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Middle Tennessee State University

An editorially
independent
newspaper

SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 77 No. 38

THEC ponders budget proposal

By Charlene Callier
MTSU State Capitol Bureau

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission meets today to consider a proposed 11-point plan of action to improve college and university quality without increased funding from the legislature.

If adopted, the plan would have a major impact on higher education in Tennessee.

The proposal includes an enrollment cap, revision of admission standards, a shift from appropriations to student fees for athletic programs, elimination of state funding for remedial and developmental instruction, a hold on new Ph.D. programs at most schools, and the elimination of two-year associate programs at four-year institutions.

Officials at the Tennessee Board of Regents, which oversees six four-year campuses, including MTSU, said they support some of the THEC plan of action recommendations, including revised admission requirements—but only some.

According to information

provided by TBR, Chancellor Charles Manning identified some issues that THEC should discuss with TBR before they vote on it in their meeting. These include enrollment management, associate programs, and remedial/developmental programs.

If established as proposed, formal enrollment caps for the four-year institutions would have a range, with individual campuses being allowed a 3 percent enrollment growth and up to a 10 percent reduction.

On admission standards, THEC is considering asking universities to revise and revise to tighten and toughen—their admissions requirements to ensure entering students are ready for college.

A separate proposal—the Downsizing Ongoing Budget plan, which legislative sponsors say is less of a proposal than a blueprint for what would have to be cut if no new revenues are provided for by the legislature—would actually cut higher edu-

See THEC, 2

Walk to benefit children of abuse

By Victoria Cumbow
Staff Writer

The fifth annual "Walk for Children" is set to kick off Saturday.

The "Walk for Children" is sponsored by the Exchange Club Family Center of Murfreesboro.

The one-mile walk will begin at 10 a.m. with registration starting at 9:30, beginning at 115 Heritage Park Drive.

The reason for the walk is to help raise both money and awareness about child abuse and its prevention.

The center is urging people to become involved. According

to the ECFC, many people have or know someone who has been affected by child abuse. In 2000, more than 37,500 children were reported either neglected or abused in Tennessee. More than 250 of those children were neglected or abused in Rutherford County.

"This walk is open to the whole community," Angie Davis, program director of ECFC, said. "Even if people can't give a donation, coming out just to walk and show support is great too."

If you aren't able to donate money, Davis suggests getting

See Children, 2

Health Services anticipates revamping

By Chris Magan
Staff Writer

The Health Services department has begun planning for renovations and will soon be able to offer a greater variety of health-care options to students.

The renovations will begin sometime next summer and should take about eight months to complete. Some of the new features planned are an increase in examination rooms, an X-ray facility, a pharmacy and more room for guidance and health education.

Richard Chapman, director of Health Services, said the biggest difficulty right now is examination space. Health services treats an estimated 600 students a week. Creating more exam rooms and hiring another care provider would greatly decrease students' wait Chapman said.

The addition of an X-ray suite and a larger pharmacy with a full-time pharmacist would provide students with a more convenient and cheaper way to fill prescriptions, get information about medications,

treat respiratory infections and minor bone fractures, Chapman said.

Health Services now offers students a range of care options, including treatment of everyday illness and birth control. One example of the programs health services sponsor was the HIV Screening Day held yesterday in the Keathley University Center. Students can receive quick and confidential testing for \$7 cash or check.

Some of the newest services offered is a women's health center for annual pap smear exam-

inations, availability to birth control pills and family planning. The program is available on Wednesdays and Thursdays by appointment only. It was begun last fall after a number of requests by students and has become widely used, Chapman said.

One of the programs that staff physician Pat Spangler would like to see created is in the field of men's health education.

"We need to educate men as

See Services, 2

McPhee's Presidential Inauguration events begin today

Staff Reports

Several universitywide events will surround President Sidney McPhee's inauguration tomorrow.

In Tuesday night's telecast of the second "Open Line with MTSU President Sidney McPhee," McPhee said that during the ceremonies it's important not to focus on him and the inauguration, but to focus on

the students of the university and their contributions and achievements.

Today

• The formal ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Quadrangle located between the John Bragg Mass Communication Building and the James E. Walker Library will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will be

followed by a university and community picnic. Dining halls will be closed for their dinner meal. The James Union Building cafeteria and McCallie Dining Hall will close at 2 p.m., the Keathley University Center Grill will close at 3:30 p.m. and the Cyber Cafe will close at 3:30 p.m. and re-open at 6:30 p.m.

• A wind ensemble/symphonic concert will be held at

7:30 p.m. in the Wright Building Music Hall.

• "An Evening of Dance" performance featuring 15 student dancers sponsored by the speech and theater department will be held at 8 p.m. in Tucker Theatre. The performance is free for everyone this evening only.

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drop game at
Belmont

In Sports, 6

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chance at winning the
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In Opinions, page 3



Marchers head down Main Street
Tuesday during 'Take Back the Night'

By Shana Brogren
Staff Writer

The ninth annual "Take Back the Night" march and protest took place Tuesday afternoon as part of the June Anderson Women's Center's Sexual Assault Awareness Week.

The march of around 50 individuals from the James Union Building on campus into the Murfreesboro community at Central Middle School was led by a banner and chants, such as, "2, 4, 6, 8 no more violence, no more hate" and "Let's unite, take back the night."

The event's proclamation was given by County Executive Nancy Allen, who, according to Candace Rosovsky, "has worked very hard for domestic violence issues for many years."

Music by Laure Vaune of what she called empowering songs and the keynote address by T.J. Hollje followed the edict. Hollje, a former police officer for 10 years and currently a personal trainer and martial arts instructor, shared her personal story of surviving domestic violence and also gave motivational advice to the audience. "Everyday is still a struggle. Everyday I have to choose

not to let those feelings of anger get me down."

The "survivors' "speak-out," which followed, was a space made for testimonials by audience members who choose to share their own stories of survivorship. Although no one was required to come before the audience, there were eight participants in the "speak-out" portion of the evening.

Stories of rape, domestic violence, sexual abuse verbal abuse and molestation were exposed to audience members in an attempt to reclaim the "strength of voice" that the victims of these crimes had lost, Hollje said.

Kelly Easter, president of Women for Women and the event's MC, said, "Although I have never been a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, I have been affected through helping these survivors." The event was concluded by a "spoken word" performance by The Fates and a candlelight vigil.

"Take Back the Night" rallies and marches began in England as a protest against the fear that women encountered while walking the streets at night. In 1978, San Francisco held the first protest in the United States, which transpired into an



Photos by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Folk singer Laure Vaune and keynote speaker T.J. Hollje sat in front of the marchers at Tuesday night's rally in front of Central Middle School.

annual nationwide event connecting campuses and communities with the purpose of creating an awareness of violence against women, children and families.

According to JAWC, "the word 'night' has evolved into a metaphor for fear, isolation, coercion and cruelty that so many experience daily in a rape culture."

According to Tannisha Smith, TBTN coordinator, "Over \$1,000 was raised through the 5K run that preceded the rally and through local sponsorships." All proceeds will go to Domestic Violence Inc.

The Domestic Violence

Program provides shelter, counseling, referrals, specific individual advocacy and transportation for both adults and children who are victims of domestic violence. According to the Office of Criminal Justice Programs, the Domestic Violence Program has provided services to "1,110 individuals since July of 2001, 186 of those being women between the ages of 18 and 25."

According to the National Victim Center, "Every five seconds someone is sexually assaulted and about 84 percent of reported rapes involve an assailant known to the victim." ♦

EYESORE OF THE WEEK

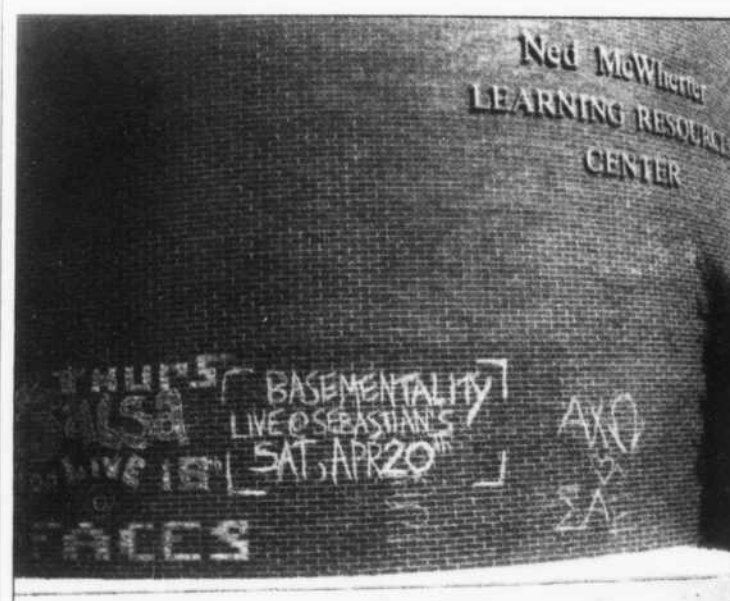


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Sidewalk chalk defaces the front side of the Learning Resources Center, advertising local bands, greek organizations and clubs. Building walls are not sidewalks.

"Eyesore of the Week" examines the inadequacies of our campus in hopes of drawing attention to flaws that need to be addressed. If you have seen any "eyesores" around campus, please let us know by calling 904-8357 or e-mailing slmedit@mtsu.edu.

THEC: Proposal considers cutting state-funded athletics

Continued from I

— would actually cut higher education funding. The THEC plan of action merely responds to that political climate, officials said, but does not include specific budget cuts.

