from his track.

"We did a lot better today, than Saturday," Moore said. "Some of the kids won their events. We are happy to represent our track just like all the other tracks. Were happy to get these kids out of town for the weekend to let them come out here and race."

With the BMX track or skate parks, it gives children opportunities to stay out of trouble.

"This keeps a lot of kids out of trouble," Moore said. "It gives them something to do. They didn't have BMX so it gave them something to do because they are not into team sports."

Owner of the Athens, Tennessee track Marc Preskitt talked about how the track where he is from helps the kids in his community stay out of trouble.

"BMX is a family sport. It's the only sport in the country where a 45-year old man can compete with his 12-year old son. There's no other sport in the country where you can do that. Do you know Ray Rhodes for the Department of Children's Services? He loves us," Preskitt said. "The kids that get into trouble come out and take up riding and don't get into trouble anymore."

There is a track in Athens, Tennessee, Cleveland, Tennessee and Chattanooga, Tennessee. The track in Nashville is sanctioned under a different group.

The other group is the National Bicycle League.

The events that were this weekend help build points to help showcase riders on a national level in hopes of making the USA team in the 2008 Summer Olympics next year.

Even though some things have changed to make BMX itself more appealing to the Olympic community, which sets a standard for all countries to follow. The points are tallied up starting from 240



Photo by staff photographer Jay Richardson

A couple of BMX racers crash after the first bank in the track. Both racers did not make the final cut in their moto for the main event.

and decreases by 40 points all the way to zero. The way a racer can receive points is by winning their motos.

A racer competes in three motos and with each moto they have to place in the top three in order to get points.

They have the chance to receive a lot of points even if they miss a day here or there.

All races that are held on Saturday and Sunday are two completely different events so, a racer has a chance to bring their point totals up in the national competition.

The AA professional groups are the ones who race for the money. Saturday winnings were rumored to be 5,000 dollars.

Each racer receives a trophy that can be redeemed at the vendors that travel with the ABA BMX national tour.

First place finish has a payout of 15 dollars to the younger kids and they can use the stamps to buy extra gear or give back the stamps for cash.

The ABA BMX tour hopes to come back to Murfreesboro, Tenn. next year, but only time will tell if they will be back this early in the year. ♦

