

Exposure  
this week

Feb. 9, 2006  
**THURSDAY**

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student parents

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look  
for it  
inside

Middle Tennessee State University

# SIDELINES

VOL. 81 NO. 05

MURFREESBORO, TN



James E. Walker, 64, died Feb. 5, at his home. During Walker's 10 years at MTSU, the school's enrollment increased by 28 percent, including a rise in minority enrollment from 6 percent to about 18 percent. Scholarship monies also increased by \$5 million a year.

Photo provided by MTSU Photographic Services

## Walker dies at 64 His legacy lives on

By Michelle McCrary and Sarah B. Mullen  
Staff Writers

Dr. James E. Walker, former president of MTSU, died Sunday of complications from prostate cancer.

Walker, 64, died Feb. 5, at his home. He moved to Carbondale, Ill. in 2000, where he became the first African American president of Southern Illinois University.

During Walker's 10 years at MTSU, the school's enrollment increased by 28 percent, including a rise in minority enrollment from 6 percent to about 18 percent. Scholarship monies also increased by \$5 million a year.

MTSU President Sidney McPhee, said Walker left a legacy that is undeniable on campus.

"He has left his prints all over our campus and the community," he said. "He has instilled on the campus the courage to dream big."

Among his achievements, Walker was MTSU's first African American president. He was one of only half a dozen African

American presidents in the nation, and one of only a few who lead a campus the size of MTSU's, McPhee said.

"He did make MTSU attractive to me," he said. "Whatever the ethnic group, his pioneering role in activities was enough of a role model to say I can do that too."

Walker was very involved in campus activities. McPhee said he attended MT athletic events and was even seen at a fraternity party.

"I am trying to build on his good work and build on the foundation he made," McPhee said.

Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment Management, said he was grateful to Walker for an opportunity to work at MTSU.

"I believe that Walker was a man of clear vision and knew

See Walker, 2

## State appropriates \$2 million for science building

By Wesley Murchison  
Staff Writer

MTSU has been appropriated \$2 million of state funding for the first phase of a new science building that has been on the Tennessee Board of Regents capital outlay projects list for 10 years.

Gov. Phil Bredesen unveiled his annual capital projects spending for new structures and renovations for the state. Before final approval, the governor's budget will have to be approved by the legislature.

Currently, the Wiser-Patten Science Hall and the Davis Building are being used,

joined together by an annex that also serves to house offices for the biology department.

The buildings have deteriorated since their construction nearly 40 years ago, resulting in many problems such as leaky windows and limited space due to the growing student body.

"We had to cancel class just if it was raining because the water would just keep coming," said science major Jenny Simpkins.

"We've got lots of good researchers and no place for them to do it," said chairperson for the chemistry department Earl Pearson.

The building's total cost of \$94 million has been sectioned off into four phases,

with the initial phase expected to be \$15 million, Pearson said.

Pearson said the buildings location has yet to be determined and that the university will hire a consultant ideal spot.

Getting this project started and funded has been difficult for many economic and financial reasons, as well as the building's size and competing universities, said Jerry Preston, executive director of capital projects and facilities at TBR.

Preston said the previous lack of state funds combined with the slow economy resulted in a period of stagnate growth for public structures and renovations.

The size of the new science building was another reason given to its long delay, said Rep. Kent Coleman, D-Murfreesboro.

"The disadvantage the project had is that it is such a large expenditure. When you got a million dollar project and a \$10 million project with only a million to spend, you get passed," Coleman said.

Coleman said it was Bredesen's initiative to make the new science building a priority.

He said once the project begins, funding would continue until completion.

The science building received the second largest monetary appropriation; the highest being \$6 million to the University of

Memphis toward the construction of a new law school building.

The University of Memphis law building became a priority due to a fear that law school would lose ABA accreditation, said Lola Potter, public information officer of the department of finance and administration for Bredesen.

The remaining \$13 million of the cost for phase one will be paid for by state government bond issues. The planning phase of the new building will take two years. Construction should take two years and projected to be completed within five, Pearson said.

## Seigenthaler shares concerns over ethics

By Michaela Jackson  
Staff Writer

John Seigenthaler, Sr., long-time journalist and editor for The Tennessean, spoke to faculty from the College of Mass Communication on Wednesday, addressing ethics and accountability in online journalism and information sharing.

Seigenthaler approached the issue of ethics by sharing his experience of being publicly defamed on the Internet with Mass Communication faculty at a brown-bag luncheon in the John Bragg Mass Communication building.

Seigenthaler, a self-proclaimed advocate of freedom of expression, became the victim of online defamation in fall 2005, when a paragraph stating that he was suspected of involvement in the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy appeared in his biography on Wikipedia, an open-source encyclopedia on the Internet.

"In mid-September, [a friend] called me and said, 'Google yourself, click on the Wikipedia link and sue,'" Seigenthaler said.

The entry, which also accused Seigenthaler of defecting to the Soviet Union to avoid implication in the assassinations, was ultimately traced to Brian Chase, a manager at

Rush Delivery, a courier service in Nashville.

Seigenthaler opted not to sue Chase, and asked Rush Delivery not to demand Chase's resignation.

"I said, 'I just don't want to sue anybody for defamation,'" Seigenthaler said. "If someone else wants to do it, I will recognize it, but it's not going to be the founder of the First Amendment Center [bringing the suit]."

"I've said too many times that outrageous speech is protected," he said.

The paragraph was removed from both his biography and Wikipedia's history at Seigenthaler's request.

The controversy forced him to think through his convictions regarding the importance of freedom of expression, Seigenthaler said.

"My core beliefs on how much First Amendment abuse should be tolerated were challenged," he said. "While the First Amendment expands the rights of free expression, it raises the need for responsibility."

Seigenthaler called for increased accountability among online journalists and purveyors of information, such as Wikipedia contributors.

Seigenthaler also addressed the issue of Internet blogs as a source of reliable information.

"There are bloggers who are inaccurate and those who are reliable, bloggers who defame and those who don't, some who tell the truth and some who lie," he said. "We have to be so much more careful in reading Wikipedia and blogs because there is, in many cases, no real history of credibility or accountability or responsibility."

University President Sidney McPhee said he agreed.

"The issue of accountability is the big key here," McPhee said.

Newspapers face similar issues when they publish on the Internet, Seigenthaler said.

"When newspapers go online with Web sites, they will make the same mistakes newspapers make in print," Seigenthaler said.

"Going online doesn't change [information dispersion] except that the federal law will provide substantially more protection to bloggers and Web sites [than to printed publications]."

"Bloggers are pamphleteers, but without the risk of libel," he said.

Public trust in the journalists has been damaged by inaccuracies, Seigenthaler said, but newspapers can turn around the deflated

See Seigenthaler, 3



John Seigenthaler speaks to faculty during a brown-bag luncheon Wednesday. Seigenthaler addressed ethical issues surrounding defamation.

Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor

### LOCAL FORECAST

#### Friday



HI: 48°  
LO: 27°  
PRECIP: 10%

#### Saturday



HI: 37°  
LO: 23°  
PRECIP: 30%

#### Sunday



HI: 40°  
LO: 26°  
PRECIP: 10%

### CAMPUS

#### Double Reed Day

MTSU is holding the third annual Double Reed Day, a day-long event offering classes and recitals relating to wind instruments by renowned musicians and local artists.

### OPINIONS

#### Tim Hil not running

I guess I should apologize to my professors because I haven't been myself these last ten days or so. A few assignments I had every intention of turning in just didn't get turned in. If you keep reading, you'll understand my loose justifications.

### SPORTS

#### Givens Profile

Blue Raider Guard Chrissy Givens is proving why she is one of the best players in the Sun Belt Conference. She leads the league in scoring with 22 points per game.

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Sidelines is the editorially independent newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring and Wednesday during June and July.

