

Sidelines

Volume 81 Number 44

Monday, December 5, 2005

An editorially independent newspaper

The Gutter

Today's Weather

AM clouds/PM sun
40/21

Average Price of Gas in Murfreesboro: \$1.99

Source: www.tennesseegasprices.com

Blue Raiders come from behind to defeat Vikings



On Saturday night, Middle Tennessee came back to beat a tough Portland State team 65-62 to pick up another non-conference victory.

The Blue Raiders (3-1) ended Portland State's 12-game winning streak as Marcus Morrison and Adam Vogelsberg combined for 25 points in the second half.

page 9

Gym, racquetball courts closing

The Campus Recreation Center basketball gym and racquetball courts will be closed from Dec. 12 through the end of the year for a resurfacing project. The operating hours and air quality of the track may also be affected.

The indoor pool, weight and cardio rooms will remain open during this time.

Audio Engineers hold listening night

The Audio Engineering Society will hold their annual listening night in Studio B in the Mass Communications building on Thursday at 6 p.m. The event is open to all student, not just recording industry majors.

The event will showcase the best mix chosen by the professor of each recording class.

Following the event, AES will sponsor a "Cue and Brew" at the Murfreesboro Billiards Club, located at 1253 Northwest Broad Street.

MTSU dancers present fall dance show

MTSU Performing Arts Company will present their bi-annual dance show Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. in Tucker Theater. The show, "From the Soul to the Feet," is a collaboration of student choreographers and features several genres of dance.

Admission is free for MTSU students with ID, \$3 for MTSU faculty with ID, and \$5 general admission. Children under 12 are free. Reserved seats are also available for \$10. Call Angela Armstrong at 898-5857 for reservations.

Opinions.....5
Features.....6
Classifieds.....7
Sports.....9

Apartments short on guest parking spots

By Mark Logan
Staff Writer

When Brian Larson left his friend's apartment at 11 p.m. last week and approached his car, he noticed a bright-yellow locking device around the front wheel. It immobilized his vehicle, and listed a number to call to have it removed.

"My heart started racing," Larson said. "I felt a bit violated."

The yellow lock, or "boot," had been placed by United Parking Enforcement, and

Larson had to pay a \$95 fee to get it removed. He admits he failed to notice a sign on the entrance of the apartment parking lot, which warned that cars without parking permits were prohibited.

"I knew that apartments around MTSU had gotten strict about visitor parking, but there were plenty of spaces," Larson said. "I didn't even think about it."

Many apartments have recently overhauled their parking regulations, hiring companies to patrol the lots and keep

ing track of tenant vehicles by issuing parking passes. Often, the regulation was the result of complaints by tenants that could not find parking spaces in their own complex. In fact, virtually every apartment within a two-block radius of MTSU has instituted a parking-permit system within the last three years.

One such complex is Allen House Apartments, which began requiring permits just two years ago. Nell McNeal, the apartment manager, said she began requiring permits after she received a complaint from

a tenant's father.

The tenant, a young woman who attended MTSU, worked nights and didn't come home until 1:30 a.m., sometimes having to park a block or two from the complex, McNeal said. She would not release the name of the tenant. One day, McNeal received a call from the girl's father, who told her she better fix the problem.

"I immediately called our attorney, and we decided to require all our tenants to have parking permits," McNeal said. Before that, she would simply

put a tag on the car, letting vehicle owners know their cars would be towed.

According to city planners, the Murfreesboro zoning ordinance follows the national minimum standard: 1.5 parking spaces for each one-bedroom unit, and two parking spaces for each unit with two bedrooms or more.

The ordinance does not consider visitor parking nor does it consider that near a college campus, a four-bedroom unit

See Graduation, page 2

Holiday season



The Murfreesboro Christmas tree was lit Friday night in the Square. Residents came to hear carols and see Santa Claus.

Photo by Carter Fort | Photo Editor

Record number to graduate

By Haley Hughes
Staff Writer

A record number of degree candidates are expected to graduate in MTSU's 94th fall commencement on Dec. 17.

Roughly 1,500 candidates will receive diplomas, more than 100 more than graduated last December, said Sherian Huddleston, assistant vice provost for Enrollment Services.

MTSU will again have dual ceremonies, an idea first implemented

in May 2005.

"That seemed to go well; students were pleased with being able to invite more than eight people," said Teresa Thomas, director of Records.

Tickets are not required for attendance this year, so students may invite as many people as they want.

"Since we are having two ceremonies, there should be ample seating for all family and guests, so we have dispensed with the distribution of tickets for guest seating," Huddleston said.

With the dual ceremonies come

two guest speakers. The morning speaker will be Emil Hassan, and the afternoon speaker will be Jim Ayers.

"[Hassan is the] former vice president of North American manufacturing, purchasing, quality and logistics for Nissan North America," the press release said. "[He is also] on the board of directors for National Healthcare Corporation, Middle Tennessee Medical Center and the Tennessee Business

see Graduation, page 2

Santa Claus is coming to town



Photo by Carter Fort | Photo Editor

Santa Claus made an appearance at the tree lighting festivities Friday night.

Muslim takes stand attacking atheism

By Mary Rose Fox
Staff Writer

A Muslim speaker attacked atheism in a lecture hosted by the Muslim Student Association Thursday night.

Omar Dunlap, husband of MSA president Roxanne Jenkins, spoke on "Inspiration, Roxanne or Corruption: Introducing Islam to Christians and Atheists," to educate Muslims on how to defend their faith when confronted by non-Muslims.

Dunlap addressed atheism and what he says is the cornerstone of the belief: evolution. Some atheists blame religion for bloodshed, Dunlap said, but many have died in an effort to suppress religion altogether.

"China, to this day, is oppressing anyone with any religious belief," Dunlap said.

The atheist belief in Social Darwinism hurts society, Dunlap said. Social Darwinism, the belief that some people achieve an advantage over others due to genetic or biological superiority, says that "the strong can do whatever they want to the weak."

Dunlap said he attributes sweat shops, indentured servitude, communism and Nazism all to atheism.

Dunlap talked, also, about Darwinism and the theory of evolution, saying that Charles Darwin never underwent formal education. Darwin was a racist who taught that blacks were like apes and aborigines were equal to gorillas, Dunlap said. Darwin, in his book, claims that genocide is okay.

The powers that be want to push evolution as fact, especially in schools, and not creationism because the theory promotes consumerism, Dunlap said.

He spoke on Islam, Christianity and atheism. Omar Dunlap, formerly J.P. Dunlap, said that he converted from Christianity about three weeks before Sept. 11, 2001, and joked to the audience about having poor timing.

Dunlap said that he has a tendency toward bluntness in defense of his religion, and doesn't like to be attacked.

"Fox News, during Ramadan, made it a point to attack every tenant of our faith," he said.

"The Christian looks at the Bible and says it is 100 percent God's word," Dunlap said, while Muslims think it's all just a bunch of stories. Muslims believe that although some parts have been proven by history, others have been disproved by it, Dunlap said.

Muslims do believe Jesus was a prophet, Dunlap said, but that Jesus couldn't have died for our sins because the Koran states that no one can carry the burden of another's sins.

"The Muslim view of other religions is not that you're wrong," Dunlap said, adding that he believes that some societies have added things to what was said about the Muslim faith "by the original messenger who brought the truth."

"We don't believe in the Trinity," Dunlap said. "The word trinity is not in the Bible." He added that the Koran advises Christians not to say it.

Some parts of the Bible have been proven as historical fact, Dunlap said, but it is full of contradictions, and God doesn't make contradictions.

"There's a big problem when you don't know who the authors are," Dunlap said. "What if they are drunk, crazy, or so old they can't remember?"

"You're heart is deceitful of all truth." That's what your Bible says," Dunlap said, adding that this verse is why he chose to convert, because he believes that the religion of Islam is based on logic and truth.

see Islam, page 2

Local officials could feel effects of state ethics reforms

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Proposed changes to state ethics laws may require local governments to establish their own new ethics rules.

A provision inserted into an ethics bill proposed by state lawmakers would require city and county governments in Tennessee to work "in concert" to come up with their own legislation establishing new local ethics rules.

"It's better for them to write the rules since they know it better than we do," said state Sen. Jim Kyle, D-Memphis, a member of the joint legislative committee that made the ethics bill recommendation. "But we're telling them if they don't write the rules, then we'll write them

for them."

A special legislative session has been called for Jan. 10 to consider the 90-page bill drafted in November by the bipartisan House-Senate committee. If the state bill is approved unchanged, cities and counties would have just a year to come up with their own proposal.

"That gives these local governments, your counties and your cities, a chance to determine on a statewide basis what needs to be done," Kyle said.

The Tennessee Waltz corruption investigation led to bribery charges earlier in the year against five current or former legislators plus two "bag men" and a Shelby County commissioner.

The Shelby County Commission revised its ethics guidelines last year when it

approved limiting commissioners to gifts valued at \$250 or less and explaining situations where conflicts of interest might exist.

But the county's ethics policy only punishes unethical conduct with a censure, and the policy itself is only advisory, not law.

"We need to put some teeth in it," said Commissioner Joe Ford, who presided over the adoption of the policy last year.

Commission chairman Tom Moss said it would be appropriate to update the ethics rule, but said any revisions shouldn't be done in a "knee jerk" manner.

Similarly, the Memphis City Council's ethics ordinance states that the standards "are not mandatory but are aspirational in character and repre-

sent ethical standards which every city official and employee should strive to follow." It also limits gifts to an economic value of less than \$250.

By comparison, Nashville's proposed new ethics rules limit promotional gifts to \$25 and cap meals, tickets, travel and similar gifts from charitable organizations to \$100 from any single person or group.

