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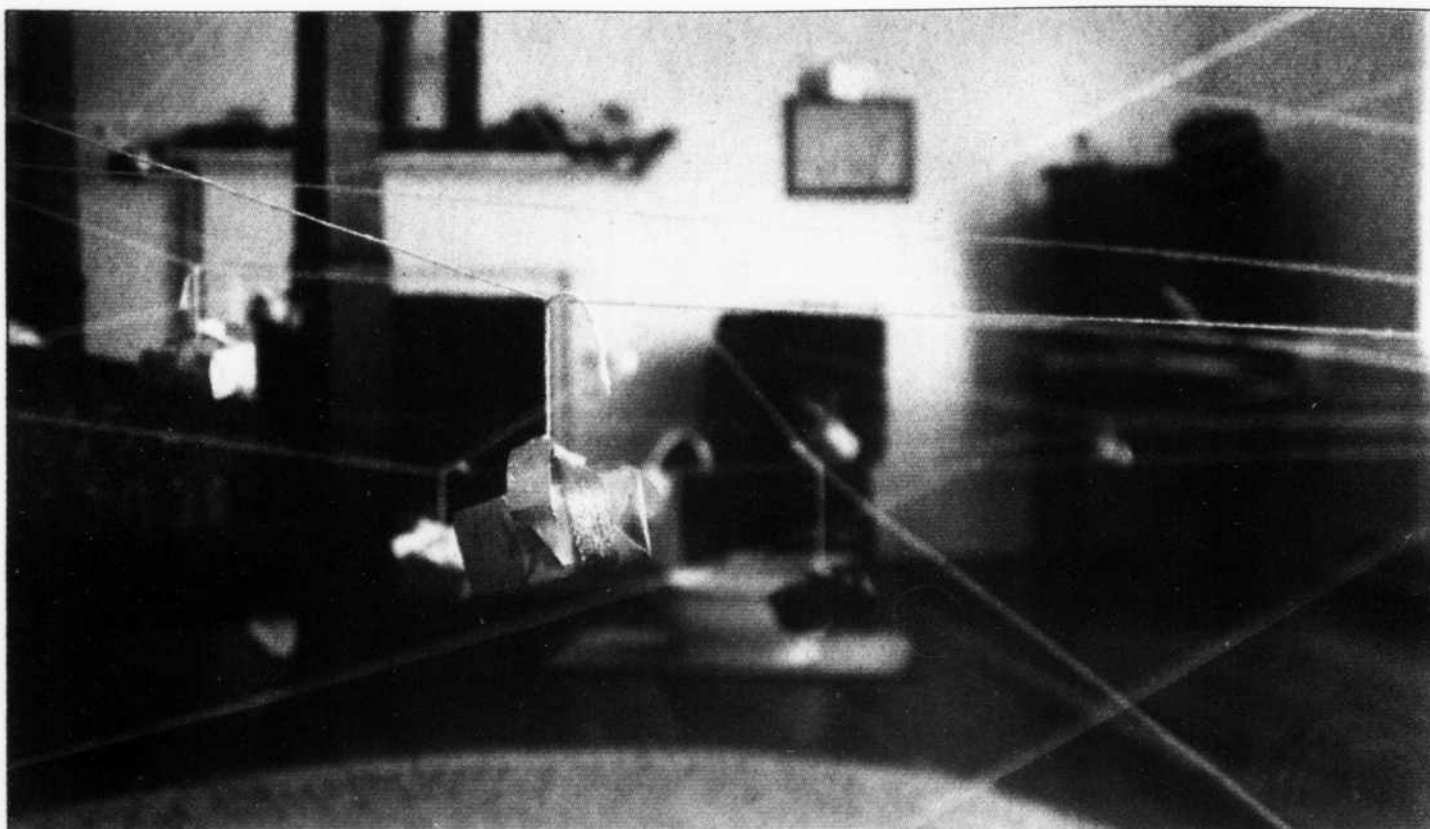
SIDELINES

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Editorially independent



This is a game the grandfather of Oakland Mansion would play with the children. Each child would have their own string and they would have to follow it over, under, and through the other strings to get to their respective presents.

Candlelight tour harkens back to old-fashioned Christmas

By Ben Dongarra

Staff Writer

Oakland Mansion and other historic buildings in Murfreesboro will open their doors this Saturday to conjure up an old-fashioned Christmas with a candlelight tour of homes. A ticket for the event, which is sponsored by the Oakland Association, covers a self-guided tour of eight public and private spots in Murfreesboro's historic district.

Among the many attractions on the tour there will be a living history exhibit presented by the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Murfreesboro Camp 33. The exhibit will include an authentic Civil War encampment complete with costumed storytellers.

The main attraction of the tour is the Oakland mansion with its unique Italianate architecture and rich history.

"People want to experience the elegance of the Old South," said Oakland Museum curator Nila Gober.

Oakland was first built as a two building brick house in 1813 by James Maney, a doctor, and his wife Sallie Murfree Maney. Over the

next 50 years additions transformed the humble home into a prominent 1,500-acre plantation and gave it the look it has today.

On July 13, 1862 Civil War Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest's troops staged a surprise attack on Union forces on Oakland's front yards. Wounded soldiers from both armies were brought into the mansion and cared for by the family. When the battle was over the Union forces surrendered in Oakland's parlor.

Some famous guests who have stayed in Oakland include Confederate President Jefferson Davis, President James K. Polk's wife Sarah Childress Polk, and many officers from both the Union and Confederate armies.

After the Civil War, Oakland went broke. To pay off debts, the owners had to sell the surrounding plantation land and eventually the mansion itself in 1884.

In 1954, then owner Rebecca Jetton could no longer keep up the vast mansion and moved out. With no one to maintain it, Oakland began to fall apart due to neglect and vandalism. It was on the verge of being bulldozed by the state before the Oakland

Association protested. The state agreed to sell the deed to the group if they opened it to the public after restoration.

The Oakland Museum opened to the public in the early 1960s and has been running ever since.

Other stops on the tour are the Central Christian Church, Saint Andrew's Chapel at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, along with several other private homes. Each is decorated in historic fashion with holly and candles.

"Crisp chilly days in December conjure images of Currier and Ives, candlelit holiday celebrations and old-fashioned homes filled with pungent evergreens," said Dennis Jungman, executive director of the Oakland's Historic House Museum, in a press release. "The fact that most modern day living is a far cry from those gracious and slower times past probably helps explain the immense popularity of historic home tours during the holiday season."

Tickets for the tour can be purchased at the Oakland Museum for \$10. The tour is this Saturday only December 9 from 4-8 p.m.

MT to guide civil debate over Forrest controversy next semester

By Wesley Murchison

Campus Admin. News Editor

MTSU plans to be proactive in the leading discussions over the Forrest Hall controversy while keeping their position neutral.

Last Monday, administrators, historians and representatives from the student government and multicultural affairs met to discuss forums that will cover areas of debate surrounding the Forrest Hall issue.

"Here is an issue where clearly strong opinions exist on both sides," said Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs, who called the "ad hoc group" together.

The meeting was not an attempt to make a final decision on Forrest Hall. As far as Glenn could tell MTSU, is in no way planning to change the name anytime soon.

Though not an official position on the issue, Glenn did cite three specific reasons for his opinion: The rescinding of the initial resolution to remove the name by Student Government Association, the overall lack of Tennessee Board of Regents policy and the fact that MTSU is likely not to act over a couple of petitions.

The group decided to hold several forums that would, at the moment, consist primarily of guest speakers to talk about three dimensions of the debate surrounding Forrest Hall, including how MTSU has used the name and symbolism of Forrest in the past, his role in the KKK and slavery in Tennessee.