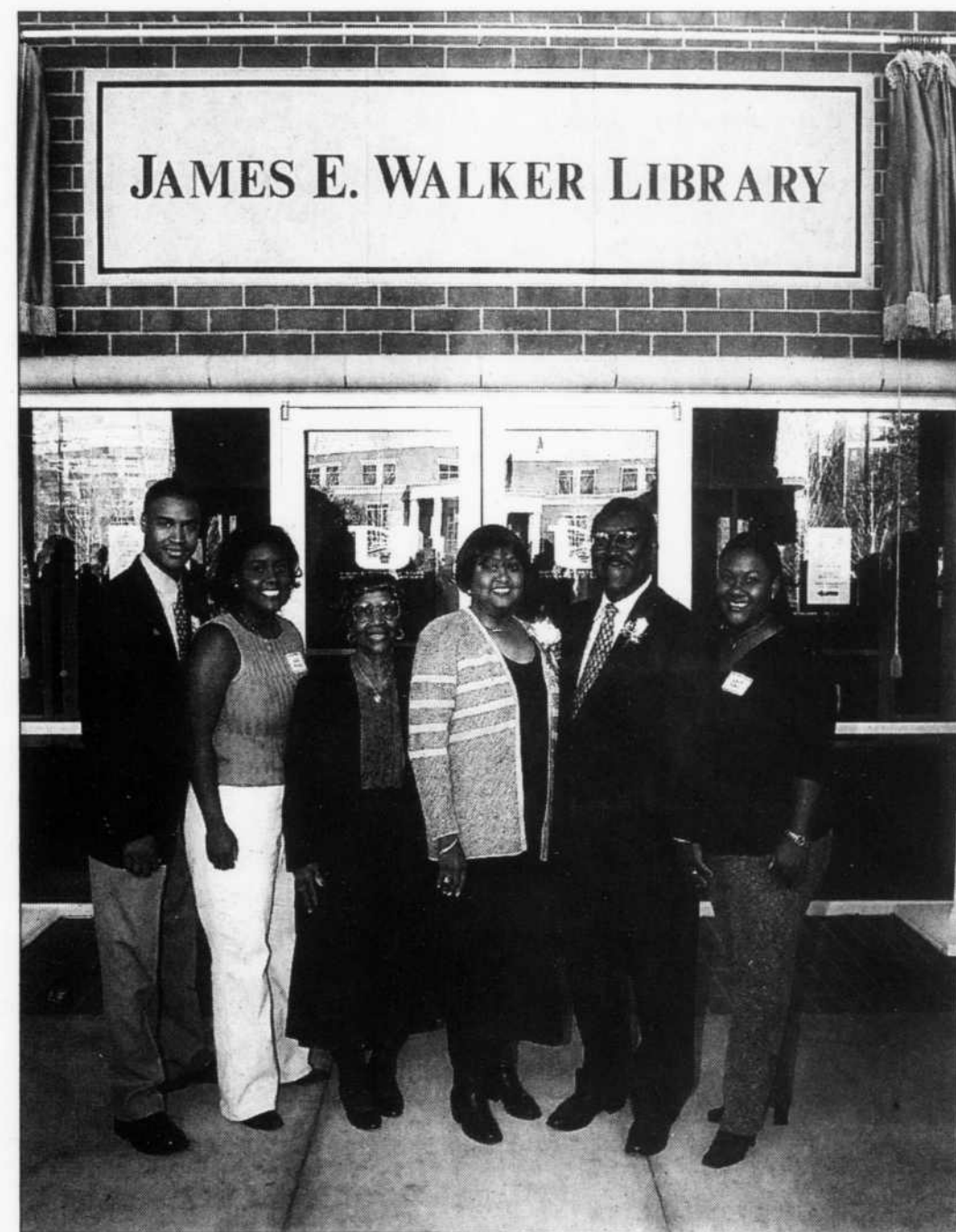


Photo provided by MTSU Photographic Services  
Dr. James E. Walker, former president of MTSU, died Sunday of complications from prostate cancer. Walker, 64, died Feb. 5, at his home. He moved to Carbondale, Ill. in 2000, where he became the first African American president of Southern Illinois University. Colleagues of Walker remember his charisma, commitment and leadership.



Burton

"We are deeply moved by his passing. He was a phenomenal man who had a great vision for the school. He had a great charisma to pull everything together. His legacy to the Jones College of Business is the BAS for which we are very thankful for. We extend our sympathies to Mrs. Walker and his family. His legacy for the university will be long lasting."



Yleverton

"Dr. Walker was very supportive of the school of music. He loved the marching band, known as the president's own (marching band); I had the occasion to play at his house for meetings, and he seemed to have a great personality. Distinguished deep voice, commanded attention, but was very personal. He seemed to get things done."



Parson

"School flourished under his leadership, and the biggest thing was that we transferred to the 4 year program; big supporter; he got us a building for our own; worked with Christie Hughes foundation so we didn't have to share a building with Stark agriculture anymore. We were combined with the agribusiness & Agriscience School

Under doctor Walker for 5 years, was a quiet spoken man but when he spoke people listened; passing of a great man who will be missed."

## Walker: "Legacy lives on"

Continued from 1

what he wanted to accomplish in life and with this university," Glenn said. "Dr. Walker will be severely missed in higher education."

One unique fact Glenn offered about Walker was his collection of decorative turtles. "[Walker] believed that you had to stick your neck out to get anywhere, and the turtle collection reminded him of that and what he needed to do," Glenn said.

Walker was named president of Southern Illinois University in July of 2000. After the announcement Walker told media relations, "The 10 years I have served as president of this fine university have been some of the best years of my life. MTSU is a growing, prosperous university with a bright, promising future. I am honored to have been a part of this success phenomenon, and I am certain that MTSU will continue on its path toward future success and greatness."

Charles Myatt, president of First Tennessee Bank for Rutherford County, an MTSU alumni, and close personal friend of Walker, remembers him as a passionate person who had a vision for the university.

"Dr. Walker was a dynamic, hard-charging kind of person. If you had a passion for something he went for it and went big," Myatt said. "He moved the university forward in quantum leaps in terms of facilities, services and students. He moved the university to a new level."

Myatt said he remembers joining Walker at several MTSU sporting events and playing several rounds of golf together.

"[Walker] loved to support his university in anyway that he could," Myatt said. "He traveled with the football team and other school athletics as well. He was also a very avid golf player. We played quite a few rounds together, even though sometimes they didn't always go like we wanted them to," Myatt said.

He said he also remembered the concern over an African American being the president of the university.

"Some people were concerned about a black man as a university president, but the community took him in, and it became a great credit to not only MTSU but Rutherford County and the state," Myatt said.

Walker was a native of Phenix City, Ala. He earned his undergraduate degree from Alabama State University, a Master's degree from Atlanta University, and a doctorate from Penn State University. His postdoctoral studies included a study at Harvard Institute for Educational Management and a post-doctoral fellowship in higher education administration at the University of Alabama.

Walker's former colleagues and staff from MTSU remem-

ber him as a beloved man and a pioneer for the university.

John McDaniel, dean of the College of Liberal Arts remembers Walker as a non-conformist, who wanted the university to be able to "run with the big dogs."

"Dr. Walker was a new breed for the university," McDaniel said. "He was an image breaker who thought that we both could and should be more than 'little middle.' He thought that we should aspire to both regional and national recognition as a university and simply didn't know how to take no for an answer."

McDaniel also said he remembered Walker as an authoritative presence within the university and community.

"When Jim Walker walked into a room he was both a dominating presence and imminently approachable—an unlikely but most rare combination," he said.

Walker's legacy permeates campus. He is responsible for the building of the Scarlett Commons apartments, the Business and Aerospace building, the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building, at a public university as well as the expansion of Floyd Stadium and taking MTSU's football program from Division I-AA to I-A, the largest division of NCAA athletics.

Walker also lent his name to the 250,000 gross square foot library. As of 2001, the library housed 673,162 volumes available for students. The library was dedicated to Walker and opened in January of 1999.

"He's gone but his signature is all across the landscape of MTSU," McDaniel said.

Walker was also an active member of the Boy Scouts of America serving as the president for the Middle Tennessee Council from 1998-1999. He also won the Silver Beaver Award in 1996. The Silver Beaver award was first presented in 1930 for a scout's distinguished service to boyhood within a council.

Joe Long, the Middle Tennessee council scout executive for the Boy Scouts remembers Walker as an active and dedicated member of the Boy Scouts of America.

"Dr. Walker was a dynamic leader that gave so much time and energy to the Boy Scouts of America. His leadership took this council to new heights. Jim will be truly missed," Long said.

Walker is survived by his wife Gwenn and his two children Jamell and Jabrina.

