



# SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



H. K. Edgerton, black spokesman for the Sons of Confederate Veterans, stands in front of the ROTC Building in protest against it being renamed.  
Photo by R. Todd Guber | Contributing Photographer

## Unlikely advocate speaks out for Forrest

By Wesley Murchison  
Campus Administration Editor

The Sons of Confederate Veterans invited H. K. Edgerton, a black spokesman on Confederate heritage, to speak on issues surrounding Forrest Hall last Sunday in front of the Confederate memorial in Murfreesboro's square.

"We wanted to show that there is more than one side to the picture, more than one voice to be heard in this," said Wayne Wilson, commander of the Southern Heritage 411. The Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Murfreesboro chapter of the SCV.

The invite was in response to a swell of opposition developed against the passage of a Student Government Association resolution to remove the name of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest's name from the campus ROTC Building.

The removal of Forrest's name is a continuation of "Southern cultural genocide" that started after the Civil War, said Edgerton, president of the Southern Heritage 411. The Students Against Forrest Hall have failed to adequately understand Southern history and the role that Nathan Bedford Forrest played in the lives of Southern blacks, he said.

"I was truly amazed at the lack of knowledge that most of the folks have about Nathan Bedford Forrest," Edgerton said. "What they simply do is just holler slavery and say all the black folks in south native America all hate this flag."

Forrest's membership in the Ku Klux Klan and his career in slave trading are two of the main grievances SAFH has cited in their argument to remove his name from the building.

Edgerton, however, said that the earlier

incarnation of the KKK played a pivotal role in reestablishing and constructing the South, as well as helping black families.

"If it hadn't been for the Ku Klux Klan a lot of those families wouldn't be here today," he said.

Edgerton listed several names of black soldiers who fought beside Forrest during the Civil War and made comparisons of oppression made by the Union in which former slaves were forced to fight at gunpoint.

"This young man who said some of these things about Nathan Bedford Forrest, so very quickly pointed out that General Forrest was into slave trade," Edgerton said. "I want to say this unequivocally, there are a lot of black folks around here in Tennessee whose families would not be alive today if it had not been for general Nathan Bedford Forrest's slave trade."

Edgerton even commented on how many Southern blacks believe that Forrest was the first Civil Rights leader.

"For me, as a black man, knowing full well, and understanding, General Nathan Bedford Forrest was considered the first Civil Rights leader among black folks, not only among Tennessee but across the South America," Edgerton said.

Edgerton's remarks point to a speech made by Forrest during a political rally in 1875. According to a flyer passed out by the SCV, Forrest said to a racially-mixed crowd, "I came to meet you as friends, and welcome you to the white people. I want to come nearer to us. ... We may differ in color, but not in sentiment."

Wilson pointed to this speech as proof that, though Forrest was a racist by 21st century standards, he was a man "who can learn."

Edgerton attacked the SAFH for using race

and speaking on behalf of all blacks.

"Well, let me tell you something ... I walked 1,606.1 miles across South native America all the way to Texas carrying this flag, and all across this South native America people who looked just like me said one thing: 'Boy we so glad that Johnny finally come marching home,'" Edgerton said. "We earned a place of honor and dignity under that flag."

Edgerton continued by challenging students at MTSU to look deeper into black Southern history.

"Tell them some real history, talk about the law act, talk about the Buster Act, talk about the compromise of 1850," Edgerton said. "Tell these babies the real truth. If these babies knew the real truth about what happen round here they'd kiss the feet of Nathan Bedford Forrest's grave right now."

At the end of his speech, Edgerton remarked on the Martin Luther King Jr. response to the Confederate Flag. He said that Luther had once remarked to "leave it alone, let's do something about the things we can do something about."

"I don't know any southern blacks who consider Forrest to be the first Civil Rights leader," said Amber Perkins, senior sociology major and a spokesperson for SAFH. "I would have to see what they are talking about to have an opinion about it and the concept and everything."

In response to Edgerton's claims, Perkins said that this is not a black issue - the KKK terrorized black, whites and Jews.

"We are going to look at it from our heritage, and say that Nathan Bedford Forrest was obviously against our ancestors ... He fought to [keep them] enslaved."

## Students rally for Forrest Hall

By Wesley Murchison  
Campus Administration Editor

A group started a counter petition last Saturday to keep the name of Forrest Hall after the MTSU Student Government Association passed a resolution to recommend a change two weeks ago.

The group is headed by Matt Hurtt, sophomore history major and columnist for Sidelines, and Emily McDonald, a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The new petition is in response to Students Against Forrest Hall, who submitted their petition of 205 signatures to have the name of Forrest Hall removed from the ROTC building, which passed with an SGA vote of 19 to 5.

Last Saturday during MTSU's football game against Troy State University, Hurtt and McDonald, along with others students, collected signatures in a petition that will be submitted to SGA.

"The idea is to show there are students against the removal of Forrest's name from the ROTC Building," Hurtt said.

The group currently remains unnamed, but members are considering calling themselves Students To Save Forrest Hall.

In conjunction with the petition, Hurtt and McDonald worked with the Sons of Confederate Veterans to have black spokesman H. K. Edgerton give another perspective on Nathan Bedford Forrest, using a

focus from the black community. Edgerton spoke last Sunday in front of the Confederate Memorial located on the Murfreesboro public square.

Hurtt sent the group's petition to the SGA Sunday with a total of 220 student signatures. The e-mailed document excluded MTSU alumni, community members and local government officials like Tennessee Republican Senator Jim Tracy and Rutherford County Mayor Ernest G. Burgess, who signed the petition during the game.

For a petition to result in a resolution by this coming Thursday, it would have to be submitted five days in advance which was Sunday, Hurtt said. SGA told him turning it in on Monday would be sufficient, but rather than taking a chance he submitted the petition by email Sunday.

The resolution created by this petition is intended to "repeal" the prior resolution to remove Forrest's name from the ROTC Building "by any means necessary," Hurtt said.

According to MTSU Constitution Article VI, subtitled "directed legislation" a student or group of students need to present a petition signed by at least fifty "enrolled students" at MTSU.

"It shall be the responsibility of the petitioning student to present at the time of introduction fifty (50) copies of said student's legislation,"

See Rally, 2

## State officials make plans for higher education

By Christin Pepple  
Staff Writer

After the midterm elections, re-elected Tennessee representatives and senators from Rutherford County said they will be pushing to improve higher education in the state.

Two state officials that have been proactive in their attempts to aid in the reconstruction of the system are Sen. Bill Ketron, (R-Murfreesboro) and Rep. John Hood (D-Murfreesboro).

Funding for higher education in the state is another area each of the officials hope to improve.

Ketron said the structure for more funding is good on the fiscal level and because of this, Gov. Phil Bredesen has several proposals for streamlining the system for higher education over the course of the next several years.

"MTSU has one of the lowest ratios of funding per each student in the state and we want to do all we can to fix that problem," Hood said.

Hood said he is particularly interested in the funding of the new science building being discussed at MTSU.

"We need to stay on schedule so we can come up with the full funding we need to complete the building," Hood said. "I've heard the plans of reorganization of higher education, and I am interested to know what they have in mind."

Hood also addressed the problem of rapid growth in Tennessee, but particularly in Murfreesboro.

"We are enjoying such rapid growth in higher education," he said. "Administration is trying to raise the criteria for entrance but more students apply every year, which is a compliment to MTSU."

Hood spoke of Bredesen's plans for some of the over-crowded universities that offer full scholarship

ships to community colleges, which will in turn reduce the number of people immediately entering four-year universities.

"We can improve the funding to support the rapidly growing institutions such as MTSU," Hood said. "Funding has worked against us, though, and it's not on purpose, but it makes it difficult to come up with funding for MTSU."

Both Hood and Ketron said they will push for incentives to create more math and science teachers in the state.

"I think a couple of things I will work on is encouraging math and science students to enter the field and to become teachers," Ketron said.



Ketron



Hood

## Pulitzer winner compares Iraq, Vietnam wars

By Wesley Murchison  
Campus Administration Editor

Pulitzer Prize winner David Halberstam spoke on campus Nov. 20 about his experience covering the Vietnam War and the similarities it has with the current war in Iraq.

"What I'm going to say today is about a country and a war called Vietnam, but it could just as easily be about a country and a war called Iraq," said Halberstam, who wrote about the Vietnam War for the New York Times.

Speaking during the recent Seminar Covering the Front Lines: The Evolution of War Journalism and Lasting Effects of War Coverage on Journalists, Halberstam talked about the controversy of his coverage of Vietnam compared to that of World War II and the Korean War.

The change in coverage became apparent for Halberstam when he realized that the military policy wasn't winning the war in Vietnam and coverage began fundamentally changing from the war itself to a "political war" about if the war was winnable or not.

"The story is that it doesn't work - that's your story,"

Halberstam said.

The U.S. government's inability to acknowledge failure results in the promulgation of a "flawed policy" rather than fixing the problem, he said.

"Everyone who works for the government has to get in line and salute the policy and salute the alleged results perceived as being benign and positive," Halberstam said. "The people in Washington didn't care so much that they worked or not, as long as they could say that it was working, because appearances were everything."

But as the Vietnam War progressed, much like what is happening now in Iraq, various members of the military would come forth and use reporters like Halberstam to get their message out.