Memphis City Council member Brent Taylor said the reason the city's policy doesn't have more teeth results from the advice of council attorney Allan Wade.

"We were told at the time that we're all elected by the public and we answer only to the public," Taylor said. "As council members we are not given the power to pass judgment on our colleagues." ♦

From Parking, page 1

may likely house four college students who all have cars. The latter was a source of concern at a recent Murfreesboro City Planning Commission meeting, where an apartment developer was denied a rezoning request to build an apartment complex on Old Lascassas Road because of inadequate parking. Joseph Aydelott, Murfreesboro Planning Director, noted at the meeting that the current minimum standard might be inadequate for apartments near MTSU.

"This has caused me to think that we need to visit our zoning ordinance," Aydelott said at the meeting. "Where you have the possibility that someone could build a four-bedroom unit and provide only two parking spaces near MTSU, that might have worked in 1980 when I was in college; it does not work today."

Aydelott said he did not think the ordinance is the cause of current apartment parking problems near MTSU. Rather, he attributed it to MTSU's increased student body.

"Think about it: MTSU has grown 5 to 6 percent just in the last year," Aydelott said. "I think you can attribute much of this simply to growth at the college."

Carl Caum, a freshman computer science major, who lives at Allen House Apartments and is a student at MTSU, said he is quite happy with the boot system.

"So many students would park here during the daytime," Caum said. "It really wasn't fair to people who live here." Although the boot system has its problems, he thinks it was a necessary response to the lack of parking.

"I think overall it's a good idea because it keeps the people who live here safe."

McNeal attributes the problem mainly to the growth of MTSU, but she said she thinks there are other factors.

Danny Higgins, a former student at MTSU who used to live at Brownstone Apartments, said there were "severe" parking problems at the complex. When the visitor parking area was full, which it usually was,

his guests would have to park in resident parking. Two of his friends were towed.

"When we went to [the apartment manager] and complained, she would scream at us and say we were running a party house," Higgins said. "It was ridiculous. We were only complaining about one space for one person. They could at least provide more visitor parking."

Betty Wolfe, the apartment manager for Brownstone Apartments, refused to comment for this story.

But William Strickland, who lived at Nottingham Apartments six years ago when he attended MTSU, said he thinks that students today just have more cars. He lived with two other roommates, and only one of them had a car.

"That's why we lived there," he said. "I just rode my bike everywhere. I think that today, almost every student has a car."

Dana Cox, who has managed Nottingham Apartments for the past 12 years, said that her apartment has seen a growing problem with overflow parking just within the last three years. This required her to institute a parking-permit system.

Cox, like Aydelott, attributes the problem to the growth of MTSU, and she also notes that the apartment's proximity to the college is a major factor. However, Cox said that currently, everyone in the complex has vehicles, which was not the case when she first started.

Aydelott and other Murfreesboro planners said they will take another look at the zoning ordinance, but he also noted adding more parking spaces does not solve all the problems, Aydelott said.

"Requiring bigger and bigger parking lots is a bad idea," Aydelott said. "Keep in mind that parking lots destroy what could have been open spaces."

They also increase storm runoff, make the environment hotter in the summer and colder in the winter, and decrease incentive for public transit and carpooling, he said. ♦

From Islam, page 1

Jesus and God could not be one, like in the Holy Trinity, because God cannot become a man, Dunlap said. Islam isn't limiting God, but God cannot be ungodly.

"Man is mortal; God is

immortal," Dunlap said. "It's a sentence that negates itself."

Although the lecture was directed at Muslims, others were welcome to attend, and he hoped that non-Muslims would walk away with a greater under-

standing of his faith, Dunlap said.

"I appreciate it," said Naima Khandaker, senior French and psychology major. "When you're a Muslim living in Tennessee, this is one of the few times we can all gather and

worship together...I think it's really cool that they put this together for us."

"They let us hold this event," Dunlap said of the university administration. "I think it's a very open-minded campus." ♦

From Graduation, page 1

Roundtable."

Ayers is the founder of the Ayers Foundation, established in 1999, which has helped more than 600 West Tennessee high school students attend college. He also holds honorary doctorate degrees from Freed-Hardeman University and Union University.

Huddleston said she understands the seating capacity of the Murphy Athletic Center to

be 10,000. Both she and Thomas agree that the building will be packed for both the 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. ceremonies.

"Candidates from the College of Graduate Studies, Jennings A. Jones College of Business and College of Education and Behavioral Science will receive their degrees in the morning ceremony," the press release said. "That afternoon, degrees will be conferred on candidates in the

College of Basic and Applied Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, College of Mass Communication and the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning."

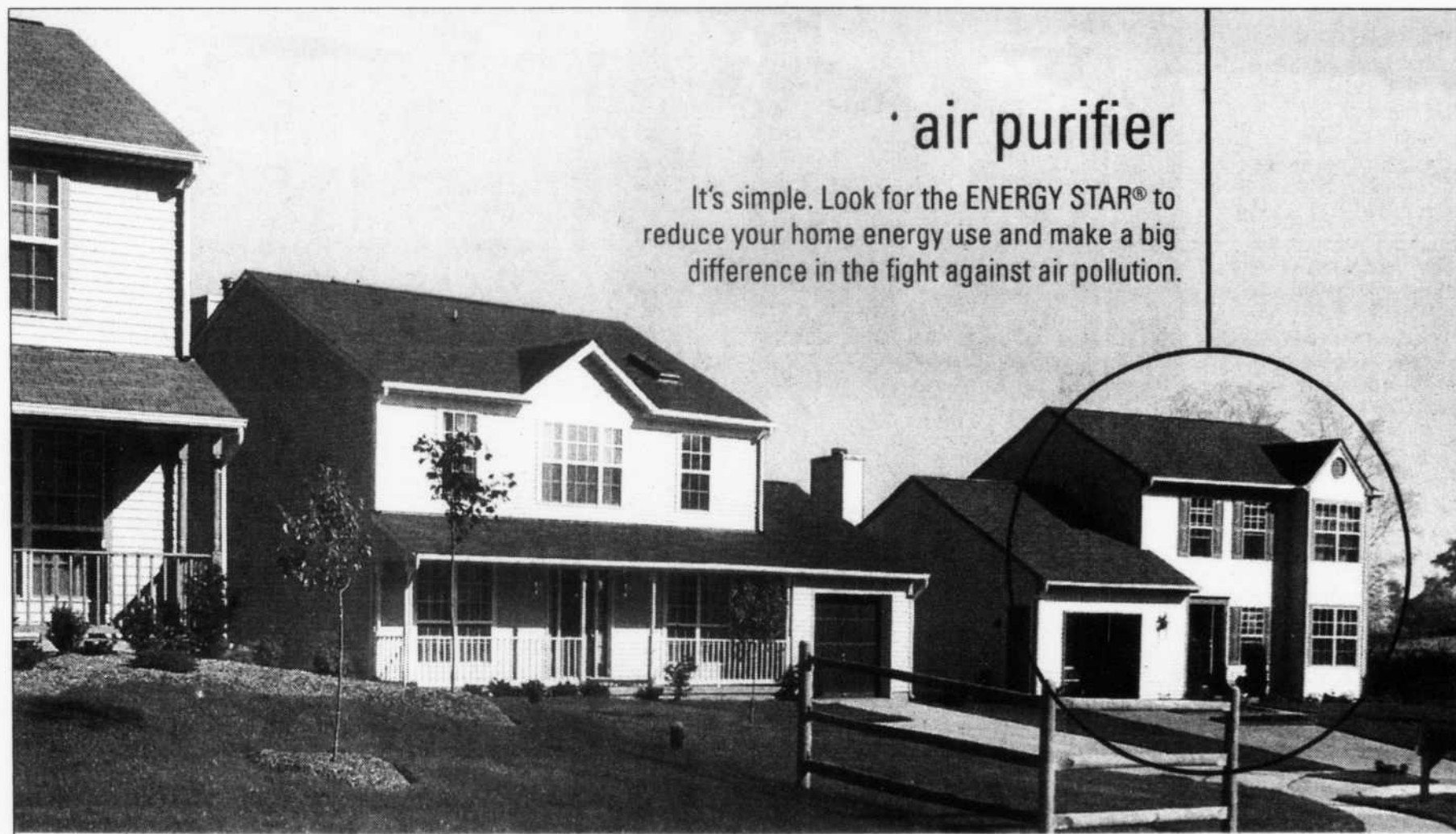
Thomas' numbers show the top three colleges with undergrad students receiving diplomas are the College of Education and Behavioral Science with 355 graduates, the College of Business with 330

and the College of Basic and Applied Science with 287.

The MAC will open its doors for the morning ceremony at 8 a.m. and at 1 p.m. for the afternoon ceremony.

Both ceremonies will be Web cast for those relatives and/or friends of graduates who cannot be present at the ceremony and have Internet access, Thomas said. Specific details were not available before press time. ♦

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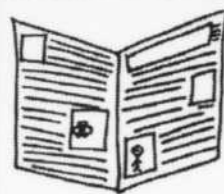
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There will be an Open House Monday, December 12 at 6pm for anyone interested in being involved with MTSU's student newspaper.

For more information please contact Sarah B. Mullen, Sidelines Spring '06 Editor at 931-797-2628 or email: sbm2p@mtsu.edu


Sidelines is located in Mass Comm Building Room 269

Sidelines Open House Dec 12



Nissan consultant shaped incentive bill


Frist's votes tend to favor HCA's business interests




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Kelso Dunes
Mojave National
Preserve Wilderness
Photo by Peter Druschke

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World Briefs

By the Associated Press

Key al-Qaida associate involved in overseas strikes killed in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) - One of al-Qaida's top five leaders, said to be responsible for planning overseas strikes, was killed by Pakistani security forces in a rocket attack near the Afghan border with U.S. help, American and Pakistani officials said Saturday.