Visitation with the family will be held Friday, Feb. 10 from 5-8 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Carbondale, Ill. Services will be held Saturday, Feb. 11 at 1 p.m. at the church. Memorials may be made to the Southern Illinois University Cancer Institute Prostate Center or to the James E. Walker Library at MTSU.

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# Bredesen calls for new ideas to boost graduation rates

By Erik Schelzig  
AP Writer

In his State of the State address Tuesday night, Gov. Phil Bredesen challenged state lawmakers and others to significantly improve Tennessee's graduation rates over the next six years.

Now higher education officials will have to figure out how to make that happen.

Bredesen said Tennessee could be bypassed by the national economy if graduation rates don't improve.

"There are a lot of young people who want to go to college, who start (and) who find it difficult for various understandable reasons," Bredesen told the General Assembly Tuesday. "I want us to give them a helping hand — it'll make a huge difference in their lives and for our state."

To that end, the governor said, he is calling on education officials to come up with "transformational ideas" to improve both high school and college graduation rates.

The governor said the state should increase high school graduation rates from about 75 percent to 90 percent and college graduation rates from about 45 percent to 55 percent within the next six years.

Charles Manning, chancellor of the state Board of Regents, acknowledged that "there are no silver bullets" for improving graduation rates, but that the board has been working on several projects to increase retention.

The Board of Regents oversees the state's six universities outside the University of Tennessee system, 13 two-year colleges and 26 technology centers.

The board has focused on better college preparation at the high school level, and placed an emphasis on giving part-time and older students enrolled, Manning said.

"The thing about transformational ideas is that once you put them in place, they seem commonplace," said Manning. "I don't want to pretend we have a list of them, and all we have to do is implement them."

"We're really going to be working on experimenting on what works and what doesn't," he said.

Richard Rhoda, executive

director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, applauded the governor for drawing the connection between educational attainment and the state's economy. While graduation rates are already a priority, he said, "the challenge is important."

Bredesen has promoted the importance of summer programs that focus on college-level math and science for top high school students. Last month he proposed creating a science and math magnet school for the state's top students. State officials have been working on remedial programs for lagging students.

Bredesen called college graduation "a very personal issue for me."

"I'm someone who graduated from a small public school in a small town, and went to a big and demanding university, and found the culture shock and the difference in preparation compared to other students to be very difficult," Bredesen told lawmakers Tuesday.

Bredesen, who grew up in Shortsville, N.Y., attended Harvard on an academic

scholarship and earned a degree in physics.

But at least one lawmaker was unmoved by Bredesen's call.

"I didn't like the education stuff," said Sen. Steve Cohen. "It sounded hollow."

The Memphis Democrat said more money for students is more important than transformational ideas. Bumping up lottery scholarship funding would help keep more students in school, he said.

"He's got the vehicle, the money's there," Cohen said. "He just seems to have a blind spot when it comes to the lottery."

To qualify for the \$3,300 lottery scholarships, Tennessee high school graduates must have a 3.0 grade point average or score at least a 21 on the ACT standardized test.

Manning said improving graduation rates probably has more to do with students who might not qualify for a lottery scholarship.

"They need some resources that the lottery scholarships wouldn't hit on," Manning said.



Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor

Maya Stone, assistant professor in the music department and organizer of Double Reed Day, poses with her Bassoon. The bassoon and oboe are considered double reed instruments due to their unique mouthpiece.

## MTSU hosts Double Reed Day

By Dana Owens  
Staff Writer

MTSU is holding the third annual Double Reed Day, a day-long event offering classes and recitals relating to wind instruments by renowned musicians and local artists.

Beginning at 9 a.m., the event will have performances by wind musician students from middle schools, high schools and universities, which will later be critiqued by MTSU faculty and guest musicians.

Every instrument is promoted at one event during the school year such as the Flute Festival in March or Jazz Festival in April, said Tim Musselman, manager of the McLean School of Music.

"[Double Reed Day] helps to build our program here too," he said. "It shows the students that are coming in from high schools and junior highs what's available here at the McLean school."

There will also be time set aside for a question and answer session with the two guest musicians, bassoonist Arthur Weisberg from Indiana University and oboist Mark Ostoich from the College-Conservatory of Cincinnati.

A major focus of the day is to give students a chance to hear and learn from two of the best in the double reed musicians in the world oboist and music professor Dwayne Pigg said.

Pigg who helped organized the event, said students are coming from five states-Tennessee, Alabama, Ohio, Kentucky and Georgia. This year, he hopes hoping to have as many as 90 participants, twice the number of last year and three times more than the

first year.

Oboe and bassoon players are fewer in numbers in many band programs. Some schools have several, while others have none at all, Pigg said.

"[Double Reed Day] will give students a chance to be around other oboe and bassoon players. Oboe reed playing is a lonely world," he said.

The term "double reed" refers to the mouthpiece of an oboe or bassoon. The reeds consist of two pieces of cane tied together—challenging instrument to play when the double reed is all that is used to create the sound Pigg said.

"We're hoping we have an impact and give those students an opportunity to see there are others out there learning to play the instrument," Pigg said. "They'll get to know other oboe and bassoon players from other places and ... hopefully talk about what a fun day they had and encourage other students to want to pay double reed instruments."

Assistant Music Professor Maya Stone who helped organize the event, said contributors from Charles Double Reed, Miller Marketing and Fox Products will have music accessories and instruments for people to try.

The event also features artists of the Nashville Symphony and freelance players. MTSU faculty are also holding a free recital open to the public. At 3:30 p.m., the students will have a chance to show off their skills in another recital that is also open to the public.

## Seigenthaler: "Shares concerns"

Continued from 1

trust of the public in the integrity of their work.

"I think it's correctable, but it will take every reporter and every editor saying [accuracy mistakes] can happen to us," he said. "There are some people who say this is the best thing that ever happened to Wikipedia because they were [mis]taking readability for accountability."

Anantha Babbilli, dean of the College of Mass Communication, said he found Seigenthaler's presentation moving.

"We could have read for 10 years about this issue, but [it was wonderful] to have the personal insight of someone we know so dearly, John, who is so committed to freedom of the press, struggling with the very idea, and still defending it,"

Babbilli said.

"I am refreshed to see that John still stands by his commitment to free expression," he said. "We saw the pain, the agony ... of a person who has been defamed and falsely portrayed."

Seigenthaler is the inspiration for MTSU's John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies, which exists to promote free expression and the rights and responsibilities of the press, according to Babbilli.

The Seigenthaler Chair will host a symposium on the ethics of journalism and new forms of media in April. "We want to educate the next generation of journalists in growth of ethics, conscience and values," Babbilli said. "MTSU is spearheading the movement for high ideals [in journalism]."

### CORRECTION

In the Feb. 6 issue:

In the story, "Alumni win at Regional Emmy's," Alumnus David Willis received three Emmy nominations but no awards.

## Collage accepting spring submissions

Collage, MTSU's literary and arts magazine, is now accepting submissions for its spring issue.

The magazine is interested in works from all genres including short stories, song lyrics, poetry, photography, journalistic pieces, paintings, sculptures and more.

"We are striving to increase submissions in order to publish the best work the MTSU student body has to offer," editor-in-chief Jessi Torres said.

"Students are so future-focused, and this is a great opportunity for them to have their work published, which will be an asset to their future aspirations in the job market."

Even though Collage is housed in the Honors College, Torres said that all students are encouraged to submit work.

"We don't limit our publication to honors students," she said.

The deadline for spring submissions is Thursday, Feb. 16.

Guidelines and submission forms are available in Paul W. Martin Honors building, room

224 or by visiting the Collage Web site at [www.mtsu.edu/~collage](http://www.mtsu.edu/~collage) and clicking on "accepting submissions."

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MTSU Student Affairs announces the:

2006

Dean Judy Smith Scholarship Award

Description: The Dean Judy Smith Scholarship Award is given to a student who is an active participant in one or more of the following areas of Campus Life: social sorority or fraternity, cheerleading squad, Student Programming/Special Events, Student Government Association (executive, legislative, or judicial branch), or CUSTOMS (new student orientation). This student must have completed at least 30 hours credit in residence at MTSU and have a cumulative minimum grade point average of 3.000. (Because of the terms of this award, graduating seniors are ineligible.)