"Except there are a lot of honest men out in the field, and they don't want to do that because young Americans are dying," Halberstam said. "They have an almost desperate need to tell the truth, often at great career risks."

Before arriving in Vietnam, Halberstam had worked at the Tennessean covering the Civil

See Halberstam, 2



# Conference focuses on war journalism

By Josh Cross

Staff Writer

Last Monday, there was a daylong conference in the Keathley University Center Theater to discuss war journalism and its effects on journalists.

The event, "Covering the Front Lines: The Evolution of War Journalism and Lasting Effects of War Coverage on Journalists," brought in journalists who have reported on everything from Vietnam to the current war in Iraq.

During the panel discussing the effects of war reporting on journalists, moderated by Kent Flanagan, journalism professor, the panelists told of their own experiences and lessons learned while reporting from the front lines.

"It's a vital moment when you realize in a combat zone your own mortality — when you realize, 'Hell they're shooting at me too,'" said Amy Schlesing, reporter for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette who has covered the war in Iraq. "If you don't have that moment, I don't think that you fully understand the story that you're covering."

Schlesing was in Iraq with half of a platoon when they were attacked by insurgents. She was forced to take cover under a dump truck in the street to avoid the incoming enemy fire.

Each member also discussed the effects that covering war had on them.

"It trivializes so many other things," said George Wilson, former Washington Post chief military correspondent. "Nothing seems so quite worth worrying about."

Wilson also said that his biggest regret was not spending more time with his children and being away from his family so much.

"It's kind of addictive," Wilson said. "You have a hard time letting go."

George Esper, from The Associated Press, who spent 10 years covering the Vietnam War, said that he didn't get a single good night's rest. He also said that it was a challenge moving back home to America.

"It was a tough adjustment," Esper said. "I had lost a whole decade of American culture."

Another member of the panel, Anthony Feinstein, University of Toronto professor of psychiatry and author of "Journalists Under Fire: The Psychological Hazards of Covering War," further elaborated on problems that journalists face when returning home from war.

Feinstein said that war journalists are more likely to be single or divorced when compared to journalists who have not covered a war. He also said that some still think they are under threat even though they aren't, which affects their sleep and their performance at work.

The night ended with a keynote session with Michael Weisskopf, TIME Magazine senior correspondent, who lost his right hand by throwing a grenade out of a Humvee in Iraq. The homemade explosive was thrown in by an insurgent, and because of Weisskopf's quick thinking, he saved not only his own life but the lives of the soldiers he was riding with.

"You can take nothing for granted in Baghdad," Weisskopf said. "I realized just how much in common a war correspondent has with those who fight it."

Weisskopf became the first journalist to be admitted to Walter Reed Medical Center because of his injury. There he was able to reflect on his near-death experience.

"I had broken the cardinal rule of reporting: Never become the story," Weisskopf said. "The principal task is not to be silenced."

## Rally: Students ask that Forrest stay in Hall's name

Continued from 1

according to the Constitution. "The signed petition must be presented to the Executive Vice President at least five (5) class days prior to the presentation of the petition to the Senate."

The Constitution stipulates that failure to provide petition and to comply with other rules results in a delayed "consideration by the Senate."

Hurt said that he was considering contacting Gretchen

Jenkins, SGA senator for College of Liberal Arts, to sponsor the resolution. Jenkins was one of the five senators who voted no and the only one to voice any kind of opposition in an otherwise one-sided debate.

Jenkins, however, said that she was not against the resolution out right, but believed that the issue should not be decided on one petition. Instead she recommended the Senate considering turning the resolution into a referendum to place before the student body.

Hurt said that he would not be against a campus-wide vote.

"They have the right to petition just like we do," said Amber Perkins, member of Students Against Forrest Hall.

If the resolution is overturned, Students Against Forrest Hall has not decided to pursue further action to remove Forrest's name.

"We really don't know, we haven't thought far ahead, but we will let everyone know in Students Against Forrest Hall," Perkins said.

## Halberstam: Legend compares Vietnam and Iraq

Continued from 1

Rights movement, which he said prepared him for the political dimensions that could define the Vietnam War.

"I had completely conventional ideas about the Cold War when I arrived in Saigon," Halberstam said. "In all things going on in Europe between the communist and the West — we were the good guys."

"Soviet imperialism worked against all the values that were important to me," Halberstam added. "I would discover that it would be very different there — working in a place where the imperialism of a Western democracy implanted [itself] upon the Asian countries."

Once the war turned into one of politics, Halberstam himself would become a target of the government leading President Kennedy to ask for his removal from the Vietnam bureau.

Halberstam recalled one of the more painful moments when he was criticized by his hero Richard Tregaskis, who wrote a nonfiction book about one of the earliest victories in World War II called Guadalcanal Diary.

Halberstam took Richards to hear from some of his "most secret sources." After the meeting on the way back to Saigon, Richards said to Halberstam, "if I was doing what you are doing, I would be ashamed of myself."

Despite verbal attacks and life-threatening risk,

Halberstam felt it was his responsibility to report the truth, much like what journalists are doing now with Iraq.

However, this time the policy, according to Halberstam, is coming from those administrators who have forgotten about the Vietnam War.

"The uniformed military, also much like the journalists, were much scarred by Vietnam," Halberstam said, adding that the military was "ridden over" by former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

He also cited the removal of General Eric Shinseki, who, after admitting to several congressional committees that troop levels would have to be in the hundreds of thousands to occupy Iraq, contradicted the plan espoused by Rumsfeld.

Halberstam said he was shocked to hear that Rumsfeld did not attend Shinseki's retirement ceremony and that it was evident of how he and other members of Bush Administration abused top military officials to disagreed with their policy.

The seminar was a part of the Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies. It was an all-day affair and included reputable journalists in war journalism like Michael Weisskopf, George Esper, Robert Reid and Leon Allgood. Historian Michael Sweeney and psychologist Anthony Feinstein added their respective views on the evolution of war coverage and psychological effects of war on journalists.

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## Biz students show how to climb corporate ladder in style

By DaShawn Usher

Staff Writer

Climbing the corporate ladder might be a little easier with the help of the Black Business Student Association's second annual fashion show Thursday.

The show, called "Business Meets Pleasure," will be hosted by the group and include R&B musical artist Steven Christopher.

"The show is going to showcase different fashion from a genre of cultures," said Matthew Frierson, junior political science major and president of BBSA.

Proceeds from the show will be donated to a BBSA-sponsored scholarship for two MTSU students.

"Because we are a business organization, we wanted to showcase a fashion show that was well-rounded," Frierson said.

Frierson expects this year's show to be sold out. "Business Meets Pleasure" is the follow up to last year's, "For Your Eyes Only" fashion showcase.

"Last year's show was more personal because the stage was the floor - it seemed like a fashion preview," said Kristen Johnson, junior organizational communication major who modeled last year.

There will be six scenes including business, coats and handbags, skateboard and hoodies, club, retro and the finale. The clothes in the show will feature raiment from a variety of apparel shops including Wilson's Leather, Greham's, Charlotte Russe, Wet Seal, Plato's Closet and other private clothing vendors.

"I like the more creative scenes, where it's not just walk-

ing," said Tiffany Sherrell, sophomore journalism major and model for the show. "My favorite scene this year is the coats and handbags scene."

"The creative scenes are the ones I like. They are non-traditional and not the common scenes you would see in a show. It allows everyone to be more original and creative."

When it came to getting down to business, the responses did not vary much on what a person should wear. Sherrell and Johnson both said a pencil skirt is the latest trend.

"I like anything - black is in this season, along with neutral colors, long boots and short coats, skinny jeans - but accessories can make an outfit," said LaShan Matthews, senior exercise major and coordinator for last year's show.

Johnson said she prefers "Baby Phat" by Kimora Lee because it's affordable and sexy, while still being trendy and urban.

"Kimora Lee has a whole line from dresses, shoes, accessories - even a cosmetic line," Johnson said.

Matthews recommended BCBG pumps and collar shirts with accessories, but Johnson suggested tweed jackets because they are versatility and easy to wear with anything.

"This is not just a fashion show, this is an event," Frierson said. "Not only is it an event, but an unforgettable one. This show is composed of seasoned models that have been in the modeling game for a while."

"Business Meets Pleasure" is Thursday at 7 p.m. in the James Union Building in the Tennessee Room. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door.

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# OPINIONS

## From the Editorial Board

### Student battle over Forrest Hall may be step in the right direction

Forrest Hall: In the national landscape of news, MTSU's civil war over whether to change this allegedly offensive building name may seem like small potatoes.

It's the kind of story that trounces across front pages around the state, raising the racism eyebrow and then receding into insignificance. National wire services point to the story with a chuckle or a dispassionate finger wag, and it passes with little other note.

Here at MTSU, though, the Forrest Hall ruckus represents something a lot greater than a quick diversion from the "real" pressures of life. Whether or not you believe in the nobility of Nathan Bedford Forrest, you have to tip your hat to the students and community members who are getting involved – in anything.

*Sidelines* has lobbed several bombs this semester at the general college population, and MTSU students in particular, for being woefully apathetic but here, in the home stretch of this arduous 14 weeks, we eat our words.

This may not be the most critical issue facing our campus right now – changing the name of Forrest Hall won't solve parking problems, boost retention rates or jump start your GPA, but it's a step in the right direction.