Hamza Rabia, a key associate of al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahiri, died Thursday in an explosion in the North Waziristan tribal area, and his remains were identified in DNA tests, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said.

Two U.S. counterterrorism officials, who spoke only on condition of anonymity because of the information's sensitivity, confirmed Rabia's death but would not elaborate on the circumstances.

The officials said Rabia was believed to be an Egyptian and head of al-Qaida's foreign operations, possibly as senior as the No. 3 official in the terrorist group. That would put him in a tier just below Osama bin Laden and al-Zawahiri.

"He was al-Qaida's No. 5 and this is what we know," Ahmed told The Associated Press.

Insurgent attack kills 19 Iraqi soldiers, wounds four near Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Insurgents killed 19 Iraqi soldiers and wounded four in a coordinated ambush northeast of Baghdad just two days after the deadliest attack against U.S. Marines in four months.

On Sunday, Iraqi police commander Lt. Col. Abdul-Razaak Abdul-Jabbar was killed in western Baghdad by gunmen using two cars who opened fire on him as he was heading to work, police Capt. Talib Thami said.

The bloodshed Saturday confirmed U.S. and Iraqi warnings of a surge in insurgent attacks ahead of national elections set for Dec. 15. A total of 14 U.S. service members have died this month, 10 of them in a bombing Thursday near Fallujah.

Saturday's attack occurred as an Iraqi army unit patrolled near Adhaim, about 60 miles north of Baghdad. Survivors said insurgents triggered a roadside bomb and then show-

ered the patrol with rocket-propelled grenades and machine-gun fire.

President Bush said earlier this week that the eventual replacement of U.S. troops by Iraqi forces was key to his strategy for victory.

Israeli aircraft fire on Gaza rocket lab, abandoned building

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israeli aircraft fired missiles at an abandoned building and a rocket launching ground in the northern Gaza Strip on Sunday in the first aerial attack on Gaza in more than a month, the military said.

Palestinian security officials said missiles also struck a charity belong to the Islamic Jihad militant group. A bystander was slightly wounded by flying shrapnel, they said.

The Israeli military said it targeted a building used for terror operations and open fields where homemade rockets had been launched in recent days. No one was injured, it said.

Palestinians said the building was an abandoned metal workshop. Israel targets workshops it suspects are used to produce weapons.

After a lull of several weeks, Palestinians began firing homemade rockets at southern Israel from Gaza again last week. Israel responded initially with artillery fire. The air strike Sunday was the first since Oct. 27, the military said.

Measles outbreak in earthquake survivor camp kills boy

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP) - A measles outbreak in a tent camp for earthquake survivors in Pakistani Kashmir has killed a 10-month-old boy, underscoring the need to immunize children quickly, officials said Sunday.

Health officer Sardar Mahmood said 14 cases of measles have been reported in one small camp in Hattian Bala, a town about 25 miles south of Muzaffarabad where the boy died on Saturday. It was believed to be the first large outbreak of the disease in the quake zone.

"We have promptly taken measures and have enhanced an ongoing immunization cam-

paign with the cooperation of UNICEF," Mahmood said. "We have sent teams of doctors and paramedics to all the camps and isolated populations to immunize children against measles."

Measles, a viral disease, causes fever and rash and is sometimes complicated by ear infections, pneumonia or inflammation of the brain, which can result in convulsions, deafness, mental retardation or death. The disease, which mostly strikes youngsters, can easily be prevented through vaccination.

Doctors struggling with a constant flow of patients in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan's part of Kashmir, warned that the number of sick could swell as frigid weather sets in.

Autopsies confirm bodies in Ohio as slain New Hampshire siblings

HUDSON, Ohio (AP) - After he shot and killed his two children, Manuel Gehring dug a grave about 2-feet deep in the clay-like soil of northeast Ohio and made two crosses out of sticks, held together by duct tape, which he laid over their bodies.

The New Hampshire man later told investigators that he said a prayer for the children's souls.

The gesture was an effort to ease his conscience, said Senior Assistant Attorney General Jeffery Strelzin of New Hampshire.

The bodies of Sarah Gehring, 14, and her brother, 11-year-old Philip Gehring, were identified Saturday - two days after the corpses were found buried off Interstate 80 and 2 1/2 years after the children were slain.

Summit County Medical Examiner Dr. Lisa Kohler said the children died of multiple gunshot wounds.

"It's been an emotional case from the start," Strelzin said. "It's hard to not to be angry at a father who takes the lives of two children."

Gay couples still face legal battles in marriage rights campaign

In more than one sense, Brian Rice and Jason Kelliher are pioneers. They were among

the first same-sex partners in the nation to marry legally - last year in barrier-breaking Massachusetts - and now are among the few such couples to forgo their much-prized rights by moving to another state.

Their new home, Connecticut, is among the most liberal on the issue; its legislature has approved civil unions that extend marriage-like rights to gay couples. But that option doesn't tempt Rice and Kelliher.

"We've already reached the pinnacle of what a couple can hope for - a marriage license," said Rice, a lawyer. "Civil union is a second-class citizenship. ... We don't want to take a step backward."

Yet Rice and Kelliher know that if they venture to any other state - except back to Massachusetts - their status wouldn't improve. While a few states have recognized same-sex couples, many more are strengthening bans on gay marriage - including Michigan and Ohio - are now taking aim at existing domestic-partner benefit policies.

"There are lots of families in states where it's harder to be a strong family, where the state does everything it can to weaken you," said David Buckel, an attorney overseeing marriage issues for the gay rights group Lambda Legal. "It's challenging, it's discouraging, at some points it's enraging."

Louisiana aides swamped with mail during Katrina

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) - Dan Rather and Oprah Winfrey wanted interviews. An outspoken congressman wanted a security escort in the flooded city. Cuba's dictator offered medical help; Venezuela's president wanted to chat with the governor.

As looters and Hurricane Katrina floodwaters ravaged New Orleans, Gov. Kathleen Blanco's top aides were inundated with requests from around the world, from celebrities, dignitaries and people whose relatives were trapped in the city, according to documents released Friday.

Blanco staffers also sought to boost her image and debunk rumors about rampant vio-

lence, the correspondence shows.

"FYI, the shooting of looters in Jefferson Parish is still unconfirmed," said an e-mail message from a state police lieutenant to Bob Mann, Blanco's communications director, four days after the storm struck.

The contents of Mann's e-mail inbox from Aug. 23 through Sept. 6 - hundreds of messages each day - make up part of the estimated 100,000 pages of documents Blanco's office sent this week to two congressional committees investigating government failures in preparing for and responding to Katrina.

Vandals burn straw Christmas goat for 22nd time

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) - Vandals set light to a giant straw goat Saturday night in a central Swedish town, police said - an event that has happened so frequently it has almost become a Christmas tradition.

It was the 22nd time that the goat had gone up in smoke since merchants in Gavle, 90 miles north of Stockholm, began erecting it to mark the holiday season.

Police spokeswoman Margareta Olander said officers received a call just after 9 p.m. to report that the goat was ablaze.

"In just a couple of minutes only a sooty wooden skeleton remained," she said. There were no immediate suspects, but Olander said that one of two men seen running from the scene was wearing a Father Christmas mask.

Since 1966, just 10 of the 43-foot-high goats have survived beyond Christmas Day. Most were burned - sometimes during hours of being built with the first week of December. The 1976 goat was hit by a car, while in 1997, it was damaged by fireworks.

Shock rocker Manson reportedly marries longtime girlfriend

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Shock rocker Marilyn Manson married his longtime girlfriend Saturday in Ireland, People magazine reported on its Web site.

Manson, whose real name is Brian Warner, married 33-year-old Heather Sweet in front of about 60 guests at Castle Gurteen, the home of a friend in Kilsheelan, County Tipperary, the magazine reported.

Sweet is a burlesque dancer who uses the stage name Dita Von Teese. They have been dating for four years and Manson proposed at their Los Angeles home in March 2004, People reported.

It was the first marriage for both.

Manson, 36, wore a black silk taffeta tuxedo and Sweet was in royal purple silk taffeta with a corset. They were married in a non-denominational ceremony conducted by underground filmmaker Alejandro Jodorowsky, a friend of Manson, the magazine reported.

USC, Texas head to Rose Bowl to battle for national championship

Southern California and Texas gave the BCS a Rose Bowl nobody can complain about.

First, Vince Young and the Longhorns handed coach Mack Brown his first conference championship Saturday with a 70-3 victory over Colorado in the Big 12 title game. Then Reggie Bush and USC made their own emphatic statement, beating UCLA 66-19.

The final Bowl Championship Series standings are released on Sunday and the top two teams play in the Rose Bowl for the national title. The top-ranked Trojans (12-) and No. 2 Longhorns (12-0) can rest easy knowing they'll receive bids to title game on Jan. 4 in Pasadena, Calif.

"It's nice to see 1 vs. 2 all year long playing for the national championship," USC quarterback Matt Leinart said. "Two undefeated teams. No controversy this year."

USC's first two titles have come with some headaches for the BCS. Two years ago the Trojans shared the national title with LSU after being left out of the BCS title game. Last season, the Trojans played Oklahoma in the BCS championship and won the title outright, but unbeaten Auburn claimed it should have been USC's opponent in the Orange Bowl. ♦

Good luck on finals!