Applications are available now in the Office of Dean of Student Life, KUC Room 212.

Application Deadline: February 24, 2006

If you have any questions about the application process or the scholarship award, please contact Jennifer Lane in the Dean of Student Life Office at 898-2750.

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# OPINIONS

## Opinions editor declines to run

By Tim Hill

Opinions Editor

I guess I should apologize to my professors because I haven't been myself these last ten days or so. A few assignments I had every intention of turning in just didn't get turned in. If you keep reading, you'll understand my loose justifications.

Last week, the Daily News Journal reported that Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg had no opposition on the printed ballot in the city's upcoming April elections. Since then, I've been weighing whether or not to jump into the race as a write-in candidate. Many of my friends here and elsewhere were very supportive of a possible campaign—including some cute RUF girls.

My friends believed that, given my former run for mayor in New Orleans four

years ago, residents of Murfreesboro would look past the fact I didn't grow up here. Voters instead would judge me based on the ideas I had. Since Murfreesboro is no New Orleans—demographically and size-wise—perhaps my friends were right.

The part-time mayoral position in Murfreesboro would be completely and utterly feasible for a college student to do (just look at Micheal Sessions of Hillsdale, Michigan). If I had ran and perhaps even won, I would have shown up at county government meetings, and even had lunch with county commissioners. Mayor Bragg has stubbornly refused to work with the county, even though Murfreesboro is Rutherford's county seat.

I also would have appointed various people to city commissions. My zoning board members would have supported

bringing more festivals to the city, as well as snowball or hotdog vendors on the Square's corners. I also would have tried to court Six Flags to build a roller coaster park in Middle Tennessee, on the condition they never included Dolly Parton images.

The other day, I picked up the qualifying paperwork for the mayoral campaign, but I did not fill it out. The next couple of nights, I guess you could say, I "prayed over it." There they were, packets of state, local and federal campaign finance laws. I should have been reading about organizational theory or studying for my acting quiz. But I wasn't.

I have spent time getting advice from friends and family, and there was more support from friends than family. I'm also a Christian, and what was conveniently missing from my supporters was an endorsement from the Big Man.

If there's anything that Christ has taught me in the last four years, it's that placing His will above my own is the best place to be. Sometimes that isn't popular in a newsroom, classroom or bar. You won't understand until and unless you've been through tough times and you've seen that scripture is more than just 5,000 written words jumbled across papyrus.

My friend Ethan can be credited with helping bring my heart out of my gluteus maximus. I value the questions he asks as much as the convicting answers. "What are you not believing about the gospel right now?" "That sounds like a pretty good justification, but it just doesn't work." That's right. It just doesn't work.

When all was said and done, the people who were against me running were the very people I needed to be with me

on life-altering decisions. Running for office is always a life-altering decision because, well, you just may win and change people's lives one way or the other. It wasn't right for me to ignore my pastor, my family or my inner circle of friends who always point me to the Lord.

It wouldn't be wise to do that when deciding on getting married, and it wasn't the right approach for this mayoral run. I thank everyone who was supportive either way this race would have turned out. If any of the aforementioned RUF girls want to discuss this over dinner, I'd be happy to.

Tim Hill is almost a senior journalism major and is our Opinions Editor. He can be reached at [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu).

### UNBUCKLING THE BELTWAY

If Ex-DC Mayor Marion Barry can receive a plea deal from federal prosecutors after being caught on video smoking crack, then former Cheney chief of staff Lewis "Scooter" Libby should be pardoned and promoted for covering up non-crimes (allegedly).

Residents without power in New Orleans have been unscrewing their electric boxes and getting the power turned on themselves. This is illegal, but the NOPD is applying the Mardi Gras lewd conduct policy of 2002: "Unless you're causing harm, we won't cite you."

The Republicans have elected Rep. Boehner as the new majority leader. In a related story, junior high boys surveyed recently said they think politics is a career worth pursuing.

Former President Jimmy Carter blasted President Bush's NSA eavesdropping program. In supporting eliminating the program, Carter said, "Whenever I listen to half of what my wife says on the phone, I'm always safe. If we listen to only half of what terrorists are saying, then we'll be even safer."

Conservatives honored the late great Ronald Reagan on his would-be 95th birthday. Consequently, President Bush issued his first veto after the GOP-controlled Congress passed a bill changing every word in the English language to "Reagan."

*Opinions Editor's note: This section takes the news and exaggerates it, or makes it up completely. Outside of this box, you're free to think for yourself.*

Ever wish your witty, political cartoons could be on the Opinions page?

*Sidelines* is currently searching for a talented artists to create political cartoons for the Opinions section.

Come by *Sidelines* office in the Mass Comm Building Rm. 269 and bring some samples of your artwork.

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## Letters to the Editor:

### Circumcisions decrease nationwide

Infant circumcision (male foreskin amputation) is declining nationwide. NO national medical group worldwide recommends this painful, harmful surgery, but health myths still persist.

Few people (including physicians) understand the protective, sensory, and sexual functions of the foreskin, or the losses resulting from circumcision. The 85% of males worldwide who are left intact are the fortunate ones.

The foreskin covers and protects the glans penis, keeping its surface moist. Glands in the foreskin produce antibacterial and antiviral proteins, and the foreskin's mucosal lining secretes immunoglobulins that defend against infection. After foreskin removal, the glans becomes thickened, dry, and less sensitive. Later in life, erectile dysfunction may result.

Male circumcision results in

the loss of 10,000 to 20,000 erogenous nerve endings, including receptors called Meissner's corpuscles; the nerve-dense frenulum; the frenar band of soft ridges; the dartos fascia; over 50% of the mobile penile skin; the sliding and gliding mechanism that allows for nonabrasive, lubricating, normal sexual intercourse for both the male and female, and much more. (See Cold and Taylor, "British Journal of Urology," January 1999 and Lostlist at [www.cirp.org](http://www.cirp.org).)

Fortunately for children, more parents today are saying NO to circumcision and respecting the bodily integrity rights of their sons.

Petrina Fadel, Director  
Catholics Against Circumcision  
<http://www.catholicsagainstcircumcision.org/>

[needed@localnet.com](mailto:needed@localnet.com)

### Abortion not wrong for everyone

Jaqueline Willison overlooks the true debate on abortion in her recent editorial, "Graphic Trucks on Campus Necessary Point for Debate."

According to her beliefs, life begins at conception, and any attempt to stop the development of an embryo constitutes murder. Unfortunately, many disagree.

Judaism, for instance, states that the life of a child doesn't begin until that child takes its first breath. Going even further, some extremists say that a boy's life doesn't begin until he receives his bris 8 days after birth. Who is Miss Willison to claim that any one side is right or wrong?

Who is Miss Willison to tell a victim of rape that she must give birth to a child that was conceived via force by an attacker who had no right to her body? Who is Miss Willison to tell an expectant mother whose life might be lost in childbirth, along with the child's, that she must give birth, even if an abortion would guarantee the health of the mother?

One of the great Talmudic teachings that Judaism focuses on is translated as, "To save a life it is as if you have saved a world." The Jewish belief is that life begins at the time of a first breath—when a child can sustain its own life (only needing to be fed). We must value the life of the mother, her needs, her interests, and her safety.

America is a society of diversity—the melting pot of the world. Jews, Christians, Muslims, atheists, Hindus, Buddhists, and so many others coexist, each with their own beliefs, their own practices, and their own lives.

We must learn to respect that diversity wherever it is found. We must elect governments that are in the business of granting freedoms, not revoking them, and we must respect the rights of all individuals to choose.

Anyone who seeks to squelch that diversity, whether through images, words, or any other propaganda is not a patriot—they are a coward. Imagine America without choice. Imagine your life without choice. The minute we begin to revoke the freedom of choice, we begin to remove the basic human rights that countless men, women, and children around the world have died for us to have.

Isaac Nuell  
Founder, Hillel at MTSU  
May 2005 Graduate  
Jerusalem, Israel

## Illegal immigrants seek the American Dream

As stated in a recent editorial entitled "Illegal Immigrants Cause a Growing Concern," Matt Hurtt examines, if it can be called that, the problem of illegal immigration in our country.