MT splits against Arkansas teams

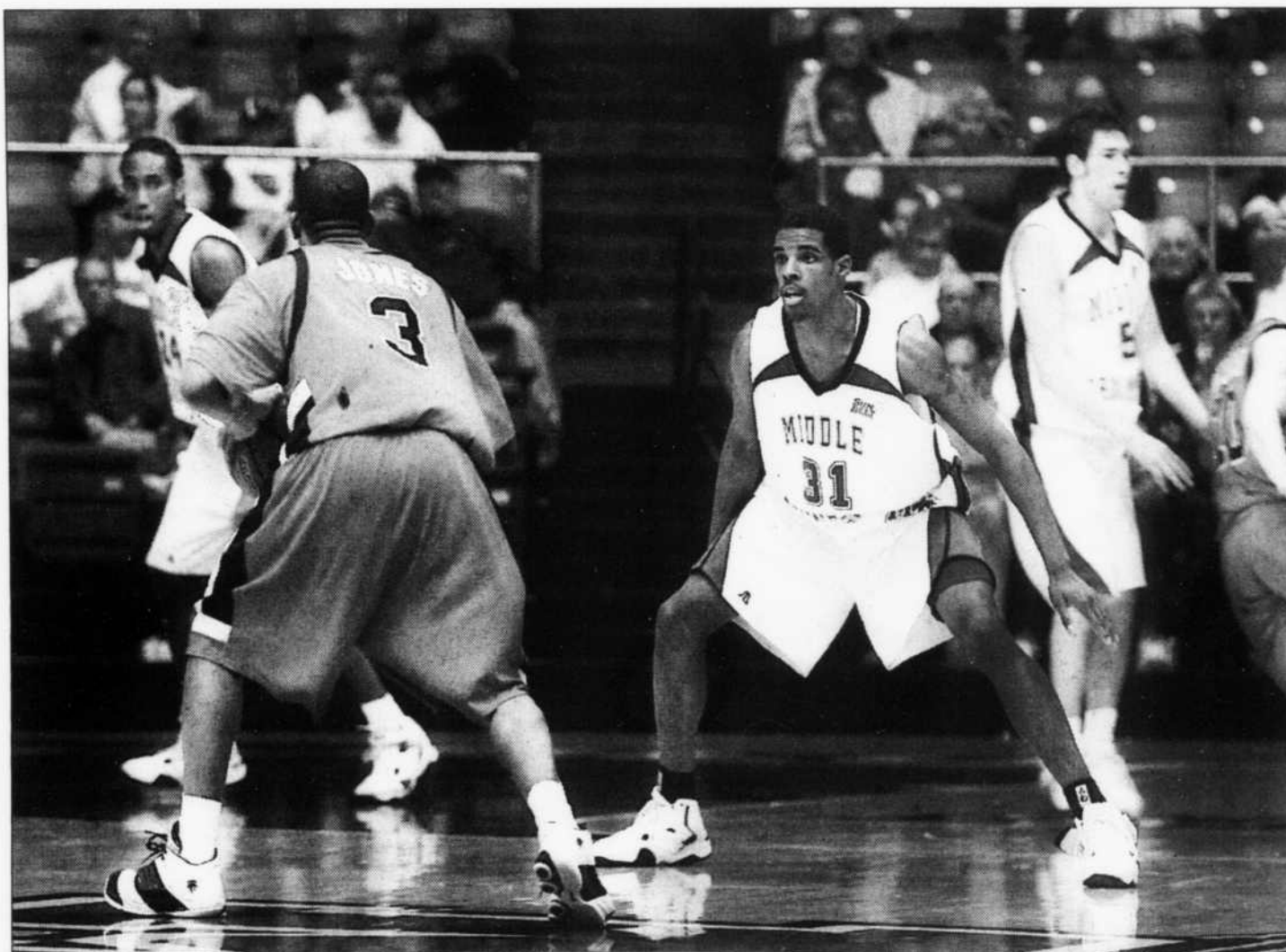


Photo by staff photographer Megan Allender

Freshman Desmond Yates and senior Tim Blue watch Arkansas State player as they move in to defend him from getting a free shot in the game. MT lost to ASU 54-51 on Wednesday.

By Wesley Mize

Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee men's basketball team recently took on Sun Belt Conference opponents reigning from the state of Arkansas.

The Blue Raiders split the series picking up a win on the road at Arkansas-Little Rock university on January 20 which was preceded by a home loss to Arkansas State three days earlier.

MT came into the ASU game a hot-shooting team but were cooled off quickly once they set foot in Murphy Center last Wednesday night.

Middle Tennessee starting guard shot 2-22 from the field including a 1-13 performance from Kevin Kanaskie. The result was close thanks to a solid defensive effort and 23 points from Desmond Yates, but MT couldn't overcome their shooting woes and fell to ASU by a score of 54-51.

Kanaskie is the team's leading scorer at just over 12 points per game and one of the Sun Belt's leaders in 3-point percentage at 41 per-

cent, but the Indians held Kanaskie to only 1-9 from beyond the arc.

"When you get that kind of guard play in college basketball, you can't beat anybody," Blue Raider head coach Kermit Davis said. "You can't beat anybody in the country when you have that poor guard play offensively."

Middle Tennessee (as of the Arkansas State game) holds a 4-4 record in Sun Belt Conference play this season. The four wins have come on the road but all four losses have come inside Murphy Center.

"Our team was 43-18 at home going into tonight's game," Davis said. "This season, we have beat Belmont, Tennessee State and Indiana State here and those are teams doing very well. It's hard to explain. You've got to look at the stats. We gave up 47 percent tonight, on the road trip we gave up 34 percent. We've always been a pretty good offensive team at home. We've tried to do some things different. Our team met extra at Kyle's Young's apartment, and watched extra tape, we've done it all. We've just got to win a game at home. We've got to get better guard play,

and we'll start winning at home again."

Arkansas State was led by Adrian Banks' 17 points, while Isaac Wells finished with 16. Yates' 23 points tied his career high.

The Blue Raiders were able to extend their road winning streak to five on Saturday night by picking up a 61-60 win at Arkansas-Little Rock. Yates once again led MT with 15 points, but his biggest play may have come on the defensive end.

UALR was underneath its own basket with less than a second remaining looking for an inbound pass to the rim for a tip-in basket, but Yates was able to deflect the pass away and seal the victory for MT.