Manning asked all TBR institutions to prepare plans for implementing cuts in the DOGS budget. It would cut an estimated \$56 million from the base budgets of TBR institutions, including an additional \$10 million in cuts eliminating state funding for Centers of Excellence and Centers of Emphasis in the universities and community colleges.

According to Brian Noland, director of Academic Programs at THEC, the plan of action under consideration by THEC provides direction, but the universities would make individual

decisions on which programs would be affected by any budget cuts.

One of the THEC proposals is replacing state appropriations for athletics programs with a specific, designated student fee. Intercollegiate athletic programs would be operated as an "auxiliary enterprise."

"We spend around \$4 million on the athletic programs," Noland said. "We need to take that money and redirect it for campus improvements."

The THEC plan of action also proposes eliminating the state appropriation for remedial programs now offered at community colleges and universities, beginning with the fall 2003 semester.

Funding for developmental instruction, which teaches pre-college material at a higher level than remedial courses, would

also be phased out at four-year schools, although institutions would have the option of charging a fee for these services.

"The (developmental) classes would still be offered, but there would be a fee," Noland said, paid only by the students taking the non-credit classes.

THEC is also recommending that all two-year associate programs at universities and colleges be terminated. According to Noland, however, the associate's degree for nursing and health programs won't be cut because there is a shortage of nurses in the country.

While the THEC plan of action proposes no actual funding cuts, the DOGS budget has some definite budget targets.

"The university would suffer a \$7.8 million cut from its budget," MTSU President Sidney McPhee said.

He added that a goal would be to protect academic programs and professors' jobs.

A hiring freeze to prevent the filling of vacant positions would be a possibility if the DOGS budget is passed, he said, resulting in larger classes and a smaller number of courses offered.

McPhee added that since enrollment increased 5 percent in the fall and 6 percent in the spring, MTSU might have to put restrictions on enrollment.

"We came to realize that a hypothetical situation is becoming real," said Duane Stucky, MTSU vice president for Business and Finance.

He estimated that under the DOGS budget, MTSU would have to eliminate 30 faculty positions, 80 administrative/classified staff, and 120 course sessions. ♦

"Family" gathers together

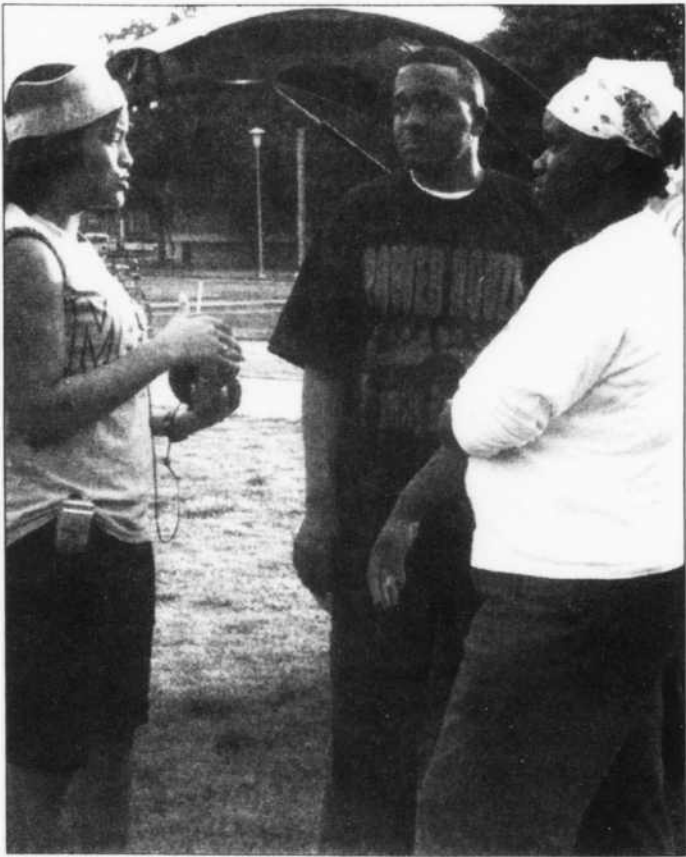


Photo by Angelica Journagin | Staff

Sophomore Sabrina Evans (left) and junior Jessica Gilmer (right) stand with Buddy Lee of 92Q at the third semi-annual Family Reunion yesterday evening.

Children: Fingerprinting to be offered for children at walk

Continued from I

sponsors to back you. Kappa Delta, as well as ECFC of Murfreesboro, is sponsoring the "Walk for Children."

T-shirts will be provided for \$15 donations. There will be

face painting and refreshments served.

Bridgette Jordan, an MTSU student and Miss Murfreesboro pageant winner, will be the opening speaker at the walk.

Blue balloons will be given out at the walk, representing the

bruises that abused children live with.

The Murfreesboro Police Department will also be on hand to show their support for awareness and prevention of child abuse.

Children's fingerprinting

will also be done by the Murfreesboro Police Department at the walk.

Anyone with questions about the "Walk for Children" or about child abuse can call ECFC of Murfreesboro at 890-4673. ♦

Inauguration: Events to continue until Saturday afternoon

Continued from I

Tomorrow

The Inauguration and Investiture Ceremony for McPhee will begin at 10 a.m. in Murphy Center. All classes before noon are canceled for the event. Dining halls will hold special hours. The KUC Grill

will hold regular hours. McCallie will hold regular breakfast hours, serve lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and close for dinner. Meal plan holders can use their plans at the KUC.

The Cyber Café will be open from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. and the JUB dining hall will be closed. The JUB will offer a continental

breakfast from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Cicely Tyson will read her poetry at 2 p.m. in Tucker Theatre.

Saturday

A Golden Raiders Reunion will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the

Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

The Jazz Artist Series Concert, featuring jazz drummer Peter Erskine, will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the WMB Music Hall. Admission will be charged.

All events are open to the general public. ♦

Health Services: New services include men's health care

Continued from I

well as women, especially about things like testicular cancer," Spangler said.

The staff also would like to have classroom space provided. Many times, instructors

would like a physician to speak to their class, but it is hard for care providers to leave the health services building during the day because they are so busy.

Class space would allow teachers to bring their students

right to the building.

Although the Health Service building was built in 1967, the plans are to remodel the existing space rather than completely rebuild it.

However, there are plans for an addition if there is sufficient

funding.

Funding for the project will come from the student health fee and the department is pursuing outside grants to pay for the improvements, Chapman said. ♦

SIDELINES ONLINE

Middle Tennessee State University

MTSU College of Liberal Arts

Outstanding Advisors for the College of Liberal Arts
Ron Aday, Jean Nagy, Rebecca Fischer, Clyde Willis

Faculty Service Awards
25 Years
Janet Higgins, Bene Cox, Robert Rucker, Ollie Fancher
15 Years
Patrick Conley, Sonja Hedgepeth

Liberal Arts Honor Students
Scholastic Average: 3.75-4.0
Ruth Anderson, Adrien Archuleta, Ben Barrett, Cynthia Borne, Sara Burmer, Mandy Contreras, Brian Cunningham, Rebecca Deal, Gary Dedman, Amber Dotson, Laura Edwards, Heather Freeman, Jonathan Griffith, Melissa Griley, Elizabeth Hansen, Amanda Hartley, Rebecca Haskins, Jessica Hatcher, Monte Hendrickson, John Hoggard, Nathan Landkammer, Elizabeth Lane, Melissa Leahy, Joshua Mauthe, Dyanne Mogan, Amber Moore, Maya Nitis, Matthew Palmer, Mary Paris, Robert Roberts, Hans Schmitt-Matzen, Pamela Sheldon, Eileen Sims, Christine Southworth, Chad Taylor, Jennifer Terry, Betsy Thompson, Kathryn Tudor, Virginia Vile, Ashley Wallace, John White, Rachel Williamson, Karen Woodard, Jaime Woodcock

Other Awards
Homer Pittard Scholarship in Creative Writing presented by Gaylord Brewer: Ben Barrett, Kristin Boatwright

ART
Charles M. Brandon Scholarship presented by Carl Brandon: Hans Schmitt-Matzen
Hester R. Ray Scholarship presented by Nadine Hawke: Michael Navak
Charles and Ola Massey Scholarship presented by John O'Connell and David Shaul: Dan R. Hall, Hans Schmitt-Matzen
John and Elva Griffin Scholarship presented by John O'Connell and David Shaul: Michelle Davis, Rebecca Deal, Jonathan Griffith
Art Department Rising Freshman Scholarship presented by David Shaul: Russell Johnston
Art Department Rising Sophomore Scholarship presented by David Shaul: Patrick Brien
Art Department Rising Junior Award presented by David Shaul: Nicholas L. Butcher

English
Virginia Derryberry Memorial Scholarship presented by Tom Strawman: Benjamin C. Barrett, Kristin L. Boatwright, Valeria Hyer, Karen Woodard
Christine Vaughn Scholarship presented by Bene Cox: Chasity Hope Brackett, Holly Denise Bush
William R. Wolfe Graduate Writing Awards presented by Allen Hibbard: Savitri Ashok, Patricia Baines, Clark Hutton, Anca Rizea

Foreign Languages and Literatures
Outstanding Student in French Award presented by June McCash: Elizabeth Loucks
Outstanding Student in German Award presented by Deborah Mistrion: Naomi Phillips
Outstanding Student in Spanish Award presented by Judith Rusciollelli: Sarah White

Geosciences
presented by Doug Heffington
Estwing Hammer Award: Jason Allen Powell
Outstanding Geography Student: Carole Lynn Baker, Alice May Price
Outstanding Geology Student: Scott A. Crombie, Jason Allen Powell, Diane A. Rogers