Or, at least, it's not a step in the wrong direction.

Granted, this is not a media firestorm – it's just a few hundred students locking arms with concerned community members for a little good 'ole fashioned protest.

However, before you snub your nose, and say, "It's only a name – what difference does it make?" just remember that a small band of avant-garde dissenters staged a little protest of their own back in the 18th century.

All that was at stake was a couple of extra cents for a stamp tax. The result of that little protest? Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the United States of America.

## Forrest Hall issue not about racism

If asked, most students would probably suggest that major issues on campus include limited parking and tuition increases; however, some students believe the biggest issue facing MTSU students these days is the symbol of oppression and racism that is Forrest Hall.

The Student Government Association recently voted 19 to 5 in favor of removing "Forrest Hall" from the ROTC building, with Senators Steven Disser and Mark Murphy sponsoring the legislation.

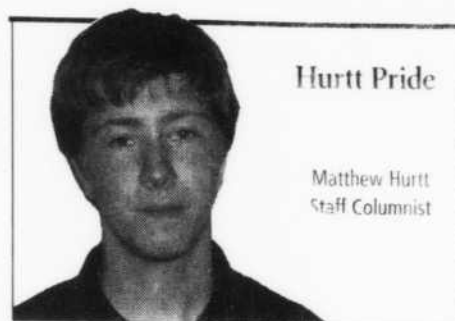
The SGA suggested Forrest made no real contribution to MTSU and should therefore not be honored on campus.

While Forrest did not directly contribute to the MTSU campus, he did make a significant contribution to the residents of Murfreesboro in July, 1862. Forrest decimated the Union presence in Murfreesboro, which ultimately diverted Union forces from an attack on Chattanooga.

Late into the Civil War, perhaps too late, the Confederate command began to realize the tactical genius of Forrest on the battlefield.

In fact, the tactics Forrest used on the battlefield are still being taught in military classrooms today.

To suggest that Nathan Bedford Forrest made no significant contribution to the MTSU community is ignorant. The building in question is a military building, so naming it after a military hero is appropriate.



Hurt Pride

Matthew Hurtt  
Staff Columnist

The argument that Students Against Forrest Hall make is that Forrest was a slave trader who profited greatly from that immoral business, but the argument is not about race. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson owned slaves, but there is not concerted effort to erase their names from public buildings or monuments.

Not to mention, Senator Al Gore, Sr. was a staunch segregationist, but these students are not working to erase his name from the Research Library in the Todd Building. So, why are they singling out one individual?

These students also note that Forrest was the first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan; although, Forrest's involvement in the organization is not clear. What historians do know is that Forrest called for the disbanding of the Ku Klux Klan in 1869 after it became violent.

The post-Civil War KKK was more of a response to Reconstruction than to any partic-

ular race. The Klan of the 1860s most often terrorized carpetbaggers, those Northerners who came to the South to capitalize on Reconstruction efforts.

William Simmons, a Methodist Minister, created the modern KKK in 1915 after watching "Birth of a Nation." It is during this time that the Ku Klux Klan becomes known for terrorizing innocent blacks, Catholics, Jews, immigrants and other groups.

The ROTC building is appropriately named Forrest Hall because of General Forrest's significant contribution to the people of Murfreesboro and his contribution on the battlefield. The building is not named after Forrest the slave trader – just as Washington, D.C. is not named after George Washington the slave owner.

The need for these students to incite racial tension on campus is taking away from the real issues that affect MTSU students. So, instead of protesting the construction of parking lots off campus or ever-increasing tuition costs, the Students Against Forrest Hall are content with making something out of nothing – and erasing local history in the process.

Matthew Hurtt is a sophomore liberal arts major and is involved with the student group working to overturn the recent Forrest Hall decision. He can be reached at [mch2x@mtsu.edu](mailto:mch2x@mtsu.edu).

## Teachers should teach not belittle students

My right brain definitely wears the pants in my head.

I cannot remember ever understanding math. Ever enjoying it. Ever having an "a-ha" moment that wasn't inspired by an answer from the back of the book. Am I just math intolerant or was I just never given the chance?

I have had a few good teachers during my education thus far – and by good teachers, I do not just mean the work was easy and I got an A.

I'm talking about teachers that truly and intensely affected my life. Psychology, English, Journalism – the ones I remember made me want to be a writer; made me want to think about the world around me beyond the superficial.

And then there are those that I dread, whose lectures make me struggle to keep focused while my hand throbs uncontrollably from copying down page after page of notes from a prefabricated, perfectly formulated lecture.

I do not learn anything from them. I memorize a lot of useless dribble, but it never once sinks in why I should care about it, why the material should mean more to me than a decent grade on a test.

Teaching is, in my opinion, one of the most underrated, vital and profound professions in the world. We don't have enough teachers, and yet, half of the ones we do have want us in and out of that class as quickly as possible, want good grades on tests purely for their own good-graces, want to have as little interaction with their students as possible.

Doesn't anyone teach the teachers how to teach?

And not only are some of them lackluster, some are, it seems, thriving on a twisted power trip.

I had several teachers in high school – a few in college, too, actually – who got their jollies watching cheeks turn red in embarrassment, from making public any screw-up, unintentional and minute, one of their pupils made.



Kvetch A Break

Sarah Lavery  
Staff Columnist

During an in-class essay once, I referred to a literary character as a "tableau rosa," meaning a blank slate. Ignoring the fact that I was merely attempting to correctly use a Latin phrase in a high school English class, this devil-spawn of a teacher read my essay aloud, pointing out my misspelling of the phrase, telling her students not to attempt to sound smart if they can't spell the word right.

Even more, some teachers have the audacity to write into a college newspaper purely to criticize an aspiring journalist, purely to ruin his or her confidence.

I just do not think that is what it is all about.

I guess I am just a dreamer. I know every single professor I come across won't have the ability to change my life or point me in a new direction. Heck, I don't even expect them all to teach me something I'll remember in five years. However, I suppose I just expect them all to try. Just like teachers demand that their students give it their all, we expect the same from the people we're paying a fortune to learn from.

I want to be asked to think, to discuss, to analyze. I want to be told how to be better, how to be more educated, how to go into a career with confidence.

I don't want to be made to feel like an idiot for an honest effort. And I definitely don't want to leave the class armed solely with the ability to write notes at a mile a minute and to ignore throbbing hand muscles.

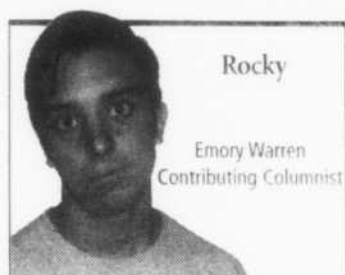
Sarah Lavery is a sophomore mass communication major and can be reached at [sl2s@mtsu.edu](mailto:sl2s@mtsu.edu).

## Raising minimum wage will hurt workers

The elections for the House and Senate are finally over, and there's much to see within the next two years. To add to that, with the Democrats finally in control in both houses, will be able to enforce some major shifts in the states, one is to increase the minimum wage.

As stated in a previous issue of *Sidelines*, the minimum wage has yet to increase since 1997. With the cost of living so high, it seems nearly impossible to live off of minimum wage. It seems even more impossible to survive off minimum wage with a family with children.

Morgan Spurlock, after making his film "Supersize Me," made a TV show called "30 Days." In the show, as in his movie, he went 30 days experiencing a new life. In an episode of his first season, he and his wife went to work for minimum wage. The show did a great job showing the cost of living and how they went through



Rocky

Emory Warren  
Contributing Columnist

each day, from finding a home, to treatment at a hospital and even getting furniture for their home.

It really emphasized the difficulty of working on minimum wage, and the value of a dollar in their life.

By the end of episode, it showed how living off minimum wage was too difficult to live through, and described it as living on the edge everyday. If a life lived on minimum wage is so difficult, why not raise it? It will decrease poverty and help those who are living on it right now.

However, even if it is increased, those who are living on it right

now will very well remain on it. To add to that, many effects will take place due to the increase of the minimum wage.

Inflation will occur, which will raise prices. When the prices go up, we will be at the same stand-point as we are now. Therefore, the extra money we may get paid will do very little. Also, some companies who are paying their employees minimum wage can't afford to pay them anymore than they are now. If it is increased, they will have to raise their prices just to get back to where they were before. The worst case scenario is this: if the company can't raise their prices due to competition with another company, they have one other choice. They will have to fire people, and this will make unemployment go up.

Raising minimum wage is very thoughtful to those on it, but it only helps those who are one it, and with the effects of raising, it will help even less, if not at all.

One way to fix this problem is for the companies who can afford to pay their employees more to do that, especially if they are working for a living and their family. Another attempt to fix it is to lower the value of a dollar, so the price of living becomes less expensive and for insurance be affordable to pay.

The government shouldn't even be active in this case, and shouldn't even tell companies what to do. The only scenario they should be active in is if one company has a monopoly, where they are free to charge, and pay their employees whatever they want. Raising minimum wage is not one of those cases, although it is a noticeable problem, it can be fixed without raising it.

Emory Warren is a freshman business administration major and can be reached at [efw2f@mtsu.edu](mailto:efw2f@mtsu.edu).