Love,
the news desk

WINTER SPECIALS

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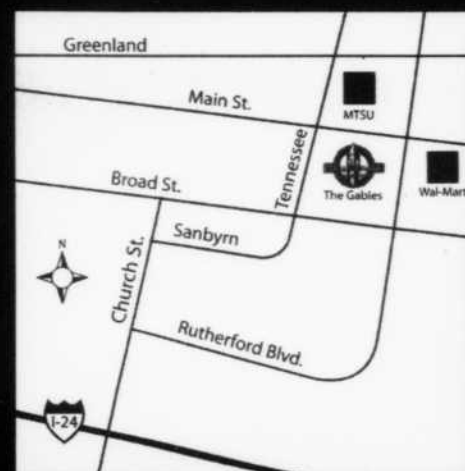
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Opinions

From the Editorial Board

Student dwellings need separate zoning rules, parking space quotas

Ask any student attending MTSU what their biggest problem is with the school, and chances are, you're going to hear about parking. It seems like everybody's got a car and a complaint about distances walked to classes. Not to be outdone by the problems on campus, it seems like apartment complexes in the area are getting into the crappy parking business.

Over the past three years, the majority of apartment complexes in the immediate area surrounding the school have cracked down on parking in their lots. Many apartment complexes have their residents mark their cars with parking passes, while only allowing guests to park in designated parking spots. Others don't bother having the visitor parking at all, instead, electing to tow any car that doesn't bear the seal of the apartment complex.

Granted, apartment complexes are under no obligation to provide enough parking spaces at their apartment for everyone to have a separate keg party on the same night. Nobody expects them to. In fact, ensuring that the tenants who do live at the complex have close parking is admirable of the owners.

City ordinances do require that apartment complexes have 1.5 parking spots per one bedroom apartment and two for two bedroom apartments. No complex in the area is known to be in violation of this statute. However, the city should have its own zoning category for apartment complexes that house mostly student population.

The city should also look into adding a new classification in apartment dwellings in the city specifically for student housing. The city has different zoning requirements for different types of commercial buildings, so logic follows that different types of apartment buildings have different needs. The city should study the issue, and determine a ratio of parking spots per bedroom specific to college apartments.

In the meantime, apartment complexes should look at better ways to deal with problematic parking. Offering guest passes for the parking lots a decent option. Letting the parking lot open up to visitors over the weekend might be another.

If apartment complexes show that they actually care about what's going on with their tenants, they might actually garner some respect from students, their friends and the community as a whole, which would go a long way to ensuring these apartment complexes are around for more than a couple of years. ♦

Censorship sets poor example for students

Matt Schneider
The North Wind

(U-WIRE) MARQUETTE, Mich. — Two high schools in two different states ran afoul of civil rights interest groups last week.

In Tennessee, Oak Ridge High School administrators recalled every edition of the student newspaper because it included articles on tattoos and birth control. In Vermont, a Bennington teacher drew administrative ire because of his phrasing of questions on a vocabulary quiz.

It struck me as fateful that both stories appeared on the same day, as if connected in some cosmic fashion.

The faculty adviser and the student editor of the Tennessee paper, as quoted in the article, don't seem terribly happy with the administration's proposal to re-print the paper once the offensive articles have been removed.

Assuming that the articles were well-reported and well-written, it seems egregious that the administration would censor relevant articles in the name of being "fair" to the entire student body, some of whom may take exception to the articles.

The administration may have every legal right to control what articles appear in the paper — after all, the funding is likely supplied by the school, which makes the administration answerable to the student body.

If the paper "bites the hand that feeds it," an argument could be made that the administration was acting in the interests of equanimity.

In the instance of the Bennington teacher, this argument may hold a little more weight.

The teacher, Bret Chenkin, claims his quizzes are tongue-in-cheek; that students know better than to take his political exclamations seriously. I don't buy that.

Here's one of his questions: "I wish Bush would be (coherent, eschewed) for once during a speech, but there are theories that his everyday diction charms the below-average

mind, hence insuring him Republican votes."

The choices were, of course, "coherent" and "eschewed," but it makes no difference.

If I were in Mr. Chenkin's class, I would want to know why he was dissing my parents' intelligence with his below-average wit.

Both of the administrations are playing an intimidation game with their subordinates.

In Oak Ridge, students are experiencing the grim realities of a First Amendment violation with little available recourse.

Bret Chenkin is facing the grim realities of overstepping his bounds as a teacher.

Chenkin's solution to his little problem is to bash "both sides" equally, a route taken by many talented stand-up comedians, but not necessarily the best one for a high school English teacher.

What kind of lesson does it teach when their teacher cracks jokes about the intelligence of a large portion of the American public, then concedes that maybe he should be equally harsh to everyone?

While the administration of the Vermont school has stepped in to prevent an authority figure from likely curtailing his students' comfort with expressing their political views in class — or, more likely, outright insulting them — the administration in Oak Ridge is going further in stifling the journalistic aspirations and freedoms of its students.

Northern's long-standing tradition of turning out quality educators is a constant reminder of the responsibility that teachers have to encourage their students' creative and intellectual development.

Pulling articles and inserting your political (even if done tongue-in-cheek) sets a precedent that will pervade the students' developing worldview.

Whether from the front of the classroom or the central office, intimidation and censorship are not what our children go to school to learn. ♦

Imagine Lennon as inspiration, not idealization

In the grand scheme of things, John Lennon has it pretty easy nowadays.

Take a good look at him. Lennon died 25 years ago this week, and yet he is still beloved by many and idealized by thousands of young people. He has become a symbol of all the ideas and values we attribute to the 1960s. He even makes a good living for a dead man: \$22 million a year through the use of his work and likeness on all variety of things, thanks to his wife, Yoko Ono.

You can't beat that, now, can you?

Of course not. Lennon, unlike many of his contemporaries, does not have to look back at himself from our present day and examine where he had been and what he did with his life. He died at his peak, murdered before he had the chance to go back through his accomplishments and regrets.

Fading out, he said in an interview just three months before his death, was much better than burning out. Like most of us, though, he didn't get the chance to make that choice.

Whether he wanted to or not, Lennon has been burned into our consciousness as an icon for all things radical for all people. The Cuban government has a statue of him standing in a park in Havana as a symbol of the revolutionary spirit.

Go figure.

It does not really get much easier than that. He does not have to worry about looking at today's problems and responding to them, because we do it all for him. We put words in the man's mouth, imagining (no pun intended) what he would say if he were here to speak his piece about Iraq, or AIDS, or hurricane and tsunami victims or whatever else needs to



Fair and Unbalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

be addressed.

In being killed, John Lennon has become an instant figurehead for whatever movement we need him for.

What good has all of it done, though?

For all the times that we have been asked to give peace a chance, or to imagine a world better than what we have now, we certainly have not gotten very far. People stopped caring about others long before he died, and his murder, heart-breaking as it was for many, did little to change the fact that we were too busy worrying about all of the more worthless details in life to really want to do something good for the world.

People do not care about peace, especially when it is hard to work towards and involves talking, vigilance and knowing when to use action and when to show restraint. We want a performance, we want drama, and what is more dramatic than bombs exploding over a major city and leaders shaking their fists at one another?

And Lennon? The man idolized by millions as the ultimate peacenik has become something to make us feel like we do care, an opiate to take our attention away from the fact that the world is still a mess by leading us to dream about better things.

While all those dreams are nice, however,

er, more dreaming is not what we ought to be doing.

The real tragedy is not that a fan gunned down a troubled, curious and remarkable man who did not believe violence was a solution to anything. Sad as that was, the real tragedy in all of this would be if everything Lennon ever did became an empty gesture of sympathy instead of an inspiration to make things better than they are.

We can do better than that.

Lennon's songs are dreamy, idealistic and his visions do not have an ice cube's chance in an oven of being reality. They are not a blueprint, though. It is not the way the world should be.

It is the way it could be, if we could trust each other long enough to build towards something bigger than a single person. If people really do not care about the world beyond their own property line, then it would not have mattered at all what happened to the man.

He does have it pretty easy, then. He does not have to worry about his legacy, or what will become of what he did and said. The worries fall on our shoulders, though. We are the ones who have the choice of making something of what he said, or letting it go to waste in favor of an ongoing road into self-destruction. We have the hard work in front of us, the long and winding road to follow (with apologies to Paul McCartney) to build something a little more like those utopian dreams.

Lucky him, right? ♦

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

Politics becoming synonymous with religious beliefs

Michael Rossi
Daily Targum

(U-WIRE) NEW

BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Over the past few weeks, I have written about how religion can unite communities. However, it can just as easily divide them, set groups against one another and cause the rational individual to commit the most irrational actions possible. The things one will do in the name of religion, in the name of God, and most importantly in the name of their own faith, can start and end wars. When people believe they are actually doing what God wants them to do, the line between ecstatic enlightenment and sinful frenzy can be all too brief.

What exactly is religion? Religion is more than the acknowledgement and worship of a supreme being. Religion, to me, is one's belief in a set of perceived truths held to be absolute, undeniable and

unquestionable. Religion is the adherence of what is "divine," and all else is dependent on it. One's religion is what one ultimately believes in, relies on and trusts to the absolute. In this regard, traditional religions like Christianity, Judaism and Islam qualify as religions, but even to the self-proclaimed "non-religious" or even "atheist," there are absolute truths one holds that all else is dependent on.

With this in mind, religion pervades all communities and social networks. Christians believe Jesus Christ is the son of God, who teaches mankind the path to absolute salvation. Muslims believe there is no God but God, and Mohammed is his prophet. Heck, the ancient Pythagoreans regarded numbers as holy; "one plus one equals two" was actually a prayer, and devoted to the great number 10.

It is when religion comes into contact with other faiths, absolute truths and beliefs that the bare-knuckled cage matches begin.

We consider ourselves to be the true practitioners of the divine, the key masters and gatekeepers of the true meaning of life and what is truly "right" and "correct" in the "universe." Any ignorant enough not to see this, or refusing to see it, is uncultured swine, deserving ridicule, condemnation, impeachment and TV beatings. The sad reality about this is that such feelings are felt in

almost all beliefs — not just the traditionally religious.