History
presented by Jim Williams
Tennessee Historical Commission Outstanding Student Award: Ranin Kazem-Bahnamy
Bart McCash Scholarship: Craig E. McDaniel
Thelma Jennings Graduate Scholarship: Nancy Morgan, Jennifer Beisel
Ernest Hooper Undergraduate Scholarship: Sherri Lynn Woods
Colonial Dames History Award: Melissa Ann Gray
Tennessee Historical Society Outstanding History Award: Ranin Kazem-Bahnamy

Music
presented by Roger Kugler
Outstanding Achievement in Chamber Brass Performance: Reginald Grisham, Tim Reine, Eric Scott, Carlos Sexton, Daniel Whaley
Outstanding Achievement in Woodwind Performance: Natalie Piper, Amanda Thompson
Outstanding Achievement in Percussion: Tim Hale
Outstanding Achievement in Music History and Literature: David P. Larsen
Outstanding Achievement in Orchestral Conducting: Michael Chester
Outstanding Achievement in Instrumental Music Education: Jonathan Wright
Outstanding Achievement in Vocal General Music Education: Quinton Rayford

Outstanding Achievement in Jazz Studies: Adam Bond
Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Studies: Bryan James Lautenbach
Political Science
Norman L. Parks Award presented by John Vile: Christine Southworth, Virginia L. Vile
C.C. Sims Award presented by John Vile: Maya H. Nitis
John W. Burgess Award presented by John Vile: Gary David Dedman
Jack Justin Turner Award presented by Anne Sloan: Kathryn Leigh Tudor
Meritorious Service Award presented by John Vile: Sara A. Rainwater
Academic Achievement Award presented by John Vile: Amber Dotson, Sarah Green, Amanda Hartley

Social Work
presented by Charles Frost
Gloria H. Kimmel Outstanding Student Award: Sandi Hines
Marian Clark Scholarship: Lori Bennett, Chris Berry, Amber Burgin, Susan Chiappone, Emily Cline, Shawna Cornelius, Catherine Dupuy, Christy Gregory, Burley Grimes, Megan Hearon, Gayle Kehoe, Donna Laurent, Sandy Madaris, Sheila Mathews, Lindsay Smith, Adam Wilson, Jay Youngs

Sociology and Anthropology
Joe Ramsey Leatherman Award presented by Richard Pace: Christopher Allen Berry
Clayton James Scholarship presented by Carole Carroll: Gayle Kehoe

Speech and Theatre
Dorette Tucker Scholarship presented by Dorette Tucker and Dale McGilliard: Zane Carrington, Whitney Childs, Paul Collins, Amy Moyers
Richie Smith Memorial Scholarship presented by Dale McGilliard: Stephanie Graves, Jennifer Brown Smith
Clayton Hawes Scholarship presented by Steve Jones and Virginia Donnell: Michael Brown, Emily Watson
Bobby Aden Memorial Scholarship presented by Dale McGilliard: Natalie Aulvin, Shannon Bain, Maryanna Clark, Adam Cravens, April Hobson
Janice and David Arnold Scholarship presented by Janice and David Arnold: Kathy Jean Fahner, Leslie Parkes James
Academic Achievement Award presented by Melinda Richards: Sara Elizabeth Burmer, Rebecca Wade Brewer

Special Guests

- Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, President
- Dr. Robert Eaker, Intern Executive Vice President and Provost
- Dr. L. Dianne Miller, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Robert Glenn, Vice president for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment Management
- Dr. Duane Stucky, Vice President for Business and Finance
- Mrs. Lucinda Lea, Vice President for Information Technology
- Liberal Arts Retired Faculty and Staff

College of Liberal Arts Award Committee

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Nancy Boone | Leanne Cordell | Jette Halladay |
| Ric Rishaw | Robert Rucker | Jeremy Stahl |
| Annette Coorts | Jill Hague | Tracy Miller |
| Sparkle Ritter | Anne Sloan | |

Awards Reception, April 18, 2002
Tennessee Room, James Union Building
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

A Special thank you to the following for their contribution to this awards reception:

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Children from Voices Program: directed by Jette Halladay | Larry Sizemore and Staff from the MTSU Greenhouse | MTSU Publications and Graphic |
| Lalo Davila and the MTSU Steel Drum Band | Derek Vincion and Staff | MTSU Printing Services |
| Aramark | Anne Sloan | |

Editorial

THEC should expect worst from state

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission meets today to ponder ways to work a miracle.

THEC will be looking at a proposed 11-point plan of action that, supposedly, will improve university quality without increased funding from the legislature.

There are some definite measures THEC could take to improve quality.

Raising admissions standards in the state's universities — including MTSU — would be a nice start. While MTSU is not technically an "open" institution, it's no secret that just about anyone — yes, anyone — can gain admission here somehow. Weeding out those students who don't really want to come to college or who don't quite make college material — while sounding harsh — is one way to remove some of the dead weight that seems to make our university and many others function so sluggishly and inefficiently.

For now, it also is a good idea to eliminate two-year associates' programs at four-year universities. As long as community colleges offer two-year degrees (for a much cheaper price), universities should stick with their four-year obligation.

The proposal includes a couple of measures that can only be termed detrimental to the institution itself.

If THEC opts to cut athletic funding, it would mean student fees would be used to support athletics, which would mean more money straight out of our pockets.

Also, with less money to operate our intercollegiate athletic programs would be tempted to cut out the "lesser" sports, such as soccer, volleyball and even track. This, in turn, would harm women's athletics, which already get a smaller portion of the money pie than men's. We can't just have football and basketball.

A separate proposal — the Downsizing Going Government Services budget plan — could go into effect if no new revenues are provided by the legislature. The DOGS (aptly titled) proposal would cut more than \$56 million from the base budgets of Tennessee Board of Regents institutions.

The DOGS budget sounds like a nightmare. A hiring freeze might be enacted, and Vice President for Business and Finance Duane Stucky estimates that MTSU would have to eliminate 50 faculty positions, 80 administrative/classified staff positions and 120 course sessions.

Though it sounds like a nightmare, in Tennessee, anything's possible and THEC should prepare for the worst. When it comes to the legislature deciding what to do about money, optimism is for fools. ♦

Check your shampoo's pee-H balance

Panic Office



Alan Slone
Staff Columnist

Someone pissed in my shampoo a few weeks ago.

No, you did not just misread that. A few weeks ago, after taking a shower in the south bathroom on the third floor of my hall, I left my shampoo in the shower. Realizing my folly a few hours later, I returned to collect my shampoo bottle only to find that it contained 2 inches of yellow liquid at the bottom.

I learned two things that day. First, shampoo bottles are not airtight. Secondly, pee at the university is a hell of a lot more common than you think. I was also reminded that I should not leave my shampoo in the shower.

to all you who use bottles you can't see into.

My first response was simply, "Where is this acceptable? Is there anywhere that pissing in someone's shampoo is considered an amazingly funny joke to someone?" Then I remembered, I'm living in a dorm. Especially in places where it's males only, dorms are the last true bastion of immature pranks and obscene jokes. I simply tell victim to it.

When I moved here at the beginning of this year, I didn't know Murfreesboro at all. I got lost trying to get to the Interstate via Memorial Boulevard/Old Fort Parkway so many times that I couldn't count them all. I also knew no one that was either going to live or living in Murfreesboro the next semester. An apartment was also out of the question because of high rent prices on one-bedroom units.

So, I filled out the housing applications, saved up the ungodly sum of money they require you to pay up front, and joined what has been the crappiest housing year of my life. I've paid an amazing sum of money to live in the dorms this year — easily what it would cost to split a nice two-bedroom apartment with a friend. What have I gotten for it? Here's a short list:

- A lack of cooking space. Sure, you'd think that buying a meal plan would take care of that, right? Wrong. First of all, MTSU fails to tell anyone that they only have two places on campus that actually take the meal plan, and that only one of them actually has food that you don't mind eating every day. Secondly, if you get Flex dollars, all the food is usually overpriced. What's a person to do? You end up eating lots of sandwiches and microwave meals over the course of the year.

- People screaming at all hours of the night. From people being drunken and loud to couples having a really, really good time at three in the morning, you often can't sleep. The person bumping the house music 24/7 next door will ruin all electronic music for you, too.

- I'm paying for two hunks of rubble next to the Womack Lane Apartments. The fact that my payments help pay for two condemned dorm complexes is insane. I'm carrying the burden of the university's mistakes. Lovely.

- Defecating and showering in stalls used by every other person under the sun. Need I say more?

- This next one is dedicated to the guy who skateboards down my hall every night and makes the loudest racket ever: If I'm ever in a room that has a door that opens out into the hall instead of into the room, you're toast. That's pay-

back for ruining the funny parts of TV shows, the best part of the song I'm listening to, and destroying my concentration while I'm trying to do homework countless times with the noise you make.

While I could go on for ever, the dorm has had one redeeming quality: I've met some really cool people. While some of them are the kind of people who would piss in your shampoo, most of them have been great to get along with. Not unlike people who have suffered through a prison camp, we will all move out of our hellhole and look back at it as a time of camaraderie.

On the other hand, maybe we'll just think how lucky we were to get out alive. ♦

Alan Slone is a junior recording industry major and can be reached via e-mail at plaidrabbit@forp.net.

Presidential inauguration better with alcohol

For Argument's Sake



Jason Cox
Staff Columnist

The alarm clock sounded and I leaped across the room to turn it off. As I got ready for what is to come that fateful April 29, I trembled with anticipation.

