

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 6, 2000



DANCE

Don't be
square

In FLASH!, page 5



BASKETBALL

Freshman
expected
to lead

In Sports, page 10

STUDENT SURVEY

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ONLINE

What do you think of
the Sidelines Online
polling?

INSIDE: Students need to remember goals during final days of semester

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An editorially
independent
newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 76 No. 38

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Study: Tenn. ranked No. 45 for higher ed

By James Evans
Editor in Chief

If higher education in Tennessee was a student at MTSU, it would be on academic probation, according to a recent study.

The study, released Nov. 30, was done by the independent, nonpartisan National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. It rated states in five categories: preparation, participation, affordability, completion and benefits.

Tennessee had a D+ overall average, ranking 45th for education in the nation.

Duane Stucky, vice president for Finance and Administration, said he thinks the study was more of a reflection

"It's impossible to
be imaginative
without money,"

- Duane Stucky
Vice President for Finance
and Administration

tion of Tennessee's K-12 education programs than that of higher education in the state.

However, he did say that the state's higher education problem was partially due to the general work force, which he says is largely uneducated. Without an

educated work force, Stucky believes higher education won't have the support it needs in Tennessee.

Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs, said he believes funding to be a problem, and he said that higher education funding can't be fixed without a state income tax.

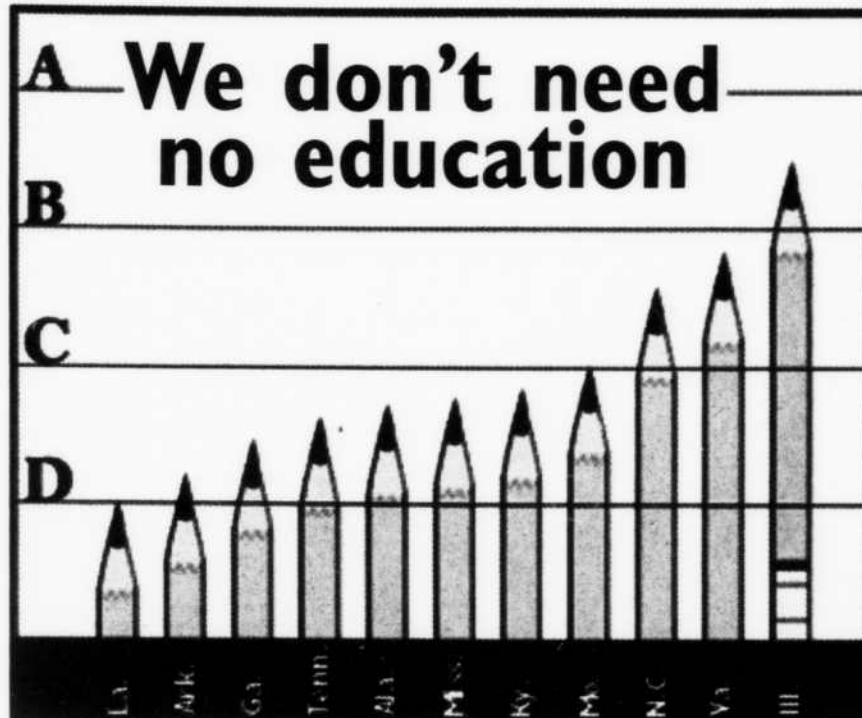
Stucky agreed that funding was a major problem for higher education.

"It's impossible to be imaginative without money," Stucky said.

In the preparation category, Tennessee received a C-.

The study showed that a very large proportion of Tennessee's young adults earn a high school diploma or a

See Leadership, 3



Graphic by Raymond Hutzler | Design Editor

States in the South were recently rated among the lowest in the country for higher education. Tennessee was ranked No. 45 out of 50 states with a D+ overall average. Louisiana had the lowest ranking with a D overall average, Illinois was ranked No. 1 with a B+. Virginia had ranked No. 16, the highest in the South.

Weekend FLASH!

Stress busters and spirit boosters

'boro offers quaint breaks through all the hustle and bustle

By Robin Wallace
FLASH! Editor

On a college campus the peaceful holiday sounds of hustling and bustling, whistling and caroling are snuffed out by a resounding bah-humbug that even the Grinch could truly admire.

While most students hardly resemble Dr. Seuss' thieving green creature, the last week of classes and the week of finals brings to life a bit of Scrooge in us all.

So the countdown until the end of the semester is in full

swing with every minute of every day and night scheduled for doing this or studying that.

Our heads are not filled with visions of sugar plum fairies dancing but rather our dreams, granted that we may sleep, are of frantically doing the things on our lists.

Such lists are like a child's gift list in the unfortunate way that only a fraction of those items will be checked off.

It is a small wonder that the carefree spirit of the approaching holidays gets pushed to the back burner, as the boiling caldron of finals threatens to spill over the

top. Yet, running ourselves into the ground by stressing and not sleeping will certainly not help our overwhelming situation.

The ever-famous phrase of "use discretion and moderation" truly does apply to having fun during such a chaotic time, without sacrificing grades.