The importance of MTSU's history in this matter is because this debate over Forrest's name has occurred before and will happen again if the name

remains on the building, according to Glenn.

This appropriation to guide the issue surrounding Forrest Hall has resulted in some criticism.

An attempt to work with Students Against Forrest Hall has resulted in the feeling the administration is trying to "shut them down," Colette Taylor, associate dean of Student Life, said. The hope is that SAFH will accept an adviser to assist them in their campaign.

Students Against Forrest Hall have filed an application to become an official student organization, which would require them to write a constitution expressing the group's activity and an faculty member to be an adviser, according to Taylor. What this would mean is SAFH would now be a recognizable entity within the university with rights to operate.

Bob Womack, professor of educational leadership who has been teaching at MTSU for 49 years, said that he believes that these forums are "misleading" students to think there will be a concession after it is all over with.

"All we are really doing is placating the public," Womack said.

Everything at the moment is tentative and the scheduled time for the forums and lectures to begin is in either late January or early February.

Much of the discussion during the meeting circled around the history of MTSU and who best to invite to speak on certain issues. Several names of published historians were thrown around, and a decision was made to document the events for future generations that might come back to this debate.

Leadership institute offers limited class space; applicants asked to apply early

Classes offered for summer session

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

Applications for the Institute of Leadership Excellence class during the summer intersession are now being accepted for the limited registration.

"It's a new program that we started last May, because it is design to be a very intense program," said David Foote, associate professor of management. "It's a program design to help students identify their own leadership potential to understand the variety concepts of leadership and how they can apply it to their own lives."

The leadership class is open to all MTSU majors and is focused on helping students to gain leadership experience as well as help in the development of juniors and seniors in future leadership roles.

The main purpose of the three-week class is to help students develop their own leadership abilities through lecture discussion groups, interaction with other students, activities and speakers, Foote said. They welcome any student from any major because they can take their experience from the class and apply it to their discipline.

"Last year the deans of each of the five colleges kicked in an additional 100 dollar scholarship for

any student in the their college who enrolled," Foote said. "So it ended up costing only like, 192 dollars I think for the course."

Both Foote and Earl Thomas, professor of management and marketing, work together as they teach the class, which is limited to 25 students.

A usual day of class starts at 9:30 a.m. and goes until 9 p.m., Foote said. The first part of the day is discussion and lectures in the mornings, with activities in the afternoon. Students end their day with a dinner and lecture. The class is a pass or fail grade, so attendance is very important.

The price covers the lectures and nine evening dinners with the guest speakers during the lectures afterward.

"We bring in speakers, could be somebody either from the local area, could be somebody from somewhere else in the country or even international," Foote said. "It's a very small gathering around dinner."

The guest speakers from the 2005 intersession were Carol McCoy, chancellor of Davidson County, Chick Stockstill, Blue Raider head coach, and Danny Epstein, designer for Oprah Winfrey and Barbara Streisand.

Lee Martin, whose father the honors building is named after, were the main proponents behind the program, Foote said.

Leadership Institute Requirements

- ✓ 3.0 Grade Point Average
- ✓ 60 Credit hours must be completed
- ✓ Letter of recommendation from a faculty member

About the Leadership Institute Program

- ★ Open to all majors
- ★ Class seating limited to 25
- ★ 3 week class including:
 - 2 weeks of lectures, group discussions and activities
 - 1 week of working on an assigned special project
- ★ Worth three credit hours
- ★ Half the price of other summer session courses
- ★ Listed as: UNIV 4010 or UT 4010

More information available at mtsu.edu/~leaders/

Philip Mathis, dean of the Honors College, was talking with Martin two years ago. The two talked about leadership programs and how Martin would be interested in funding something like at MTSU.

Mathis talked to Foote and eventually got a committee together of several faculty members and sent a proposal to Martin, who agreed to fund the program.

The deadline for the applica-

Graphic by Chris Carver | Graphic Designer

tion is in April, but that could change as they need time to select people and enter them into their computer, Foote said.

The application for the program is available at the Leadership Institute on the MTSU Web site. Electronic submissions will be activated at the beginning of next semester, but hard copies are available to submit to Foote by e-mail or his office in the Business and Aerospace Building, room N103.

Glenn: Three new advisers could increase retention

By Alan Laidlaw

Staff Writer

MTSU has a greater percentage of dropouts than any other Tennessee university. During his State of the State address, Gov. Phil Bredesen, while not directly referring to MTSU, announced his education plan that included setting a benchmark of 55 percent retention for all Tennessee universities by 2012.

A retention rate is the percentage of graduating students. MTSU has a 44 percent retention rate. MTSU Vice President for Student Affairs Bob Glenn said he feels Bredesen has missed the point, and future students will pay.

Since Bredesen's announcement, MTSU has been developing a plan to increase the retention rate. Glenn said he is aware that retention is a large problem, but currently the plan is basically to hire three more advisers. Glenn said he feels the advisers should address the one-third of freshmen who do not currently have advisers.

Dan Pfeiffer, who is liaison to Tennessee Board of Regents for

the Faculty Senate, said that the faculty agrees that retention is big problem, but there is some question on what will actually help increase it.

"We are an urban institution," said Glenn, admitting that MTSU has much lower retention rates than University of Tennessee and Austin Peay. He believes that MTSU serves a different kind of student. This student generally lives off campus and works anywhere from 25 to 40 hours a week.

William Langston, a psychology professor and Faculty Senate member, doesn't see the retention as entirely negative.

"It's truly public education for all. You could easily get a 100 percent retention rate if you only let in people with 32 on the ACT," Langston said. MTSU is cheap for a four-year university and attracts students from a diverse economic backgrounds, he said.

Bredesen's plan is to have less affluent students go to smaller two-year community colleges, rather than traditional four-year institutions like MTSU.

See Retention, 4

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MT calls for change after Stamats report

By Josh Hudson
Staff Writer

MTSU has begun implementing changes in its marketing strategy to comply with suggestions made by the Stamats report.

"The report gives us a lot of suggestions to better recruit students who will most likely benefit and graduate from MTSU," said Bob Glenn, Vice President for Student Affairs.

According to their Web site, Stamats is a self-proclaimed "higher-education think tank" that "helps colleges and universities achieve their marketing objectives."

According to Glenn, this process includes two overall goals for the university - to better connect with students in a more systematic manner and to more aggressively recruit students who would best be served by MTSU.

This starts by finding students who know what they want out of college and capitalizing on the programs found here, Glenn said.

"Instead of trying to attract a student who made a 31 or 32 on their ACT and does not know what they want to major in, we would like to attract the student who made a 21 or 22 on the ACT and knows for sure they would like to go into the Recording Industry Management program," Glenn said.

This does not mean undeclared students will be left out. Glenn says that he would like to see a better connection between the students and faculty around campus in order to guide them into a program that best fits them.

In addition to this, Glenn says MTSU will begin working around careers the school cannot help with.

"If a student wants to be, for example, a chemical engineer, chances are they are not going to be an MTSU graduate," said Glenn, who indicated marketing would not be geared towards this student as much as one who is

interested in the nursing or aerospace program.

With this in mind, MTSU has concocted a no-holds-barred marketing strategy channeled through the power of the billboard.

A billboard would be erected in an area such as Knoxville with a picture of a prospective student from the given area and a quote regarding one of the top programs at MTSU that college students in the area would most likely be interested in.

"Then we would replace the main picture on the website with the same picture as shown on the billboard," said Glenn. "The picture would also be a link to enrollment information."

