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Middle Tennessee State University

# SIDELINES

VOL. 81 No. 01

MURFREESBORO, TN

## Judge blocks senate from voiding Ford election

By SANDI VAN ORDEN AND  
ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS

Capitol Hill Correspondent

A federal judge barred the Senate from voiding the election of Sen. Ophelia Ford, D-Memphis, Wednesday. The senate was scheduled vote on the issue today.

Ford's attorney filed a motion yesterday morning, in U.S. District Court in Memphis, regarding the election results that

lead to U.S. District Judge Bernice Donald issued a restraining order yesterday evening.

The Senate voted as a committee Tuesday to overturn the election results due to alleged irregularities concerning voters. Senate Majority Leader Ron Ramsey, R-Blountville, sponsored the resolution to void the election.

"Obviously we won't be moving forward while there's a temporary restraining order," Ramsey told the Associated Press. "I'm

very disappointed."

There will be a court hearing on Jan. 25 concerning the restraining order.

Tuesday, Sen. James Kyle, D-Memphis, urged members to wait before having casting a ballot. He compared the vote to a jury casting a verdict before all the evidence was heard.

Ford said the Senate should have waited for the results of the investigation currently being conducted before taking a vote, but

said she expected it to happen.

"I wasn't surprised at all," Ford said. She also said she would sue in federal court over the matter.

"It's about racism. It's about Jim Crowism," Ford said. "There's no reason for [the Republican Party] not to wait."

"I'm black, there is an 85 percent black vote in that district, district 29," Ford said. "They want this seat. The Republican Party would like to have this seat. It has been a democratic seat for many,

many years."

"Voiding this election has nothing to do with race," Bob Davis, state Republican Party chairman told AP. "It has to do with the integrity of the election, something that every citizen of our state should expect, including Ms. Ford."

The Tennessee Black Caucus requested the motion to void the election be postponed until the investigative reports could be filed.

"I think it was the right thing for the judge to do," Johnny Shaw, caucus chairman told AP in reference to the injunction. "It's not fair to Senator Ford for them to rush to judgment at this time."

There were complaints of two ballots cast by deceased voters according to investigations by the Commercial Appeal in Memphis; however, Ophelia Ford has not been accused of any wrongdoing.

See Ford, 5



The Features will be performing Friday night at the Tucker Theater. Tickets will be \$10 for students and \$15 to the public.

Photo courtesy of thefeatures.com

## The Features to be featured at Tucker Theater

By KRISTEN TEFFETELLER

Staff Writer

You have probably heard the song "Blow It Out" anywhere from WMTS 88.3 to Nashville's WZPC 102.9 The Buzz to retail stores like American Eagle.

Now, the band behind the song is coming to MTSU to rock the campus.

The Features, a major-label band straight out of Murfreesboro, will kick the weekend off playing at Tucker Theater on Friday. Feable Weiner and The Clutters, two Local Buzz bands, are opening, giving

students a triple-shot of rock to end the first week of classes.

Tickets are \$7 in advance for MTSU students and \$12 for the public. On Friday night, tickets will be \$10 for students and \$15 to the public.

"We wanted to play another show in Murfreesboro," said Matt Pelham, vocalist/guitarist for The Features. "We played one not too long ago at Wall Street [on the Square], and we like to play in Murfreesboro."

"For one, we don't have to travel far," he said, laughing. "So, when we were

asked to do the Tucker Theater, we thought that would be cool."

It's fitting for them to play on campus, considering the Features came to Murfreesboro in the fall of 1993 to pursue degrees in the recording industry.

"Three of us—myself, Roger [Dabbs, bass guitar] and Parrish [Yaw, keyboards]—we grew up together and started playing together for lack of anything else to do in Sparta, TN, Pelham said. "We moved to Murfreesboro, started going to MTSU and then quit going to MTSU."

"We lost a couple of band members.

Then we ended up with the current lineup with Rollum [Haas, drums]. We started pretty much how every band starts, but we began really young."

The Features signed to Universal and released two albums in 2004 - an EP called The Beginnings in the spring and a full-length debut, Exhibit A, later that fall. They then embarked on tours, including an opening slot on a Kings of Leon tour.