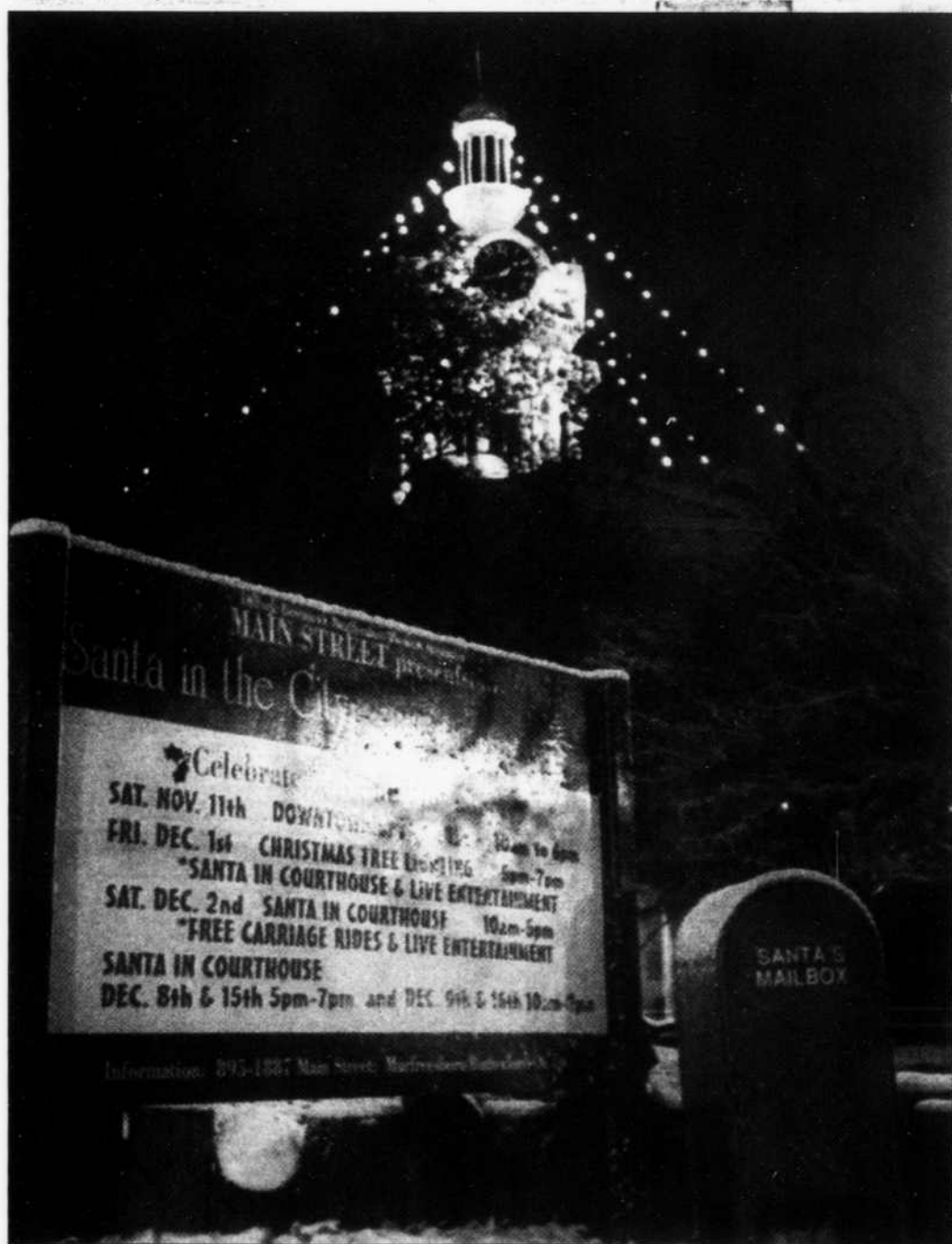
A stroll around the square will melt away anxieties, as it pacifies the mind with the eye-candy of twinkling lights, festive colors, draping garlands and intriguing storefronts.

See Holiday, 5

(Left) City Hall glistens in the middle of the night after the first snow fall of the season.

(Right) Murfreesboro Ornament, a new shop on the Square, transforms its window display and store decorations into a winter wonderland.

Photos by Robin Wallace | Staff



Students evaluate teachers via Internet

By Leslie Carol Boehms
Staff Writer

There's no longer an excuse to get a lousy professor. With the newest student resource www.mtsureview.com students can log on and read comments about the professors they are enrolled with before they even get into the classroom.

Anyone who visits MTSU Review can read posts about the faculty on campus. Other students who have had the professor can then place other com-

ments and messages on the site.

"I began MTSU Review shortly after a story in Sidelines [in 1998] discussed the class surveys that the University conducts [also known as teacher evaluations]," said the sites creator. "The results of those surveys were not released to the general student body, so the MTSU Review site was formed."

The site's creator said that the main goal for MTSU Review is to aid students in determining which class and teacher would be most beneficial to them. The site also allows students to give their

opinions about a class and teacher and have those opinions available to others.

MTSU Review is also a way for teachers to receive feedback about their class and teaching methods.

The idea is to be able to read another students' teacher and class evaluations about a specific course. That way, the student is more informed about what a certain class requires as well as what kind of personality a professor might have.

There are still many plans ahead for the MTSU Review site. The Webmaster

said that he still wants to add an area where teachers can post responses or reviews about their classes.

"As with any web site, we still have a few things that need to be worked out," said the sites creator. "These things are in no way associated with the security or the accuracy of the responses. They are all server-side issues that have to deal with how long it takes us to post a response that has been submitted."

Additionally, each response is edited if necessary for profane and/or useless comments. The site is an aid to students

and not intended to be used for character defamation."

However, the future of MTSU Review remains in the hands of the students. "I would say MTSU Review has a bright future ahead of it. This, of course, is up to the students who are willing to come to the site and post responses."

"At this point," concluded the creator, "MTSU Review has no financial future, due to the fact that it is a free service and there is no revenue generated from the site." ♦

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Study: South scores low in higher education study

Continued from I

General Education Development diploma by age 24. This was considered to be good.

On the negative side, the study showed the state's eighth graders perform poorly on national assessments in math, reading and writing, indicating that they are not well prepared for challenging high school courses. Only a fair proportion of Tennessee's 11th and 12th graders perform well on college entrance exams, and a very low proportion do well on Advanced Placement tests.

Participation was Tennessee's weakest category. The state received a D-.

In that category, the study found that a low proportion of high school students in Tennessee go on to college immediately after high school, and a low percentage of young adults (ages 18 to 24) are enrolled in college-level education or training.

The study also found that very small proportion of working-age adults (ages 25 to 44) are enrolled in educational programs beyond high school.

With a grade of C, affordability was one of Tennessee's highest-rated attributes.

The study stated that Tennessee compares well to the top-performing states on the share of family income required after financial aid is applied to attend the state's public two- and four-year colleges and universities, which enroll about 75 percent of students statewide.

However, the study showed that Tennessee makes a very limited investment in financial aid for low-income students and families.

With another C rating, Tennessee's other highest rated attribute was completion.

The study showed that a high percentage of first-year students at two- and four-year colleges and universities in Tennessee return for their second year.

However, a fairly low proportion of first-time, full-time college students receive their bachelor's degree within five years of enrolling. Only a fair proportion of students complete certificates and degrees relative to the number enrolled.

In the benefits category, Tennessee received a D+.

The study showed that a small proportion of Tennessee residents have a bachelor's degree, which impairs the state economically. A very low percentage of Tennessee's adults perform well on national assessments of high-level literacy.

In the learning category, Tennessee received an I, because the study stated that like other states, Tennessee lacks adequate information on the educational performance of college students that would permit systematic state or national comparisons.