## Racism still at work in today's society

There seems to be a trend in pop culture these days to say racist remarks with no regard. It may seem very typical for me to play the race card, but the ignorance of such actors as Mel Gibson and Michael Richards makes it impossible to ignore. Sure, the United States seems progressive, but rants such as these prove that, in many ways, racism has been self-censored, but the feeling never lost. There is no way to completely end racism because usually these are strong feelings embedded within. Thanks to the powers of free expression, if you feel it, you can say it, with no worries of criminal prosecution. There will always be well-worded bigotry and ways to dress up the issue, but obviously the subject still exists.

My hope is in no way to end racism because it would be the equivalent of trying to end terrorism. You can't, because it is a state of mind. The thing that bothers me is that when Mel Gibson and Michael Richards were confronted, they all-of-a-sudden made a mistake.

That is so ridiculous. The only reason why either called it a mistake is because they got caught. Many criminals could use that excuse when finally prosecuted. It is a real shallow excuse for ignorance. I would much rather them be honest and say that's how they truly felt – I mean, feel. An apology does not change the act. I believe in forgiving, but things like that will never be forgotten.

Unless you have been living under a rock for the past week, you should know about Michael Richards and his recent incident at the West



My 'Keep It Real' Policy

Shannon Mitchell  
Staff Columnist

Hollywood comedy club. Richards, who played Jerry Seinfeld's goofy neighbor Kramer on the sitcom "Seinfeld," was performing at The Laugh Factory last week when he lashed out at two black men with a slur of racial comments, using the N-word numerous times. These men were supposedly interrupting his act and made him angry. After being a complete idiot in public, Richards decides that he needs to apologize. His motives are definitely questionable. I watched the Letterman apology and found it just as humorous as the live audience. Sincerity can definitely shine through a camera lens.

He made another attempt to clear his name by appearing on Jesse Jackson's radio show. According to the Associated Press, he told Jackson that he had not used the language before. "That's why I'm shattered by it," Richards said. "The way this came through me was like a freight train. After it was over, when I went to look for them, they had gone. And I've tried to meet them, to talk to them, to get some healing."

Richards noted that the racial labeling he used is frequent in the entertainment industry, and acknowledged that it could have consequences. He is definitely paying for this. Not only is his character being questioned, but he also banned from the comedy club. The power of the tongue is amazing; apparently, the same vehicle he uses as his gift became his curse.

I am glad that the incident took place. It is a reminder of how far the United States has come, and how far it has yet to go. It is unfortunate that Richards said those hurtful things, yet I can't hate him for the way that he feels. No one is perfect and we all suffer deficits.

At least society has come far enough to condemn him. Just 60 years ago, that was unheard of. Life is a constant journey and even though people live their whole lives hating other races it is because many fear what they do not understand. There are some pretty wicked stereotypes of blacks, yet not everyone fits the mold. This year, my father was the first black vice mayor in our town, and did not get re-elected to town Alderman due to what I believe are race-related issues.

As a nation, we need to become more progressive. It is 2006 and racism may never end, but each day we should all make a conscious effort to be better than we were the day before.

Shannon Mitchell is a junior public relations major and can be reached at [sm3i@mtsu.edu](mailto:sm3i@mtsu.edu).

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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# Forrest Hall Responses

## Erasing history not acceptable solution

To the Editor:

As an alumnus of MTSU's ROTC program I have to say I am deeply disappointed by the recent controversy surrounding Forrest Hall. A group of students, who by their own admission are protesting for the sake of protesting, have started a movement to rename Forrest Hall because it is supposedly a symbol of racism and oppression. I can understand how someone who didn't know any better would reach such a conclusion. I had my own misgivings about the building's namesake during my years taking Military Science classes in Forrest Hall, until I actually studied military history.

Lt. Gen. Forrest, an exceptional officer who with no formal education or military training, became what even his enemies in the Union Army acknowledged as one of the greatest cavalry commanders in the Civil War. Forrest's actions and tactics are still studied in the modern military. It saddens me deeply that a group of students on this campus would use historical inaccuracies and propaganda to stir up racial tensions on campus just to pick a fight when there are some many causes worth fighting for.

I fully agree with Derek Frisby that a lecture series on racism and the Civil War would be a much more fruitful gesture than demanding that a building be renamed. I make no apologies for Nathan Bedford Forrest; he certainly was a man who made mistakes in his life. I would ask that those who take offense to Forrest Hall to remember the man who on July 13, 1862, in the Union-occupied town of Murfreesboro, fought and won a battle against a much larger force. Remember a commander who gave of his own fortune to supply his men. Remember the man who led Tennesseans into battle to defend their homes. Remember because, like it or not, Forrest is a part of Murfreesboro and this university. You cannot erase history because it isn't politically correct. I will say this about Nathan Bedford Forrest: he fought for his home and he fought for Tennessee which is more than can be said for most of the protesters.

Aaron Perry  
'06 Alumnus, Second Lieutenant, Tennessee Army National Guard

## Don't let prejudices influence decision

To the Editor:

Here is a list of some signers of the Declaration of Independence: George Mason, George Washington, James Madison and Benjamin Franklin. What did these founding fathers, along with many other signers of the Constitution, have in common? They were all slave owners. They were all racists.

Does their racism affect their contribution to U.S. history? Should we replace George Washington's face on our money? Should we not give credit to James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution"?

It is wrong and dangerous to only honor historical figures that we see as right and in agreement with our views. The fact of the matter is that Nathan Bedford Forrest is arguably one of the most ingenious, albeit eccentric, generals in U.S. history, and a man that was devoted to our home state of Tennessee.

As for Forrest's involvement with the Ku Klux Klan, it should be noted that not only was he the first Grand Wizard, he was also the man that called for the Klan to disband two years after taking the helm, when he felt that their methods had grown "inappropriately violent." Does this sound like the action of a dishonorable, ruthless "terrorist"? Forrest had both slaves and freemen serving in units under his command. After the war, he said of the black men who served under him "(T)hese boys stayed with me ... and better Confederates did not live."

By the way - do you think that only Southern generals owned slaves? General Ulysses Grant's slaves were only freed after the Thirteenth Amendment was passed. When asked why he did not free his slaves earlier, Grant said, "Good help is so hard to come by these days."

So please, before we go editing or erasing history, or dishonoring honorable men - yes I say that Forrest was honorable - consider the facts, do actual research and please don't be blinded by your prejudices against Southern white men in the 1800s.

Aren Sulfridge  
Freshman, College of Liberal Arts

## Study history before tilting at windmills

To the Editor:

The funny thing about mankind is that a man is just that, a man and not a God. What's that mean? It means that when we raise monuments to past historical figures and heroes, we are honoring a man, warts and all. There is no figure in history that doesn't have some bad points, but surely when we make a statue or name a building after Washington, we are honoring the brave and heroic things he achieved for the United States, rather than the fact that he owned slaves. Every past hero is bound to have some characteristics that future generations will find offensive. Ideally, what we are honoring in them are the values that are timeless.

It is just so with Nathan Bedford Forrest. He was brave and courageous to a point almost unknown in today's world. He was a brilliant tactician, cavalry officer and a loyal defender of his homelands against the Yankee invaders. What about these values isn't worth preserving the memory of? The other point to keep in mind is that various "historians" have attempted to write about him and make their own interpretations as to what he did and didn't do, but at the end of the day they are still only personal options, no matter how logically laid out their arguments may be. It's very difficult to know with accuracy certain points, but we do have some inescapable creditable documentation available to us.

In 1871, a Congressional investigation was held into the Ku Klux Klan and it activities. This was chaired by William Tecumseh Sherman, a man vocal in his dislike of Forrest. He had stated prior to the investigation that, "We are here to investigate Forrest, charge Forrest, try Forrest and hang Forrest." The fact that Forrest was totally vindicated by this committee is pretty strong evidence to argue against the charges some people keep trying to level against him.

It was concluded that whilst Forrest's name was used in starting up the KKK, it was not done with his permission and that in fact Forrest worked towards getting the KKK to disband. The committee also revisited the alleged crimes committed at Fort Pillow. Once again Forrest was found innocent.

The above is not my personal opinion, it is documented fact and it is hard to argue against. Maybe the students arguing to change the name of the building need to find some other windmills to tilt at.

Greg Kealy  
Queensland, Australia

## Decision insults suffering of rights activists

To the Editor:

Who would have thought that the name of a building could stir up so much politically correct debate? I can absolutely see where everyone for the name change of Forrest Hall comes from. Every time I walk past this building, I feel my soul stir with so much hatred towards this dead racist bigot.

Of course the above was written with the utmost sarcasm. However, I have a different point to make, a point I hear many say will actually not take place with the removal of the name Forrest.

Why are so many individuals who are for the equality of all human-

ity so engrossed in the removal of imagery that reminds them of where their ancestors have come from? Why do they want to take away from the memory of the ancestors of black Americans? If the narrow minded view towards political correctness continues with a renaming, all you are doing is erasing the memory of the history of the hardships and trials blacks went through so that their ancestors could be free and equal as they are today. It seems as though many are trying desperately to erase the past which is insulting to the black heroes who have fought and died for the equality that we all share today. As of tomorrow, I will black out the name "Forrest" in my history book.