Although this may seem like a set back to the American economy right now, I urge you to remember that this country was, in fact, founded, built, and erected on the backs of immigrants; we owe much of our uniquely "American" culture to foreign persons. It is tempting to attack the illegal immigrants who cross our border rather than the actual cause of the problem, the fact that many of these immigrants come from developing countries is the problem.

To be honest, illegal immigration is a very difficult problem to solve. Most people who come in to this country illegally desire work and the ability to provide for their families. How can I find fault with this? We live in the best country on Earth, and, might I add that many of these illegal immigrants are not the drug smugglers that you have so obnoxiously depicted them as. I believe that the problem of illegal immigration can be solved by countries, like Mexico, by devel-

oping their economy so that people will be motivated to stay in country.

As soon as we get our own Trillion dollar debt resolved with China and Japan and take care of dozens of cuts to essential programs such as head start and student loans, we can make loans to these countries that will be invested in jobs in that country. These will be companies started by their own countrymen/women. Also, until we can make a loan, we can allow temporary work visas to those who wish to work in the country and require that companies pay these people the dominate wage of the area, or at least minimum wage of the area (some states have their own minimum wage laws higher than \$5.15). We should also prosecute companies such as Wal-Mart for exploitation of illegal immigrants.

With respect to the drivers' licenses issue, either the U.S. or Mexico can allow busing for the workers, or, if workers wish to drive, then they must be required to take a driver's test and will receive upon passage a temporary driver's license (after all, this is I believe the protocol currently used for persons labeled "foreign nationals" and who later become permanent residents).

We cannot eliminate the problem with a wall. Walls never work in the long run (think of Berlin).

The problem of illegal immigration should be solved with compassionate, progressive solutions and not isolationist, narrow-minded rhetoric that seeks to terrorize and sensationalize rather than inform or examine the issue. This doesn't help the matter or the reader; rather, it celebrates platitudes and glorifies ignorance. If this continues, then so will the current problem.

Illegal immigrants who cannot find work tax our system, which, in turn, produce things such as higher health care costs for all Americans, for instance. We must treat these people, who, like generations of immigrants who before them, looked to America as an emblem of hope rather than hate, with dignity and respect. For if this fails, I fear for that our country will come symbolize something dark to those who, in spite of everything, still look upon us as bastions of hope.

Jessica Causey, MTSU College Democrats

### Clarification

My bad, G.

My editor and I decided it would be best if I clarified the "illegal immigration" opinion I wrote last Monday. "The Ford family," I wrote, "denies any involvement." This was simply a joke. I did not specifically state which Ford family I was talking about, but certain groups assumed that I meant the political Fords of Memphis. This comment was added in order to keep the column lighthearted.

I would also like to say that I do write an Opinion column, and that in no way am I obligated to present unbiased facts all the time. I take pride in my opinions, but understand that some people do not always appreciate my humor. I apologize for any confusion.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Hurtt

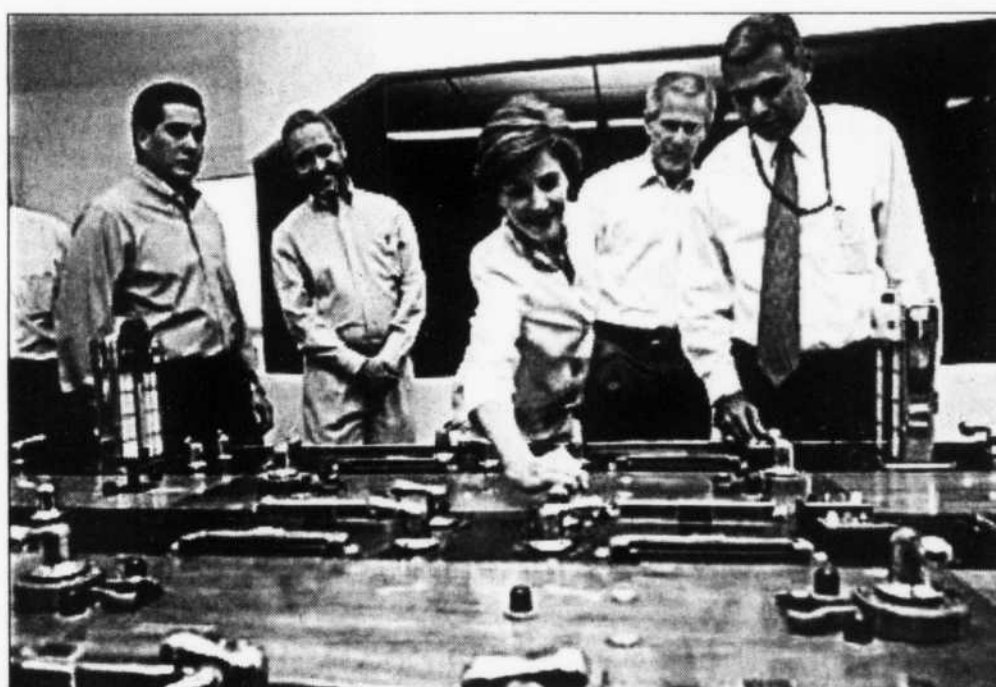


Photo by Eric Draper courtesy of whitehouse.gov  
After receiving the go-ahead from Karl Rove and Halliburton, First Lady Laura Bush stops the flooding in New Orleans on August 30, 2005.

# FEATURES

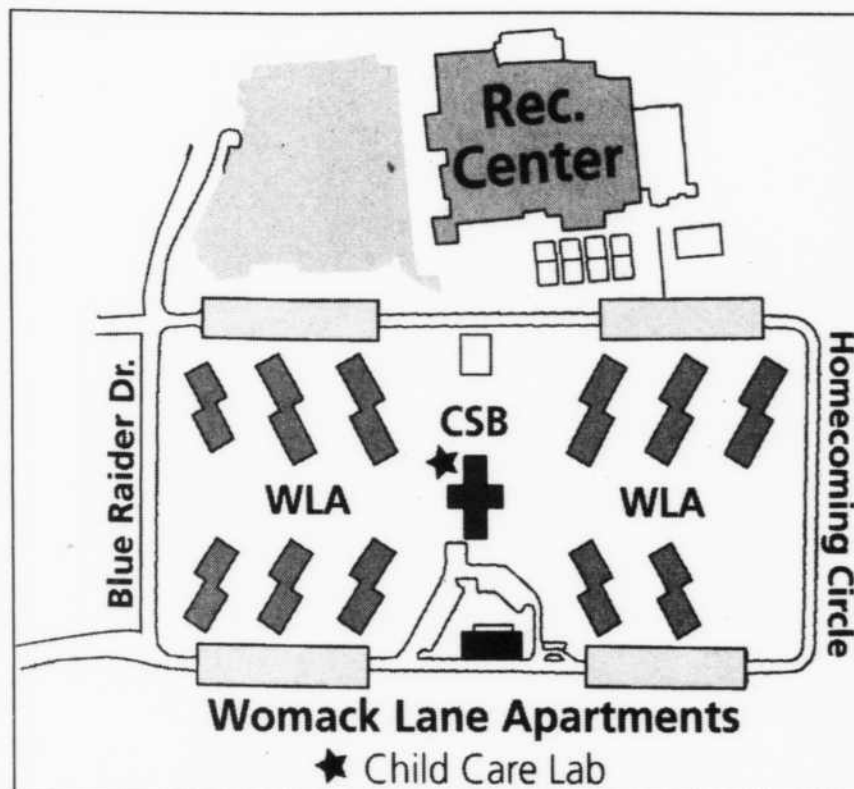
## MTSU offers finger-painting, shoe-tying lessons

By Carmen Anderson  
Staff Writer

Tonya Hight has a daughter—she's also a full-time student. She won't deny that sometimes, it's very difficult to juggle 3-year-old Amy, school and her job. Luckily, she has a strong support system in her relatives. "I have a lot of family support and help from my mom," she said. For those without a safety net of friends and family like Hight, however, MTSU's child-care lab allows students on campus with pre-school and kindergarten-age children to take some of the strain off their overloaded lives. The child-care lab is located in the center of family student housing on Womack Lane and is designed specifically for 3- to 5-year-olds. Currently, the center has 48 children in attendance. Despite the obvious benefits of the center, parents of children in the community or students with school-age children who wish to use the facilities must look elsewhere for help managing their children's schedule and their own. For those fortunate enough to meet the center's criteria, however, the lab's hours are from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and these parents can leave their child in the center's care around their school schedule, one of the most beneficial aspects of the center.