Illinois was ranked No. 1 in the country with a B+ overall. The breakdown was as follows: A in preparation, A in participation, A in affordability, C+ in completion and B- in benefits.

Louisiana had the lowest ranking in the union with a D. The breakdown was as follows: F in preparation, F in participation, C- in affordability, C in completion and D+ in benefits.

Virginia was the highest ranked southern state with a ranking of 16 and an overall rating of B-. The breakdown was as follows: B in preparation, B- in participation, C in affordability, B in completion and B+ in benefits.

For the complete list of states and for other information from the study, visit <http://measuringup2000.highereducation.org> ♦

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STATE BRIEFS

Compiled By Turner Hutchens - Associate News Editor

Tennessean arrested in Alabama shootings

FRANKLIN, Tenn (AP) - A Tennessee man is being held on charges stemming from a Huntsville, Ala., robbery and shooting that injured five.

Eric Crafton, 22, of Williamson County has been charged in Alabama with attempted murder and robbery, said Lt. Fred Bennett of the Williamson County Sheriff's Department. Crafton turned himself in to a Williamson patrol officer late Sunday.

Crafton is a suspect in a Sunday robbery and shooting that left five people hospitalized, said Lt. Blake Dornier of the Sheriff's Department in Madison County, Ala.

Detectives are unsure what sparked the shooting. But all the victims, who have not been identified, are expected to recover. ♦

Most juvenile offenders suffer mental health problems

NASHVILLE - Approximately 50 to 75 percent of jailed juveniles suffer from mental health problems, but there are too few programs to help them, a congressional advisory group said Tuesday.

In its 16th annual report to Congress and President Clinton, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice urged Congress to spend \$100 million to create cost-effective, community-based mental health programs for youths and their families. ♦

Old Sparky: Seller removes state's old electric chair from eBay

CHATTANOOGA - An online dealer has pulled the plug on his auction of Old Sparky, the supposed electric chair used to execute 125 inmates in Tennessee from 1916-60.

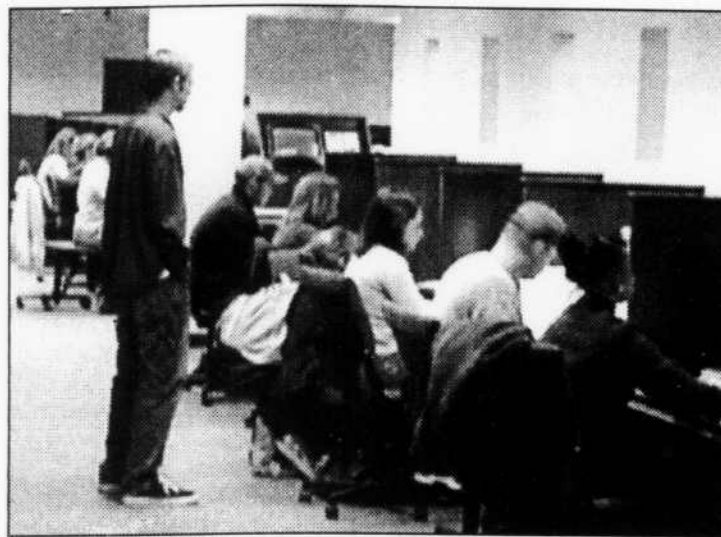


Photo by Wesley R. Bush | Staff

A student waits patiently for a computer in the University Library. The library typically receives more traffic at the end of semesters as finals near.

Without explanation, the seller on Tuesday withdrew his advertisement from the online auction site eBay, where the highest bidder had offered \$12,600 for the chair with a week left in the auction. ♦

Wilderness trail association makes road driver-friendly

KINGSPORT, Tenn. - With all the modern trappings common now to most roadways - striped pavement, power lines, painted signs - its no wonder people who drive every day along roads and highways blazed by Daniel Boone might not think twice about who has come and gone here.

But if Dr. Lawrence Fleenor is along for the trip, its impossible not

to picture the man whose imprint on the region is so lasting and distinct that it might as well be a giant thumbprint.

"Boone made the first improvements of what had basically just been a buffalo trail up until then," said Fleenor, among a growing number of people who are determined to solidify the Boone image in the minds of those who live and visit here. ♦

South one of the country's leading producers of Christmas trees

CALHOUN, Tenn. - Christmas shoppers in the South may have as much trouble choosing a tree as they do deciding which gifts go underneath it.

Excited youngsters and freezing parents are already trudging through rows of pine, fir and spruce in search of the perfect tree.

It can be a hard find, but the South has plenty to offer. Aside from North Carolina, the nation's second-leading grower of Christmas trees, smaller producers in Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia make the South one of the biggest sellers of spruce and pine in the country.

And that could mean a lot of green for the South's economy, because live trees - not the fake plastic kind - are regaining in popularity. ♦

Elk will again roam East Tennessee

KNOXVILLE - In about two weeks, elk will again roam parts of East Tennessee. The last one sighted in the region was killed by an Obion County hunter in the 1850s.

On Dec. 19, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will release 50 elk into the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area in Campbell County.

The elk are the first of some 400 that will be transplanted from a monitored population on Elk Island National Park in Alberta, Canada, over the next four years to a 670,000-acre region encompassing five East Tennessee counties. ♦

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From the staff

Students need to remember goals at end of semester

They say that the semester is winding down, but for many students this is the busiest time of the year. And not because of Christmas.

Many students like to plan early in the semester about how they will do all of their assignments over time instead of all at once.

This is usually nothing more than a pipe dream, however, and during the first two weeks of December, most students are busier than Santa.

But nothing matches the feeling of turning in each assignment one by one until they are all done. It's like climbing the last few rungs of a ladder when you have a severe case of vertigo.

Never fear fellow students, because firmer ground is on the horizon.

In a few days, we'll all be able to catch up on our sleep, see

our significant others (if we have one) and drink, if that is your fancy.

But for now, it's crunch time. Time to see if we are all men and women, or merely just little boys and girls.

Are we going to let those professors ruin all of our dreams and hard work?

We're in the home stretch, our finest hours, the prime of our lives, etc.

We're all young and vigorous — at least in our hearts — and we've invested too many hours in term papers and tests to give up now.

To a lot of you, this editorial may seem silly.

But, the point is to encourage and hopefully inspire students to suck it up and finish the last lap of the semester in good stride.