Regarding changes to the website, Glenn also said information on the homepage would be rearranged in the future to emphasize links containing pertinent information to prospective students as opposed to having the Student Life, MTSU Events, and MTSU News columns being the first and foremost.

"People who go to MTSU already know their way around the website and know how to access that information," said Glenn. "We need to make it easier for a student who is interested in attending the university to find that appropriate information."

As far as student involvement, the reputation MTSU has as a suitcase college holds no water with Glenn.

"When you come on campus on the weekends, it looks like nobody is around, but the truth is that everybody is spread out," said Glenn. "If you draw a circle with a five-mile diameter around campus to include all the major apartment complexes, you will find nearly two thirds of our student population."

Glenn also cited MTSU's football game over the Thanksgiving Break, which had higher attendance than most games in recent years as an indication that involvement is picking up. "And that was a holiday," Glenn added.

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New science course offers contemporary concepts

By Geoff Brashear
Staff Writer

Students can choose a different science course for the spring semester that will analyze three sources of energy while demonstrating how energy is used in the real world.

"It will have 1 hour, 50 minute activity periods that will include lecture, computer problem solving and lab activity," said Martha Weller, chairperson of physics and astronomy.

The course is being conducted under sections 12 and 13 of PSCI 13 with each section open to 24 students, Weller said.

Though students can enjoy a change of pace and content in the classroom there will still be written assignments, Weller said. However, there are only nine formulas and students will not have to memorize them because they will receive a handout of them.

Weller said she understood the complexities of the lab environment and that it's hard on students to exact perfect results on their first attempt of a lab exercise when many high-paid scientist spend much of their time looking for one result or success.

"It's hard to expect students to

It will connect science to the world.

Martha Weller
Chairperson of physics and astronomy

get it right the first time when they've only seen some of the materials for the first time and are just learning the concepts," Weller said.

Though the course is not official, Weller said, it is being tested in the honors college and is scheduled under physical science until it is determined successful.

"What we're trying to do is teach physical science through focus with issues that mean a lot like energy and its impact us." The course will center on three different energy sources: solar, organic and nuclear, Weller said.

Weller said solar energy will be

taught first because it introduces concepts that will be pertinent throughout the entire course and will be applicable to the other energy sources.

The subject of organic energy would cover fossil fuels, food and bio-diesel while nuclear energy would cover the concepts related to physics and chemistry of nuclear energy as well as other issues related to the economics and research of it, Weller said.

For each source of energy there will be a civic activity.

"For organic energy we had a fake U.N. resolution and the students debated the export of oil to other countries," Weller said.

"It will connect science to the world," Weller said. "A lot of the physical science 1030 things people have seen before in 9th grade but the main distinction is the lab activities."

The labs will test things like sunscreens and sunglasses for their UV protection and also test the energy content of fuels and foods, Weller said.

"Students will be able to take something out of the course and into their adult life, they will be able to have input into these issue will a base of knowledge," Weller said.

Retention: Regents promote two-year colleges

Continued from 1

To do this, he has redirected forthcoming state funds for MTSU to several community colleges.

"It is a better bargain for the state if a student goes to a community college. The raw per-student cost is cheaper because you are supporting two-year classes rather than four," Glenn said.

"Tennessee has the lowest college attempt and the lowest college completion rate in the country," Langston said. "[This plan] undermines the four-year education that we actually do well in the state – to give community colleges more students who don't want to go in the first place."

MTSU will have to draw additional funds by raising tuition, according to Glenn. As the percentage of incoming freshmen begins to decrease, the tuition will have to increase again.

This will cause a "double whammy," according to Glenn because MTSU will have to increase both tuition and admission standards to adjust from the

loss of students to two-year colleges.

"When you have a 100 students in a general psych class, those hundred students support the 15 in the advanced problems in abnormal psych class at the senior level," Glenn added. "If you start siphoning off those students to the community colleges, your cost at the four-year institution is going to be a problem."

"What does that mean? It means we're going to have a caste system," Glenn said.

Breseden's plan, according to Glenn, will stratify students in Tennessee: Poor students will go to community colleges while wealthier students will attend MTSU.

"[TBR has] this fetish for community colleges. That's not what students want to do; they are already voting with their feet," Langston said. "Why are they cracking down on the four-year universities and forcing people to go to community colleges? That doesn't sound like customer satisfaction."

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Your Invited! A Cookie and Coffee Study Break for all students on Wednesday, December 6th in the KUC on the 1st floor, in the lobby across from the bookstore. Stop by the tables for free cookies, coffee and juice between 10:00 a.m. and Noon.

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Up 'Til Dawn

Team Registration Deadline!

December 15 in KUC 326-S

Alison Parson Project plans fundraiser at Rocketown

By Faith Franklin
Staff Writer

"The Alison Parson Project" is hosting a benefit concert at Rocketown in Nashville on Friday to raise funds for Alison Parson.

Parson, an MTSU senior who was involved in a canoeing accident at the beginning of the semester, was faced with costly medical bills.

"The Alison Parson Project" was formed as an effort of Parson's friends to raise funds to cover her unexpected medical bills due to her accident. The benefit on Friday will have all of the night's proceeds go directly to the cause.

"The benefit is to help with those unexpected bills and new bills, [due to her ongoing treatment]," said Tinna Calcagno, senior organizational communications major, Parson's roommate and a leader of the Project.

The Alison Parson Project continues to take several mediums to raise awareness including prerecorded public service announcements on local Murfreesboro radio stations and Nashville radio stations. In addition, groups and Internet pages have been created on both "Facebook" and "Myspace."

"We have received a lot of help from graduates, especially in the recording industry, who have used their resources to help us, but MTSU students should come out and support their fellow MTSU student," Calcagno said.

The show's line-up promises to be great, featuring some of Nashville's finest performers and songwriters, Calcagno said.

The night's disc jockey will be Keri D from The Wolf 95.5 and also Blaire Pancake, Miss Tennessee 2006.

Some of the musicians and bands playing include Rachel Proctor, Copa, Luke Laird, James Slater, Time James, Walt Aldridge, Guests of Muzik Mafia and Shanna Crooks.

In addition to the musical performances, there will be a raffle for prizes. Some of the prizes include autographed guitars and additional autographed items signed by Gretchen Wilson, Martina McBride and Sarah Evans.

The Dec. 8 benefit will open its doors at 6 p.m. and the show will last from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. The cost is \$10 at the door, and all ages are welcome.

Donations to the project are still being accepted on the "Alison Parson Project" Website.



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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

We've been very good this year, so give us all this stuff ... please?

Dear Santa McPhee,

The MTSU student body has been very good this year and we have several requests for Christmas.

1. We would like the new student center to be named after President Sidney McPhee.

2. Make the Student Orientation Assistants stop lying to incoming freshman or else they'll start the "Save the KOM Campaign."

3. Remove "Nathan Bedford Forrest" from the ROTC building and rename it Hello Kitty Hall.

4. The opportunity to kick the Chippewas butts because seriously, a blue, winged horse is way cooler. Come on, we really need this!

5. We would like a campus-wide water balloon fight between Greeks and non-Greeks, but we realize only Greeks would show up and win by default.

6. Please bring 137 new students to MTSU next semester so we can reach the magical number of 23,000.

7. In order to fix the parking problem once and for all, parking lots would be moved outside Murfreesboro city limits and students would then be shuttled to their classes.

8. Dr. Glenn has been naughty this year, so please make Gene Fitch the vice president for student affairs. Merry Christmas Dr. Fitch.

9. Please give the Student Government Association real decision-making power ... wait, no, that's a bad idea.

10. Finally, we would like a 50,000-watt, high security border fence to surround campus to prevent students from leaving so that we will no longer be a suitcase campus.