After all, I'd never been to a presidential inauguration before.

I was too nervous to eat breakfast, so I decided to head toward the grand event.

As the campus appeared on the horizon, I could hear MTSU's birds and squirrels singing "Kumbaya" in a symphony of nature. I am assured

that it will be a most day indeed in the history of MTSU.

The Murphy Center teamed with eventcenter, naturally, the adjacent parking lot is closed to all but "special guests." In fact, there is an equally large sign that says "no students allowed." Parking at the livestock center, I realized that I was almost late for the inauguration. Being the equestrian that I am, I brack a horse and attempt to bareback it to the Murphy Center.

But it didn't move.

After screaming at this horse for some time, it occurred to me that the horse very likely doesn't speak English and doesn't understand what a trip to the glue factory actually means for his fate. I got my trusty whip from my saddlebag (which was conveniently in the car) and

with a crack, sent the horse on his way toward the big dance.

With the Murphy Center nearly a half mile away, I had just enough time for a little dash of lightning, so to speak. I pulled out my trusty flask of Fighting Cock Bourbon and took a couple of slugs. It's a dry campus, but I knew McPhee wouldn't mind.

After all, he's the one who, Mad Dog 20/20, was a blasphemy to alcohol and I should really try some good, aged Kentucky bourbon (aged six years, for the trivia buffs out there). He said they used to buy it by the case when he was at the University of Louisville.

The inauguration was about to begin as I arrived. There was no horse parking, valet or otherwise, so I decided to do the only

right thing and set the old boy free.

I figured even a horse would see the benefits of being at MTSU and stick around, but he immediately took off toward Enchanted Planet. Oh well.

As I stumble in the door, I apparently drew more than a little attention to myself.

Who knew greeting the president with a boisterous, "Hey, Siddy Mac" repeatedly and loudly would draw such ire from the MTSU Police?

As they grabbed me and hauled me toward the door, none other than President McPhee himself stopped them. With a gleam in his eye, he asked his boys to step aside. He asked me if I had any fine Kentucky nectar, complaining that he really wanted some before his

speech, but Bob Glenn had already stolen the bottle he'd stashed.

He took a generous slug, gave a polite thank you and a pat on the back, then went on stage to deliver his speech.

I don't remember the rest, and I'm really wondering why I woke up in a ditch in Vancouver, but that's not the point.

My first presidential inauguration was one to remember, and I can only imagine what the Golden Raiders reunion has in store for me. ♦

A serious note of thanks to the MTSU Police, who have helped my incompetence self twice in the past two weeks when I locked my keys in my car.

Jason Cox is a sophomore journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at jrc2r@mtsu.edu.

SIDELINES

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Bathroom Stall Graffiti



Nick Fowler
Staff Columnist

Joe's Journal: Page 132

Saturday afternoon, I walked up to the hair cutting place. I say hair cutting place because I'm afraid to say that it is, in fact, a beauty shop. I'll not be caught dead in a beauty shop. I get my haircut at the hair cutting place.

A wrinkly old bag of a lady was out front smoking. Sue — that's her name — smoked Virginia Slims. "Them long 'ens make me feel sexy when I smoke 'em," she said when her older brother Johnny Wayne caught her smoking after school when she was 17.

She's smoked for 36 years now. Her daughter tried to get her to quit when she turned 30. "I'm afraid it's going to kill you if you keep it up. It's such a waste of life."

"Yeah, kid, it's the smoking that's made my life a waste," Sue thought to herself. Sue had found a life of raising bratty kids, and cutting hair unfulfilling. She didn't have dreams or aspirations. She just had a gut feeling that her life sucked. She was right.

There's something to be said for gut feelings.

She looked at me and started moving her mouth as if she were speaking, but no words came out. She

fold a strained look on her face like she was choking. She strained her neck, all the while moving her mouth like she were talking. She looked like a newly hatched bird straining to get its head out of the egg.

I was frightened for a bit when the sound came. I nearly ran back to my car. It was a cough for sure. It sounded not just physically painful but emotionally painful as well.

It sounded like she was trying to cough up 33 years of resentment and a stillborn baby from her second marriage.

Then she spat. I looked for a cigarette in the loogie.

"You want you a haircut, sweet thang?" she asked me.

I stood silent. What I wanted was a hug. Just looking at her made me fear life and all its unfairness.

"I say, boy, You want you a haircut?"

"Not from you," I thought. But I said, "Yes, ma'am."

"Wait inside."

No one else was inside. I sat alone while Sue finished smoking her pack of Slims.

"Get in the chair," she said. So I did.

"I just want a basic haircut," I said.

"I know what you want, boy," she replied. What she meant was, "You want what every man has ever wanted from me, and as



Illustration by
Nick Van Thuren

soon as you get it, you'll be out the door."

All I wanted was a haircut, but when I got it, I did intend to "be out the door."

I was sure she was going to take out her resentment on my hair. She was going to make me look retarded.

She ran her fingers through my hair. Her fingers massaged my skull. I stared into her eyes in the mirror, and she looked into mine. For five minutes this went on. This was one of the most sensual moments in my life.

She cut my hair. I fell in love.

"Get out of the chair."

"I don't want to go," I said. "Come with me."

"You'd just be like all the rest."

"No, I'm different," I said and grabbed her hand and pressed it to my face.

She pulled away and slapped me.

"Get the hell out of here, kid." ♦

Nick Fowler is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at nrf2b@mtsu.edu.

Letter to the Editor

Support MTSU rugby

To the Editor:

In writing, I am acknowledging your power role amongst the student population and possibly your interaction with the "powers that be" on campus. I am a member of the MTSU men's rugby team, and have been for almost two years. I'm originally from London and recognized the opportunity to study and play abroad. I chose MTSU because it ranked highly in U.S. rugby. I was dismayed to find that although the school was being noticed abroad, they had no local recognition. I have teammates from Brazil, South Africa and New Zealand. This was not my ideal cup of tea, but the team ethos and ability to endure made me stay.

Recently, the team has continued to achieve great results, winning the South Championships for the third time in four years. This is an outstanding accomplishment and although we are not fully recognized on campus as even existing, we are a feared powerhouse amongst other universities. I am greatly perturbed by the lack of support received by our "family." It is important to realize that we represent the student body, Murfreesboro and the whole southern district.

It is a wonder why we attract such little help from our environment. We are the most successful team on campus. We strive for excellence just like the others, we train consistently, oftentimes in arduous conditions including weather. We provide guidance in coaching high school teams, unlike any other team. We give back more to our community than just victories and pride. Yet, we are not afforded the luxury of the other student athletes. We cannot even use the athlete's gym — why? These are just a few of the issues we face and they are great gripes, but rather expressions of disappointment.

So what? Now we travel to California to play Cal Berkeley, a team that has monopolized U.S. rugby for the last 12 years at the championships. It is a varsity team that is well-funded, and a team whose facility, players and coaches are of the highest standard and actually represent the United States. The lack of recognition will be detrimental to our cause. So we could do with some more support, not just publicly but financially. Get behind us, publish more about us and raise student and administration awareness. We have no direct avenue except through you.

Charlie Bedford

FEATURES

4 ◆ SIDELINES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

CEO Enterprises: Broke but Still Livin'

MTSU students release album about financial struggles

By Leslie Carol Boehms
Staff Writer

If you've been in front of the Keathley University Center, Willie Sims, Jr., also known as Big Fella, has probably tried to sell you his debut album, *Broke but Still Livin'*.

Broke is a collection of songs Big Fella recorded with his partner Te'Arthur The Great about the struggles of life — mainly, surviving as a broke college student. The album is something that the average student can relate to, and if you can't, Mr. Big Fella has a money-back guarantee.

"You have never bought a CD with a money back guarantee," Big Fella promises with a laugh. "If you can't find anything you like on this album, you call me and I'll give you your money back."

Big Fella probably won't be giving any refunds, especially because the collaboration of Big Fella and Te'Arthur the Great is the ideal mix of southern hip-hop super powers. The album is an effort the company co-chief

executive officer Mike Dillard, known simply as Mike D, describes as "something for the people."

This Murfreesboro-based duo gains identity in the fact that they are not "bling, bling." Rather, they acknowledge their empty pockets and try to make due.

However, there is one recurring theme, besides the lack of money, that transpires throughout the album — women.

"We love females," Big Fella says. "One of the most beautiful things ever created was a woman."

Therefore, the songs on *Broke but Still Livin'* that seem to defy this statement are, in fact, expressing the trivialities and expectations some women put on men. Don't confuse this album's blatant references and sexual innuendoes as a sign of disrespect, such as in Track 8, "Bitch, I Want Some Head." In fact, these three men are just folding out the social problems and patterns, which exist for many men today.

"We are average dudes in

America at a point where most females, they want somebody with the bling bling," Big Fella said. "We're not trying to show off for them. We're respectable gentlemen. But there ain't no room for respectable gentlemen in America anymore."

Women woes aside, there are other tracks on the album that relate less to females — at least a little.

Track three, "Chicken and a 40 oz.," is one example of this. It's mix of melodic rhythms, eclectic drum beats and contemplative lyrics to create an alternative environment. The music places the listener in both a hypnotic and light-hearted mood.

Besides, who can't afford to be carefree when the title of the album is *Broke but Still Livin'*?

Big Fella describes this title as something that came from experience with a lack of money — but making the best of the situation.

"As a broke individual, we must keep on keeping on, and proceed to make something out of nothing," Big Fella said.

Sometimes though, the men of CEO Enterprises are more concerned with reaching their own expectations and making their name 24-karat gold.