So good luck and keep all of your dreams alive.

Bring spontaneity into your love life

Miss Mom

An advice column

Sue Doenim

Staff Columnist

Dear Mom:

Time for dating is extremely limited due to my work, school and study schedule. My girlfriend gets irritated because she has to be penciled into my tight schedule. I feel guilty at times, but why can't she understand that I have obligations that need fulfilling? What should I do?

The Planner

Dear Planner:

Pardon my generalization, but there are a few things you need to know about women — at least some of them anyway: they don't like to take a back seat to anything, they anger easily, and they are unpredictable.

Some women approach romance with an idealistic viewpoint. They like their doors opened, they want to be called three times a day, they like receiving flowers and compliments, and they want to go out often.

Being romanced is also high on their list, but how can one fit romance into a "tight schedule," especially since, for some, romance is a spontaneous event?

You can do one of two things: pretend to be spontaneous or be spontaneous within your allotted time schedule.

When pretending to be spontaneous, don't tell your girlfriend when you have free time. Surprise her by showing up at her door or inviting her somewhere she least expects.

But then, like I said, some women are unpredictable, and she may complain about not having anything to wear, or she may say she does not have time for you because of her own plans. You have to

make yourself aware of what she is doing before you can be spontaneous within your limited time schedule.

The better way to please your girlfriend is to continue planning your dates, but at the same time practice spontaneity.

When she arrives at your door, surprise her with a home-made dinner and candlelight. Get intimate one evening and wash her hair and paint her toenails. Purchase tickets in advance and go to a concert or attend a play on campus.

Sometimes, the best moments are free, special and most memorable.

I understand your viewpoint as well. It is difficult to maintain good grades while engaged in a relationship, but try to understand that some feelings can not be planned. One can not turn their emotions and maintain sincerity on and off.

Intimacy is an intense moment that is best experienced impulsively. Imagine what it is like to have to plan a kiss or that you can't kiss because your boyfriend doesn't have time for the end result of that action.

Rather than feel guilty about not having enough time to spend with your girlfriend, during one of your scheduled dates, ask her "why and what" makes her angry about your strict calendar. Perhaps she doesn't realize exact extent of your workload. ♦

To the readers of Miss Mom:

I will be attending another university next semester, so this column will not be returning to Sidelines. I want to thank those of you who have entrusted me to give advice and those who have read the column. I wish you luck on your finals and offer you the greeting "Happy Holidays!"

Miss Mom

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Green may be PC, but doesn't bring in bucks

By Greg Volk

The Technician (North Carolina State U.)

(U-WIRE) RALEIGH, N.C. - The recent success, or lack thereof, depending on your views, of Ralph Nader and the Green Party has once again brought environmentalism to the forefront of discussion.

There is a significant reason Nader received only three percent of the popular vote besides the entrenchment of the two-party system in American politics or the so-called "Nader's traders."

The reason Nader and environmentalism is not more popular is the same reason in many places you have to pay to have recycling picked up from your house: environmentalism does not sell.

It is the sad but true fact that money rules all in American society. Ideas that cannot be packaged and sold, like environmentalism and Christianity, will never receive the widespread support they seek.

The fundamental basis of environmentalism is contrary to our capitalistic views. Environmentalism urges us to reduce, reuse and reserve while we want to make more, buy more, and sell more at most costs.

The reason environmentalism is unpopular is the flip side of why professional and college athletes are held to different standards (no Damon Thornton reference here). Why? Because they make lots of money for lots of people.

It might not even be a stretch to imagine the prosecution of President Clinton would have had a drastically different outcome had our economy not been so strong at the time.

We are subtly taught by society to dislike environmentalism even in our childhood. What did we want more than anything when we were children? As many large, plastic toys (that would eventually be thrown away) as our parents would allow us to have.

And do you remember that horrible television cartoon, "Captain Planet?" The superheroes fought pollution with the powers of earth, wind, fire, water and heart.

This sounds strangely more like a mediocre

seventies soul-funk band than a successful Saturday morning cartoon.

No wonder it was cancelled after just a few seasons.

That show had to have been propaganda. Who wants to watch a group of teenagers foil the capitalistic villain by flooding his uranium mine with a gigantic tsunami? I mean, come on! We want lasers and big tanks and stuff.

While we're on the topic of cartoons and toys, who would have wanted a biodegradable action figure? You'd accidentally leave it outside after an imaginary battle of epic proportions and, the next thing you'd know, it'd be part of the compost pile.

The discreet suppression of environmentalism can even be noticed in the celebration of our national holidays if you look hard enough. The biggest holidays are the ones that generate the most revenue - Independence Day, Halloween and Christmas to name a few.

What do we run out and buy every holiday? Those cute, holiday-theme napkins made from trees logged in the Pacific Northwest or a tropical rainforest. It's no mystery why you've never seen "Happy Earth Day" cards in your local Hallmark store.

I guess Arbor Day, when people are encouraged to buy and plant trees, would be the one aspect of environmentalism most likely to be successful according to the rules of our society.

The problem here is that none of this will change until our society's values change. Don't let yourself be fooled into thinking that the Pilgrims came to the New World simply to escape religious persecution. I bet they heard about the unbounded economic potential of maize harvesting.

While I am sympathetic to some environmentalist causes, I have never considered myself an environmentalist. I do, however, always keep the water turned off when I am shaving and find many handy uses for plastic grocery bags. But environmentalism will never catch on in mainstream America as long as producing goods from recycled materials is more expensive than using raw materials, and Styrofoam remains so darn cheap and useful. ♦

Letters to the Editor

Courts should leave TSU alone

Regarding the Geier v. Sundquist case, I think the matter should be dropped.

Any decision made in court is not going to change the opinions of prospective college students. People choose a university based on a number of reasons and eventually decide upon the one where they will feel comfortable and offers what they are looking for.

Yes, Tennessee State University is a traditionally, predominately African-American university. Why are people trying to drive young African-Americans away to other Tennessee schools? TSU has a beautiful campus and many advantages. Maybe that is why any particular student chooses to go there.

Maybe another student chose MTSU because they have a great recording industry program or University of Tennessee-Knoxville because of their law program.

Don't assume that these non-minority students choose other schools based strictly on the fact that they are predominately Caucasian students.