Brian Petraitis  
Sophomore, College of Mass Communication

## Ignorance makes people ashamed of history

To the Editor:

OK, first of all, this dispute was faced before 15 years ago. It was decided that the building was so named after the grandson who also carried the name of Nathan Bedford Forrest. To change the name would be a shame. It would be a shame to shame our fathers for their beliefs even if they were not good ones, but Nathan Bedford Forrest III was a Air Pilot in World War II who was shot down over Germany and later killed.

Do we shame him as well as his father for those of us who are uneducated and ashamed of our history? I do not care one way or the other; I think it is a ridiculous idea for the foundation to even consider changing the name. I mean what about the other other 282,000 students?

Troy Spurling  
Freshman, College of Education and Behavioral Science

## Real issue current generation's lack of causes

To the Editor:

Nothing makes my eyes roll more than the idea of a group of students gathering in the University Center on a quest to acknowledge how uneventful their time in college has been. I am sure the members of this group launching a campaign to rename Forrest Hall have heard stories from their parents about protesting the Vietnam War, Civil Rights and the Women's Lib movement and these students now realize just how meaningless their contribution to society has been thus far.

"Um...like yea, I think Forrest was like a Confederate, and uh like, he like started the KKK." I can imagine this is the breadth of the intelligent speech seeping out of the mouths of these 60s re-treads.

Maybe they are right. Let's drop the name Forrest. I think we should call it Jackson Hall in honor of another famous Tennessean, Andrew Jackson. Oh wait. He fought and killed American Indians. He also vetoed the extension of the national bank, and I, having a checking account backed up by the Federal Reserve, would never allow his name to be plastered on the side of one of our hallowed buildings. Maybe we could name it after Thomas Jefferson. He was an integral part of drafting the Declaration of Independence as well as our Constitution. However, we as Americans could never name a building, monument, city or county after him - he owned slaves after all. What about Truman Hall? Harry Truman did bring us out of World War II. Then again, he also dropped two atomic bombs on Japan, killing thousands of people to do so.

Where are we going to find someone who deserves to have an MTSU building named after them? I have an eight-year-old cousin that, as far as I know, has never owned slaves, killed thousands of people or steered this country into a depression over personal issues. I guess there is a possibility that he has talked back to his parents or something like that. I suppose we should submit his offenses to the Student Senate to see if his misdeeds have disqualified him from candidacy.

The issue here is not about the naming of a building. The real issue in all of this is that a growing number of students all across the country who are just now realizing that they have never done anything to merit recognition and are beginning to face the fact that they probably never will. I remember such groups emerging at my middle school, and those patriots fought like lions to see that gum chewing was allowed and that there would be three, not two, but three soda machines in the cafeteria lobby. I regretfully tell you that neither one of those important issues ever made it to the status of a constitutional amendment. Justice just does not always prevail.

I truly understand that there is a large body of students who are truly traumatized by the sequencing of those letters on the top of the ROTC building. Whenever I walk by and see dozens of you who are helplessly engulfed in a chemical flashback where the ghost of a Confederate soldier is galloping at break neck speed toward you, I want all of you to know that I sympathize with you. I acknowledge your terror, and I say a little prayer in hopes that your suffering might be extinguished. I suppose that these are the types of battles that we as a country will choose to fight from now on. Maybe one day this same group of courageous young minds will resent and protest the fact that their welfare checks are being cashed for bills that have the words "In God We Trust" on them.

I pray that many years from now a tear will come to the eyes of these coalition members when their grandchild asks them; "Grandpa, where you ever in a war?" In that special, reverent moment in time, they will hold their heads up high, look directly into the eyes of their innocent little grandchild and say, "No child, there was just too much to do here."

Burch Glover  
Sophomore, College of Liberal Arts

## Temporary activists fail to represent whole

To the Editor:

In response to the growing controversy over the renaming of Forrest Hall, might I make a suggestion as to another piece of history these students can erase. The Albert Gore, Sr. Research Library, located in the Todd Building, is named after a pro-segregation Democrat Senator from Tennessee. If we truly wish to erase all aspects of racism on campus, should we not forget his triumph in the Interstate Highway System and the legacy he left behind because of this one belief he held?

I applaud Gretchen Jenkins for suggesting this measure be put to a referendum of the students. I certainly do not want a 'temporary activist' group of 200 students who clearly do not represent the interests of the historical community making a decision for me. I am not asking us to heartily embrace Nathan Bedford Forrest, but I am suggesting that if we erase these tenants of history from our campus, we could one day repeat those horrible acts. These matters are not always black and white.

Robert Lewis  
Freshman, College of Business

## Forrest's real history reveals true character

To the Editor:

History is often different from folk legend, fantasy and common belief. This is certainly the case with Nathan Bedford Forrest. In 1871, a Congressional committee investigated the Klan and possible involvement of former Confederate officers. Chaired by William Sherman, who called Forrest "That Devil Forrest," the committee concluded that Forrest's only involvement with the Klan was his public effort to have it disband. That committee also investigated the "Ft. Pillow Massacre" and found no basis in fact to establish that there had been anything more than isolated incidents which Forrest stopped upon his arrival on-site.

The Federal Official Records prove that Union barracks were burned by a Union officer and Forrest transferred 14 of the most seriously wounded United States Colored Troops to the U.S. Steamer Silver Cloud. Hardly the act of someone who ordered or committed a "massacre." Forrest's command included armed, black Confederate combat soldiers

who participated in the raid on Murfreesboro in July, 1863, to rescue civilian hostages scheduled to be executed by Union occupation forces. On July 4, 1875, Forrest gave a speech in Memphis, Tennessee, to a black political and social group and his words clearly demonstrate who he was: "We were born on the same soil, breathe the same air, live in the same land, and why should we not be brothers and sisters ... I want to elevate every man, and to see you take your places in your shops, stores and offices ... I feel that you are free men, I am a free man, and we can do as we please. I came here as a friend and whenever I can serve any of you I will do so ... We have one Union, one flag, one country; therefore, let us stand together. Although we differ in color, we should not differ in sentiment ... Do your duty as citizens, and if any are oppressed, I will be your friend. I thank you for the flowers, and assure you that I am with you in heart and hand."

It is clear that the students who are so "motivated" are motivated by emotions resulting from an ignorance of historical fact.

Michael Kelley  
Pascagoula, MS

## All people sin, are undeserving of tribute

To the Editor:

It is important to note that while General Nathan Bedford Forrest was a sinful man, who "terrorized" blacks of his age, he is regarded as perhaps the most innovative and successful general of the Civil War. As a result of this and the heritage of the South, Forrest has more than just "Forrest Hall" named after him. Bedford County and Nathan Bedford Forrest Park, located in Memphis, are just a handful of instances. I don't see a need to eliminate the "Forrest" from the building's title. The argument is a slippery slope, as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other great American "heroes" all owned slaves and sinned. My point being there are no sinless men or women, so perhaps if you "shouldn't" name a building after one man, or woman, because of his or her sins, you shouldn't name it after any man or woman. However, I think we should simply take refuge under the fictional wing of Forrest Gump's mother, whom named her son after Nathan Bedford Forrest "to remind me that sometimes we all do things that well, just don't make no sense."

Josh Fields  
Sophomore, College of Mass Communication

## Southern symbols do not promote hatred

To the Editor:

I would like to express my opinion regarding recent action on the MTSU campus. I would first of all like to point out that I am a registered student at MTSU and that I was born and raised in Minnesota for most of my life. I received my first degree in history while attending college in Minnesota so I am fully aware of the many issues involved with events surrounding the War Between the States.

I have a strong love for all history in the United States and feel that when I moved to middle Tennessee I hit the mother lode of historical events. I have found the many diaries about people and events that surround the War Between the States to be compelling reading. I imagine that I have read similar material about General Forrest as those who want his name removed from the ROTC building. However, I did not arrive at the same conclusion about the general.

Yes, I know that he was a slave trader and others were slave owners, but that was at a time when slavery was a normal part of that society. I also know that he was probably part of the Ku Klux Klan society, but he had ordered its dismemberment by 1869. He had no further involvement with the organization after 1869 because he did not support the activities that it was undertaking.

I find the general interesting because he was a leader at a time when the South needed leaders for their attempt to gain independent governance of their region and he was again a leader when the South had to rebuild in peace. He enlisted as a private but was rapidly promoted to an officer and finally a general because of his ability to make war. Generals Grant and Sherman were also honored for their ability to make war. Gen. Forrest used a style of cavalry and infantry tactics that were later modeled by mechanized units of warfare in World War II. When the war ended, he told his men that it would be difficult but necessary to quit making war and return to rebuild the society that must now be built as a result of the recent hostilities. He did not encourage his soldiers to continue rebellion; he encouraged them to return to their homes and become good citizens. Finally, the man did receive a pardon from man and God. President Andrew Johnson gave a man's pardon to the ex-general and the ex-general received God's forgiveness when he became a professed Christian.

Needless to say, as a person born, raised and educated in the North, I do not find the general or any other historical Southern symbols to be offensive when displayed in the public. Granted, slavery is not something I support, but I was not here at the time nor have I ever owned or encouraged someone to own a slave. What I am saying is the people of that past are our history, from which we can learn. In addition, the symbols of the South are, in my opinion, historical symbols of our past. They should not be destroyed or removed; they should be used to remind us of what we were and what we have become. To be honest with you, I am more offended by the actions of people who want to remove them from my view.