Photo Provided

Mike D, Te'Arthur the Great and Big Fella lounge at their album photo shoot.

"We capture every opportunity," Big Fella says. "We have to do that. Because if you miss the opportunity, opportunity will miss your ass."

"We're just broke, but we're still living."

In that case, don't expect that money-back guarantee to come in the mail any time soon. Once the group makes its first million, it'll get there. Not that anyone will need to use it, of course.

Broke But Still Livin' can be purchased at Soundshop, Hastings and Cat's Music. Potential buyers can also listen to the album in Cat's before purchasing. ♦

Graduating? Better check twice

Major field tests required this week for graduating students

By Jan Lentz
Contributor

If you think you're ready to graduate because you've passed all required classes, you may be wrong.

Before graduation, all students must take a major field test. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning and Research began sending reminders to seniors early this semester.

The tests are designed specifically for each major, and all test answers are multiple choice format.

The test takes about two hours to complete, regardless of major.

Although test results are not placed on a student's perma-

nent record and do not affect grades or academic standing, there are benefits to taking the test.

"I really try to encourage students to do their best because it's a reflection of not only the university, but it's really a reflection of the individual," said Betty Dandridge Johnson, executive director of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Research.

"This test can help students as they consider graduate school."

"Some of them are very surprised that they do well, and that gives them a boost to say, 'Well, maybe graduate school is something I should consider.'"

Also, department chairs use test score information when

writing letters of recommendation for students, Johnson said. If the department chair sees that a student has done well on the major field test, he or she is more likely to recommend the student.

MTSU benefits greatly from test results, which are used to measure each program's effectiveness.

The information goes to the Tennessee Board of Regents and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. If students are doing well, MTSU may get more state funding for its programs.

Test results also help departments assess strengths and weaknesses of each program.

MTSU is not the only school that requires major field tests. All public universities in Tennessee conduct similar programs and use similar tests.

No pre-registration is neces-

sary for the major field tests. A student may show up for any of the test dates and times for the appropriate major. Tests are typically conducted at 8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Most major field tests are conducted at the Keathley University Center, Room 324, but all tests for the College of Business and Aerospace Building, Room S326.

The only remaining major field tests this semester are for the College of Mass Communication.

These tests started on Tuesday and will end today. Makeup tests may still be possible for other majors.

For more information or questions about the tests, visit Jones Hall, Room 153, call 898-2854 or e-mail iep@mtsu.edu. ♦

MTSU homepage gets new facelift

By Carla Rhodes
Features Designer

MTSU's home page, www.mtsu.edu, has undergone quite a change.

The current redesign is the sixth since 1994.

"The previous version of the site didn't allow for much modification," said Russell Newman, the Office of Information Technology Web manager. "We had to add a link icon to the Regent's Online Degree Program and PipelineMT, and we wanted the home page to be more of a source of information than just containing links to other pages."

The new also home page boasts MTSU's new wordmark. Newman says the new wordmark was taken into consideration when redesigning the site.

"We wanted to be able to incorporate that into the site," he said.

The site took four months to completely redesign and create. Newman and Web specialist Michael Haley designed several versions of the site before its initial launch. According to Newman, he sought input from various areas of the university's administration.

"Input was requested from individuals across campus, including ITD and News and Public Affairs. Dr. McPhee then made the final decision."

The MTSU community had a big effect on the current site.

"Many of the changes were based on messages sent to the Webmaster during the past two years," Newman said. "We've heard a lot from visitors, parents and future students who had questions about where certain information was located. We also heard from those more familiar with the site — alumni, students, faculty and staff — who have made excellent suggestions."

The new site also contains several new features that are of particular interest to students. There is a direct link to the electronic directory, which you can get to by going to "find people" at the top of the page. There is also more event information, and even an interactive campus map.

"I've personally only heard from two or three people who don't like it. The majority of responses have been positive."

— Russell Newman,
OIT Web manager

"The new interactive map now lets you locate a building or entrance to the campus and navigate the map," Newman said.

Newman said the site now appeals to a broader range of people than it did before.

"The new site adds new audiences — parents, visitors, future students — who didn't have a specific page of information before," Newman said. "We now have a news section and an events section on the home page where we will highlight one item and provide links to more information, stories and calendars."

There are also some brand new features on the site.

"The new 'Simply the Best' section not only highlights MTSU students but has a link to allow someone to nominate someone for 'Simply the Best,'" Newman said.

Also, with the addition of PipelineMT, students can do many things at once, instead of searching for the individual pages.

"PipelineMT, which isn't necessarily part of the new home page, is a new feature for the community," he said. "It basically lets you use one login to access your e-mail, personal calendar, personal announcements, class information, campus news, weekly events and more. This is also where you can register for classes online and check your personal data."

The site seems to be a hit across the campus community.

"I've personally only heard from two or three people who don't like it. The majority of responses have been positive. Ninety percent of the messages we've received are from people who like it and are thrilled with the change." ♦

CAMPUS EVENTS

Compiled by Shawn Whitsell | Features Editor

Thursday, April 18

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity will host a cookout and games at the Recreation Center Sun Deck from 3 to 6 p.m. For more information, contact Chris Montague at 904-8468.

Friday, April 19

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity will host a

comedy show at the Murphy Center at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.). There will be three comedians. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$8 at the door. For more information, contact Chris Montague at 904-8468.

Saturday, April 20

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity will sponsor a Step Show at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.) at the Murphy Center. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$8 at the door. For

more information, contact Chris Montague at 904-8418.

Monday, April 22

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity will host a three-on-three basketball tournament at the Rec Center from 8 to 11 p.m. For more information, contact Chris Montague at 904-8468. ♦



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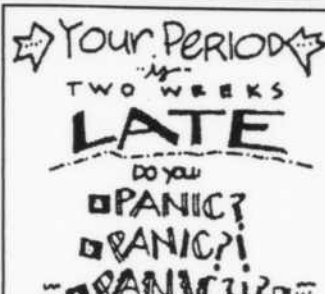


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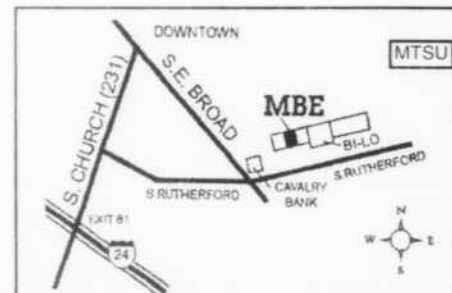
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Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Lindsay Azevedo waits on the pitch from the pitcher.

Softball team takes on WKU

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee softball team (18-23, 1-7) travels to Bowling Green, Ky. to take on Western Kentucky University (26-15, 1-3) in a key Sun Belt series Saturday and Sunday.

The Hilltoppers are tied for third place in the Sun Belt and the Lady Raiders are sitting in the SBC cellar. This series is crucial for Sun Belt position as the Sun Belt Tournament approaches in May.

The Lady Raiders went 5-1 against the Hilltoppers last season, but have struggled in two Sun Belt series this season. MT lost 3-of-4 games to Florida International University to begin the Sun Belt schedule. The University of Louisiana-Lafayette swept four games from the Lady Raiders this weekend.

The Hilltoppers lost 3-of-4 games from the No. 17 Ragin Cajuns April 6 and 7. WKU pulled off a 7-6 come-from-behind win over ULL in its only win of the series.

The Lady Raiders are trying to get back to their winning ways of last season while the Hilltoppers attempt to improve a 2-18 conference record in 2001.

The pitching for both teams is strong. Both the Hilltoppers and

Lady Raiders have three pitchers. The MT staff posts a 2.22 ERA while WKU has a 1.98. Batters hit .231 against the Hilltoppers staff. MT pitchers allow batters a .237 average.

Allison Silver (12-6) leads the Hilltopper staff with a 1.58 ERA, 11 complete games and 97 strikeouts. The MT staff is led by Jennifer Martinez. (12-9), who has a 1.69 ERA with 14 complete games and 148 strikeouts.

Offensively, WKU bats 0.55 points better than MT. The Hilltoppers have three batters hitting over .300. Riley Garcia leads the team with a .391 average, 52 hits and 22 runs scored.

The MT offense has three hitters batting over .275. Leah Grothouse posts a .284 average and a .309 slugging percentage. Lindsay Azevedo leads the team in on base percentage with a .397. Martinez has knocked in 22 runs in this season.

Laura Brockman and Kristina Heib played well against WKU last season. Brockman had a game-high 2 RBIs in the May 13 win. Heib knocked in 3 runs as the Lady Raiders beat the Hilltoppers in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament last season.

The two teams play a doubleheader Saturday and Sunday. Both Saturday's and Sunday's action starts at 1 p.m. The Lady Raiders also play Auburn University Monday. ♦

Belmont stomps Blue Raiders

By Kevin Rose
Staff Writer

Just when it looked like things couldn't get any worse for the Middle Tennessee baseball team, they did.

Tuesday, the Blue Raiders fell 10-3 to visiting Belmont University, and found out that John Williams, the ace of the pitching staff, was lost for the year with a broken bone in his left hand.

Williams injured his hand Friday night when he punched a water cooler after being removed from the game against Western Kentucky. His status for summer baseball is also in jeopardy. Williams was set, along with teammate Chuck Akers, to play in the prestigious Cape Cod league.

Tuesday, the Blue Raiders got another tuesperday from Travis Horschel, but it was not enough as they dropped to 21-16. Belmont improved to 16-19.

Horschel went 7 1/3 innings in the no decision, allowing 3 runs on 5 hits and struck out 7.