"We played this theater in Germany; it was like an old movie theater," Pelham said. "It was all seats. We were opening up for the Kings of Leon, and it was a

weird thing. We had to struggle through two nights of playing that venue because no one knew who we were ... and they just sat."

Pelham said the audience didn't stay seated long, rising from their seats when the Kings came out on stage.

"It's always kinda weird being the opening band," he said. "It makes it a little more exciting. You have to prove yourself, especially if you're opening for someone like the Kings of Leon, who are as big

See Features, 5

## Three female MTSU track athletes stable after hit and run

By ANDY HARPER

News Editor

Three MTSU track students remain in stable condition Wednesday at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, after being struck by a vehicle while jogging together on Rutherford Lane at about 4 p.m., Murfreesboro Police Officer Drew Darnall said.

"A red SUV was driving along North Rutherford when a gray SUV failed to yield while turning left and was clipped by the red," according to Darnall a traffic and crash investigator. "The collision with the gray SUV caused the red to be pushed into the shoulder and into three MTSU track students that were jogging."

Darnall said police are still searching for the driver of the gray SUV,

who fled the scene.

"We have yet to make contact with the suspect and if anyone sees a gray SUV with side bumper damage driven by a black male, they are encouraged to contact police immediately," Darnall said.

Catherine Chester, a sophomore psychology major and Tiffany Sawyer, a sophomore electronic media communications major were flown by helicopter to Vanderbilt Medical Center with leg and possible head injuries. Kaitlyn Hammond, a freshman English major was transported by ambulance to Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

"I am not sure the exact extent of their injuries but it is hopeful that they will recover," Darnall said.

People with information about the SUV or driver who fled the scene are asked to call Crime Stoppers at 893-STOP.



Chester



Sawyer



Hammond

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**CAMPUS**

**SGA President Moves To Ban Smoking In Resident Halls**

A ban on smoking in MTSU resident halls is an issue Student Government Association President Paul Bryant Fulcher plans to discuss at the senate meeting on Jan. 26.

The smoking issue stems from a new state law permitting public universities to ban smoking in dormitories if they choose.

**FEATURES / OP-EDS**

**Munich in review**

From the tale of a blood-thirsty shark and encounters with a masked Spanish hero to the search for a lost soldier, Steven Spielberg has driven audiences to movie theaters time and again.

His latest film, Munich, is no exception to the rule.

Stay tuned for more movie reviews in our new entertainment tabloid, Exposure.

**SPORTS**

**Men's track team wins events, breaks records**

The Blue Raider men and women women and one former Blue Raider All-American represented Middle Tennessee on the track and field during last weekend's Kentucky Invitational in Lexington.

Senior Linnie Yarbrough won the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 7.80, an NCAA provisional mark, after posting a preliminary time of 7.92.

**MTSUSIDELINES.COM**

**Online today**

Online will soon be updated.

Check Back Soon

The website will feature the coverage from the newspaper, as well as other breaking news. Until then look for our next issue on the stands Monday.

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Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the Fall and Spring and Wednesday during June and July.



# SGA president moves to ban smoking in resident halls

By TOM CHEREDAR

Staff Writer

A ban on smoking in MTSU resident halls is an issue Student Government Association President Paul Bryant Fulcher plans to discuss at the senate meeting on Jan. 26.

The smoking issue stems from a new state law permitting public universities to ban smoking in dormitories if they choose.

The move to ban smoking halls that currently allow students to smoke inside comes from a health risk rather than a personal opinion, Fulcher said.

"All you need is that one mistake that happens and the whole building burns up in flames," says Fulcher. "Even if a fire did not cause major damage, it would still create a large media uproar."

Fulcher said his reasoning for the smoking ban relate to the events of Sept. 11.

"Nothing happened before that so we take things for granted, and one day we're attacked," Fulcher said.

Several other Tennessee universities have already voted to stop smoking inside dorms. Public universities such as Tennessee State University, Tennessee Technological University, Eastern Tennessee State University, and University of Tennessee Knoxville have all banned smoking in resident halls according to the Associated Press.