Political rhetoric in this country has become a religious battle of beliefs between Republicans and Democrats. Each side claims to speak on behalf of the "true" American, while the other side is literally making a deal with the devil or Karl Rove. Voting for President George W. Bush is heaven what our Father in Heaven wants you to do or goes against the very moral fibers our founding fathers on earth believed in.

I like to consider myself a hard-line centrist.

Nevertheless, because I'm not liberal enough, some of my more "left-wing" colleagues in my department pretty much see me as a right-wing nut ball, who burns books in his spare time.

Well, can you blame them? I do have one of those far right-wing, ultra-conservative "Support the Troops" yellow ribbons on my car. Obviously I'm a fan of imperialism, colonialism, evangelicism, "Bushism" and globalism, with no regard for the rainforest, hybrid cars or abortion.

On the other hand, because I dare to question the judgment of our dear leader from Texas, wondering what in the world does it mean to "stay the course," my damned soul and I are forever banned from country clubs, National Rifle Association meetings and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Religion has become politics and politics has become a religion — both here and around the world. For a conservative, "Bush is Great" can be the new proclamation. For liberals, Bush is blamed for everything wrong to plague humanity, from Hurricane Katrina to Atila the Hun.

Within traditional religion, God is being held hostage by

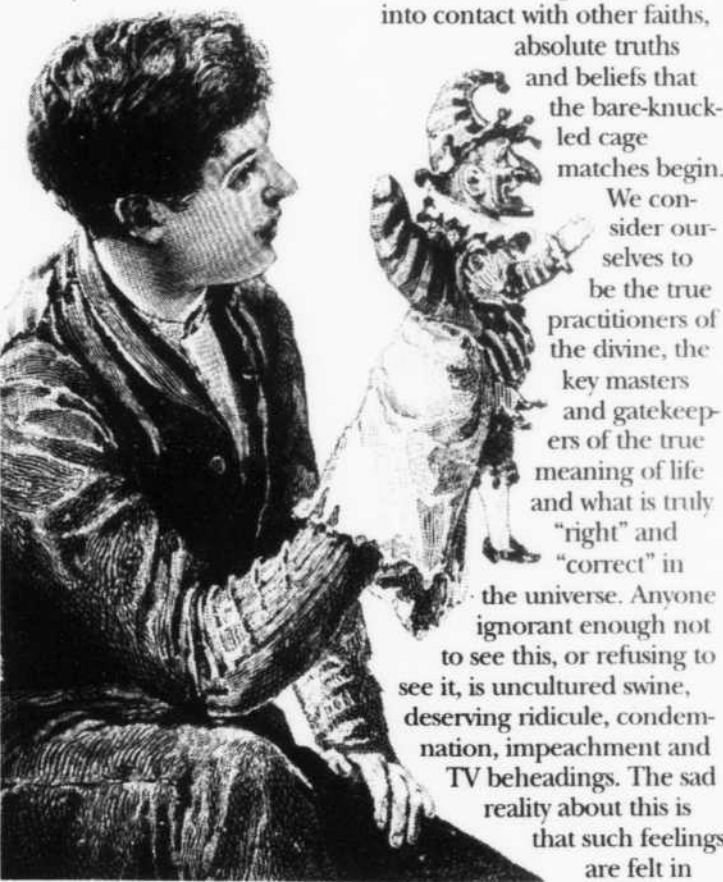
people like Osama bin Laden and Jerry Falwell, who use religion to justify their own actions. Both claimed the tsunami in Southeast Asia and Katrina were, are you ready for this, God's wrath on a society that embraces alcohol, homosexuality, contraception and "watered-down" versions of each faith.

Take a note: if you're going to kill, maim, wreck havoc, discriminate or just instigate another holy war, don't use the name of God to justify your warped causes and beliefs.

Secondly, no one has the right, the privilege or the ability to know what God knows. As a practicing Christian, I find anyone sanctioning violence in the name of doing God's work to be the worst form of blasphemy. Bin Laden is not fighting for Islam; he is using Islam to further his own personal interests. Bin Laden should be called what he truly is — an embarrassment to Islam. Let me repeat that, so everyone knows where I stand: bin Laden is an embarrassment to Islam and desecrates the name of his religion and God, whenever he uses them in his speeches and ready-to-eat fatwas.

When politics and ideology become one's "religion," a sense of "I'm right, you're wrong; I'm saved, you're damned" results. We become so focused on one set of beliefs, we ignore and refuse to listen to anything that does not affirm our positions, and anything that deviates from that message is seen as an unnatural aberration that needs to be rooted out and silenced.

If what we believe is absolute and unquestionable, dialogue and understanding of others are replaced with ignorance, fear and hatred. ♦



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Living



page 6
December 5, 2005

Plastic surgery can be controversial; be informed before making decision

By Brandi Fleck
Features Editor

Ask any feminist, and they'll most likely tell you that plastic surgery is wrong. It's the easiest way to succumb to society's impossible demands on women, who are expected to be passive, nurturing, secondary, and aesthetically perfect. Our hair should be curled, our nails manicured, our skin smooth and tan, and our figure a perfect 10. After all, how else are we to wind up on the cover of Maxim?

The appeal is undeniable. What red-blooded, heterosexual girl doesn't want to turn heads, to be effortlessly beautiful? It's obvious that those lucky enough to be born with a perfect

physique have a leg up on the competition; to that blessed minority, intelligence, determination, and a great personality somehow seem even more extraordinary. She isn't just that girl with the great sense of humor or with the exceptional talent: she's that beautiful girl who has more going for her than just her looks. She is a Goddess.

But, alas, super-models are genetic mutants. If you look back into history at the ideal woman, it isn't until recently that beauty has come to be defined by a tight, ultra-toned figure (Marilyn Monroe would have worn a size 12 by today's standards). So why go under the knife to achieve an impossi-

To Cut or Not to Cut

ble standard of perfection?

One of the most beautiful girls I have ever seen in person, Amirah Fathy, surprised me when she admitted to wanting plastic surgery. Sitting amongst our feminist-driven women's studies class, she had no shame expressing her opinion on the subject against the voices of sev-

eral in disagreement. "Why give in to the stereotype? Why perpetuate the standard?"

It's easy to belittle yet another "ditz" talking about getting a boob job, but this particular girl is the farthest thing from ditz. She's smart, determined, opinionated and gorgeous.

Listening to Amirah talk about going under the knife, it's impossible to simply write her off as another Pamela Anderson. Her points are valid and her ever-present intelligence overrides the presumably superficial subject-matter. As a senior political science major, she doesn't desire the perfect body to be a success on stage or film; she plans on going to law school in Washington D.C. after she graduates with a minor in Women's Studies.

That case is a special one, though. I know another girl whose mother supposedly

saved up for her post-graduation boob job since her freshman year, and, right on time, she welcomed two new perky additions a few months after she graduated. I'm just going to take a venture and suggest that she's not going to be arguing for justice in D.C. later on, either.

No matter what the intentions, the risks are undeniable. We've all read the horror stories, like the Oprah-featured Dr. Michael Sachs who was sued for the death of Kathleen Cregan, a 42-year-old who died two days after her nose-job and face lift. Additionally, the UK's Cosmopolitan magazine cited that, "In the US, where [liposuction] is now the most popular cosmetic surgical procedure, there are an alarming 20 deaths per 100,000 operations. This grim statistic means that you are more likely to die having fat removed than in a road

accident."

"There are gonna be stories to tell no matter what. There are gonna be problems. There are good docs and there are bad docs just like there are good and bad people and even good docs have complications," says Ted Behard, M.D. who performs plastic surgery in Rutherford and Davidson counties.

Dr. Behar says there are some tragic cases but in general they're "pretty darn exaggerated" and "pretty rare." In any surgery there are the risks of anesthesia, bleeding and infection, but he advises a person considering plastic surgery to meet with the doctor and don't stay if he or she doesn't feel the doctor has compassion and will be there if problems occur.

High-caliber surgeons will take an interest in patients before lying them down on a surgical table.

Mike Hueneker, M.D., of Nashville's Plastic Surgery Associates assures that, although people ages 18 and 19 are nearly completely developed physically, they must be handled on a case-by-case basis.

"Younger patients do require more thought and counseling before undergoing surgery," he says. "A person needs to have realistic expectations about the outcome, and also be appropriate in their attitude toward the thing they want corrected. By that, I mean if their nose has

see Cut page 7

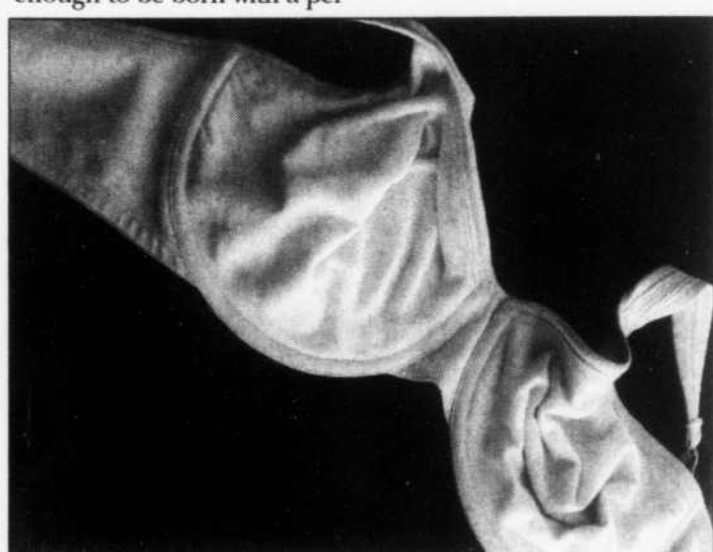


Photo provided by morguefile.com

Despite societal demands to look a certain way the decision to change one's appearance is personal. One should know the risks and be sure before committing.