The Blue Raider offense couldn't get anything going to back up Horschel's strong outing. The MT offense only had 8 hits off three Belmont pitchers. Jason Howarth was the only Blue Raider to have a multi-hit game with 3.

The Bruins took an early 1-0 lead in the second on an RBI single from Dan Soukup. They added another run in the fifth on a home run by Josh Brummett.

The Blue Raiders finally reached Bruin starter Mike Sawyer for a run in the bottom of the fifth. A two-out single from Howarth drove home Marshall Nisbett for a 2-1 ballgame.

The Bruins chased Horschel from the game in the top of the eighth. Mike Martin made the score 3-1 with an RBI single. The



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Third baseman Nate Jagers charges the ball to make the defensive play.

Blue Raiders evened the score in the bottom of the eighth on an RBI triple from Chuck Akers and a two-out single from Josh Bruins.

The Bruins put the game out of reach in the ninth by scoring 7 for a 10-3 lead.

Reliever Chris Mobley hit a batter to start the ninth and was walked by MT closer Nisbett. Nisbett relieved the bases loaded and then allowed a single by Stephen Sundstrom, scoring 2. After a hit batsman, Nisbett was relieved by Jeremy Armstrong. Mike Martin added an RBI fielder's choice, but Ryan Pettit delivered

the big blow with a grand slam.

Mobley (3-2) took the loss for the Blue Raiders in 2/3 of an inning. Chris McKee got the win for the Bruins, working 2 innings of relief to improve to 3-1.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday the Blue Raiders take on South Alabama in Sun Belt Conference action. Start times are 6 p.m., 1 p.m. and 1 p.m., respectively. All three games can be heard on WMTS 88.3.

Adam Larson will start Friday night in place of Williams. Steven Kines will start Saturday and Sunday Horschel will get his first conference start of the year. ♦

Baseball team hits road for Sun Belt games

By Kevin Rose
Staff Writer

The road for the Middle Tennessee baseball team doesn't get any easier.

The Blue Raiders (21-15, 3-6) travel to Mobile this weekend for a match-up with league-leading South Alabama (23-11, 6-1).

Over the weekend, the Jaguars played out of conference and took two games from Jacksonville State 6-5 and 8-2.

The Blue Raiders salvaged a win in their series against Western Kentucky by winning 6-4 Sunday.

"You can plug in South Alabama every year that they are going to have a great team," MT head coach Steve Peterson said.

The Jaguars are coached by 2001 Sun Belt Coach of the Year Steve Kittrell. Kittrell played at USA, and his hard-nosed style of baseball rubs off on his team.

The Jags are led on offense by Ryan Mulhern, who is hitting .358 with 29 RBIs and 6 home runs.

Mulhern is considered one of the best players in the league.

As a team, the Jags are hitting .318. Opponents are hitting .247.

On the mound, the Jaguars ace is 2001 conference Rookie of the Year Clark Girardeau. Girardeau sports a 6-3 record with a 4.26 ERA.

Sam Smith (4-0) should

also see action against the Blue Raiders Saturday or Sunday. The third starter for the Jaguars should be Mel Spivey (1-3).

The Blue Raiders will likely pitch Adam Larson (3-3) and Steven Kines (4-0) Saturday and Sunday.

Offensively, Justin Sims continues to lead the Blue Raiders with a .422 batting average and 10 home runs.

Freshmen Josh Archer continues to be consistent for the Blue Raider offense.

He is hitting .336 with 7 home runs, and had a productive weekend against WKU, going 4-for-11 with a home run.

Last season, the Jags and Blue Raiders battled for the Sun Belt title, and it went down to the last day of the season with MT winning the series clincher Sunday.

The match-up also possesses two 2001 Regional participants.

"When a team goes to three regionals in a row I put them in a special bracket throughout the country," Peterson said.

"I think South Alabama's got a string of about six or seven. They are one of the premier baseball programs in the country."

The three-game series starts Friday at 6 p.m. at Stanky Field and concludes with Sunday's game. Saturday's and Sunday's games begin at 1 p.m. ♦

Women's tennis teams meet in Mobile for SBC tourney

By Justin Ward
Staff Writer

Five nationally-ranked women's tennis teams will gather with six unranked teams in Mobile to compete for the Sun Belt Conference Championship.

The championships begin April 19 in Mobile, Ala.

University of Arkansas, Little Rock

The UALR women have a 15-9 record for the season, and are 2-2 in the Sun Belt. They lost 3-4 to No. 64 New Mexico State for their second loss of the season. They also lost their final match of the season to a fellow Sun Belt Conference team Arkansas State 3-4. UALR had wins over Denver and North Texas.

Julietta Lillo leads the team with a 14-8 record for the season. Her and doubles partner Layla Tohme went 11-6 on the season. Tohme is the only senior on the team.

Arkansas State University

ASU is 14-6 on the season with a 3-3 Sun Belt Conference record. They had Sun Belt losses to No. 66 University of New Orleans, No. 64 NMSU and the University of Denver. They had wins over the University of Louisiana-

Lafayette, the UNT and UALR.

Magui Cibils-Gezgin leads the team with a 16-3 record for the season. She is a senior from Montevideo, Uruguay.

University of Denver

The Denver women are 11-7 for the season with a 1-3 record in the SBC. Their sole SBC win came over ASU. They had losses to No. 64 NMSU, UALR and No. 32 Florida International.

Two freshmen hold the top records for Denver. Yanick Dullens, from Susteren, Netherlands, had a 12-9 record for the season and went 7-5 in the No. 1 spot. Stephanie Ginsburg, from Englewood, Colo., went 12-8 for the season and had a 3-7 record in the No. 1 spot and had an 8-3 record in the No. 2 spot.

Florida International University

FIU has the second highest ranking in the SBC behind No. 31 South Alabama. FIU is ranked No. 32 and they are 17-5 for the season with a 3-0 record in the SBC. FIU started off the season with a win over No. 4 Barry University 6-1. They also had a win later in the season against No. 13 University of Tennessee-Knoxville. No. 31 South Alabama was FIU's first SBC win of the season. They also defeated

Denver and No. 64 NMSU.

Anneliese Rose, a senior from Boynton Beach, Fla., is 18-8 for the season with a 14-6 record at the No. 1 spot. Mei Ly, a sophomore from Miami, Fla., is 23-8 on the season with an 11-3 record at the No. 2 spot. The doubles team of Cristina Campana and Rose are ranked No. 40 and have a 20-9 record with a 13-6 record at the No. 1 spot.

Middle Tennessee State University

No. 60 MT is 11-8 for the season with a 1-0 record in the SBC. Their only win over a ranked team for the season was against No. 39 Clemson University. Their only Sun Belt match and win was against UNT. They had a SBC match with No. 31 South Alabama April 12, but the match was cancelled.

No. 34 Manon Kruse leads the team with an 11-3 record for the season. Her doubles team with Stacy Varnell went 16-2 for the season.

University of New Orleans

UNO is ranked No. 66 with a 19-3 record and a 2-0 record in the SBC. Their 2 SBC wins came over ULL and ASU and both were 6-1 victories. They also defeated No. 56 Tulane University in between those two matches.

Patricia Osedumme, a sophomore

from Lagos, Nigeria, is 16-4 for the season, leading UNO.

University of Louisiana-Lafayette

ULL is 8-7 for the season with a 0-3 record in the SBC. They had a 3-4 loss to UNT, a 1-6 loss to ASU and a 1-6 loss to No. 66 New Orleans.

Arina Uratani is 12-3 on the season for ULL, and Vinca Rampen is 18-4.

University of North Texas

North Texas is 13-9 for the season with a 1-4 record in the SBC. Their only SBC win was a 4-3 win over ULL. They had losses to No. 60 MT, ASU and UALR.

Natalie Clore leads UNT with a 19-11 record for the season, and Ashley Sammis is right behind her with a 17-9 record. The doubles team of Clore and Sammis lead the team with an 11-7 record.

University of South Alabama

No. 31 South Alabama is 14-7 for the season with a 0-1 record in the SBC. Their SBC loss came to No. 32 FIU. The majority of USA's schedule is against ranked teams. The only teams that they have beaten with a better ranking than theirs was No. 26 Texas Christian University and No. 28 Baylor University. They beat many other high-

er ranked teams.

No. 37 Viktoria Stoklasova leads the team with a 12-5 record. No. 81 Josien Boverhof is right with her with a 14-5 record for the season.

South Alabama's tough schedule proves that they can play with the best teams in the country. They will certainly have a strong presence in the SBC tournament.

Western Kentucky University

WKU is 6-9 for the season. They did not play any SBC teams during the regular season. The team consists of 1 senior, 3 juniors, 2 sophomores and 2 freshmen.

New Mexico State University

No. 64 NMSU is 15-5 for the season with a 4-1 record in the SBC. Their SBC wins came on right after the other as they beat UNT, Denver, UALR and ASU. Their loss in the SBC came to No. 32 FIU. Their only win over a ranked team was against No. 55 University of New Mexico.

Senior Elke Blodau leads the team with a 15-3 record. She went 1-2 in the No. 1 spot. NMSU didn't do too well in the No. 1 spot.

Junior Stella Veerman played No. 1 singles most, and she went 6-6 and 10-9 overall. ♦

See Monday's issue of *Sidelines* for MT sports coverage in 'Sports Wrap.'