Sincerely,
The Good Little Girls
and Boys of Sidelines

Land of free eroded by privacy invasion

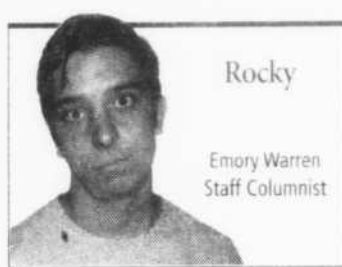
The United States of America, the free country, is the place to be who you want to be. There is only one problem; our freedom seems to be slowly slipped away. There is even talk of imperialism upcoming in the United States. Do we still have all our rights granted and upheld?

Looking into it, the rights do seem a little diminished from what they were perceived to be. Getting arrested for yelling "fire" in a theater while being granted free speech can be debated, and religion is an even trickier topic to discuss. Many things make the debate even worse, but saying our country is even starting toward imperialism is barbaric. Even if it should get anywhere close to that, the people wouldn't let it happen.

One thing is happening that is widely noticed is that people's privacy is being infringed upon. Not only can our phone calls be listened to, but bank accounts and medical records can be reviewed as well. Credit card companies want to know your medical history to know if you will stay healthy enough to be able to pay off the money and the open searches of a person's medical history can make it tougher to get a job.

This seems to be the biggest problem in the United States these days, but how did it start? One way to find out is to find the reason why these infringements are there in the first place. Some relate to the war on terrorism, which in itself seems to be an endless fight.

The United States is still the free country it was set out to be. It is the direction we seem to be heading that makes the debate over free speech such an issue to discuss. We are still able to have free speech the way it has always been able to be expressed, along with all the other freedoms we are granted.



Rocky

Emory Warren
Staff Columnist

ed. One thing that is probably overlooked is the freedom to criticize the government with no fear.

The United States is also considered the superpower of the world, but we care too much about how we are viewed by other countries.

It is hard to try and figure out where the United States will be 10 years from now.

Will the war on terror still be going on? The opponent is destructive and needs to be stopped, but knowing how widespread it is and the difficulty of destroying it makes an opposing argument.

In my mind, the war will still be present, but not as big of a war as it is perceived today.

However, will the infringed privacy we have today ever be given back? I think they will.

It is very controversial now and will have to be given back eventually. There is more privacy out there still, and the more that are infringed will make the public outraged.

The future of the United States is uncertain, but we should be grateful for the freedom we have now. Having our privacy revoked seem immoral, but look at how much success this country offers.

There is much to be angry about in the United States today, yet, there is so much to be grateful at the same time.

Emory Warren is a freshman business administration major and can be reached at efw2f@mtsu.edu.

And just as Dracula was attacking Sherlock Holmes and Quasimodo...



"And Friends"

Frankenstein's Monster appears!



P.D. Pt 2

And thus, Christmas was saved!



Oh, Mr. Man, when will you learn not to play in the Public Domain?



Frank Hasenmueller

Find something else to protest

The brouhaha surrounding Forrest Hall has gone too far.

I confess, originally, I predicted that the debate would be lukewarm and short-lived, but I did not account for two factors: MTSU's location in the South, and the power of stupid people in large groups.

Be that as it may, it is high time we made something productive out of this seething hate-fest. This debacle is silly for several reasons.

For one, the people that started the "Students Against Forrest Hall" Facebook group reportedly decided to have a protest since apparently we college students don't protest enough anymore. However, they needed something to protest, so they arbitrarily picked an easy target, a former Confederate war hero. They picked an even easier action: simply removing someone's name from a building. We can all sleep soundly knowing that these altruistic individuals aim to protect us from dangerous letters on a wall.

The actions of these students struck a nerve with the Sons of Confederate Veterans, white supremacists, civil war historians and pretty much anyone who is generally opposed to revisionist history.

Thus, the forces aligned around two bad choices, aimed on either rewriting history by removing its references, or simply keeping the status quo. It's the American way - everything is black and white, and there are never more than two choices. As often is the case, they're both rotten.

Fear not. If you've been actively embroiled in this debate, I humbly suggest new ways to vent your anger.

Practice your guitar. Even if you're not a Recording Industry major, it never hurts.

Go for a run. Exercise is good, and when you're done, you'll be too out of breath to



Tenacious E

Evan Barker
Staff Columnist

scream. You'll be healthy, and we won't have to listen to you.

Write a grant proposal that aims to start a new history department at MTSU.

The new department would be called "The Center for Civil War Studies at MTSU." You could get a big-name professor to teach about Nathan Bedford Forrest, and learn actual facts, instead of spouting off on Facebook and signing vaguely-worded petitions. You could turn this negative publicity into something positive for MTSU.

Plant grass on the Keathley University Center Knoll. The bare spots are unsightly and look very low-budget.

Read an actual history book, or better yet, two. It's always great to be able to correct your friends' facts when you argue about Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Start or join a nonprofit organization to feed the estimated 10,000 homeless people in Nashville, according to Nashville's Homeless Coalition. These are actual living people who don't have a place to live, as opposed to Forrest, who is neither living nor homeless.

If studying the racial divide is your thing, then go into the KUC Grill at about noon on a weekday. You will notice that there are two distinctly different areas in which white and black students tend to sit. There, people, is an actual

racial divide that you can witness, instead of a shadowy one invoked by a name on a building.

You could also choose to protest the inordinately low graduation rate of MTSU students overall. A good way to do this would be to stay home and study.

Take your dog for a walk. It's getting close to exam week and Rover is probably feeling neglected. If you don't have a dog, take someone else's dog for a walk. No dog will ever turn down a good walk. Once again, you get exercise.

Basically, go do something other than whining about Forrest Hall.

You may say "But wait, you, too are writing about Forrest Hall."

Allow me to clarify. I am not wasting ink arguing whose name should be on the building; rather, I am illustrating that the argument thereof is absurd. It is intentionally divisive, and proposes no solutions past the removal of a building's name. Nothing says "progress" like the newly commissioned "Between the KUC and Tucker Theater Hall."

Changing "Forrest" won't make people intermingle in the KUC.

The path to long-term progress is not in hasty resolutions, half-baked protests, or taking an eraser to buildings. The outside world will judge us by the way we conduct our business here, now. We can choose, as an informed student body, to cry over spilt milk, or to be a leader in the field of historical research by fostering dialogue on this touchy subject.

Real dissent is much more difficult than just complaining en masse; it involves action.

Put some teeth in your protest and your money where your mouth is, or else pipe down and stay out of the fight.

Evan Barker is a junior music performance major and can be reached at ehb2d@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Change Hall's name to another Army enemy

To the Editor:

In regards to the Forrest Hall controversy, I think we should applaud this university and the U.S. Army for having the generosity to name a building after one of the famous enemies of the United States. I wonder if there is any precedent to it. Do we have any military science departments on other campuses in General Cornwallis Hall, or perhaps Erwin Rommel Hall? Maybe Ho Chi Minh Hall would bring the honor to a more recent enemy.

The obvious problem with Forrest Hall, in spite of the Army's generosity, is that Forrest was not a very politically correct fellow, being a racist, a slave trader, a murderer and all, so we need to change the name of the building to honor a more honorable enemy of the proud and magnificent army.

I propose another man born on this continent, whose courage is also legendary but who never sold a slave or burned combatants alive; a man loved by his people who held out for their rights and only surrendered when they were starving. I propose that we name the military science building Tatanka-lyotanka Hall in honor of the man who defeated Gen. George Custer at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. There is something just right about naming that building Sitting Bull Hall.