MT led by 18 with 8 minutes remaining, but UALR was able to knock down shots and give themselves several chances to win the game with under a minute to go.

Rashad Jones-Jennings brought UALR to within one after a slam dunk with 55 seconds remaining in the game. After a Kanaskie missed, the Trojans regained possession with

See Basketball, 8



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

MTSU's stadium's half-empty; why?

Two things matter in Middle Tennessee sports, the Tennessee Titans and... the Tennessee Titans. In an area that boasts several major cities, three professional sports teams, several colleges with athletic programs, and a non-existent rivalry with Knoxville (shouldn't we hate the Vols on principle?) the only team that can pull in a consistent crowd didn't make the playoffs this year and hasn't finished a season above .500 since 2003? Why this unflinching support for the Flaming Thumbtacks?

Recently one of my professors asked a student from Nashville what the aristocrats on the hill think of us valley people.

His answer was simple, "Honestly? We don't think about Murfreesboro. Like, at all."

He wasn't lying. What's worse is that even Murfreesboro doesn't think about Murfreesboro. Thursday night the Lady Raiders (ranked number 20 in the NATION) dismantled Arkansas State. 82-54 and less than 5,000 people saw it happen.

More people read the score on accident as they searched the Tennesseean for Sudoku puzzles than actually attended the game.

Sitting in my office/at the bar as I read my daily (sports) news, I started ranting about this phenomenon. Everyone said the same thing, "this is a football state."

Ok, fine. I can buy that. But if it's such a football state, then why is there enough room left over at Floyd Stadium during most MT games to hold a Promise Keepers Convention?

I honestly don't know. The Raiders fought their way to their highest ever ranking, won a co-conference championship title, and played in a Division I-A bowl game. Did they win it? No, but I'm not sure that having about 25 MT fans in attendance helped their chances very much.

Remember, we are talking about a team that was supposed to be years away from even thinking about national attention or bowl games.

Which brings us back to the earlier problem, Nashville doesn't even know Murfreesboro exists (except for the drug dealers, of course) and the kids in Murfreesboro are apparently so wrapped up in Principe's intro to philosophy class that they are starting to question whether they exist either.

That's the best solution I can garner. Weak as it may be I can't understand how this major metropolitan area could be so apathetic. The glass is always half empty around here.

Go to a show, a movie, or a game of any sort. Where are all the people? Some bands, some movies, and of course the Titans are immune to this problem but doesn't that prove that the people exist? What do they do the rest of the week?

What got me started on this rant? The Nashville Predators. After seeing them play two weeks ago, and reading an article about their owner being unhappy with attendance I decided to see just how well the team.

I knew they were leading their division but I've heard so little about them that I figured that wasn't a big deal.

But after checking ESPN.com's NHL power rankings I saw that they are apparently the number one team in hockey.

What has this dramatic rise in prominence done for their attendance? According to espn.com it's shot up, of course.