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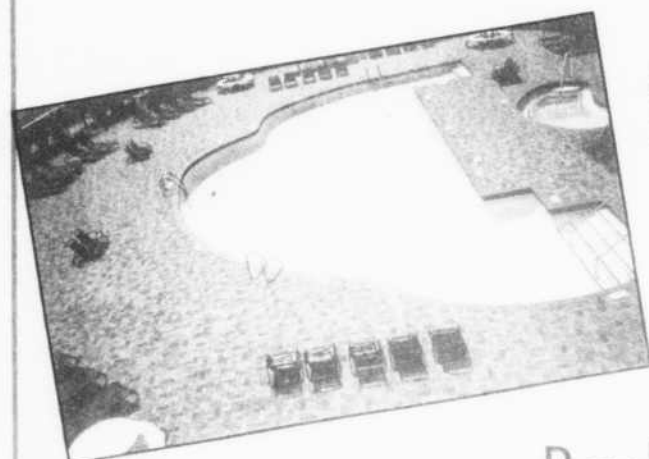
Services

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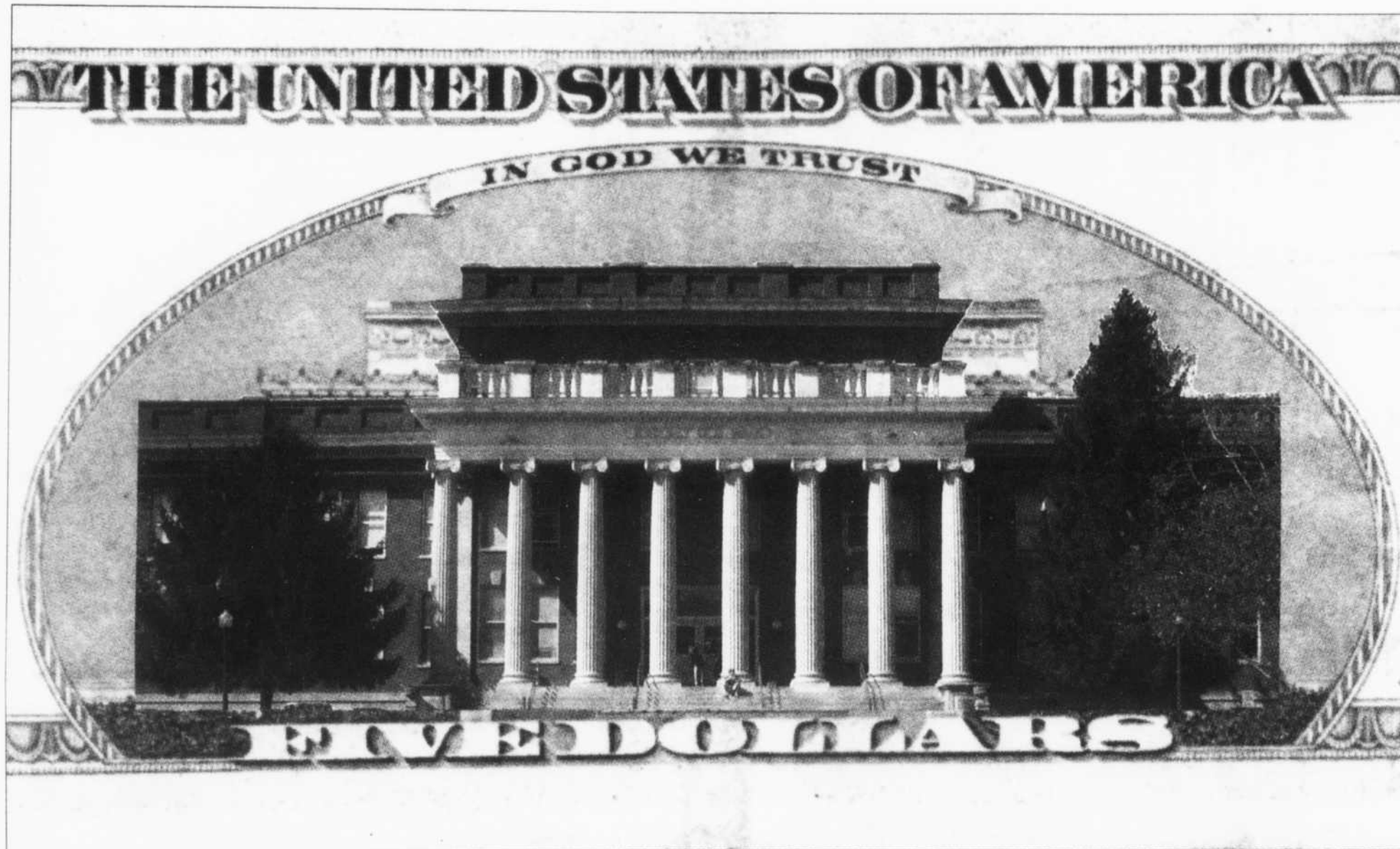
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Thursday, April 18, 2002

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

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Living here on a budget

Spring 2002

MTSU Housing Guide

Creative ways to decorate dorm rooms

By Angelica Journagin
News Editor

Walking into a dorm room for the first time on MTSU's campus can be a very eye-opening experience for the uninitiated.

For dorm living novices, the first thing they will see is the institutionalized beige paint that barely covers the cinder block walls. Next is a desktop made of a material that tries to pass as wood ... and fails. Finally is the corkboard above the desk that has more holes in it than the ceilings in Peck Hall.

Going to Pier 1 to replace all of the furniture, Home Depot for wallpaper and even Target for a new corkboard is not allowed by the university. Besides, that's outside the range of most students' loan refund checks.

Instead of going the Oedipus route and stabbing out their eyes with daggers so they don't have to look at the room for a year, some students on campus have used the opportunity to find unusual ways to cheaply decorate their rooms.

"There are a lot of ways people are creative in the dorm," said Latoya Pirtle, one of the resident assistants in Gracy Hall.

"One thing I saw someone do was stencil butterflies, insects and

grass with construction paper and put them all over their room," Pirtle said. "I thought that was really neat."

Other examples of bargain decorating on campus that Pirtle has seen includes students using the Internet to find quotes and pictures to place on their doors and walls.

"You can use anything as a decoration," Sean Brown, a RA at Iudd Hall, pointed out.

Two students on Pirtle's floor took advantage of the large free plastic cups given out to campus residents at the beginning of the year.

The residents painted the cups and drew designs over them to cover up the Cingular Wireless advertisement and now use them as vases.

Cheryl Meier, another RA at Gracy Hall, turns rocks into bookends to decorate her shelves.

"I paint the rocks and then get some of my friends to sign them," Meier said. "The rocks don't cost anything, and I can use the paint for other things so, it's really cheap."

Women on campus aren't the only ones who have used common objects in new ways. Brown has a resident on his floor who puts pictures of his friends and family in a

shower curtain that hangs on his wall.

Residents at Iudd also turn pictures into collages to cover the walls, and instruments that are not being played are displayed on a stand.

"I collect hats, and when I'm not wearing one, I hang it on my walls," Brown said.

Students who collect action figures, books and greeting cards often use them as decorations.

If nothing has appealed to you so far, other ideas to cover the cinder blocks were huge pieces of fabric in different colors and patterns, posters of your favorite band or artist or even postcards from places you have gone or want to go.

To get the bed to match the fabrics covering the wall, students can use the leftover fabric or large-width ribbons to wrap around the bed frame.

If all of this seems like too much work, bargain hunting is also an option.

"I always go to Wal-Mart and look for cheap stuff," Pirtle said. "You can always find something on clearance, like ornaments to hang on your dresser drawers."

If that still seems like too much work, the Grill in the Keathley University Center has free plastic knives that students can use as daggers. ♦

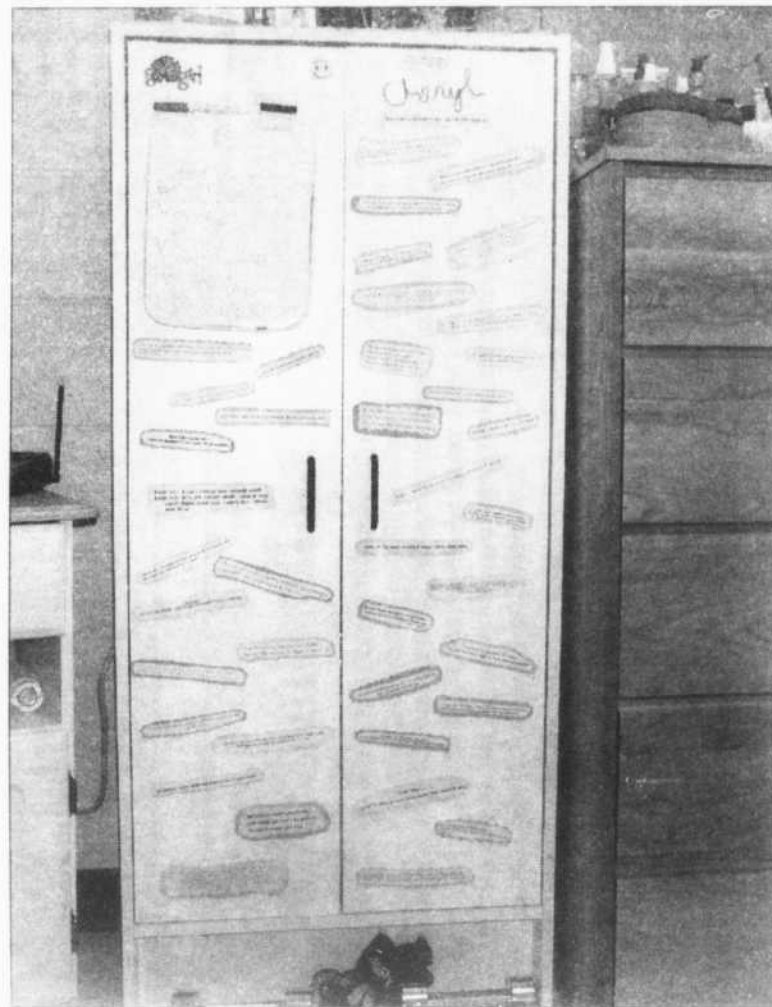


Photo by Pam Hudgens | Editor in Chief

Cheryl Meier, a resident assistant in Gracy Hall, has put quotes onto colored paper to decorate a cabinet in her room.