In addition to giving parents a much-needed break, the lab is also utilized as a teaching facility for students on campus. Although the lab serves as an instructional facility, children aren't there to be studied, they are given opportunities to play and learn. Children are able to play in centers, have outside time, snack time and lunch. There is also an educational structure that focuses on colors, numbers and letters. The lab is run like any typical day-care would be. Lab Director Nancy Ruth James said first priority is given to students, and second priority is given to staff members at MTSU. Last priority is usually given to people in the Murfreesboro community. Because the lab is such a convenience and a necessity for most students, James said spots for community members have rarely opened. Based on the waiting list, children from off-campus are more likely to be in high school than diapers by the time a spot opens up. Due to the one-year waiting list at the lab, there has not been an opening for a community member in 17 years. In addition to caring for their children while they are in class, the lab's close proximity to campus benefits students greatly. Since children are prone to get-

ting sick, it is easy for students to get to their children in a hurry if need be. "That is the attraction to parents," James said. "Parents are easy to contact as long as they keep us up to date on their schedule." Hight's daughter is a pre-school student at the child-care lab, and Hight said she really appreciates its convenience. Her day usually consists of getting herself and her daughter ready for school. After her classes are through, she has to pick her daughter up, take her to a baby-sitter and then go to work. Though this routine is complicated, Hight said practice makes perfect. Students with school-age children aren't as lucky when it comes to utilizing the lab. Because of the age limit, school-age children of students aren't afforded the benefit of using the center. Amy Wilson-Reilly, a married, full-time student at MTSU, has to commute back and forth from Nashville. She has to organize her school schedule around her son's school schedule. She said she is usually out of the house before 12-year old Austin leaves for school and back in time for him to get out that afternoon. The rest of her day usually consists of monitoring his homework or taking him to his weekly aikido lessons. "There is always something to do," she said. There is always chance students will have to miss classes because of family-



related problems, and Hight and Wilson-Reilly have both had experiences with this problem. Hight said she has also had little trouble with professors over unavoidable absences. "They are very understanding," she said. Wilson-Reilly said her professors have been accommodating—for the most

part. "My professors have always been understanding with the exception of one," she said. "I even brought her three doctors notes."

## Golf Cart Brigade keeps campus clean, rescues hamsters



Members of the MTSU maintenance staff trim trees outside Bragg Mass Communications Building.

By Michelle McCrary  
Staff Writer

**It's amazing what students think will flush down the toilet. I've seen crushed beer cans, pens, pregnancy tests, pencils—even tennis balls.**

—Mike Kennedy,  
Maintenance staff member

People say cleanliness is next to godliness, but they never say who cleans up the mess that's been made. Messes can include overflowing trashcans filled with soda cans, unwanted junk mail or food from McCallie. Others messes in a student's life could be a drawer that's stuck, a heater that blows cold air or a leaky faucet, dripping constantly like the beat of a drum in the bathroom. At MTSU, we have a squad of men and women who roll all over campus in their motorized golf carts to help students fix those pesky leaks and breaks, but if you're not careful, they might roll right over you as you walk to class. This Golf Cart Brigade is none other than the men and women of the MTSU maintenance staff. There are two different crews who are responsible for cleaning up student messes here on campus and in the residence halls: the maintenance staff and the housing staff. The maintenance staff is responsible for taking care of public areas such as the Knoll area in front of the KUC, the trash cans all around campus and all of the bathrooms in buildings across campus. The housing custodial staff is responsible for cleaning up the dorms around campus, making sure they are suitable for students to live in. But recently the maintenance and housing staff combined to form one organized staff to better perform tasks and maintenance jobs around campus. "We wanted to form one staff so we could better communicate, and so we knew what both sides

were accomplishing and seeing how we could help each other out," Sarah Sudak, executive director for MTSU Housing and Residential Life, said. Until recently, students complained about the timeliness of maintenance crew responses saying they weren't effective enough. Housing then implemented its newest policy, the 30-minute maintenance model. "We looked at the student housing surveys and saw that students approved of how clean the residence halls were," Sudak said, "but they weren't pleased in the timeliness of the repairs needing to be accomplished. We looked at other universities and how they were using the 30-minute model and decided to implement it here." The 30-minute maintenance model is designed to have campus maintenance staff there to fix a student's need or problem in 30 minutes or less. "With the 30-minute maintenance model, we see our students as customers who need to be served in a timely manner," Sudak said. Maintenance staff member Mike Kennedy believes that the 30-minute model will increase contact with students living on campus. "This model allows for us to actually hear what's wrong from the student," Kennedy said, "because they haven't left their room yet instead of us trying to figure it out on our own and from dispatch. Once I get a call from dispatch, I'm usually there within 15 minutes." Sporting a light-blue shirt with white paint splatters on it, faded blue jeans with a tape measure and walkie talkie around his waist, a dark blue MT hat and glasses, Kennedy, a former resident assistant, is ready to serve his students to the best of his ability.

"You [students] pay for us to respond quickly. That's my job and what I get paid to do," he said. Sudak believes that the 30-minute maintenance model has already shown a significant improvement in the feedback that she's hearing from those students not living on campus. "So far it seems to be working," she said. "We've heard from students living off campus who are having trouble getting things fixed: a light bulb, leaky faucet, a stuck drawer, etc. We want to be different. We want students to benefit from living on campus." Kennedy, however, hasn't really seen a change with the model yet. "If I'm busy with another project and can't respond to a call, others can go and fix the problem and I can finish what I'm doing," he said. "It is more effective in helping us get to more requests faster because it usually takes 30 minutes or less to fix the problem." "But it also adds to the work load because requests are coming in faster because of the 30-minute response guarantee." After being on staff for almost nine years, Kennedy has fixed some interesting things students have called in to the maintenance office. "We get outrageous things called into dispatch all the time," he said. "The most common one is that if someone's dropped a piece of jewelry down the sink, we'll have to go retrieve it. It's amazing what students think will flush down the toilet. I've seen crushed beer cans, pens, pregnancy tests, pencils—even tennis balls." Other outrageous things Kennedy and the brigade have seen, heard and fixed include a variety of objects from gold teeth and books to birds and hamsters. "We once got a call to come and retrieve a gold tooth from a drain," he said, recalling some of the more outrageous calls he's received. "We get calls sometimes for birds flying into the bathroom—I just tell them 'open a window.'" Birds aren't the only animals he's encountered while on call, though. "We once got a call about a hamster getting loose from its cage and getting stuck under a fixed piece of furniture," he said. "Technically, you're not supposed to have a hamster in the first place, but we did what we could to help." Kennedy said he believes students call maintenance to fix things because they are lazy. "I think some people wants us to fix things that they don't want to or are too lazy to do," he said. Sudak said she would like to see the relationship between the maintenance staff and the students improve. "We want a better relationship between our maintenance [staff] and students," she said. "We don't want our staff to feel bad about the work they do. We want them to feel better and have a sense of accomplishment about what they do for our students on campus," Sudak said. Kennedy is just one of the many members of the Golf Cart Brigade who take the time to get to know the students they are helping. "I take the time to get to know people no matter what; that's just my nature," he explained. "Some people are nice all the time and are easier to talk to, while others just want you to fix the problem and leave. Getting to know the students I'm helping is just one of the many aspects of my job that I enjoy." But Kennedy says not to worry if you see him driving a golf cart around campus. "I don't run people over."

# SPORTS



MT's Chrissy Givens dribbles upcourt in a recent game at the Murphy Center. Givens leads the Blue Raiders and the Sun Belt Conference in scoring with an average of 20.6 points per game.

## East meets West in Women's Basketball



By Erika Davis  
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders women's basketball team has three weeks remaining in the season, but before they think about the conference tournament, they have two important games against Sun Belt Conference Western Division teams.

The North Texas Mean Green (16-6, 6-4) is on top of the West division of the Sun Belt Conference. They will host the Blue Raiders (14-7, 7-1), who are on top of the East Division, on Wednesday night.

North Texas is coming off a win against SBC opponent in New Orleans; the final score was 71-48. The Mean Green has played their last four games all in the comfort of their own home. MT will be the last team they play at home for the season.