In a similar turn of events, the University of Memphis' SGA voted to ban smoking in dorms in November pending an approval from the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Fulcher said that schools like Austin Peay State University have recently banned smoking campus-wide except in parking lots, but assures his move to ban smoking is limited to resident halls.

"I believe that smokers should have their right to [smoke]," Fulcher said. "But I do not think for any reason there should be any building, especially sleeping quarters, where smoking is allowed. It's ridiculous."

Some MTSU faculty members are hesitant to endorse a ban on smoking because of its potential

to infringe on the rights of students.

Since the majority of students at MTSU are legal adults; any ban on smoking should proceed with caution, said Robert Glenn, vice president of student affairs.

"I'm just very cautious about regulations [against smoking] and putting the housing staff in a position to enforce this," Glenn said.

Student Government Association Sen. Michael Jackson shares Glenn's concern but is open to the idea depending on how the legislation is worded.

"I think it could be beneficial in terms of safety and lower the likelihood of things catching on fire, but, it would have to minimize the infringement of students' rights," Jackson said. "It will be interesting to see the student response."

A ban on smoking may come as a surprise to some campus residents who may have assumed it was always against the rules like resident assistant Andrea Pace.

"I just assumed that I wasn't allowed to smoke inside my room," said Pace, who completed resident assistant training shortly before spring check-in.

Like Pace, fellow RA Katie Cash said the issue of smoking inside resident halls was never mentioned during the week of training.

Cash said she has never smoked in Cummings, "you live with 400 people so you don't want to piss anyone off."

The signs stating no smoking on balconies also contributed to her not lighting up, she said.

The Tennessee law requiring smokers to stand at least 20 feet away from all buildings does not extend to designated areas or rooms inside.

Campus residents have the option to prefer a roommate that smokes when filling out the application process, but according to Sarah Sudak, director for student housing, the number of requests has steadily dropped each semester.

An indoor smoking ban on resident halls could affect several dormitories on campus and both Scarlett Commons and Womack student apartments.

# Cason-Kennedy building expands

By TOM CHEREDAR

Staff Writer

Construction continues on an additional wing of the Cason-Kennedy Nursing School to accommodate the growing student enrollment.

The nursing school has nearly doubled the number of enrollees per semester since the building's opening in 1994 to 52 students according to the MTSU nursing department web site, pushing it to maximum capacity.

The site, growing number of nursing students comes in response to the Southeast's nursing shortage, said Lynn Parsons, director of the

School of Nursing.

"We're not in the middle of a nursing shortage, [but rather]... a crisis," said Parsons who also said the nation will be short "a couple million nurses by 2020."

Hiring more faculty to compensate for new students and increased space will also be necessary to the program's growth, Parsons said.

Despite the noisy construction, some students like Katherine Sanderson, say the new wing is worth the wait.

"While the noise during classes is a nuisance, it's a necessary annoyance," Sanderson said.

Until the addition's opening in spring of

2007, the nursing school is coping with the lack of space by increasing the number of students per class. Last summer a wall was knocked down to allow for a larger classroom Parsons said.

The nursing program has also started offering earlier classes and Friday courses.

"We really noticed people sitting on the floor between classes, said. "There's really no where for them to go."

The new wing will consist of student lounges, two seminar rooms, an administrative suite, a lab, and nine offices.

## Homer Pittard stays on campus

From staff reports

The Homer Pittard Campus School will remain in its current location on the campus of MTSU for now, after community members protested its proposed move to the unused Reeves Rogers facility.

The city school system approached MTSU about the potential move when concern was raised by MTSU officials about the condition of the Campus School facility, according to county mayoral candidate Greg Tucker.

If the move was approved, the school, which is currently under the jurisdiction of the county school system, would be transferred to the authority of the city school system.

"A lot of the controversy and a lot of the concern came out of the perception that ... the city school system was attempting to take from the county one of the crown jewels of the county system," Tucker said.