John Sanborn
Associate Professor, Social Work

Students should be proud, show school spirit

To the Editor:

When I was a Freshman in high school, I started a hobby that I would continue for my entire high school and college career. It first started as fun but I quickly began to take it seriously. I would wear facepaint and costumes to my school's football games in order to show my school spirit. Once I had graduated in May, I had decided that I would retire.

On Nov. 13, my life changed. I lost my dad to heart failure. Any parent is proud of their child, but if there was one thing that my dad was proud of me for the most it was how I showed my school spirit at football games. Ever since high school, before each game, he would make sure that my costume was on straight and take a picture of me. Any time I ended up in the paper he would save it. As embarrassing as it was, he never failed to tell anyone about what I would do at football games.

When he was in Murfreesboro's VA Hospital shortly before his death,

he brought with him a few of those pictures he had taken and would gladly talk about them with anyone who inquired, and even some that didn't. He let it be known that he was very proud of my school spirit until the day he died. That's why I came back for one game. I came back for my dad, for a dedication. I wanted to give him one last game, and know that I was doing it for him. And as the fans in attendance for the Troy game were honoring our veterans, I was honoring mine, as my dad was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. That game was for my buddy.

Students, please continue to show your school spirit. Be proud of your education. Even though I'll never suit up again, I'll always bleed blue.

Go Blue Raiders and good luck bowling.

J.B. Ashburn Jr.
Mount Juliet, TN

Consider financial impact of new technology

To the Editor:

We've moved into a time where our lives are constantly being upgraded by technology. At the bank, we can use ATM's to withdraw money without ever speaking to anyone. At Wal-Mart, we can check out using self-checkout; we can bag our own groceries and pay by change, cash or credit card. Much as this makes our lives a little easier by avoiding the hassle, what is it doing to jobs being created in this country?

People are unable to find work as technology is suddenly able to work those jobs. However, the problem doesn't just lie with technology. Many companies are sending their work overseas because people there will work for less money. They may think they are doing well by saving their company a dollar or two, but are they really looking at the bottom line? We, as job seekers, need to step up somewhere before this situation gets worse.

Nobody in the job force ever starts out at the top. Employees have to learn the ropes by working their way up. If we are willing to show our flexibility by working any jobs offered, maybe the employers will take notice and start opening up positions. Or, if we show our displeasure of jobs being taken away just for the sake of technology, somebody would take notice if losses were being calculated. Much as you may like checking yourself out at Wal-Mart, you might also think about somebody struggling to make it through the month because their job was taken away for the sake of technology moving forward.

Chancie Miller
Senior, College of Mass Communication

Correction:

On Monday, Dec. 4 issue of *Sidelines* in the article "Student Home Builders complete Habitat house" the term "concrete management and technology" was used to describe the CMT major. The major is actually "construction management and technology." *Sidelines* regrets this error.

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FEATURES

The little cinema that could

The rise, demise and rebirth of MTSU's campus movie theater



Photo by Sarah Crotzer | Contributing Photographer

Former chair of the Films Committee William C. Fancher and current chair Stacy Baker know that running a movie theater isn't always what it's wound up to be.

By Sarah K. Crotzer
Staff Writer

Where do you go to watch your movies?

As an MTSU student in 2006, you probably have easy access to films, whether they're on your computer or at the local multiplex.

You might also discover a missed blockbuster or a new favorite at the Keathley University Center's movie theater joining a long line of moviegoers that stretches back almost 40 years.

No one knows quite when the KUC theater started running films, but there's one thing that is certain: it didn't start out as a movie theater.

In early 1968, the Student University Center (as it was then known) was renovated and greatly expanded, including a number of new rooms and facilities. On

March 4 of that year, *Sidelines* covered the new additions, including brief mention of a "conference theater" intended to house presentations and assemblies previously held elsewhere on campus.

"Visiting lecturers spoke there," recalls Harold C. Smith, former director of Student Programming, now retired. "There were also some small concerts. It wasn't too much later that we started Student Programming [in 1970], and the Films Committee was one of the first things we created."

Up on the KUC's third floor, in the Student Programming office, the Films Committee has filed away the posters they used to advertise movies. There are over three decades of film history represented; posters for hits like "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "The Godfather" are, for the most part, the only records that

remain of those early years.

The oldest poster may be for "Tora! Tora! Tora!", a World War II film from 1970 that would have been shown in 1971 – and the closest we have to a date for the movie theater's inception.

Not much has really changed since those early days. There are still 304 auditorium-style seats with flip-up desks so students can take notes. The carpet and walls don't look much like the inside of a theater. There's no accessible seating for disabled students, no digital surround sound, and – perhaps most surprisingly – no widescreen.

"More than anything, it's a classroom," says William C. Fancher, chair of the Films Committee from Spring 2005 to Spring 2006. "The chairs are not theater chairs and not particularly comfortable. Optimally, we would have a theater that is just a theater – just to show movies,

and nothing else."

In some cases, however, it's just as well. Although real film buffs may resent the lack of widescreen movies – resulting in the loss of nearly half the image from films like "Superman Returns" or the "Harry Potter" series – this has nothing to do with the square screen and everything to do with the agencies, Swank and Criterion, who provide the films. "We normally do VHS," says Fancher. "It is the easiest and most convenient form for us in terms of maintaining the equipment."

Another choice would be 16 millimeter film, but it is a complicated format many of the Films Committee workers don't know how to use. Additionally, the rented films are often old and fragile; reels of "Strangers on a Train," recently provided for the Alfred Hitchcock festival, had been repaired so many times that

only one showing was possible before the film finally and irreparably snapped.

Fancher nods grimly, remembering that night. "Yeah," he says, "if they're not on DVD, we pretty much have to get them on VHS."

The Films Committee has more control over what movies students actually see at the theater. Even that, however, is a complicated process.

"The chair talks with the Committee about what movies they want to show," explains Stacy Baker, current chair of the Films Committee.

"Then we get in contact with the agency and order the films. Then we have to budget money over."

Baker says that the Films Committee tries to co-sponsor film showings with other groups. This semester, for instance, the anthropology department co-sponsored a showing of "An Inconvenient Truth," while next April, the Lambda student organization has arranged for "Imagine Me & You."

Most of the time, however, it all comes down to the members of the Films Committee.

"Generally, there are 10 or 15 committee members who come to the meetings," Fancher says. "The chair presents the possibilities for the next semester ... and then the committee votes from there."

"Members are able to have input with their own ideas," he adds. "We encourage that."

Mostly, the chosen films are recent, popular hits that will appeal to a mainstream college audience. So where, you might ask, are the independent films?

"What about 'em?" Baker sighs. "I guess there's not a huge market for them here. It is very unfortunate, because when you come here, you're like, 'Man, school has a theater, maybe they'll show movies I don't get to see everywhere else.'"

I thought the same thing, and I was disappointed."

Fancher mutters his agreement. "Everybody thought the same thing."

"The reality on this campus is the same movies that do well at the multiplex do well here," he

adds. "However, there's usually a couple of surprises each semester." Fancher mentions "A Scanner Darkly" as a recent off-the-radar hit with MTSU students.

Baker listens and nods.

"You never know what people are going to do," she agrees. "You never know what's going to happen. Everything you do is kind of a big risk."

The next big risk will represent a whole new era for the campus movie theater. When the new student union center opens in 2008, the KUC will be remodeled into office space. The movie theater, along with the bookstore, grill and other familiar staples, will be closed down for good.

But all is not lost.

"We're expecting to have a small theater in the new union building," says Richard Kershaw, director of Student Unions and Programming. "It's in the plans."