"I would do it for me. No one told me I need this, it would just make me happy."

—Amirah Fathy, political science student considering plastic surgery

Changing teachers

Registering for specific teacher may not work; get what you get

By Kevin Doyle
Contributor

It's that time of the year again: the time of frantic searching, the time of racing to a computer before everyone else—the time to sign up for classes. But for some students, it's just another time for inevitable disappointment.

Looking through the scheduling book for the spring 2006 semester, Gracie Campbell, a sophomore digital animation major, continues her search for classes taught by teachers she enjoys or has heard good things about. But in the past, many of the teachers Campbell was looking forward to having a class with have been changed on her at the very last minute.

"It really sucks," Campbell said, with her face buried in the scheduling book. "Somehow my schedule always ends up being the one that gets all screwed up, and they end up giving me teachers I didn't sign up for."

Campbell said her hard luck began the summer after she graduated from Lawrenceburg's Summertown High School, when she learned that one of the teachers she had heard good things about was no longer listed on her schedule.

"Some friends of mine told me that Thayer was a good art teacher, so I signed up for his class and I thought that was it," Campbell said. "Then I go to check my schedule, like a week before classes start, and now it just says 'STAFF' instead. I really didn't know how that would turn out, especially in my first semester, so I just switched out of it and took another class."

When looking for classes to enroll in for the next semester, Campbell said she decided she'd try to sign up for Thayer's course again. This time, however, things played out a bit differently. During the winter break, Campbell went to check on her schedule, expecting to see Thayer changed to STAFF again. Instead, she found that Thayer, surprisingly, was still in place—but now her astronomy teacher had been changed. Originally, Campbell said she had enrolled in a class with Higgins, but now she found herself enrolled in a class with Henderson. In addition to that, one of her media classes had just been canceled altogether.

"I actually liked him, though," Campbell said.

Her friends' suggestions of Thayer were correct; Campbell said she enjoyed the class, and enjoyed having Thayer as her art teacher. So much so, in fact, that while signing up for classes for the fall 2005

semester, she decided to take another of his classes.

But without fail, her repeat bad luck was following closely.

"I thought, 'There's no way this can happen again, can it?'" Campbell said. "I already had one of my classes with him screwed up, so I didn't think it could happen a second time so quick."

Unfortunately, when she went to check her schedule about a week before classes started, she found that her teacher had again been changed—this time from Thayer to Marquez.

Campbell isn't the only one this last-minute switch has happened to, however. Campbell's friend, senior recording industry major Grant Coleman, said he, too, has experienced his share of bad luck.

"It's actually happened to me only a couple of times, but still," Coleman said.

In his second year, his music theory class was changed from Linton to Osterfield, and copyright law was changed from O'Brien to Hull.

"I took the ones that I was given, and I actually ended up liking both of them," Coleman said. "I've heard about that happening to a lot of people, but not really many people that I know."

Coleman, who plans to graduate in 2006, said he hopes nothing happens to alter the few classes he has left.

"It must suck when if you get switched to a teacher you end up hating," he said. "I guess I was just one of the lucky ones."

So what exactly is happening to all these teachers?

Chris Haseleu, chairman of MTSU's recording industry program, said there are many different reasons for why there are such teacher-switch occurrences.

"The usual reasons include faculty leaving MTSU, or being unavailable for various reasons," Haseleu said. "This can include faculty being fired, quitting, going on leave, being ill, and/or getting reassignment for research or other duties."

But not only are teachers being switched around, there's also the occasional but rare class cancellation.

"The schedules are done some nine months before the semester starts," Haseleu said. "How [canceling] is handled will vary from department to department. We try to call or e-mail each student in a canceled situation," he added. "We try very hard not to cancel a class at the last minute." ♦

Unruly Roommates

How to deal in difficult situations

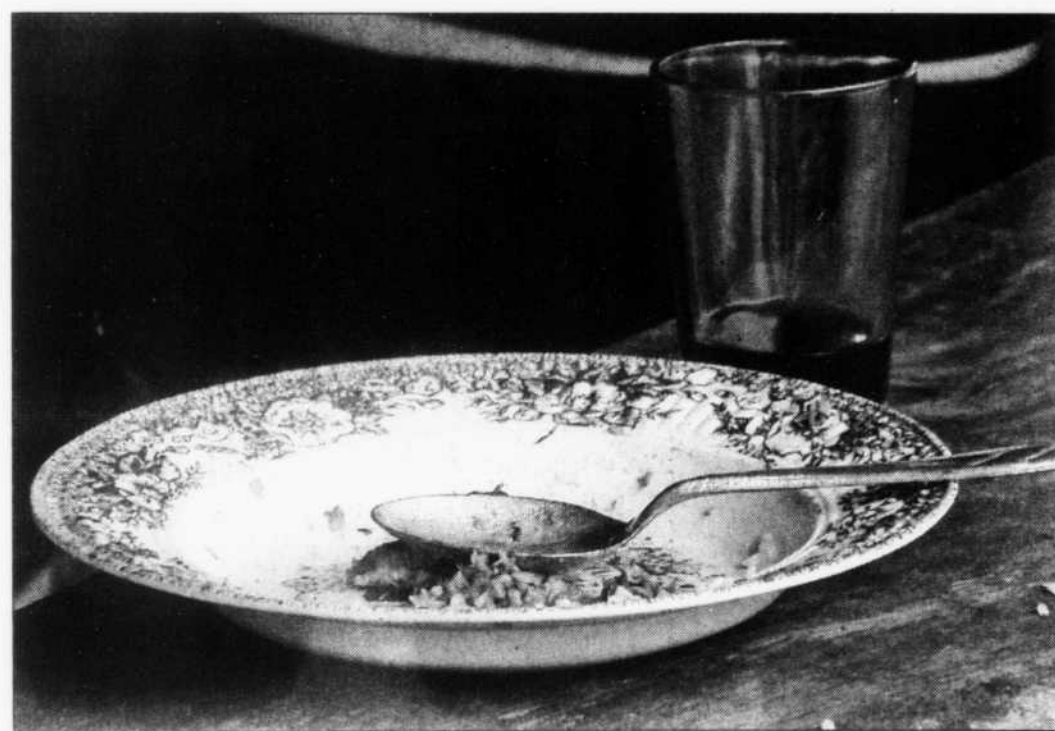


Photo provided by morguefile.com

By Haley Hughes
Staff Writer

It starts with the loud music at 3 a.m., the boyfriend/girlfriend who is always over and the dishes you didn't dirty, now encrusted, are piled in the sink.

Having a roommate — or more than one! — can really be a burr in your butt sometimes. Trust me; I have lived with three different girls since transferring to MTSU and moving into my apartment two years ago. And, believe it or not, we did not always agree. Rather, they didn't always agree with me.

Dealing with unruly roommates is particularly hard for people who have never lived on their own before, says University Gables Property Manager Deborah Cauwels.

"You can't just go to your room and shut the door," she says. "You have to live with them."

Some of the more prevalent reasons that cause roommate friction, she explains, are claims that, "My roommate is too messy," "My roommate parties too much" or, "My roommate now smokes and drinks" when they didn't used to.

If a resident approaches

Cauwels with a problem, she conducts counseling in hopes of finding a solution. Or, in extreme cases where a resolution seems impossible, University Gables will move one roommate for free.

"They get to pick whole new roommates," she says.

One method Cauwels suggests in counseling is the setting up of a schedule. For example, roommate A buys milk one week and Roommate B will buy milk the next week and so on.

It also helps to be open and talk about the problem or problems.

"[Your roommates] don't have to be your best friends," she says. "Know that everybody is different. It's better to be open and honest instead of bottling it up."

In fact, she says University Gables has had more success with their roommate matching program than with people who have decided to live together because they're friends.

The roommate matching sheet asks people to circle their gender preference of roommate, how often they study, how tidy they are and how often they smoke and drink if at all.

Daniel Hermey, a senior criminal justice major, lives with three other guys at University Gables. He says the fact that he's 27 and his roommates are fresh out of high school is, and has been, a source of conflict. Meaning the maturity level between Hermey and his roommates is different and has contributed to some disagreements. He was matched with his roommates.

"I try to talk it out," he says. "But occasionally stuff gets thrown and holes develop in walls."

Not having a set schedule of who buys what and when has also caused some problems.

"When one side runs out, the other side gets raided. But nobody confesses to it. There's a ghost," he explains.

Above all, he says, try to keep an open mind and don't form opinions about your roommates until you know them better.

If you're living in an unbearable situation and your complex doesn't provide the luxury of counseling, try visiting www.experts.about.com/q/2039/. Leave a question or complaint for Sylvia Bergthold, author of *Sorry, The Boa Has Gotta Go!*, a roommate survival guide. ♦

From Cut, page 6

only a minimal flaw but they are distraught about it, that is a huge red flag. . . I turn down patients for surgery on a regular basis," he says.

Amirah's personal experience also demonstrates that a good surgeon won't jump to the knife. At her consultation, she pointed to where she wanted to be skinnier. The surgeon told her to work out for 2-3 months first, and then he'd consider it. Amirah, though, wasn't interested. If she wanted to sweat her ass off in the gym to achieve a perfect body, she wouldn't be visiting a plastic surgeon, right?

Someone as informed as Amirah is completely aware of the risks, and yet, she knows what she wants. Already completely confident in her appearance and herself, she says that the surgery will simply make her happy.

"I would do it for me," she says with conviction. "No one told me I need this, it would just make me happy."