Variety of options available to renters

By Jason Cox
Staff Writer

For students who choose to live off campus, finding a rental house can be somewhat tricky. The classifieds tell you very little about the actual property, and a For Rent sign in the yard pretty much assures that someone is ahead of you in line to rent it. Many landlords don't even bother with listing their property because they don't want a flood of no-shows and people only lukewarmly interested in renting a house.

Luckily for prospective renters, there are alternate ways of seeking out a house.

One option is to use a realtor. Maria Carter, owner of Nashville Relocation Services, said real estate agents are a surprisingly underutilized resource in finding a rental property.

"You'd be surprised how many [realtors] manage and handle [rental properties]," Carter said.

Carter caters primarily to professionals in the West Nashville area but said she sometimes deals with students at Vanderbilt and

Belmont universities, adding that she had recently helped a Vanderbilt student with finding a five-bedroom house in the specified price range (up to \$4,000 a month, roughly market price for the immediate Vanderbilt area).

While Carter charges a finder's fee of \$400, she said many realtors do not charge because the property owner will pay the realtor to manage the property and screen applicants.

She said Rutherford County has some of the best realtors in the Nashville area.

Another option available is a subscription list service. Landlords will submit a listing free of charge to the company that, in turn, sells lists of properties available in the area and meeting specifications set by the subscriber.

Lloyd Backhouse, general manager of Welcome Home Rentals' Nashville office, said specifications such as the number of bedrooms, bathrooms, price range and location are some of the specifications available.

While he had no data on how many students subscribe to the ser-

vice, Backhouse said that there are nearly 300 active subscribers in Murfreesboro and approximately 250 listings, although he said the number of listings changes almost daily.

Backhouse said he does not offer any sort of guarantee because "I can't force people to pick up listings, and I can't force people to look at houses."

"I've had, since this office has opened, over 23,000 clients, and I would say, on average, we get half a dozen complaints a year." ♦

Look for 'Sports Wrap' in Monday's *Sidelines*.

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Students should understand lease before trying to sublet

By Lindsey Turner
Managing Editor

Students looking to make a few extra dollars this summer have several options: donating an organ, selling exam papers or subletting an apartment.

According to Murfreesboro attorney Larry Tolbert, Rutherford County residents aren't subject to the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act – meaning most residents can sublet without their landlord's permission. Only residents in Tennessee's metro counties – Knox, Blount, Anderson,

Davidson, Shelby, Hamilton, Bradley, Madison, Montgomery and Sumner – are subject to this act and should be familiar with it before leasing or subletting an apartment because the act places special restrictions on them.

Tolbert said it's important to understand each apartment's individual lease agreement.

Landlords, often in the fine print of the contract, have the right to prohibit their tenants from subletting or to charge a sublet fee, provided the necessary terms are outlined in the original lease agreement.

Landlords have the freedom, Tolbert said, to prohibit subletting in the lease agreement, but then allow it if they change their minds.

In most subletting agreements, Tolbert said, the first original tenant remains liable for rent and costs incurred.

If a tenant feels he or she has been wronged by a landlord, he or she can take legal action and contact an attorney, many of which offer free, first-time consultations.

For more information, contact Tolbert at 898-2336.

The office is located at 100 N. Main St., Suite 100.

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OPINIONS

Why any apartment is better than a dorm

Canadian Bacon



Patrick Chinnery
Opinions Editor

Hate the dorms yet?

That's a silly question, I suppose. Of course you do. You did after the first month or two of the semester, when you finally realized that your roommate's smoking before bed inside the room wasn't merely a "coping with a new college" phase. Or perhaps it was when your roommate left milk sitting out in the sun over the weekend, and you were the first one back and had to deal with the smell on your own.

Maybe things would have been better if you had picked your roommate. Your best friend from high school, perhaps? Finally, the two of you could be free to enjoy life without parents getting in the way. The two of you would hang out every night, and it would be the

greatest thing since sliced bread.

That is, of course, until you realized that dear old roomie snores, spills soda on your bed but doesn't tell you cause you're best friends so you won't mind and invites friends over at 3 a.m. the night before a history test. The solution to all those problems, it would seem, is to get an off-campus apartment and share it with a friend (not your "best friend").

I know that's what I did. "The Chad" and I got ourselves an expensive and shoddily built two-bedroom place just off campus. We thought it would be great because it was new, and nothing ever goes wrong with new apartments. Well, there's lesson number one for you kids — new isn't always better. In fact, oftentimes, it's worse.

For example, at our apartment, the air conditioner was broken for the first three weeks we lived there. Apparently, there were problems with everyone's air conditioners, so when we filed a work order, it just took a spot in line. After they had tried blowing air down the pipes for four days to unclog something,

they realized that maybe our machine was really broken.

So don't buy new.

When picking your roommate, try to find a friend who has the same daily habits as you. I can't say you should always follow that rule because "The Chad" and I certainly don't. It would have made life much easier those first few months if we both enjoyed certain stereotypical collegiate pastimes.

But we didn't (and don't). So that led to arguments and then to some smoke-hiding ingenuity. Then things were fine because I didn't have to smell anything.

One advantage to living with "The Chad" was our extremely different political views and the expression thereof. It certainly made me a better orator because I had to keep my sentences and logic flawless or else face the condescending look of a mop-headed socialist.

After our "discussions," we could laugh at the silly girls who lived below us and sang the national anthem and "Winter Wonderland" loudly and horribly

off key. That's lesson number two for those keeping score at home — when things start getting rough with your roommate, take a step back and start making fun of other people. It'll make you feel better about yourselves.

Dorm life is horrible. You

should escape. Find someone who you can stand and make the most of it. Your apartment (or townhouse or house or whatever) is your sanctuary, a place to relax and enjoy life. You can't get that from prison-made furniture and a blue, foam-filled mattress. ♦

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Living with parents can frustrate

What the Smack?



Amber Bryant
Staff Columnist

After discovering dorm life was just a notch higher than living in a correctional facility, I opted for living with my parents my sophomore year of college.

Cool, I thought. Not only would I be able to dwell rent and bill-free in a family environment, but my father, a former Kappa Sigma fraternity brother and all-around free spirit, would let me come and go as I pleased, as long as I called every so

often to say I wasn't lying dead in a ditch somewhere.

As with all things in life, there were the inevitable pros and cons. For example, I loved having cooked meals, even if they were my 13-year-old sister's experimental macaroni and fish sticks dinner or one of my dad's hideous concoctions left over from his bachelor years.

Unfortunately, my schedule didn't allow me to eat with the family much.

However, nine times out of 10, there were leftovers in the fridge with my name on them. Now that I have my own apartment, even my fanciest entrees consist of Lucky Charms, pistachio pudding and canned soup, not necessarily in that order.

Another advantage was having

my family around all the time after seeing them sporadically for an entire year. But after a few weeks of enjoying their company, I decided I wanted to wholeheartedly kill them all.

My sister, a rebellious teen-ager if there ever was one, constantly "borrowed" my clothes and then left them in her locker at school, my father would lecture me about money and encourage me to build a shrine to Dave Ramsey and my stepmother tried to maintain a neutral stance, all the while causing a bit of tension.

I suppose most human relationships involve conflict, but my ever-growing malevolence toward my own bloodline was a bit disturbing to me.

The most significant disadvan-

tage to living at home was the clashing of lifestyles.

My typical college agenda deviated severely from a normal, responsible household's, leaving me feeling like the pickled egg most of the time.

Even after taking all these things into consideration, the day I finally moved out of my parents' house and into my own apartment, I cried like there was no tomorrow. I spent an entire week thinking up ways to convince my new roommate (who was thrilled at having chosen such an emotional wreck) that my psychological well-being would crumble if I didn't break the lease and move back in with my family immediately.

Now, 11 months later, I wouldn't go back if someone

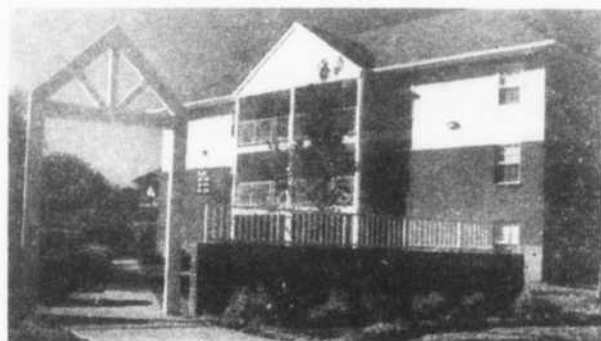
promised me my weight in cheesecake.

College can be somewhat scary for the first couple of years. Living at home during that transitory period can make the changes easier, but only if your parents are as cool as mine were. If your mother or father insists on knocking on your bedroom door every five minutes to make sure you remember the difference between boys and girls, you might want to rethink your options.

After those years have come and gone, I highly suggest finding your own place. If growing up is part of the vast sea of reasons to go to college, learning to maintain your own habitat, as opposed to leeching off someone else's, is a positive step. ♦

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