"They are well-coached," MT head coach Rick Insell said.

"They've got everyone back from last year's team, and we've beaten them on last second shot in the tournament last year, so it's going to be a tough, tough game."

MT beat North Texas in the second round of the Sun Belt Conference last year 59-58 in overtime. This game will be the first time these two teams face each other this season.

"Winning on the road in the Sun Belt Conference is tough," said coach Insell. MT is 4-6 on the road thus far this season.

"This is a big week for us, we need to take care of business at North Texas, then we need to come home and take care of business with Denver," coach Insell said. "That will really help us with the conference race."

Saturday, the Blue Raiders will play host to another SBC West opponent, Denver (11-10, 5-5).

"With Denver they've got a quality basketball team," said coach Insell.

The Pioneers just came off a win against the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, on Saturday night Feb. 11.

This game will be a double header with the men this Saturday.

Tip-off for the women will be at 4:15.

## Givens' work ethic inspires MT

By Jori Rice  
Staff Writer

Blue Raider Guard Chrissy Givens is proving why she is one of the best players in the Sun Belt Conference. She leads the league in scoring with 22 points per game.

"Givens is a competitor-she never takes a day off," "You can always depend on her," MT head coach Rick Insell said.

Insell believes one of the reasons why Givens is such a good leader is because of her willingness to achieve.

"She is willing to go hard for her team so they can win," Insell said. "Givens is not selfish she just likes to win."

Insell also sees the competitive nature in Givens is a part of her every day life.

"She is very, very disciplined with her lifestyle," Insell said. "Her goal is to do whatever it takes to win the ball game for her team. If she needs to lead in points, assists and rebounds to help her team, then she will."

Givens is from Monroe, La., where she grew up and played high school basketball at Ouachita High School. Within

the four years of play Givens averaged 18.2 points, 8.7 rebounds and 3.5 assists and scored more than 2,000 points.

She was named to the All-State team four years in a row and became the All-Northeast Louisiana Class 5-A MVP.

"In high school when I was named to the All-State team for four years in a row that became a big deal to me because it was the first time in Class 5-A history," Givens said.

Givens decided to join the Lady Raiders in the 2003-04 season.

"When I saw MT's campus I

thought it was so beautiful,"

Givens said. "Plus my favorite color is blue, so I felt good about the territory," Givens said.

Givens played in 27 games as a freshman and averaged 4.3 points.

In her sophomore year she scored 10.8 points per game and tied a career high with 18 points against Louisiana-Lafayette in the Sun Belt Tournament Championship game. There was a little obvious change with Givens performance from freshman year to sophomore year.

See Givens, 7

## '06 MT Football Schedule is set

By David Hunter  
Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee Athletic Director Chris Massaro put the 2006 MT football schedule by adding an away game against Oklahoma on Sept. 23.

MT will get a guarantee of \$550,000, plus travel expenses. This will be the first -ever meeting between the two

schools.

"It is a challenging schedule and one our players will be excited to play," Massaro told MT Media Relations. "I am glad we have resolution so our fans and coaches can begin to make plans for the upcoming season."

This will be the first time since 2003 that MT has played a team from the Big 12. In the last Big 12 game, against

Missouri, the contest went into overtime with the then-No. 23 ranked Tigers winning 41-40.

This season, MT will be playing teams from six different conferences. Those include the Atlantic Coast Conference, Southeastern Conference, Big 12, Big East, Ohio Valley Conference and Sun Belt.

The home games include Florida International, Tennessee Tech, Louisville (in

Nashville), Florida Atlantic and Troy. While MT heads to Maryland, Oklahoma, North Texas, Louisiana-Monroe, Louisiana-Lafayette, Arkansas State and South Carolina.

The season will kick off at home against SBC conference rival, FIU, Thursday night Aug. 31. The game will be shown on ESPN+.

## Men's Basketball hopes to continue winning streak



By David Hunter  
Sports Editor

This week, the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team takes on two teams from the Sun Belt Conference Western Division.

On Thursday, the Blue Raiders face a team that is going in an entirely different direction. MT has won three games in a row, while North Texas has lost three straight. Their last loss came against New Orleans 75-74 Feb. 4.

Currently, the Mean Green is tied for second in the Western Division with a record of 12-9, 5-5.

UNT is lead by Kendrick Davis, who is ranked third in scoring in SBC conference games. He is averaging 18.3 points per game. Isaac Hines is second in the league in three-point shooting. Hines is shooting 50 percent from beyond the arc.

This is the only meeting between the two teams this season. Last year, MT knocked off UNT 79-64. Tip-off is set for 7

p.m.

Two days later, the Blue Raiders take on Denver, another SBC West team. The Pioneers come in having lost two games in a row, and are tied for second in the SBC West with a record of 12-11, 5-5.

On Feb. 4, Louisiana-Lafayette defeated them 49-38. In that loss, UD was held to only one field goal in the last 17 minutes by ULL.

Yemi Nicholson has been named SBC Player of the Week on two different occasions. Nicholson is tops in the SBC in scoring with 19.2 points per game. He is also third in the league, and sixth in the nation, with 11 rebounds per game.

The Pioneers are first in the SBC in scoring defense by holding teams to 64.1 points per game and second in field goal percentage, only allowing teams to 40 percent from the field. They also hold teams to only 29 percent shooting from beyond the arc, putting them in first in three-point percentage defense.

## MT hockey falls to rival

By Clarence Plank  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee hockey lost a heartbreaker to the physical Tennessee Volunteers 9-6, last Friday night, Feb. 3 at the Southern Ice Arena.

The contests with the University of Tennessee were the last of two home games of the season for MT.

MT opened up with two quick goals in the first period scored by Brandon Latreille and Jeff Deluca. UT answered with four goals by the end of the first period to lead 4-2.

MT found some momentum by going on a five goal run before they lost their edge over UT. Tennessee's players were diving in front of MT shots to block them, making things harder for MT to find an opening on UT's goalie.

"I feel we started off real strong and it seems like we were really inconsistent through the game," MT defenseman Ryan Latreille said. "A lot of times we had this burst of energy, and then all of sudden out of nowhere it slows down, almost to a point where we can't get up again."

"Like tonight they scored five unanswered goals," Latreille said.

"It wasn't impossible, but it made it hard for us to come back the way we did. We took a

### 2006 MT Football Schedule

Aug. 31	Florida International (SBC)*
Sept. 9	Maryland
Sept. 14	Tennessee Tech*
Sept. 23	Oklahoma
Sept. 30	North Texas (SBC)
Oct. 6	Louisville (in Nashville) ESPN2*
Oct. 14	Louisiana-Monroe (SBC)
Oct. 28	Louisiana-Lafayette (SBC)
Nov. 4	Florida Atlantic (SBC)*
Nov. 11	Arkansas State (SBC)
Nov. 18	South Carolina
Nov. 25	Troy (SBC)*

\*denotes home game

## Tennis Club Joins List of 25 Campus Sports Clubs

By Ebony Pugh  
Staff Writer

This semester the MT tennis club makes its debut, joining the list of 25 sports clubs on campus. Being one of the newest sports clubs seems like it would be somewhat difficult, but the club is already trying to establish a name for itself on campus for the upcoming semester.

"We would like to get our name on campus to get people interested in

becoming a member of the tennis club," Kristin Hodges said.

Since the tennis team is one of the newest clubs on campus, getting members is a must.

"I'm excited to see how many members and how much participation we will get," Hodges said.

On Jan. 31, the tennis club had an interest meeting to talk about plans and possible club membership for the upcoming semester.

"I'm very excited about the tennis

club," Elizabeth Wright said. "Because I played tennis all four years in high school and being a part of the tennis club gives me the opportunity to continue playing the sport I love."

The tennis club is open to anyone that is interested, including students and alumni. There is a \$20 membership fee to join. However, everyone who pays membership will not be able to compete in every match, it simply depends on how many participants other schools have to compete against.

A new member also must attend at least one practice a week in order to compete in tournaments. The tennis club practices on Sunday and Thursday nights from 7-9 p.m. The team also has skills night on Tuesday from 5-7 p.m.

The club has several upcoming events this semester including the first match on Feb. 18. The match will be at MTSU against University

## Sports: "MT hockey falls to rival"

Continued from 6

back the way we did. We took a lot of unnecessary penalties that slow our momentum down."