Let students go where they want to go. Leave the legal tactics out of it. Concentrating on this

Mail your comments to Box 42, drop them off at JUB 310 or e-mail them to stupubs@mtsu.edu. Letters may be edited for length or content.

issue is taking away from other issues that should be addressed regarding the universities in Tennessee. What authoritative figures in a courtroom think is not necessarily reflective of what we think or what we will do.

Heather Brown

Holiday rent excuse to squeeze out more money

Is it just me or does anyone else think that the idea of having to pay rent (\$240) if you stay on campus during the holiday break is a stupid thing?

Most of my stuff will be there in my room anyway, so why are they not charging rent if I leave it and go home?

If I stay, I have to pay.

What a dumbass excuse to get more money out of students who have to WORK here until Christmas Eve and the like.

It's not like they can rent the room to someone else for \$240 while I am gone. If they could, then why would I be allowed to leave my stuff and return in January?

A. Young

dancin' up fun

Shattered stereotypes yield new hobby



Photos by Alicia Moore

(Above) The sleepy town of Whoville. (Right) Jim Carrey stars as "The Grinch."

By Rachel Robinson
Staff Writer

Before entering the Woodbine Community Center, the sound of the polished fiddle strokes and an occasional "yee-ha" filters through the brisk night air.

Such a greeting brings a wave of dubious second thoughts and an attitude of "I'm too cool for this," but as soon as the corner is turned these thoughts are crushed by the realization of what lies in front of you.

The stereotypical ideas of Contra and Square Dancing disappear as the rhythm from the live band sends every foot that enters the doors to tapping. Surprisingly, there are no matching sequin outfits or cowboy hats.

"We are a very open, very friendly, non-competitive, family oriented group and if you mess up no one cares," says Tom Lawson who has been dancing since 1981.

Two lines are formed with the "gents" on one side and the ladies on the other. These lines then form four boxes consisting of two couples each.

A practice of the next dance is called out step by step by the caller, Chrissy Davis-Camp from Bell Buckle.

Newcomers move through the practice motions mechanically, while pros help out with tricky moves.

When the actual dance has begun, the comprehension of how the steps and the music fit together is answered.

Regulars move with the grace and ease of professionals, but without the intimidation.

Dancers circle to the left one whole time and swing their partners. A dizzy rush fills the head of beginners as they lean back and hold on to pick up momentum.

Next the dancers make a left-hand star, once around, then Grand Ball Chain through the line. They balance the line then circle to the left one whole time and Gypsy their partner.

They swing their mate and end the dance with a bow.

The knees of first-timers are shaking from the unexpected workout and staggering twirling. But they soon recover and find a partner for the next dance.

The band plucks out such tunes as the "Snake Oil Reel," "Bridge of Athena" (a "Virginia Reel" type dance) and "Another Way Back" or the Visiting Dance.

Davis-Camp, who has been dancing since she was six and calling since 1985, says she "started dancing at a community center in East Tennessee way out in the boonies with a bunch of hippies."

The Nashville Country Dancers was originated 25 years ago by Ruby Thatcher, a Berea College alumni who danced with the country dancers there 50 years ago.

"Forty Years ago there was an English Country Dance group and it just mixed into an English, American and International group," says Hibbard Thatcher, who has been dancing for 60 years and used to call.

The Nashville Country Dancers dance every Friday night and have about four different bands that play for them, but Carnival Knowledge is one of their best.

Bass player Jeff Kheras said, "Al and I knew each other, but we had to put an ad in the paper for a fiddle player and we went

through two before coming together". The band has since been together for two years.

Back on the floor, the caller says to form two lines opposite your partner, then swing them. Everyone is now facing the stage with the band and caller on it.

The caller then informs the group that it's time for announcements. That was tricky way to get everyone's attention!

Some of the announcements include the upcoming celebration "Breakin' Up Winter" during the first weekend of March at Cedars of Lebanon State Park, and the Ball at the end of March.

After announcements the group breaks into another dance. They band ends the evening with a traditional Waltz.

A table is set up with brochures and pamphlets at the end of the Hall alerting dancers of other events happening in the dancing community.

"It can take you all around the world; we're planning a tour around Sweden now. It's really a cultural exchange," stated Lawson.

Some of the brochures announce dances all over the world in such places as England, Ireland, Guatemala, Cincinnati and North Carolina.

See Dance, 6

Holiday: Counting down the days

Continued from 1

If you can spare the extra couple of minutes be sure to warm your body and heart in the charming atmosphere of "special ornaments store."

For you gentleman, get a shave or a hair cut at Palace Barber and Style Shop, where the gentle clickety-clack of miniature trains will lull you into deep relaxation.

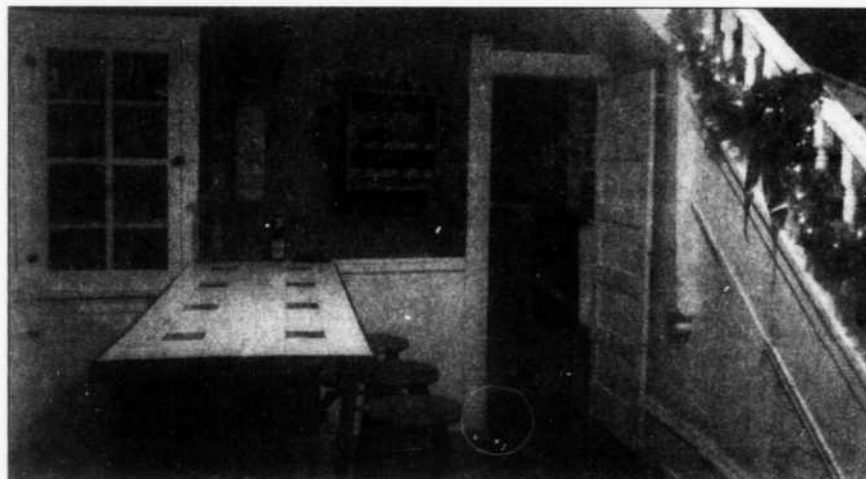
But, if your schedule can only afford a brisk walk around the center of town, at least drop-off a letter to Santa before you hit the books again.

Who knows maybe he'll send you a little pre-Christmas gift of A's on all your projects, papers and exams — of course, that is if you've been more nice than naughty.

See Holiday, 6

Photos by Alicia Moore | Staff

(Right) The home of Ryan Reid, located at 550 East Main Street is one of the stops on Saturday's 'Candlelight Tour. (Left) Decked in holly, the front stair case and formal living room of Reid's home exudes the holiday spirit. (Top right) Rennovated and built by Reid, the bar connects the kitchen and dining room, with the second staircase leading to the entertainment living room.