Dr. Antell, a premier surgeon interviewed in the Fall 2003 issue of Faze Magazine, said that he's " . . . done liposuction on a Sports Illustrated swimsuit model. This is somebody most people would think looked perfect. . . She didn't see herself the way others did. I can't give people confidence."

If people as beautiful as Amirah Fathy and Sports Illustrated swimsuit models are willing to go under the knife, where's the hope for the rest of us?

Surgery or no surgery, Amirah will be successful, and models will be physically perfect. In Women's Studies, we constantly debate society's scrutiny of those going against the grain. Just the

same, Amirah's frustration is evident when a class full of seemingly open-minded females is quick to judge her for her choices. But she doesn't back down, and her conviction never falters. If cosmetic surgery is used for personal happiness rather than to fill an emotional void or to gain confidence, and the risks are assessed and accepted, what's the harm? The demand may have been created by our society, but the decision is personal.

So, before going under the knife, Dr. Behar says there are some factors to consider. A patient must determine the type of surgery. He operates on patients that range from their 20s to their 60s. Most college level patients want breast enhancements, which include reductions or enlargements.

A patient should make sure the doctor they're consulting with can communicate clearly what's involved with the procedure and be open about end results, recuperation, options and risks.

Finally, make sure the doctor is board certified in plastic surgery. A good way to tell if he or she is a member of the American Board of Plastic Surgery because nearly all that are certified join this group.

Dr. Behar says plastic surgery can be for aesthetic reasons or a reconstructive nature because of soft tissue loss from injuries or removed tumors.

"Plastic surgery is a huge field. That's one of the things that is most fun about it," Dr. Behar says. "It's a set of principles that allow you to change shape and fix problems." ♦

Computer Game CRAZY

Internet competitions offer fantastic arenas for electronic play

By Lexie Rogers
Staff Writer

"And Singapore scores!" screams the commentator, exploding from his chair as crowds of thrilled fans swirl around the winning team. Pounding their fists in the air and cheering "GG", the fans blaze through the maze of monitors and mice that fill the arena floor.

This is no ordinary soccer match. It's FIFA Soccer 2005 at the World Cyber Games. It's the international phenomenon of electronic sports, coined as eSports by the exploding sub-culture of professional gamers that spawned it. And in the digital millennium, eSports is taking the world of competitive sports by storm.

World Wide Web. It allowed gamers from across the globe to post gaming requests on virtual bulletin boards that were accessible from a group of networked groups such as an office or university setting. Swapping phone numbers, BBS users would call, confirm, and then dial one another's computers for a little one-on-

itless Quake "mods" such as the capture the flag mode that resembled virtual football. Seemingly overnight, the gaming community that had been building online since the BBS days ignited. Quake servers flew up all around the world.

Within months, cyber contenders were itching to try their hand at live competition. And id Software responded in August of 1996 with QuakeCon. Inspired by fans on the Quake IRC channel, #quake, id Software organized a LAN where fans could compete and greet those they had met online in the Quake community. The bring-your-own-computer, or BYOC, event culminated at a Best Western in Dallas, Texas, just down the street from id Software headquarters.

Dialing up for **Doom** was just like saying to your friends, 'Let's meet here and go play soccer.'

— Patrick Flannigan
Junior, College of Basic and Applied Sciences

From Seoul, Korea, to San Francisco, Calif., professional gamers, known as cyber athletes, compete in organized competitions, such as the World Cyber Games, for prizes valued into the millions. What began as a teenage obsession has grown into an underground community complete with independent news media, structured international competition and multi-million dollar sponsors such as Intel, Microsoft and NVIDIA.

The original Mario Brothers arcade game was the breakout game of the early gaming era, said Patrick "Sabo" Flannigan, former broadcaster for the eSports Internet radio station, Team SportsCast Network and junior in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. With the disarmingly cute characters and an option for spontaneous two player participation, Mario made gaming history. The widespread popularity of the Mario Brothers not only launched the console craze, it also ushered in the age of computerized competition.

With the launch of Doom in 1993, id Software ushered in the new age of competitive gaming with the introduction of modern-day multiplayer modes. This first-person shooter "from hell" was deemed as "visually, emotionally, perceptually and mentally the most gripping computer game" of its day by USA Today. Its fusion of grotesque graphics and pulse-pounding competition propelled this PC game to the top of the charts.

What kept it there was the one of a kind "deathmatch" multiplayer mode that pitted players directly against one another on either dial-up or local-area connections, known as LANs. Allowing a whole new level of entertainment and immersive interactivity, multiplayer modes introduced advanced elements of competition and socialization for gamers. Multiplayer modes granted limitless possibilities of game play.

Yet in the days before the Internet, it was a challenge in and of itself to find competitors. Cutting-edge contenders began using bulletin-board systems to connect with other gamers. The bulletin-board system, more commonly known as a BBS, was the precursor to the

one action.

"You could post your request on the board or just call up your buddies and say meet me at 63.49.192.1," Flannigan said. "Dialing up for Doom was just like saying to your friends, let's meet here and go play soccer."

In an attempt to make these bulletin boards "a little more useable," Finnish professor Jarkko Oikarinen invented one of the Web's first instant messengers, the Internet-Relay chat or IRC. The University of Oulu's BBS had an experimental multi-user chat program, but it "had a bad habit of not working properly" Oikarinen said. IRC was created to allow a more efficient flow of instant communication between faculty and students.

"In the era of early id Software titles, 'deathmatch' was a game almost exclusively for computer-savvy individuals," said eSports broadcaster Marcus "djWheat" Graham in a New Gaming Press Release.

New technology such as the IRC and the Internet granted gamers access to forward thinking internet enthusiasts. By 1996, the game was 37 million users strong, according to the Global Policy Forum of the United Nations. It was in February of that year that id Software unveiled what would become the granddaddy of the eSports evolution.

It was Quake. Played with a first-person perspective, the game's 3D engine was revolutionary and licensed for countless other video games. PC Gamer magazine hailed the game as "the biggest, baddest, bloodiest and most atmospheric 3-D action game ever conceived." Wired magazine marveled at id Software's now-trademark "fusion of nightmarish art and advanced technology."

Quake capitalized on the dawn of the Internet with extensive new multiplayer modifications that included the ever-popular Doom-style deathmatch, Flannigan said.

He added that the game also made bold moves to increase the interactive qualities of Quake. Not only did the game feature extensive multiplayer modes, it was also written in a code that could be easily modified, which allowed innovative gamers to create lim-

more than 100 attendees crowded the tiny conference room of the first QuakeCon, Flannigan said. With the Texas sun smoldering down, fans flooded out onto the patio where John Carmack, id Software's lead developer for Quake and Doom, chatted informally with guests. Enthusiasm over the event spread like wild fire over the IRC channels. eSports was officially on the rise.

The Cyber Professional League, the industry's first concept of professional gaming, was conceived at the Cosmic Cup Café in uptown Dallas by Munoz and a team of QuakeCon creators including Stevie Case, Jerry Wolski, Kevin Searle and Mike Wardell.

"I picked a tournament format and began to work through the logistics for a professional gaming tournament," Wardell said in Welch's interview. "We did what we could to bring tournaments to a pro level by regulating the process. 'We brought in our own hardware, scheduled and monitored matches, created player committees for competition seed data, improved competition mod software and checked configuration setting,'" he said.

Mainstream media coverage marked the turning point for eSports and a community of ardent gaming activists responded by starting their own grass root campaigns to move the sport into the spotlight. Expanding on eSports already strong Internet presence, virtual newspapers, e-Zines and radio stations sprang up enhancing international coverage of the sport.

More exposure allows for bigger sponsors, allowing cyber athletes to earn a living doing what they love.

Prize money provided by sponsors allows career athletes such as Jonathan "Fatal1ty" Wendel, 22, to earn a living twiddling their thumbs. \$150,000 on last month after winning the grand final of the CPL World Tour in New York.

"Kids in the early 1990s were playing baseball in dirt fields," said Jason Lake, eSports enthusiasts and team owner, "Kids today are playing computer games." ♦

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Blue Raiders come from behind to defeat Vikings

By Clarence Plank
Staff Writer

On Saturday night, Middle Tennessee came back to beat a tough Portland State team 65-62 to pick up another non-conference victory.

The Blue Raiders (3-1) ended Portland State's 12-game winning streak as Marcus Morrison and Adam Vogelsberg combined for 25 points in the second half.

Morrison dropped two free throws to give MT the 63-62 lead, while Vogelsberg was able to score a bucket to give MT a three point lead just seconds later.

It finally came down to Portland State's Jake Schroeder to pull his team back into the game in the waning seconds of the game.

Schroeder, who is the all-time leading 3-point shooter in program history for the Vikings, missed a game tying shot.

"I'm proud of our team and the way they battled here tonight against a very good

Portland State team," head coach Kermit Davis told goblueraiders.com.

"We defended really well and held their leading scorer (Schroeder) without a field goal so that was big. It was a tough game and a big win to get on the road, especially after traveling across country and then playing a team that had one of the longest home win streaks in the West. I really thought Marcus Morrison stepped up and gave our team leadership with the game on the line at the end."

Portland State's (2-5) Ryan Sommer's gave the Vikings their final lead of the game, a 60-59 advantage, before Morrison and Vogelsberg rallied MT.

Before the duo's late-game heroics, Kyle Young, Tim Blue and Theryn Hudson kept MT in striking distance of a win.

Vogelsberg finished with 15 points and Morrison had 10 points.

Young also turned in a stellar performance, with 12 points and nine rebounds. Blue and Hudson added

Saturday, December 3
MT 65
Portland 62

Next Game at Utah State,
December 5

eight points a piece and rounding out the scoring was Fats Cuyler, who had six points with four assists and also came away with four steals.