As we go forward into the future, I think we should create new heroes and symbols from our present, but I don't believe those precious symbols from our forefathers' past should be removed from our present. I doubt that I have the same reverence or understanding for these southern symbols as someone who was born and raised in the south, but I respect the southerner's reverence for them, and, as best I can, I have tried to acquire the same.

Dave Thomson  
Murfreesboro, TN

## Hall should be named after fallen alumni

To the Editor:

I have what I believe is a positive suggestion concerning the name of the ROTC building. Because I am involved in Civil War history, I received an e-mail asking me to sign a petition to keep Forrest's name on the ROTC building. As a person who spent two years standing in the ranks outside Forrest Hall wearing a uniform designed to be either too cold or too hot for all weather conditions, I have mixed emotions regarding the place. However, I do have a sensible suggestion regarding the name of the ROTC building.

During WWII part of the ROTC building was an aircraft hanger. The history of our school as a training field for aviation cadets is a little understood chapter of the school's history. During the late 1960's, I recall seeing photos of MTSU graduates who had lost their lives during wars, including Vietnam, which was raging when I was in ROTC, memorialized in the upstairs hallway of the building. Renaming the facility for one of our alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice to keep us free is both fitting and more appropriate than memorializing someone with no personal relationship to our school. Against the rightful claim of an aviation cadet or ROTC graduate, the argument supporting Forrest's name on the building has no standing. Instead of characterizing the present issue as one of removing Forrest, why don't we concentrate on giving one of our own their proper place on campus?

Rhea Cole  
'74 Alumna



# FEATURES

## DIGGING UP THE DEAD

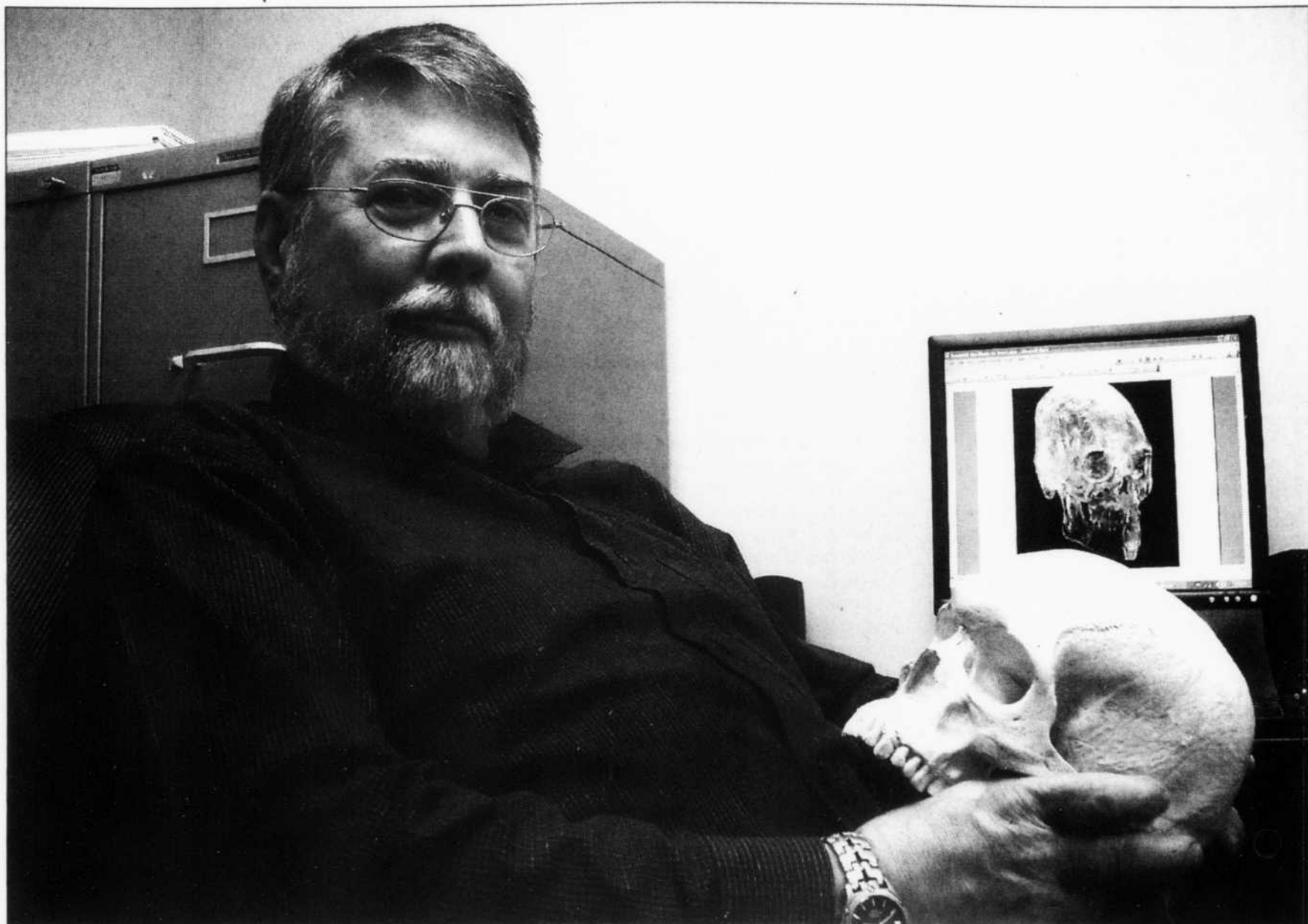


Photo by Colby Sledge | Features Editor

Forensics anthropologist Hugh Berryman has been at MTSU since January after serving as a forensics consultant for the last six years. Here Berryman holds a plaster mold of one of his usual subjects.

## Renowned forensics expert makes mark on MT

By Daniel Potter

Contributing Writer

The office of sociology and anthropology professor Hugh Berryman looks like he hasn't really gotten around to moving into it yet. Located on the third floor of the Andrew L. Todd Building, the walls are bare, and a tall shelf sits nearly empty.

But on the wood-paneled desk sits a laptop computer and a PDA, in addition to a desktop PC — evidence of a life in which work isn't isolated to one particular place or time of day. Assorted plaster casts of bones also sit in the open, among them a human skull.

The soft sound of a piano — ambient music via Internet — contrasts with this morbid sight.

"Now I prefer jazz, bluegrass and blues, so if I have a day that I'm actually doing hands-on [work] on bones, I can have that in the background and do just fine," Berryman says. "It's fast-moving, it kind of keeps me awake, but this is just great when I'm really concentrating on something I have to write."

Berryman has spent his career becoming well acquainted with human bones, having worked for two decades as the director of the Regional Forensics Center in Memphis, often identifying remains and testifying in legal trials.

He shares his vast experience with students both by working with them in the field and by educating — and often entertaining — his classes.

"I am a practicing forensic anthropologist," Berryman said of his role in bringing a forensic emphasis to the anthropology department at MTSU, where he started in January.

"I am still actively involved in working forensic anthropology cases involving crime-scene work," Berryman said, adding that he also does lab work to identify human skeletal remains.

This also entails looking for clues as to cause of death. Berryman says he gets involved "if it's violent trauma or anything that might lead to other legal action." He adds that he was recently in Smyrna working a missing-child case.

Berryman's experience lies much more in the field than in the classroom, so he's pleased when he can bring his students to real-life



Photo courtesy of Hugh Berryman

As a forensic anthropologist, Berryman often has to get to the root of grisly murder cases that include victims with trauma injuries like the bullet hole in the skull above.

scenes where they can apply their skills.

To this end, he's assembling what he calls a student recovery team, which will consist of a group of students who have earned the approval of his colleagues, having already studied archaeological techniques for field recovery.

"When I go out in the field and work one of these scenes, sometimes, depending on how much area we have to cover, it gets very difficult, and it's always good to have people who know what needs to be done and who are able to assist," Berryman says.

"They'll be able to go out and accompany me to the scenes. We'll

work with law-enforcement and process the scenes."

Because the process will entail documenting sensitive evidence, Berryman says not all applicants will be accepted, since strict confidentiality is of great concern.

Berryman was raised on a farm in Northwest Tennessee, and he pronounces the word "rural" with only one syllable to prove it. There were twenty-five students in his high school graduating class.

Tapping his foot as he thinks, Berryman's tan shirt is tucked into blue jeans with a brown belt bearing a gold buckle. His hair is graying but his neatly trimmed beard is white, and he wears wire-rimmed glasses, a gold wedding band and a silver watch.

He and his wife have two children in their 20s, and the farm where he grew up is still in the family.

"I love Tennessee," says Berryman, who was educated under William M. Bass at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Bass is internationally reputed as a forensic anthropologist, but is perhaps best known as an inspiration for Patricia Cornwell's novel "The Body Farm."

Though he takes his work seriously, Berryman has a lighter side he likes to show his students.

"I'm enthusiastic about what I do for a job. I bring that into the classroom," Berryman says of his approach to teaching, which he tries to make personable and accessible to his students.

"I like how he brings his experience in. He tells about a lot of cases and stuff," says Amber Kepple, one of Berryman's students. "He sort of lightens it up."