Four MT players ended up in the penalty box, after getting into a fight with three UT players. Now with a five-to-four man advantage, UT scored two goals on the power play. UT had 44 shots on goal, whereas MT had 36.

MT evened the score at six, but a late goal scored by a review from referees gave UT momentum to score two more goals.

Brad Peterson had a hat trick with three goals and two assists, and Matt Arnott had two goals, while teammate Latreille had one goal and two assists.

The next night, UT swept the two game series with a 7-2 win over the Blue Raiders.

# MT men's tennis drops match at Virginia Tech

By Wade Neely

Staff Writer

Despite an early advantage with in doubles, the MTSU men's tennis team fell behind Saturday 4-3 to the No. 56 Virginia Tech Hokies. The Blue Raiders, who entered the contest ranked 35th in the nation, could not overcome a strong singles performance by the Hokies.

Andreas Siljestrom, returning from an ankle injury, came out strong for the Blue Raiders, teaming up with Marco Born to defeat Alexi Sergeev and Brent Wilkins, 8-6. Siljestrom and Born entered the contest ranked No. 3 in the nation in doubles.

Senior Brandon Allan and junior Kai Schledorn formed the No. 1 for the Blue Raiders, and defeated Arvid Puranen and David Rosenfeld, 8-6. The Blue Raiders swept the doubles matches, as Rishan Kuruppu and Greg Pollack defeated Nicolas Delgado and Albert Larregola, 8-6 at No. 3.

The singles events proved to be the Blue Raiders undoing; however, as the team dropped four of six

matches, three of which came in straight sets.

Freshman Morgan Richard and Siljestrom won their singles matches for the Blue Raiders. Richard defeated Brandon Corace at No. 6, 6-4, 6-3. Siljestrom defeated 98th-ranked Puranen at No. 1, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3. Siljestrom is ranked 48th in singles action.

Delgado defeated Kuruppu at No. 3, 6-3, 7-5. Larregola beat Schledorn at No. 4, 3-6, 7-6, 6-2. Rosenfeld upended Allan at No. 5, 6-7, 6-4, 6-1. Finally, Sergeev defeated 97th-ranked Born at No. 2, 6-4, 5-7, 7-6.

The loss dropped MTSU to 2-1 on the season, which is their first defeat of the season. The Blue Raiders swept the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and Belmont last Saturday. With the win, Virginia Tech improved its record to 7-0.

The Blue Raiders will be back in action Saturday against visiting Indiana, who enters the contest ranked 61st in the nation. The match will be played at noon at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro.

# Former MT players selected to SBC All-Time Team

By David Hunter

Sports Editor

Former MT baseball stars Dewon Brazelton and Josh Renick were selected to the Sun Belt Conference All-Time Team on Feb. 7. It is the SBC's 30th Anniversary.

Both players only played in the SBC for one season. However, that season the team won the SBC title in the team's first year in the conference with a record of 41-17.

Current San Diego Padre pitcher Dewon Brazelton was 13-2 with a 1.42 ERA that season. He also threw 11 complete games and opponents hit just .179 against him. He was named SBC Pitcher of the Year. Brazelton was the No. 3 pick in the Major League Baseball draft by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in 2001.

"It's an honor to be named to the All-Time Sun Belt team because it's a top league with great players," Brazelton said to

MT Media Relations. "I'm also glad [Renick] is on the team because he had a great year, he got drafted and he deserves it. To have two players on the team despite how few years Middle Tennessee has been in the league is pretty impressive."

Former MT second baseman Josh Renick was selected SBC Player of the Year in 2001. His batting average was .420, with 20 doubles, two triples, eight home runs, 38 RBI's, and had 94 hits. His .420 is the highest in MT history during the modern era.

The Minnesota Twins drafted him that same year.

"To be able to represent Middle Tennessee on this team is great, and it's an honor for myself, our program and the university," Renick said to MT Media Relations.

The SBC all-time player is former South Alabama outfielder Luis Gonzalez. The SBC all-time coach is current Jaguars coach Steve Kittrell.

## Givens: "Leads the team"

Continued from 6

"Freshman year was the toughest year," Givens said. "It was the first time I played a guard, in high school I played a center and that was hard to adjust. Then, I got an injury and had to do some soul searching."

Givens felt she did not perform well enough her freshman year, so it was time for a change.

She started in all 33 games and was voted to the Sun Belt All-Tournament team during her sophomore season.

This year, Givens is averaging 22 points per game and also leads

the team in rebounds, steals and assists.

"I put a great deal of pressure on myself, so I can succeed," Givens said. "I work really hard, so when I perform better it is because I practice hard."

Givens hopes in the future to

keep working hard in whatever she decides to pursue.

"My major is criminal justice; I like studying law," Givens said. "In the future I would like to go to law school or the WNBA, if that is possible. But my main goal for right now is to get a degree."

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## SPRING BREAK HOT SPOT

Panama City Beach has been a Spring Break hot spot for as long as most Spring Breakers can remember. The Sandpiper-Beacon Beach Resort has been at the forefront of Spring Break activities in Panama City Beach since 1990.

Its popularity stems from its "World's Largest and Longest Keg Party" and on-site resort bar, giving Spring Breakers plenty to do without ever leaving the resort. DJ Big Donna has been playing the hottest dance mixes since 1995 and the Sandpiper has been hosting to other well-known DJ's including DJ Skribble. The Sandpiper-Beacon brings the party to you - no driving, just walk up to your room from the bar.

MTV's *The Real World* was at the Sandpiper in 2005 with MJ and Robin as special guests at an *Axe/Stuff Magazine* Beach Party. They sponsored a model search, keg party, free beer and a swimsuit competition. *Alloy Marketing* has also brought in model searches,

along with *Classmates USA's* calendar model search. Spring Breakers can expect plenty more of the same this year with bikini and wet t-shirt/wet jockey shorts contests daily and nightly.

The Sandpiper is never short on big-time entertainment, hosting such acts as Bob Marley's Wailers, Tone Loc and other major acts. Tentatively scheduled for this year are the Black Eyed Peas performing on the beach behind the Sandpiper Beacon during Jay Leno's show. Metro Nightclubs is a Spring Break sponsor giving away swimwear and the Corona Beach Volleyball Tournament is scheduled to take place behind the Sandpiper this year. There will be entertainment all day and all night at the hotel throughout spring break.

Visit [www.sandpiperbeacon.com](http://www.sandpiperbeacon.com) to see what's on tap for Spring Break 2006 at the Sandpiper Beacon Beach Resort in beautiful Panama City Beach, Florida or call the resort at 800-488-8828.

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Wanted: Music

Continued from last column

Instructor for children ages 10 & 9. (Guitar, drums, keyboard). Please call Alisa 596-3091

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Continued from last column

stove, dw incl. \$800.00 per month + deposit. 895-0075 or 417-4009

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Blake at 615-491-1254. Apartment for Sublease available immediately. The Woods at Greenland. 4 BR/4 BA. Fully furnished, many extras. \$369/mo includes all utilities. Ready to move. Call Laura 423-580-2225

2 BR fully furnished apartment at Campus Crossings South available for sublease ASAP. Rooms can be rented separately. For more info. call 252-646-4127

### ROOMMATES

Continued from last column

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Solid Cherry Curio

Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

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## HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2006 / SPRING 2007

The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2006/Spring 2007 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are requesting to move to a different location on campus next year, as new assignments are made by application date.

Students requesting to remain in their same location on campus next year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and \$200 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The reapplication deadline with priority for the 2006/2007 academic year is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2006 at 4:00 PM.**

Students need to complete a reapplication form available in the Housing and Residential Life Office, pay the \$200 prepaid rent at the business office cashier windows in the Cope Administration Building, 1st floor, and return the reapplication form stamped "paid" to the Housing and Residential Life office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at [www.mtsu.edu/~housing](http://www.mtsu.edu/~housing). The \$200 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, MasterCard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$10 nonrefundable service fee charged for processing the payment online.

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

**For additional information or questions, please contact Housing and Residential Life during office hours at 898-2971.**

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### Thursday, February 9

College Night:  
FREE music in the lobby  
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### Friday, February 10

Films at the Frist:  
Yeelen (Brightness)  
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