Kershaw says a smaller theater of around 150 seats is partly a financial decision, but mostly based on the audiences sizes the KUC theater attracts now.

"If there's interest, maybe we'll add more showings," he says. "That's the students' decision."

For now, both Baker and Fancher look at the current theater with a mixture of pride and despair.

"It might be cheaper to keep up if it was smaller," Baker admits.

"A lot of the stuff is falling apart in there ... but it would be a shame not to use it, because it is still functioning."

Fancher agrees.

"As bad as it is," he says, "it's a theater, and I'm a fan of movies. We acknowledge how bad it is, and how under-developed, but at the end of the day, we put a lot of work into it, and we take pride in it."

He takes another look at the theater as patrons file out from a 7:00 showing. He chuckles, just a little bit ruefully.

"This theater is a piece of shit," he smiles, shaking his head. "The first time you go in it's a bit shocking, and you wonder what on earth you've walked into, but the fourteenth time ... well, it starts to feel like home."

Alum making waves in R&B

By Christopher Barkley
Staff Writer

Local rhythm and blues/soul artist Mario Moore is out to prove he is more than just the guy next door by showing others Nashville has top-notch musical talent beyond the country and gospel music genres.

At 28, Moore is quickly becoming one of Nashville's hottest artists with his new album, *The Neighborhood Soul Singer*, and his very own showcase titled *Urban Indie Live* at B.B. King's at 152 2nd Ave. in Nashville.

Moore, a native of Huntland, Tenn., and a former MTSU student, has produced multiple songs for local hip-hop, R&B and pop artists while spending the last year working on his own project.

Moore contends, however, he has not become a Nashville music scene snob the way some of his peers have after amassing a level of success locally. And his album, he said, is designed to represent the everyday person.

"My album is titled *Neighborhood Soul Singer*. The reason I chose that name is because the people that know me, know me as a very personable man," Moore said. "I'm the guy you can call for just about anything, and I'll give you the shirt off my back, literally. ... I'm that guy."

"For the longest time I've been 'the homey that can sing,'" he said, "I've always been that guy, and I didn't want to lose that on the album."

Moore shows off his goodwill toward fans and artists alike with his *Urban Indie Live* showcase, which hits the stage at 9 every Thursday night at B.B. King's.

"The door is wide open for artists, anyone that wants to take part in the movement we are trying to create," Moore said. "Basically, if someone wants to be part of the showcase, all they need to do is present their material [and] let me hear what

they're doing. As long as their music is a certain quality, it doesn't have to be a certain type of music."

For example, he continued, "I've had rock, I've had R&B, I've had rap. As long as it has a certain quality to it, I'm fine with it – for them to come aboard and express themselves on stage. ... The stage is hot, the microphone is live, the atmosphere is live [and] the music is live. It's hot. Come in, if you're serious. The artists that I want to come in can be of any genre."

Life, however, hasn't always been about new albums and showcases. Moore said he struggled many years with the decision to follow his dreams of music and stardom versus staying in college and working a normal 9-to-5 job.

"[I] got to college and decided to do graphic arts instead of music. The graphic art sounds like it would be a better degree, [but] it became homework, and so it wasn't good for me as far as being creative anymore," he said. "As we know, homework is not fun. ... I knew I always wanted to be a musician and a singer, I just didn't want to go to school for it."

As a result, "Music became my hobby, behind the full-time job," Moore said. "So, after a while of doing the full-time [job] and just dreaming and dreaming, I got musician's syndrome, where I'm itching at my 9-to-5, ready to go home and do the music."

These days, Moore said, "I'm stepping out on the faith that I can do the music ... make the money and sustain myself, and be happy. We only live once (so) this is the time to try it."

"I'm young, and if it doesn't work, I can always get a 9-to-5 and be miserable," he said, joking.

In the interim, Moore said he plans to use his access to B.B. King's to help promote his new album via live performance and by playing his first single from the album, *Way Down South*, over the

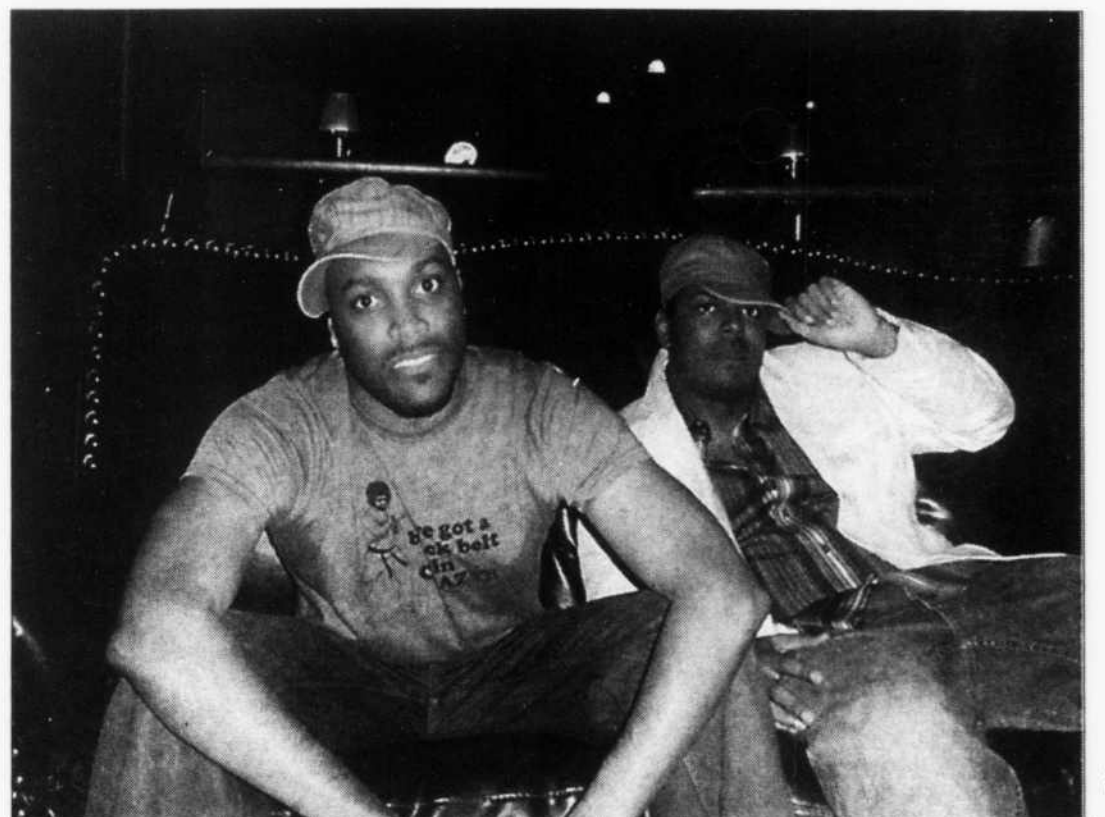


Photo submitted by Christopher Barkley | Staff Writer

MTSU alumnus Mario Moore (left) is quickly making a name for himself throughout Music City with his *Urban Indie Live* series at B.B. King's and his own studio projects. Moore says he wants to see urban music thrive in Nashville.

speakers inside of B.B. King's on showcase nights.

Moore said he is determined to see urban music thrive in the Music City despite enormous obstacles.

"One thing people say about Nashville is that, in the urban market, we're crabs in a barrel. We don't work together. I want to kill that," Moore said.

Regarding his current music project, Moore said, "Artists, producers, musicians and music lovers

should all love *Urban Indie Live* because it's what they've been missing here in Nashville. You should care about my album because I'm your neighborhood soul singer. I'm the guy next door. You'll be able to identify with 90 percent of the album."