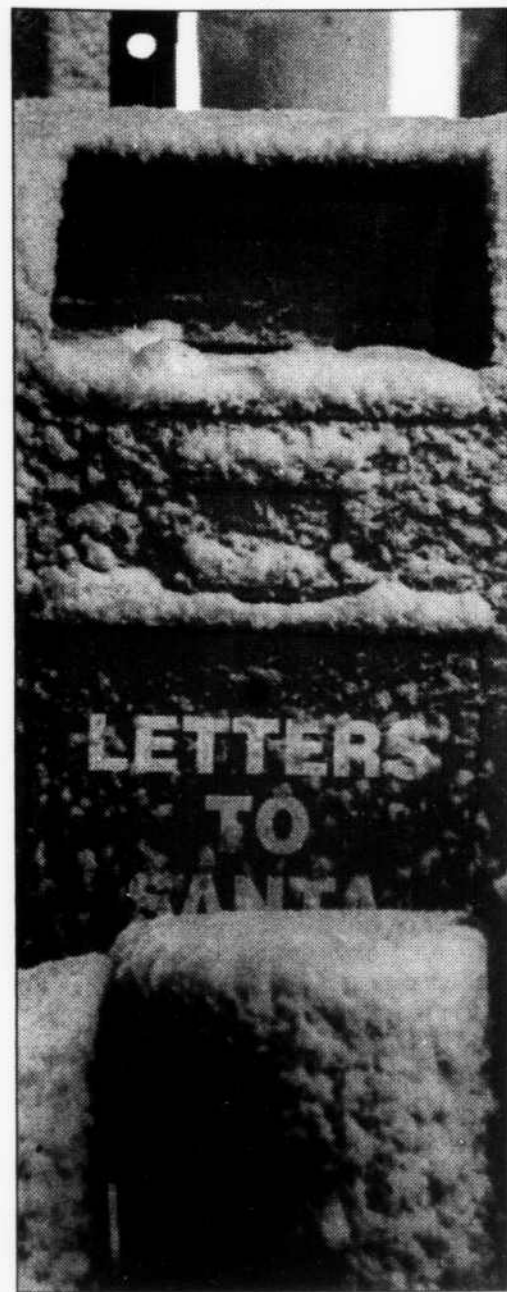


Photos by Robin Wallace | Staff

(Below left) Santa motors around the City Hall. (Below right) A happy little tree makes its way home to be part of a merry little Christmas



Holiday: Get in the mood, chase end-of-semester blues away



Continued from 5

Perhaps, if your behavior has been 50-50, then maybe you should consider personally talking with Old St. Nick to work out some sort of a deal. (You know he's on tour right now and will be at the Courthouse on Friday and Saturday.)

Besides the planned events such as carolers and carriage rides, you'll never know what you may find out there on the square.

You may just run into a pack of elves riding motorcycles, who are lead by Santa and followed by Rudolph.

In any case, a window-shopping trip to the heart of the 'boro is a guaranteed stress buster and spirit booster!

While the leisurely stroll may revive the mind and spirit, the body may be in need for more extreme measures.

A massage is the perfect way to relieve the crick in your neck (from falling asleep while you were studying), the stiffness in your shoulders (from hunching over your desk while writing), or the tension knots in your back (from the intense stress built up over a semester).

Sounds great, but impossible on a tight budget, right? Well, how does free fit the bill? Randy Ritterbush, a massage therapist in training at the Institute of Massage and Movement, is in a way cramming for his finals.

Like others in his class, Ritterbush needs to perform a certain number of massages before he can graduate, so why not put a new meaning to the cliché, "If you scratch my back, I'll

scratch your back?"

For all those who have a light finals week or romantic interests, then The Candlelight Tour is perfect for your Saturday afternoon plans. The traditional holiday tour includes four homes, two churches and the Oaklands Historic House Museum, which is hosting the tour that benefits the museum.

If you are up for something a little different and tons of fun, not to mention a great work-out try going to the Friday night's dance hosted by the Nashville Country Dancers. (See adjacent article)

So no matter what your final schedule is or what your holiday plans are, forget about all the worries of tomorrow and have a moment to yourself to relax and feel like a care-free kid again.

Call the Oaklands Historic House Museum at (615) 893-0022. The tour lasts from 4-8 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and can be bought at any of the houses, which can be toured in any order (the churches are free). The Candlelight Tour visits Central Christian Church on East Main Str.; First Cumberland Presbyterian Church on East Main Str.; Oaklands Historic House Museum at 900 North Manning Ave.; 550 East Main Str.; 527 East Main Str.; 117 North University Str.; 534 East College Str.; 205 North University Str.

Call Randy Ritterbush at (615) 826-4127 to set up an appointment Monday through Thursday 1-5 p.m.*



Photos by Robin Wallace | Staff

(Left) The snowy mailbox awaits to be filled with letters destined for the North Pole. (Right) Palace's Barber and Style Shop has its own little Grand Central Station.

Here's to you... Looking back and stepping forward

I have had the privilege of being the editor of this section for the past two semesters.

I am grateful for all the support and dedication from my staff and fellow editors over these past several months -- I hope that one day I can do the same for you.

I have tried to do my very best, yet, I know that I have failed many times, falling short in my own goals and standards, as well as disappointing you - my readers, staff and editors.

But through these times together, I hope that my work,

whether it was in photographs, articles or designs, has touched your life.

Without realizing it all of you in one way or another have influenced my life. I have grown both personally and professionally -- I have all of you to thank for these lessons learned.

It is interesting how a journalist and a reader can build an interdependent relationship without ever physically knowing each other.

Yet, I have discovered that as you "receive" my work, you are getting a little piece of me.



And that something is a more intimate glimpse of who I am than any personal conversation that we may have as sim-

ple acquaintances.

During my time as being FLASH! editor some of us have gotten to know each

other personally, but mostly we've only been introduced in a one-sided sort of a way.

So I thought that this being my last issue as the editor of FLASH!, I'd finally put a face to the name.

And in doing so it is my sincere desire that you introduce yourself as well, to make the connection complete.

Well, I suppose that this is my final two cents and last time on the soap box. So what else can I say?

Best of luck and happy holidays!