Sitting in on Berryman's forensic anthropology class, it doesn't take long for his lighter side to show itself. A petite female student walks in before class starts, asking "How did you sneak past me? I was waiting in the hall for you."

"You're not armed, are you?" Berryman replies, raising his hands in mock terror.

Berryman uses a "gallows sense of humor" to keep his students engaged during lectures, he explains in his office. "You know the saying, 'A little bit of sugar will make the medicine go down?'"

In this manner, Berryman breaks up the monotony of note-taking, bringing a lighter side to the rigorous study of human bones.

## Anxiety to blame for poor nutrition

By Holly Roberts

Contributing Writer

If you are like most people, you have probably found yourself standing in front of your refrigerator many times wondering what to eat next, even though you don't feel hungry. It could even be part of your daily routine.

So, if Americans do this on a daily basis, why do they complain about being overweight?

The fat epidemic sweeping America has gotten out of hand. According to American Sports Data Inc., a consumer research company for the sporting goods, fitness and health club industries, 3.8 million Americans weigh more than 300 pounds. What happened to the days when life was carefree and you ate french fries simply because you wanted to?

According to several nutritionists, anxiety is what happened. These days, Americans are so worried about every other aspect of their lives that food is often the only guaranteed comfort.

"People hide their feelings in food," nutrition major Christine Wilson says. "Food does not talk back and it does not cause any embarrassment. Although food may not cause problems to arise instantly, it only increases anxiety, hurt, and anger later."

Self-image is a major issue among Americans, especially teens. Young boys and girls are subjected everyday to magazines and television shows that mold their minds into what "a perfect body" is.

"I feel like I am not accepted by my classmates because I do not look like a beanpole," says Molly Goodwin, a slightly overweight but cheerful teen.

According to the National Institutes of Health, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health, 25 percent of U.S. children are overweight or at risk for becoming overweight, and many aren't losing that weight when they become teenagers.

Many times, that weight isn't lost due to anxiety and a sense of failure to lose weight. Picture a teenage boy consuming an entire tub of ice cream because he knows he will never have perfect six-pack abs.

The key to combating obesity in America, it seems, is moderation.

"I do not let food control me," says college athlete Jon Lenkly. "I eat what I want, but I stop when I'm full. It's as simple as that!"

If Americans discover food is not a best friend or a counselor but instead a life necessity, Lenkly's carefree feeling could be within reach for those looking to lose a little weight.



Photo Courtesy of www.morguefile.com

Many Americans turn to food like french fries just to find some sort of solace in their otherwise hectic, overwhelmed lives.



## SPORTS

## MT beats Belmont



Senior Kyle Young slam-dunks the ball on Belmont's defense as Middle Tennessee holds on to beat Belmont 64-57 on Monday.

By Wesley Mize  
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider basketball team kicked off their five-game homestand by defeating Belmont 64-57 Monday night at Murphy Center.

Middle Tennessee started off poorly, as turnovers and poor shooting led to a 27-11 deficit with 6:41 remaining in the first half. MT head coach Kermit Davis was forced to call a timeout to refocus his team on the task at hand.

"It was an emotional timeout for us," Davis said. "I saw our players bickering at each other and it looked like we completely lost our way. We wanted to rebound and get the game down to 10 points at halftime."

The Blue Raiders did that and more, as MT went on a 13-0 scoring run to end the first half. Blue Raider freshman Desmond Yates led the team with 12 first-half points.

The second half began with back and forth scoring as Belmont's Boomer Herndon, who finished the game with 14 points and seven rebounds, looked to use his size advantage in the post, while MT's Nigel Johnson and Kevin Kanaskie found the rhythm on their outside shots. MT went to a simpler defensive strategy to try to counter the Bruins' physical play.

"We beat Belmont two years in a row by switching all their stuff into the perimeter," Davis said. "[Assistant coach] Artie [Pepelea] suggested that our young guys were trying to think too much, and I think he made a good point. We went back to man-on-man and started playing more physical."

The Bruins led 46-43 12 minutes into

the second half when Johnson found teammate Kyle Young on a slam dunk to decrease the deficit to one.

After a media timeout, Yates hit a deep two-point basket to put MT back on top 49-48 with 6:15 remaining.

Belmont fought back as Henry Harris swished a three from the corner to give Belmont a two-point advantage with just over three minutes remaining.

The Blue Raiders came out of a media timeout struggling to get their offense organized and were facing a shot clock violation when Young found Kanaskie for an NBA-range three as the shot clock expired to put MT back on top 54-53.

Belmont was given the opportunity to take the lead on a pair of free throws, but missed them both. That led to a Johnson three-point basket for MT 20 seconds after the missed free throws to extend the lead to four.

Belmont was forced to foul late and MT hit their free throws to come out victorious. Yates led all scorers and set a new career-high with 23 points.

"We desperately needed a win, so this was a big win for us against a good team," Yates said.

Nigel Johnson finished the game with 12 points while teammate Kevin Kanaskie scored nine points, all in the second half.

Belmont's Justin Hare led the Bruins with 17 points, but only tallied five of those after halftime.

The Blue Raiders improved their record to 2-4 while the Bruins dropped to 3-2.

The Blue Raiders continue their homestand tomorrow as they take on Larry Bird's alma mater Indiana State at 7:00 p.m.

## Blue Raiders lose by a point

By Rickey Brooksher  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee lost in a close one Saturday to Sun Belt Conference rival Troy.

The game was a tough one to swallow for the Blue Raider faithful due to all the buildup and the missed opportunity to clinch the Sun Belt and an automatic bid to the New Orleans bowl.

The Blue Raiders had the game in hand with less than six minutes in the fourth quarter, but Troy rallied late in the game and took the victory on a last minute touchdown drive.

MT struggled in the second half after dominating most of the first half. They only managed 203 yards of total offense in the entire game, and they allowed Troy to gain 316 yards of total offense. Troy had 209 yards alone in the second half, while MT had only 79 yards in the second half.

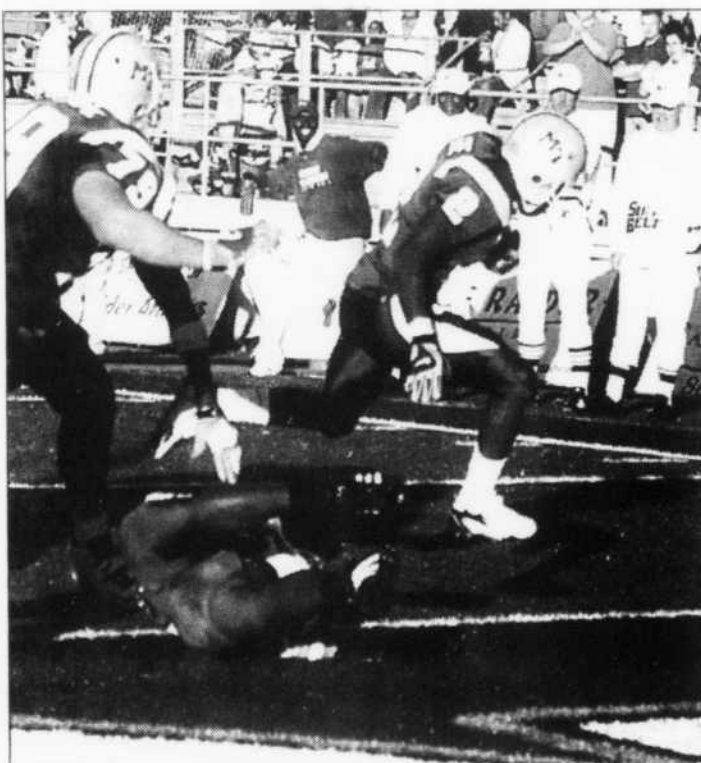
In the first quarter Troy's first offense drove all the way to the MT 16-yard line but was forced

to attempt a field goal after its third down pass was deflected. The 33-yard field goal attempt was blocked by Trevor Jenkins and Justin Rainey as they plowed up the middle of the line to knock it down.

The Blue Raider offense was held to a three-and-out and had to punt back to Troy, but the Trojans didn't keep the ball for long. On Troy's second play of the drive quarterback Omar Haugabook threw an interception to Rainey and he returned it 29 yards to Troy's 48-yard line.

MT took advantage of the great field position and took it all the way to Troy's 2-yard line, but on third-and-goal Eugene Gross was tackled for a seven-yard loss.

The second quarter began with Colby Smith kicking a 26-yard field goal to give the Blue Raiders an early 3-0 lead. Troy's next possession led to nothing and it had to give MT the ball back. MT started on its 34-yard line, but the Blue Raiders quickly moved down field inside Troy's five-yard line.



Freshman Desmond Gee ran the ball in for a touchdown for Middle Tennessee.

MT was faced with a fourth-and-one and decided to go for it. Clint Marks took the ball from center and pushed forward for the first down.

Then, inside the 3-yard line and faced with a third down call, the Blue Raiders went deep into the playbook for a trick play. Desmond Gee lined up right next to Clint Marks and crouched down below the line,

hidden from the defense. Marks gave the ball to Gee and he took it in for the touchdown.

MT still stands on top of the Sun Belt conference, with Troy having to play against FIU this weekend. If Troy loses, then MT will go to New Orleans, but if Troy wins, then there is a possibility the Blue Raiders could receive an invite to the Motor City bowl.