Fans who can't get enough of Moore may also visit his Web site at www.mariomoore.com or his MySpace page at www.myspace.com/mariomoore.

SPORTS

Blue Raiders defeat Tennessee State



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

Sophomore Nigel Johnson gets ready to shoot as a Tennessee State defender comes to try and block his shot. Middle Tennessee beat TSU 67-56 Monday.

By Wesley Mize

Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders were able to form a frontline attack that could not be stopped Monday night as Middle Tennessee picked up their third straight win by defeating Tennessee State 67-56.

Senior Tim Blue led the Blue Raiders with 19 points, seven rebounds, and a career-high tying three assists.

Unlike previous games in which MT depended on one scorer to lead the way, Blue was nearly matched in point scoring by teammate Desmond Yates, who finished the game with 18 points. The inside game was dominant as Kyle Young and Theryn Hudson were able to add to Blue and Yates' inside performance by tallying nine and five points, respectively.

The game was back and forth in the first half as the lead changed eight times. Blue, Yates, Hudson and Young were scoring at will in the post, but TSU was able to counter with the outside shooting of Ladarius Weaver, who scored 15 first half points

while shooting 100% from the field.

Weaver was able to find help from teammate Clarence Matthews in the post, as he scored 10 first half points while collecting five rebounds. Blue, who was assigned the task of guarding Matthews for most of the first half, had a great respect for Matthews' ability.

"He's really strong and crafty with the ball. All we can try to do is double-team him to keep him from getting shots," Blue said.

The Blue Raiders took a 36-35 lead into halftime, but MT head coach Kermit Davis had a plan to slow down the red hot shooting of TSU.

"We changed our defense to our zone, our double-fist defense, and I thought it slowed them down," said Davis. "They made a couple of shots – a couple of guys that normally don't make them made them, but we stayed right with it."

The change held Weaver and Matthews to only six and four points, respectively, in the second half. MT's post attack picked up where it left off in the second half, as Blue and Yates continued their scoring dominance.

Blue scored 13 of his 19 total points in the second half, while Yates matched his nine first half points with nine more in the second.

Points were only part of the reason the Blue Raiders were able to pull away in the second half. MT was able to outrebound the Tigers 38-23 for the game.

The post players weren't the only ones on the boards, as sophomore guard Calvin O'Neil collected a career-high tying seven rebounds. Davis was proud of his team's effort to get on the boards and rebound.

"The thing that scares you about Tennessee State is being able to block them out," Davis said. "They only got about seven (offensive) rebounds, which was a season low for them. I was proud of our team. We outrebounded a good rebounding team."

MT led by only three with 13:45 remaining in the second half until Kevin Kanaskie, who tallied a career-high eight assists for the game, nailed a transition three-pointer to increase the lead to six. Yates and Blue led an 8-0 scoring run late in the second half to help the Blue Raiders pull away for good and seal the victory.

Yates attributed the win to the rebounding efforts of the entire team.

"We really wanted to come out and rebound well," he said. "Tennessee State has been averaging around 15 (offensive) rebounds a game, so we needed to play strong defense and rebound strong because we haven't been putting a lot of points on the board."

Yates also had high praise for Hudson's play off the bench.

"In the next season or two I think Theryn Hudson will be on the All Sun Belt team," said Yates. "Coach has been reminding him to stay ready coming off the bench. He has been playing very well in practice lately and he came off the bench and played well tonight. We needed it."

The win kept the Blue Raiders' record inside Murphy Center perfect at 4-0 and also provided Davis his 72nd career win with the Blue Raiders, moving him to fifth all-time on the school's win list.

The Blue Raiders will look to continue their winning ways when they take on Martin Methodist inside Murphy Center December 9th.

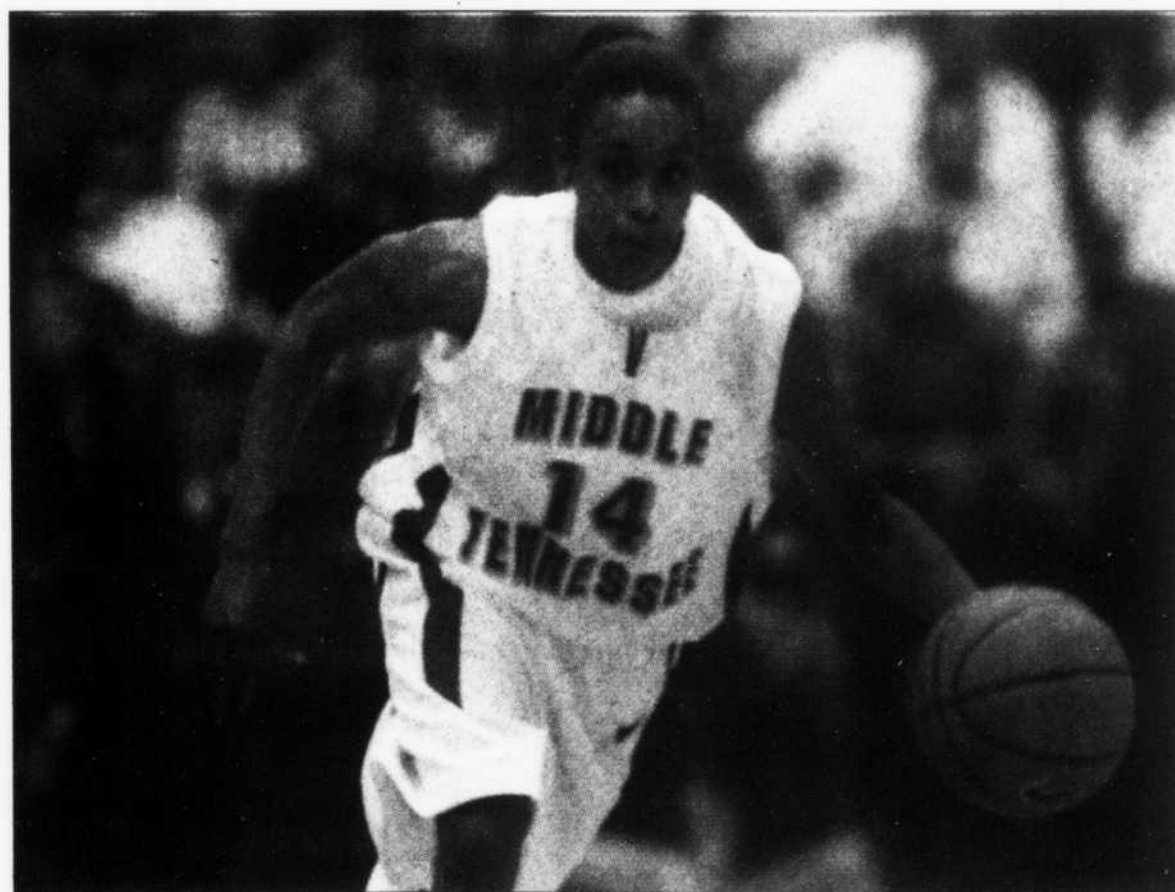


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

Junior Latoya Barclay takes the ball downcourt as Middle Tennessee beat Austin Peay 80-49 Monday as part of an MT doubleheader. Barclay scored two points in the game.

Middle Tennessee beats Austin Peay

By Cody Gibson

Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee beat former conference foe Austin Peay 80-49 at the Murphy Center Monday. Chrissy Givens and Amber Holt each had 19 points as the Lady Raiders dominated Austin Peay in all facets of the game.

Holt and Givens were the only Lady Raiders in double figures, although Krystle Horton had a big game with eight points and 10 rebounds. The Lady Raiders outrebounded the Lady Gobs 35-20 and forced 31 turnovers. The Lady Raiders turned those turnovers into points, scoring 38 points in the second half.