See Sportacus, 8

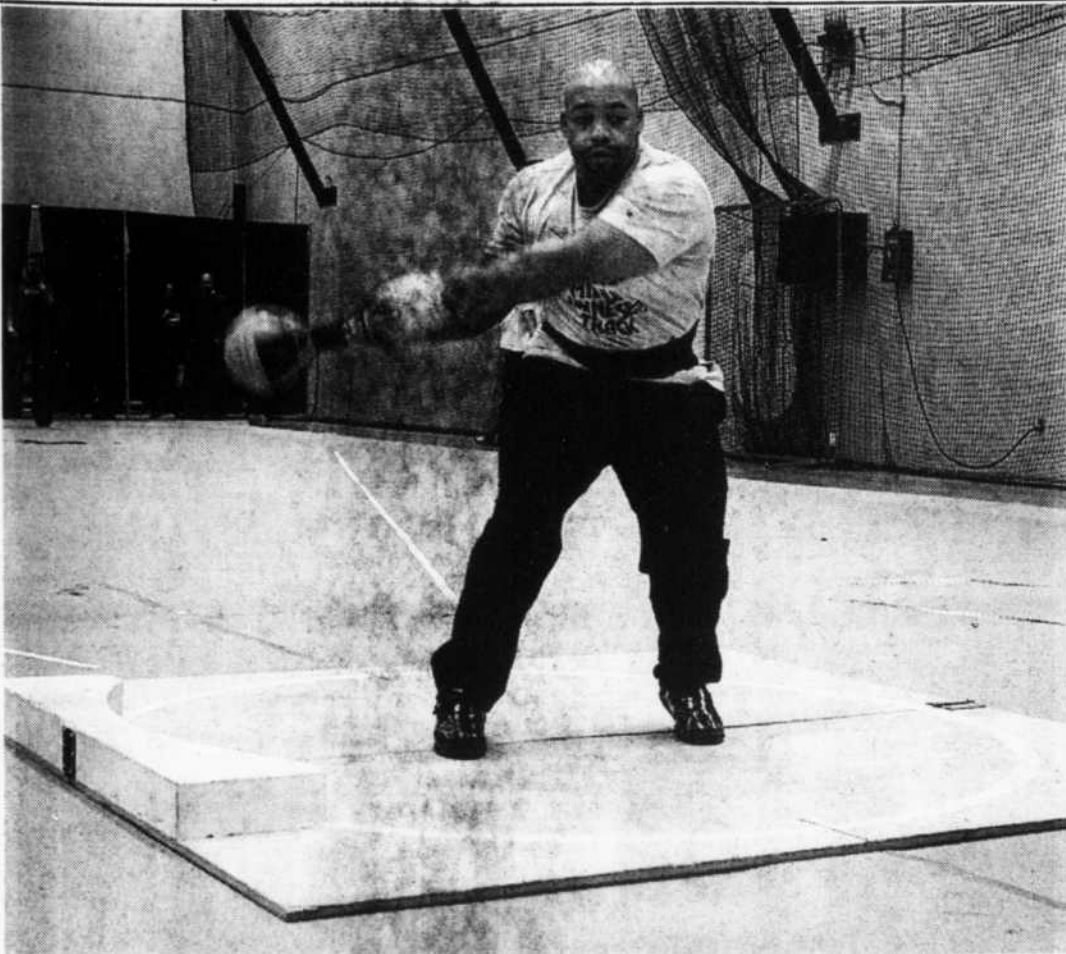


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
Senior James Thomas is going into his spin for the hammer toss. Last year Thomas broke his record three times last season.

Track Team finds local success

The Blue Raider track team earned 11 total victories this weekend, defending their home turf at the Blue Raider Invitational held in the Murphy Center. Against a strong field with teams like Illinois, Western Kentucky, and Southern Mississippi, junior Carlos Morgan won the long jump event with a mark of 25-5, the best mark by a blue raider this season, and also finished second in the triple jump with a mark of 48-5.25.

Morgan's teammate Juan Walker finished second in the long-jump event with a mark of 24-11.5, but Walker also earned two victories of his own.

Juan won the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 7.24, and also won the 200-meters with a time of 21.65.

Freshman Phillip Tanner placed sixth in the 200-meter event with a time of 22.80. Senior Jermaine Burton placed second in the 400-meter event with a time of 49.16, behind teammate Sean Waller, who ran unattached because he is only eligible for the outdoor season.

The Men's mile relay team won the mile event with a time of 3:15.20. On the women's side, freshman Brittany Cox continues to impress, winning the weight throw again with a mark of 54-9, a week after she broke the team record for the same event. Cox also placed second in the shot put with a mark of 41-10.

Sophomore Stephanie Tamgho won the long jump with a mark of 19-5 and placed second in the triple jump with a mark of 41-4.75.

In the running events, Middle Tennessee finished first and second in the 400-meter event, as senior Veronica Patterson won the event with a time of 58.64 and teammate Shanna-Kay Campbell followed

her with a time of 57-16.

Iceca Epps won the 55-meter hurdle with a time of 8.14, and Tiffany Owens won the 200-meter event with a time of 25.30.

Last week Middle Tennessee went to Kentucky for the Kentucky Invitational and competed in several events.

In only the second meet of her college career, Cox has already left her mark on Blue Raider indoor track.

Cox, set a school record in the weight throw event at the Kentucky Invitational, held at Kentucky University this past weekend.

Her throw broke Meaghan Byrd's school record by three inches, posting a mark of 56-3.

Fellow freshman Melyn Thompson finished eighth in the shot put with her mark of 44-8.

On the men's side, Juan Walker was lights out, winning the 60-meter dash with a time of 6.77 against a very strong field.