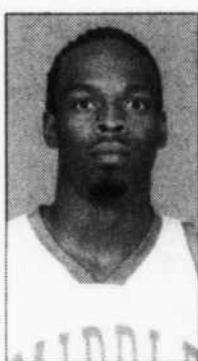
The lead changed hands 20 times or tied 15 times before MT finally got the upper hand to walk away victories.

"We just kept battling and never let up," Vogelsberg told www.goblueraiders.com.

"Coach Davis challenged us at the half and I think we took that to heart. We have several road games this season, especially in this current stretch, so it was good for us to prove we can come back on the road and find a way to win."

MT came away with the win in part because the dominated Portland State on the boards, grabbing 44 rebounds compared to Portland State's 30. The Blue Raiders also held Portland State to 35 percent shooting on the night.

The Blue Raiders will continue their road trip tonight, playing at 8 p.m. against the Utah State Aggies. ♦



Morrison



Vogelsberg



Photo provided by MT Media Relations
MT senior Marcus Morrison helped the Blue Raiders come from behind to defeat Portland State on the road. Morrison and Adam Vogelsberg combined for 25 second half points to key a late Blue Raider charge.

Horton, Givens lead MT to first road victory of season

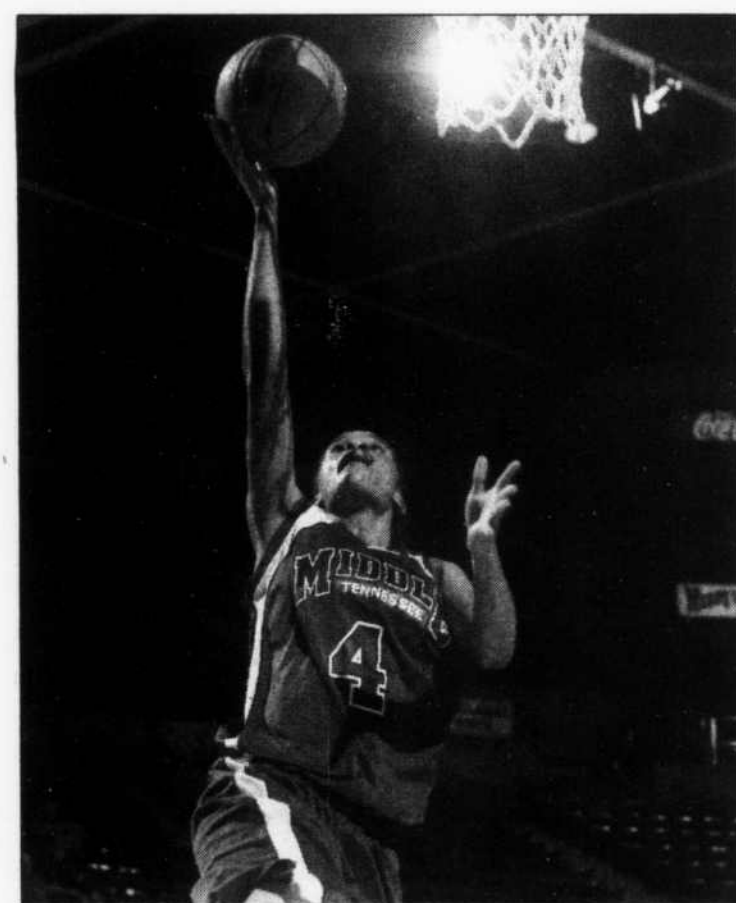


Photo provided by MT Media Relations
MT's Krystle Horton scored a season-high 26 points and grabbed seven rebounds in the team's first road win of the year.

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee women's basketball (4-2) picked up its first road win of the season, a 79-72 decision against South Dakota State, Friday night in Frost Arena.

"The victory was a big win for Middle Tennessee," head coach Rick Insell told MT Media Relations.

Senior Chrissy Givens and Junior Krystle Horton led the Lady Raiders, scoring 27 and 26 points, respectively. Givens hitting seven rebounds.

Hitting free throws saved the Lady Raiders as well, as MT went 11-of-13 from the line.

The Lady Raiders never trailed in the second half but South Dakota made an effort to take the lead but was never successful. The Jackrabbits did cut it close, however, with 3:58 remaining pulling within one point 64-63.

MT pushed back the lead after Tia Stovall hit one of two free throws. The Blue Raiders went back to the line when Chrissy Givens hit a pair of free throws.

The Lady Raiders are just one of four teams to defeat the Jackrabbits at their home territory. South Dakota State is 55-5

at home in the last five years.

"South Dakota State is the toughest team we played since we faced Georgia," Insell told Media Relations. "We just came after them in the second half and decided to attack the basket and were able to get to the free throw line."

With the game tied at 10, Givens picked up a rebound that set up a lay-up by Horton. A steal by Horton and a score pushed the MT lead to four in the first half.

The Lady Raiders went on a 5-0 run and kept the Jackrabbits from scoring until Megan Vogel hit a pair of free throws that shortened the lead to three.

However, tough defense from the Lady Raiders sailed the lead to 13 and did not allow a South Dakota State field goal for almost eight minutes.

MT struggled in the second half with three players with two or more fouls. Monique Martin and LaCondra Mason each had three fouls while Stovall had two.

South Dakota State converted many of these opportunities, going 12-of-15 from the line.

MT had 13 steals in the game and shot 50 percent from the field.



Photo provided by MT Media Relations
MT's Chrissy Givens scored 27 points and dished out five assists in the team's win over the weekend.

The Blue Raiders traveled to Fargo, North Dakota to take on North Dakota State yesterday afternoon. ♦

Predators defeat Philadelphia Flyers in 4-3 shootout

By Russell Luna
Staff Writer

The Nashville Predators have done a lot of things as we near the quarter-point of this 2005-2006 NHL season.

Get off to the best start in franchise history? Check.

Flourish offensively in the NHL's new scoring-oriented game? Check.

Play an Eastern Conference team? Nope.

Beat the Philadelphia Flyers at home? Never.

Entering this weekend, the Predators had played 25 games this season, and all 25

games were played against fellow Western Conference members.

As for the Flyers, they had a little bit of a streak going themselves—they had never lost a game played at the Gaylord Entertainment Center.

And after tonight's 4-3 shootout victory, both of those streaks are history.

But it wasn't easy.

In Nashville's 14th one-goal game of the season, the Predators clawed, scratched, and fought their way back even and eventually ahead with the Flyers.

Saturday, December 3
Predators 4
Flyers 3

Next Game at Capitals,
December 7

After the game, Coach Barry Trotz said "we are very fortunate that we are finding ways to win. We aren't winning by big margins. That is a sign of maturity."

Mike Knuble got the scoring started midway through the

first period when he snuck a shot past Tomas Vokoun.

The Predators only needed 20 seconds to muster a response. After a brilliant pass by Martin Erat, Paul Kariya tied the game at one goal a piece.

Then, Mike Richards gave the lead back to the Flyers, but the Predators responded yet again when Erat and Kariya teamed up once more, but this time it was Erat doing the scoring.

Yanic Perrault then took advantage of a late Flyer penalty, giving the Predators their

See Predators, page 10

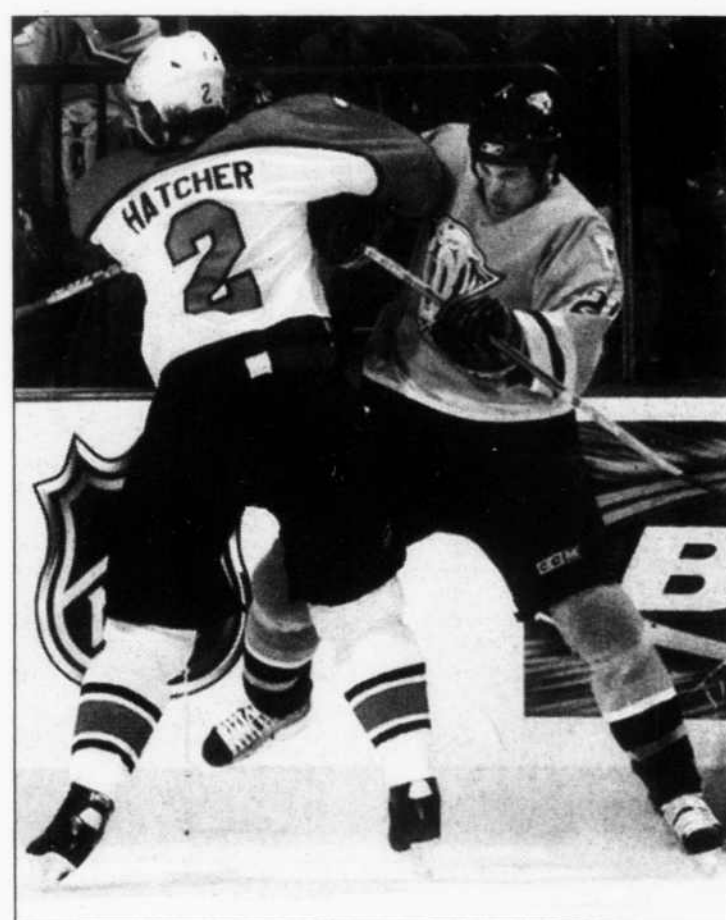


Photo provided by Nashville Predators
Philadelphia's Derrian Hatcher attempts to check Nashville's Jeremy Stevenson in the Predators 4-3 victory over the Flyers on Saturday.

Preds' Quick Hits:

It was the first interconference game for both teams.

Nashville has scored at least one power-play goal in 10 straight games. Nashville's Kimmo Timonen missed the game due to the flu.

Kevin Klein was recalled from Milwaukee of the AHL and made his NHL debut.

Ben Eager was in the Flyers lineup after being recalled earlier in the day from the AHL's Philadelphia Phantoms.