~Robin

Dance: Two steppin' thrills

Continued from 5

Before heading for home, with the Ball and "Breakin' Up Winter" in their minds, the beginners grab some newsletters off the table pondering the next Contra and Square Dancing event to go to.

The prejudice within them that was once alive about dancing has died with the first swing around the Hall.

For a great break from regular Holiday Celebration check out The Old English Christmas Fete is December 8-10 in Knoxville, TN, for more information call 865-691-0744. ♦

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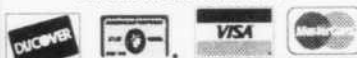
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The Two Minute Drill

R. Colin Fly Sports Editor



Big win for Raiders

Senior Dale Thomas netted 12 points and snared nine rebounds to pace the Blue Raiders in a thrilling 75-73 overtime victory over the Rice Owls. Randy Wiel is now 6-2 in overtime games at Middle Tennessee.

Thomas took up the slack for the injured Senior Lee Nosse playing 32 minutes in the contest.

Freshman Tommy Gunn set new career highs in scoring in each of the Blue Raiders last three games. Gunn torched Rice for 15 points on 6-of-9 on the night including 3-of-4 from behind the 3-point arc. Gunn also equaled his career high in rebounds with a three-board performance.

Four Blue Raiders scored in double figures in the Rice game. Thomas had 12, Fernando Ortiz had 16, Gunn scored 15, and Bryant Mitchell scored 11.

Jump shots

Twice this season the Blue Raiders have taken a lead into the locker room at intermission only to watch it slip away in the second half. The Blue Raiders are now 1-1 on the season when trailing at the half.

The Blue Raiders committed a season-low seven turnovers against Rice. Even more impressive is the fact that Middle Tennessee didn't commit a single turnover in the games opening half. Just for the record, the least number of turnovers that the Blue Raiders have ever committed is five coming against Arkansas State in 1988.

Senior Lee Nosse was held out of tonight's game due to a strained hip flexor. Nosse's status is day-to-day and is expected currently listed as probable for Saturdays game against Tennessee State.

The Owls came into the contest holding their opposition to 51.0 points per game and limited their opponents to 32.3 percent from the field and 17.2 percent from behind the 3-point line. The Blue Raiders scored 75 points, becoming the first team to score more than 57 points against Rice. The team accomplished the feat by shooting 44.3 percent from the floor and 42.3 percent from behind the arc.

Demario Watson saw his first action in three games by logging three minutes of playing time against Rice.

Senior Jonathan Whitworth was 2-of-4 from 3-point land in the game, raising his season percentage to 33.3.

MT's bench outscored the Owls reserves 42-2 in the game.

Over the weekend ...

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Charles Price and Matt Hermes scored 16 points each as Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis beat Middle Tennessee State 78-70 on Saturday.

Don Carlisle added 15 points and 14 rebounds, and Josh Fitzwater chipped in 12 for the Jaguars (3-2).

Freddie Martinez scored 16 and Tommy Gunn added 13 for the Raiders.

Middle Tennessee led 40-35 at half-time. And the Raiders shot 46.7 percent from the floor for the game, compared to 35.4 percent shooting for IUPUI.

But Middle Tennessee took just three free throws, all in the first half. The Jaguars, meanwhile, went to the charity stripe 38 times, hitting 30 free throws.

Iiro Tenngren and Fernando Ortiz both fouled out for the Raiders, who were called for 27 personal fouls. The Jaguars were only whistled 13 times.

Middle Tennessee built their half-time lead by shooting 51.7 percent from the floor, including 7-of-10 on 3-pointers.

But in the second half, the Raiders hit just 41.9 percent from the field. They were held to 4-of-13 shooting from long range. ♦

Frosh seeks immediate impact

By Rachel Parrish
Staff Writer

Freshman Keisha McClinic, one of the latest editions to the Lady Raider basketball squad, brings with her not only experience, but also a refreshing and upbeat positive outlook for the future.

"I was excited about being recruited to play here at MTSU," says the 5-foot-10-inch guard. "I knew that the program here was going places and I really wanted to be a part of it."

One of the reasons why she thinks head coach Stephany Smith recruited her was because of her aggressiveness on the court.

"I was mostly known as a defensive player and a hustler," she said bluntly.

Though she has received several awards in high school, including The Wendy's High School Heisman, McClinic does not have a case of the 'big head'.

"I never talk junk on the court," she said maturely. "I just get the rebound instead."

And she doesn't kid around when it comes to getting her rebounds either.

"Last year on my birthday, I had a game where I needed 18 rebounds to reach my goal of 1,000. I hustled until I got those 18," she recalled. "That was the best game of my life."

Unlike the girls in the popular movie, Love and Basketball, where the freshmen on the team suffered from upperclassmen snobbery, McClinic says the Lady Raiders are nothing like the women on the screen.

"The girls here are very helpful. I can go to them for advice and they help me out all the time," McClinic said.

Not only does she have enthusiasm for her team, but also she feels confident about her future as well.

"I'm excited about going to the Sunbelt," McClinic said. "It's all about making a statement, just getting out there and knowing I can do it on a collegiate level is great."

As for her long-term goals, McClinic said she wants to graduate and after that play overseas in a women's basketball league.

"And possibly play in the WNBA," said McClinic, with that characteristic enthusiasm and a quick laugh.

And if she continues to play with the vigor she shows both on and off the court, we'll all be buying WNBA tickets in the future to go see her play. ♦