Walker also secured an NCAA provisional time in the 60-meter hurdles, as he finished second with a time of 7.77, just two-hundredths off Jasper Demps' school record.

After all this, Walker was still not finished, posting a second place finish in the long jump event with a mark of 24-7 and sixth in the triple jump event with a mark of 48-10.

Senior All-American Orlando Reid finished second in the 200-meters, with a time of 21.37, just short of an NCAA provisional mark.

The Blue Raider track team travels to Champaign, Illinois next week to participate in the Carle Health Alliance Invite. ♦

Blue Raider baseball to face nine NCAA-seasoned teams

Middle Tennessee baseball diamond will see plenty of action this coming season as the Blue Raiders will be playing 28 home games this season along with 15 conference games.

MT announced its new schedule last year, which includes five different teams Sun Belt home games.

The Raiders' schedule includes nine teams, which reached the NCAA Tournament within the last four years.

Middle Tennessee will have an early start on the competition within the Sun Belt Conference as they play two weeks earlier, since Florida Atlantic and Louisiana-Monroe have been added into the SBC this year.

They open their season with Jacksonville State University on February 16 through 18 and Bowling Green February 23-25 at Reese Smith Field.

The Blue Raiders have played Jacksonville State nine times in the last 11 seasons, which includes a three-game series within the last four years.

Both teams were 6-6 in the last four meetings.

Last year, MT swept JSU on the road to start the 2006 season. Jacksonville State played in the NCAA Tournament in two of the last three years, including 2006.

This season will be the first meeting between MT and Bowling Green, who finished the season with a 26-27 and 11-16 in the Mid-American Conference record.

Between the series with JSU and BGSU, the Blue Raiders will travel to Birmingham, Ala. for a two game series with Samford on February 20- 21.

Then MT commences their road trip with eight games, a couple of single games against Lipscomb (Feb 28), Belmont (Mar 7) and a three game series against Missouri State (Mar 2-4) and Troy (Mar 9-11).

MT has played MSU seven of the last eight seasons and is currently 16-4 against the Raiders. MSU played in the 2003 College World Series.

Troy, on the other hand, won the regular season, as

well as the SBC tournament in its first season in the league.

The Trojans swept the Raiders in all four of their meetings, including the SBC tournament championships game.

Then MT return home for the longest home stand of the season, with five games against Southern Illinois March 13-14 and Louisiana-Lafayette March 16 through 18.

ULL has faced Middle Tennessee 20 times in the last four years, including eight games in the Sun Belt Championships.

They have taken two-of-three in the regular season from Middle in the last four years, but won the last seven-of-eight in the SBC Tournament. The Ragin' Cajuns has played in six of the last 10 NCAA Tournaments.

On the road the Blue Raiders will be playing against Arkansas State (March 23-25), Arkansas-Little Rock (April 6-8), South Alabama (April 20-22), and Florida International (March 11-13).

The Blue Raiders will be ready to face FAU (May 4-6) and ULM (Mar 30-Apr 1), as well the rest of the SBC foes, like New Orleans (Apr 13-15) and Western Kentucky (May 17-19).

FAU has played in the NCAA Tournament six out-of-eight times and made it to the Super Regional in 2002, while WKU made it in 2004, with Middle Tennessee.

The in-state rivalry heats up when Middle Tennessee plays Memphis (Mar 20-21), Austin Peay (Mar 27, Apr 10), Tennessee Tech (Apr 3-4), Belmont (Mar 7, Apr 25) and Lipscomb (Feb 27, May 9).

Vanderbilt will be playing their first game in Murfreesboro on April 18, with Middle Tennessee traveling to Nashville for two games on March 28 and May 8. Vanderbilt has appeared in two of the last three NCAA tournaments.

The season opener at Reese Smith Field starts at 3 p.m. on February 16 against JSU. ♦

Middle Tennessee dominates SBC

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee made a statement Thursday after beating Arkansas State and pushing their conference winning streak to 14 games.

The second place team in the Sun Belt, Arkansas State, visited Murfreesboro and was dismantled 82-54.

The first half score appeared close at 32-39.

Yet, with nearly twenty turnovers in the first half, Arkansas State was hanging on with hot shooting.

The second half was a different story. The Blue Raiders continued the intensity on defense and held the Indians to merely 33 percent.

MT coach Rick Insell attributed the team's success from their ability to press.