One area in which the Lady Raiders suffered was the free throw line. Middle Tennessee has shot 43 percent from behind

the line this year, but shot only 27 percent in Monday night's game.

Head coach Rick Insell believed that the team's defense played a big role in allowing MT to earn the easy victory.

"It was an overall team victory," Insell said. "We had a few breakdowns, but overall we played well. We felt like we could trap them. We saw other teams could trap them. We trap pretty good ourselves so that was part of our game plan."

"You know (Austin Peay) is a dangerous team, because last year we were up on them by 18 points two different times and they came back and beat us."

MT used the large first-half lead of 40-18 with 13 players on the evening each logging five minutes or more of playing time with 11 of those players scoring.

Givens was on the bench with foul trouble early on and played only 18 minutes, a season low. She said things didn't look so bad from the bench, however.

"I was very comfortable sitting on the bench because of the type of team we have now," Givens said.

"With Amber out there, you have two people that kind of play the same way. It is always really comfortable sitting on the bench, when the defense plays like that. I like nights like tonight where everybody gets to play."

MT travels to Georgia Thursday to play the Lady Bulldogs, which will be something of a homecoming for Georgia native Amber Holt. Holt is from Duluth, Ga., and played her high school basketball there. Tipoff is scheduled for 6 p.m.

MAC and SBC face-off in Motor City Bowl

By Greg Hohwald

Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee has a chance to make history on Dec. 26 as the team seeks its first bowl victory as a Division I-A team in the Motor City Bowl in Detroit, Michigan.

The Blue Raiders will take on the Chippewas of Central Michigan in what is essentially a home game for CMU, since the game is only two hours from its campus.

The Blue Raiders have played in four bowl games as a Division I-AA team and have won three of them, but none are more important to this football program than this game.

CMU will also be looking for its first bowl victory in its third attempt after losing to San Jose State in the California Bowl. In their second try, the Chippewas lost to UNLV in the 1994 Las Vegas Bowl.

CMU will also be missing an integral part of its successful season, as head coach Brian Kelly has left for Cincinnati. Jeff Quinn, the associate head coach, has been named the interim head coach in the wake of Kelly's departure. After defeating Ohio in their championship game last week 38-10, CMU will be looking for a chance to win their first bowl game.

MT's appearance in a bowl may come as a surprise to some, but first-year head coach Rick Stockstill turned around a team that had suffered four consecutive losing seasons.

In seven conference games this year, the Blue Raider defense has given up an average of 13 points per game and is currently 10th in

the nation with a +8 turnover margin.

The Blue Raiders are certainly not a flashy team, but they play smart football, showcased by Clint Marks' conference-leading 121.27 passer rating. Central Michigan, on the other hand, comes in as the Mid-American Conference champion after demolishing Ohio last week, 31-10.

Led by sensational freshman quarterback Dan LeFevour, who leads the conference in passing efficiency and passing yards, CMU posted an 8-4 overall record.

Central Michigan had been pegged by most experts to finish 9th in their conference, but the Chippewas surprised everyone in the conference.

In a game that should feature a strong CMU passing offense, against a very stout MT's passing defense, the difference could come down to special teams, and the Blue Raiders have a star in that category.

Damon Nickson, a finalist for the Randy Moss award which is given to the nation's best return man, has been a home run hitter all year and will have a chance to shine on a national stage in this game.

MT will be working to fix holes Troy found in the defense in the Blue Raiders 21-20 loss to end the regular season. The game may also be a preview of the future for the Blue Raiders if sophomore Joe Craddock sees some snaps.

The Motor City Bowl will air on ESPN at 7:30 p.m. on Dec 26. The Student Government Association has announced a Road Rally to the game (see page 9).

Motor City Bowl Road Rally

The SGA has decided to sponsor a Road Rally to Detroit, Michigan for the game.

The trip will leave at midnight on Monday, Dec. 25 (Christmas night) and travel to Detroit, arriving Tuesday morning, Dec. 26. The game is Tuesday night (Dec. 26). The group will leave to return to Murfreesboro at approximately 11:00 a.m. or noon on Wednesday, Dec. 27.

The cost will be \$100 and includes a hotel room, transportation, t-shirt, and game ticket. The deadline to sign up is Friday, Dec. 15. The trip is open to all MTSU students and students may sign up online at www.mtsu.edu/~sga beginning Wednesday, Dec. 6 or in the SGA office beginning Tuesday, Dec. 5. Spaces are limited, so students are encouraged to register quickly.

Non-MTSU students (including alumni) may call SGA at (615) 898-2464 to be placed on a waiting list, and if space is available upon the Dec. 15 deadline, those on the waiting list will be able to go per availability. The cost for non-MTSU students will be \$125.

If there are any questions please contact:

Meagan Flippin
Vice President for Administration and Public Affairs
Student Government Association
E-mail: mnf2b@mtsu.edu
Phone: 615-898-2870

The Spirit of football future



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

During the last two days, I've had to come to terms with the fact that Detroit may be out of reach on my paltry budget. The drive, the hotel, the time away from family and work all look like they will be hard to reconcile. But one thought comforts me.

I've been on road games this year, I've seen this team play and win in nearly empty stadiums on the road. Those experiences I had that led me to feel like I was a part of something were fulfilling but (as always reflection is a key) now I am starting to realize that one of the best ways to feel like I'm a part of this might be to stay home.

Granted, its definitely the second-best way. Nothing would beat being in those stands with the MT faithful. Those dedicated few will be packing themselves into buses at midnight or fighting their way through a throng of holiday fliers at congested airports while I draw pictures of Suicide Girls at the local Waffle House.

Nothing could beat that, but this year there is actually the option of a close second.

MT will be on national television the day after Christmas. What could be better than that for those of us who will be with our families? What better feeling is there than saying that is MY team. When out of state students return to their families in Ohio, Texas, and quite possibly Mainland China, they can point to the TV and say, "Have you heard of MTSU now?"

The outcome of the game could complicate the matter. Yes, I know that it is possible, perhaps even likely, that victory might not be ours. But when people from CMU say "Who the [expletive deleted] is MTSU?" won't it be nice to reply "Who the [expletive deleted] are you, CMU?"

They are conference champs, we are co-champs. They are from a small school in a big-time football state, and so are we. Not much separates these two schools, or these two programs. The matchup itself couldn't be better. It should be a great game. And only good things can come from national exposure. It will mean a lot for recruiting, advertising and even home attendance next year, but is money what really matters right now?

Is that the big present Santa has planned for

MT? No, I don't want to think of this game as an opportunity to get to the front of the pack (even though it certainly could be) when it is a definite chance for MT to come together.

No matter which family I am spending that evening with: mom's side, dad's side, just mom, just dad, or even my girlfriend's family (quick note to prospective parents: divorce makes the holidays more confusing than Al Gore hosting "Soul Train"), I know I will be spending it with my larger family of fellow MT students.

Whether you tune in for curiosity's sake, because you're a Vandy fan (a team as bowl-worthy as 0-12 FIU in my book) or out of some sense of school pride, know you won't be alone. You'll be staring at that HD, LCD, or SDTV screen with the same eyes you used to find your way across our common campus as thousands of familiar eyes watch with you. Suddenly, a six-pack Christmas in an empty apartment could feel a lot like a banquet if you just look at it right.

So in my final column of the semester, I just wanted to tell all of you Blue Raider fans out there that whether I'm in Detroit, Knoxville, or an empty apartment, come 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 26, I'll be there with you in spirit.

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