## Bowl or no bowl



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley  
Staff Columnist

It all happened on a beautiful afternoon in the 'Boro, an unseasonably warm autumn moment set with a solemn stillness that seemed handmade for big-time football games.

The score was 20-7. Less than two minutes remained. The game was all but over and the crowd was electric. The Blue Raiders were poised to finish a lofty list of firsts. First conference championship, first bowl game in the I-A era, and my first-ever trip to New Orleans.

In the press box, interns were handing out New Orleans Bowl brochures while I MapQuested the trip and prepared to write my victory column in advance. There was little doubt that the game would be MT's. They had played smarter, hit harder, and executed better for 56 minutes of football. It was a gimme.

And then suddenly, just three minutes later, the Blue Raiders' entire season boiled down to blocking one extra point. My heart was in my throat. So much had changed in so little time. I heard the voice of Ms. Bitters from Invader Zim whispering, "DOOMED, DOOMED, DOOMED..." in endless repetition as I watched the Trojans line up and prepare to take the lead.

The snap was good, the hold was steady, and the sense of foreboding was thicker than San Francisco fog as junior kicker Greg Whibbs pounded the ball into the twilight air. The ball seemed to hang in midair like something out of Tony Hawk's Project 8, slowly turning end over end as I silently cursed Newton's first law of motion.

I can still hear the echo of 17,000-plus hearts breaking as the ball broke the imaginary plane between the uprights. Only one word could describe the emo-

tions of the Blue Raider fans in attendance: crestfallen.

Crestfallen beyond all recall.

I didn't ask a single question at the press conference, because I knew I couldn't maintain my composure enough to form a complete sentence. This team that I had grown to identify with, to respect, and to love writing about was finished. One of the biggest turnaround seasons I had ever witnessed seemed to be in vain. I knew next year was another year, and that this season's success would certainly help in MT's recruiting efforts, but still I was beyond reconciliation.

Somehow I ended up at my father's house watching Dukes of Hazard. While it certainly wasn't a great movie, it was funny and just random enough to snap me out of my funk. With my spirits lifted, I reexamined the season.

A school with no spirit became (at least partially) energized and proud of its athletic programs, a team that was supposed to be less talented than any in recent history played like blue chips, and a group of seniors who had never smelled a winning season was within thirty seconds, one first down, or one onside kick of being the undisputed conference champs.

The more I thought about it, the more I smiled. Somehow, a guy named Johnny Knoxville made me feel better about Murfreesboro football.

Strangely enough, by the time I heard that MTSU is only one certain UCLA loss away from a trip to either San Diego or Detroit, I had already decided that, bowl or no bowl, this was one of the best seasons I had ever watched. In the spirit of the holidays, I just wanted to say that I am thankful for that. Go Raiders!

## MMT considers possible bowl bids

By Clarence Plank  
Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee's name has been tossed around by ESPN and the Daily News Journal this week for a possible invite to play in the Motor City bowl on Dec. 26 against Central Michigan.

For many Blue Raider fans who watched the games in the stands and traveled with the team this season, that is a welcome sight after the heartbreaking loss to Troy in the final seconds of the game this past weekend.

There is a slim chance that MT could win the Sun Belt title and play in the New Orleans Bowl against Rice if Florida International beats Troy this weekend. However, technically the Blue Raiders are still in the mix for the New Orleans Bowl even though Troy beat MT. If FIU wins its final game of the season, MT will go to the New Orleans Bowl.

The other way Middle Tennessee could get into a bowl if Troy wins is to hope that Southern California beats UCLA this week-

end. That would take UCLA out of the picture for an at-large bid, since a new rule in NCAA football was passed in regard to teams eligibility for a bowl.

There are 64 bowl berths and 73 teams that are bowl-eligible this season. The Blue Raiders stand at 7-5 and on top of the SBC. Louisiana-Lafayette is 6-5 and plays its last game of the season against Louisiana-Monroe. Arkansas State is 6-6, so they are likely out of the mix.

A team must have at least a .500 record to be bowl-eligible. In the result of a tie between two teams in the same conference, a bowl must choose the team with the better home attendance this season. ULL might be competing with MT for a bowl, but the Blue Raiders beat the Ragin' Cajuns on the field and in the stands averaging 22,000 fans to ULL's 15,000-fan average at home this season.

When the regular season comes to a close this weekend for the rest of the teams in the SBC, MT could be in a bowl for the first time

in 42 years and for the first time in its Division I-A history.

The last time the Blue Raiders made a bowl appearance was in 1964 in the Grantland Rice Bowl. They faced the Muskingum Polar Bears from the Ohio Athletic Conference who lost to MTSU 20-0 in Division I-AA football. Since then, MT won the Ohio Valley Conference several times and was co-champion of the SBC in 2001.

For the Blue Raiders, they have the chance to play against Central Michigan in the Motor City Bowl or Rice in the New Orleans Bowl. Rice earned its first bowl berth in since 1961 and will be representing Conference USA.

In other football news, MT head coach Rick Stockstill named quarterback Clint Marks, running back Eugene Gross, line-backer Justin Rainey and safety Jonathan Harris as permanent captains at MT. The move was the first of its kind for the Blue Raiders in their I-A history. The team voted for four captains last Thursday and announced it during the team meeting.



# MT women's basketball defeat in-state rival UTC

Monday, November 27

MT 98

UT-Chattanooga 69

Next Game at Tennessee Tech,  
November 29

By Cody Gibson

Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders defeated in-state rival UT-Chattanooga 98-69 Nov. 24 at home.

Middle Tennessee (3-2) had big games from Chrissy Givens, who had 29 points, and Amber Holt, who scored 26 points on the night.

MT jumped out to a 50-38 halftime lead and never looked back. UTC simply could not handle MT's offense, which shot a blistering 58 percent in the first half. The win for the Lady Raiders is sweet revenge for the 76-66 loss they suffered to UTC in both teams' season opener last year.

The Lady Raiders forced the Lady Mocs to turn the ball over 13 times in the first half. Freshman Jackie Pickel picked up a career-high 15 points with five 3-pointers. Pickel went 5-of-7 from the field.

The second half was no different as MT scored 48 points, dominating Chattanooga. The Lady Raiders also shot 80 percent from the free-throw line.

Holt finished the game with a double-double, going 9-of-13 from the field and 8-of-10 from the free-throw line with 26 points and 10 rebounds. MT recovered 21 turnovers from the Lady Mocs and stole the ball for a season-high 16 steals.

The Lady Raiders posted 20 assists as a team in the victory.

Givens moved into 12th place on the all-time scoring list at MT with 1,255 points. She also passed current teammate Krystle Horton, who has 1,243.

Even in the victory, however, MT head coach Rick Insell was not satisfied with the defensive effort. Insell said he believes his team could have played better.

"We are playing a little better offensively," he said. "I'm not real satisfied with our defensive production tonight. We've got too many people isolated and out of position. We had to cover up for their 3-point shooters."

"We knew they lived and died with it. We did a decent job, but we didn't do a good enough job to take us far in the tournament if we don't get better defensively."

Pickel was brought to Middle Tennessee from Bradley Ventral High School due to her long-range shooting ability. She had struggled of late, but got back into her groove shooting 5-of-7 from the field in 3-pointers.

"[Coach Insell] told me all week to be ready. I have been struggling on my shot a little bit," Pickel told MT Media Relations. "He is so good about confidence factor, even if we have not been playing so well. It's a lot easier when you hit your first shot."

Pickel managed to find opens within the Lady Mocs defense just long enough for her to shoot some threes. Holt is shooting 43 percent from the field so far and shooting 83 percent from the foul line.

Holt is second in scoring for the club with 21.2 points and currently first in rebounding with 8.2 per game.

Middle Tennessee traveled to Knoxville to face No. 4 Tennessee on Sunday and lost 88-64. The results of that game can be seen here in the *Sidelines* in Thursday edition.



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*Sidelines* is also accepting applications for the following staff positions in the Spring semester:

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Photo editor  
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Copy editor  
Staff writers  
Staff photographers  
Design editor  
Staff designers

To apply, come by COMM 269 and fill out an application. These positions are open until filled.

## HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2007 / SPRING 2008

The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2007/Spring 2008 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are requesting to move to a different location on campus next year, as new assignments are made by application date.

Students requesting to remain in their same location on campus next year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and \$300 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The reapplication deadline with priority for the 2007/2008 academic year is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2007 at 4:00 PM.**

Students need to complete a reapplication form available in the Housing and Residential Life Office, pay the \$300 prepaid rent at the business office cashier windows in the Cope Administration Building, 1st floor, and return the reapplication form stamped "paid" to the Housing and Residential Life office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at [www.mtsu.edu](http://www.mtsu.edu). The \$300 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, MasterCard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$19 nonrefundable service fee charged by the third party for processing the payment online. Please note that the amount of the prepaid rent deposit has increased to \$300 for the Fall 2007/Spring 2008 academic year.

To obtain a **HOUSING REAPPLICATION FORM**, please come by the Housing and Residential Life office during office hours, 8AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday, in the Keathley University Center, Room 300.

**\*\*Summer 07 Housing Applications** are also available in the Housing Office. Reserve your summer space now by completing the housing application and submitting it with the \$125.00 prepaid rent deposit. It is not too early!!

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