However, he was not pleased with the team's effort in the first half citing a lack of focus. Insell thinks this team still has room to improve.

"I wasn't upset with anything except for the fact we did not play intelligent basketball," he said. "They were changing defense, and we were out of sync. It was very poor thinking on our part. We are a lot better team than that. We are able to put a lot of pressure on the ball, and that gives teams a lot of problems."

The dynamic duo of Chrissy Givens and Amber Holt again put up tremendous numbers in the victory.

Givens had 27 points with six assists and five steals. The presence she had on the defensive end



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
Sophomore Starr Orr moves the ball down the court so she can take a shot.

helped spark the Blue Raiders.

Givens believes keeping up the intensity the entire game is the key to the success of the club, so far this season.

"We just stay motivated to press," she said. "It is fun to press. We treat it almost like a game seeing who can get the most steals."

Holt was solid on the inside with 19 points, seven rebounds, and four steals of her own.

Brandi Brown scored 12 points coming on four three pointers.

Overall, the Lady Raiders, continue their winning streak into double digits.

This brings the record in conference to 7-0. This is the best start in school history for Middle Tennessee with a record of 15-3.

MT travels to North Texas last weekend and the results will be Wednesday's edition. ♦



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
Freshman Chelsia Lymon passes the ball across the court to another Lady Raiders as Middle Tennessee beats ASU 82-54.

Dwight's Minimart

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Men's Open Effin All-Stars

7 on 7 Soccer

IFC A	PIKE A
IFC B	Sigma Pi*
Men's Open A	Team 1*
Men's Open B	Better Than Sex
Sorority / Women's	A D Pi
Co-Rec A	Hot Pockets
Co-Rec B	Northeast Southcentral United

Flag Football

Men's A	Dem Whyte Boyz
Men's Open	C-Town Players
Men's B	Prime Time
Co-Rec	Team Drink
Co-Rec	Team Drink

*The 2 mentioned above are Sunday
Sorority / Women's A D Pi

Night League Winners

IFC A	Kappa Alpha
IFC B	Pi Kappa Phi

Indoor Volleyball

Men's	The Effin All-Stars
Co-Rec	TBA
Sorority	Chi Omega
Women's	How Now Brown Cow
IFC A	Sigma Pi
IFC B	Sigma Nu

Dodgeball Tournament

Women's	Kappa Delta
Men's	The Effin All-Stars
IFC	SAE (1)
Co-Rec	The Incredibles

3 on 3 Basketball

Men's Tha Show

Table Tennis

Kokou Houng

Basketball: MT split SBC games

Continued from 6

blocked two attempts at a game winning basket for UALR with the second block sailing out of bounds to set up Yates' game saving deflection.

With the win, Middle Tennessee improves to 5-0 on the road in SBC games, tying the school record for most consecutive road league wins at any point in the season.

Davis moved passed Charles Greer for fourth on the school's all-time wins list with win No. 77.

MT hopes to extend their conference road win streak to six when they travel to North Texas on Thursday.

Middle Tennessee returns to Murfreesboro to host Louisiana-Lafayette on January 27 at 7 p.m.

Then they play a non-conference game against South Dakota State on January 29 in Bookings South Dakota.

The Raiders are currently 10-10, 5-4 in the Sun Belt Conference.

Sportacus: Team lacking fans

Continued from 6

According to espn.com it's shot up, of course.

Overwhelmed by the recent success of the Predators, attendance at the Gaylord Entertainment Center has "leapt" from 25th in the nation last year to 23rd in 06-07, season.

The No. 1 team in the country actually averages playing in front of 445 more fans on the road than at home.

I know this is a student paper and I'm supposed to cover only

college athletics but I consider this to be an epidemic that affects every facet of life in Middle Tennessee.

The Lady Raiders are on a hot streak and deserve more than 4,400 fans. Go to goblueraiders.com, read about their success, and check out a game. ♦

J. Owen Shipley is a Senior(ish) English major at MTSU. You can contact him or read a backlog of articles at yspace.com/lamsportacus.

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VISIT THE ARMY ROTC BOOTH AT THE MTSU SUMMER JOBS & INTERNSHIP FAIR ON FEB. 7.



File photo
The Blue Raiders are looking forward to playing against the nine NCAA tournament participants over the past four years. The Raiders finished the season 30-25.