McClinic

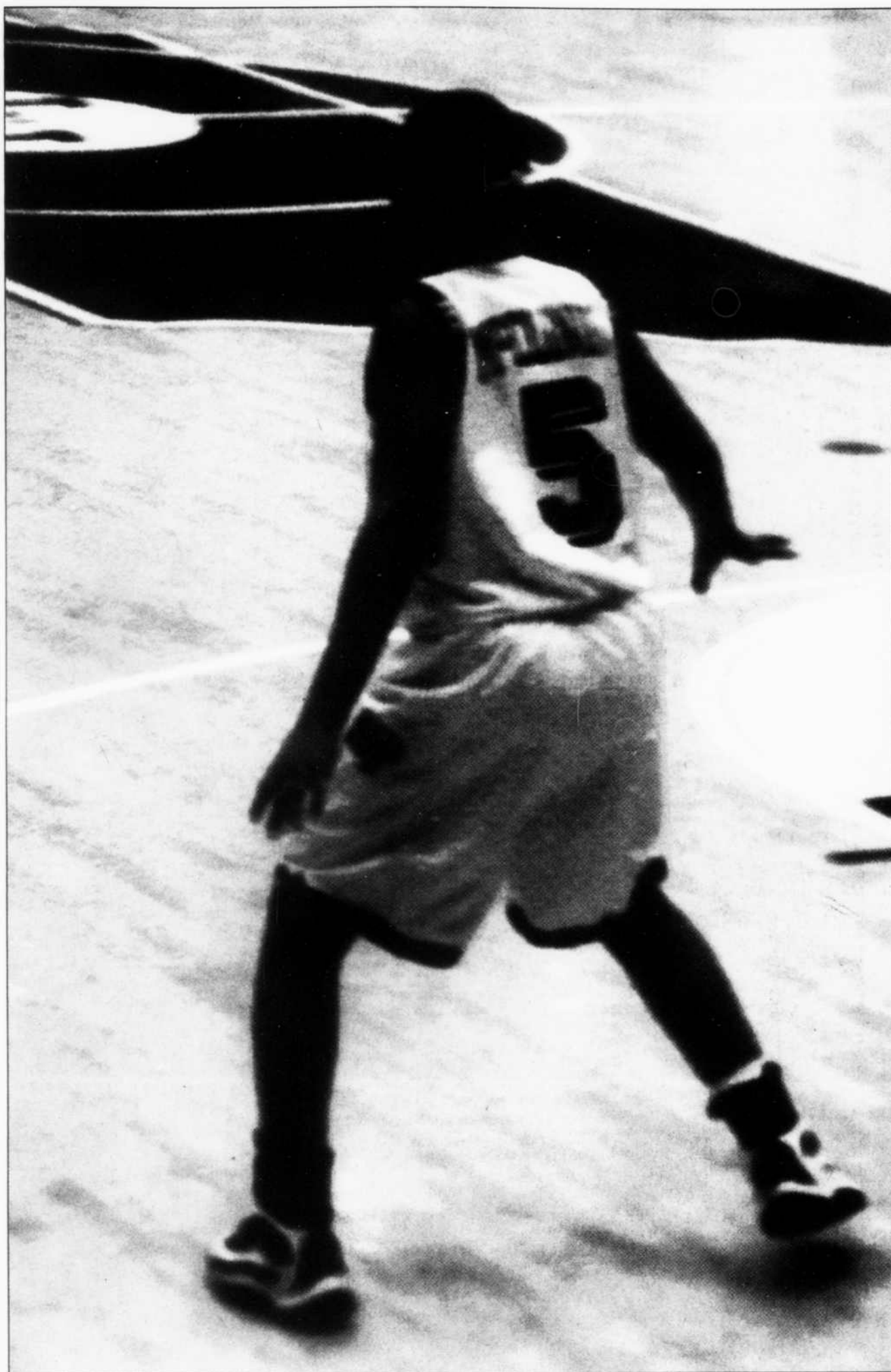


Photo by Robin Wallace | Staff

McClinic sets up to close and trap during the first game of the season against the TSU Tigers.

December Basketball Schedules

Blue Raiders			Lady Raiders		
Date	Opponent	Time	Date	Opponent	Time
Dec. 9	Tennessee State	7 PM	Dec. 6	Ole Miss	7 PM
Dec. 12	Central Florida	7 PM	Dec. 10	TennesseeTech	2 PM
Dec. 15	Tennessee (at GEC)	7:30 PM	Dec. 15	Xavier (GEC)	5 PM
Dec. 18	Campbell	7 PM	Dec. 17	Lipscomb	3 PM
Dec. 21	Radford	7 PM	Dec. 21-22	UCF Classic	
Dec. 28	at Arkansas-Little Rock	TBA	Dec. 21	UNC-Greensboro	2 PM
			Dec. 22	UCF	4 PM
			Dec. 28	Arkansas-Little Rock	7 PM
			Dec. 30	Houston	2 PM

* Home games in bold

Lady Raiders overthrow Governors

By Colleen Cox
Staff Writer

The Lady Raider basketball team dominated Austin Peay Sunday afternoon at Murphy Center.

The Lady Raiders jumped out to an 18-3 lead behind stingy defense and sharp shooting. The Lady Raider defense held Austin Peay to 1 for 13 shooting during this run. Austin Peay managed only 18 first half points. The

18 points allowed in the first half was a season best for the Lady Raiders. Senior Kelly Chastain sent the Lady Raiders into the locker room at half-time with a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

"We did a good job defensively in the first half," said Lady Raider head coach Stephany Smith.

Austin Peay came out of the locker room with some momentum, jumping out with a 7-0 run. The run was quickly ended by the Lady Raiders. The Lady

Raiders continued what they started taking the 91-62 win. The end of the game was capped off by a last second

3-point shot just like halftime only this time Michelle Simmons took the shot.

"In the end it almost turned into a circus act," Smith said.

Each player saw action and scored for the Lady Raiders. Sophomore Paula Pentilla led the scoring attack with 15 points. Freshman Keisha McClinic recorded a double-double with 14

points and 11 rebounds. Junior Jamie Thomatis had a season low 14 points to extend her double-digit scoring streak to 18 games.

The win was the tenth straight at home for the Lady Raiders who scored 90 points for the second time this season.

"I told the kids we could play that game ten times and not have that outcome," Smith said. "A lot of things went our way and we did some things to create shots." ♦



Holiday
Sportscast

December 9

■ **Men's Basketball**
Blue Raiders vs. TSU
Murfreesboro, Tenn.,
7 p.m.

December 10

■ **Women's Basketball**
Lady Raiders @
Tennessee Tech
Cookeville, Tenn.,
7 p.m.

December 12

■ **Men's Basketball**
Blue Raiders vs.
Central Florida
Murfreesboro, Tenn.,
7 p.m.

December 15

■ **Raider Rally**
@ GEC, Nashville, Tenn.,
5:30 p.m.

■ **Women's Basketball**
Lady Raiders vs. Xavier
Gaylord Entertainment Center
Nashville, Tenn., 5 p.m.

December 17

■ **Women's Basketball**
Lady Raiders vs. Lipscomb
Murfreesboro, Tenn.,
3 p.m.

■ **Men's Basketball**
Blue Raiders vs. Tennessee
Gaylord Entertainment Center
Nashville, Tenn., 7:30 p.m.