"The university had contracted over many, many years for the county schools to actually staff the school in order to provide those opportunities to MTSU students," Tucker said. "There's just the tradition. The school has a glamorous history, an exemplary history."

MTSU officials decided to hold off on the move, though, when community members expressed dissatisfaction with the arrangement, speckling yards across Murfreesboro with signs bearing the plea "Save Campus School."

"It became apparent that it was going to be a very controversial, very high-profile argument," Tucker said. "It's a question of communication between contracting parties."

"President McPhee found himself situated where the only thing he could do was back off," he said.

MTSU is still talking with the county and the city about the possibility of relocating the Campus School, but no definite action is planned, Tucker said.

# Cheerleading competition gives community boost

By VALERIE NUTT

Staff Writer

Twenty-six teams from across the Southeast will compete in the first annual "Cheer for Humanity" on Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Murphy Center. All proceeds will go to the MTSU Habitat for Humanity Building Fund.

Elementary through high school and all-star teams from Tennessee, Georgia and Kentucky will compete in four different cheerleading and dance divisions. The MTSU cheerleading squad and dance teams will present their routines for upcoming competitions.

"Cheer for Humanity" will be a huge step forward in the fundraising efforts at MTSU," said Heather Corum, director of outreach and public relations for the Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity.

The first in a series of fundraising events, "Cheer for Humanity" is planned for the coming year. The school hopes to raise \$50,000 by next year's homecoming to sponsor a Blitz Project for one of the houses in the Sevier Street project.

The Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity plans on building eight houses on Sevier Street

starting in May 2006 as part of their ongoing effort to improve the Maney Street neighborhood.

"The Sevier Street project would not be possible without fundraising efforts like 'Cheer for Humanity,'" Corum said. "We are very excited about the support we have received from the community for this event."

Local businesses volunteered goods and vouchers for a silent auction at Sunday's competition.

"Businesses can't always donate money, but can usually donate items," said Erica Hinton, chair of the greek life programming board.

"The goal is \$50,000," Hinton said. "Students are always willing to give time as volunteers, this is just a different approach. They're making money to fund the houses they spend their time building."

Jonathan Pursley, MTSU spirit coordinator, got the idea for "Cheer for Humanity" when he heard about cheerleaders in Atlanta, Ga. putting together a similar competition called "Cheer the Cure" to raise money for AIDS research.

"Cheer for Humanity" shows that MTSU Student Affairs gives back to the community," Pursley said. "And those students from Georgia and Kentucky are potential students for MTSU. It's a great event."

# Dr. Fitch now associate vice president for Student Affairs

By ANDY HARPER

News Editor

Gene Fitch, former assistant vice president, has been reappointed as associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life.

Fitch said his new responsibilities include overseeing departments like the Campus Recreation Center, Student Health Services, Judicial Affairs and the Student Government Association.

"My former position has also been restructured," Fitch said. "The new position, dean of Student Involvement and Leadership, will have a number of people reporting to it. It was decided to combine the duplicated efforts of the assistant vice president and director of Leadership Development under one umbrella of the new position of dean."

Students will probably take little notice of the changes, Fitch said. However, he is unsure of any

definite effect of the new position.

The restructuring of Fitch's former position will provide an excellent tool in coordinating leadership training programs provided by various Student Affairs departments, said Deana Raffo, director of Leadership Development.

"This will allow us to use sources effectively and wisely," Raffo said. "Student Affairs is setting up a sub group of various offices that offer leadership training programs so we are all ready to bring things together better."

Offices would include Student Development, Greek Life, Adult Student Services and Women's Affairs, Fitch said.

"Currently we are beginning the process of conducting a national search to fill the new position," Fitch said. "We are hoping to have someone by May 1."

# Gas prices on the rise

By PAIGE PRESLEY

Staff Writer

With gas prices on the rise again, some students will have to find a cheaper alternative to their usual transportation.

Gas prices have significantly increased over the past month, causing a pinch in many college students' wallets. According to NashvilleGasPrices.com, the average price of gas has risen by 25 cents in the United States and just over 25 cents in the Nashville area.

Reuben Kyle, a professor in the Economics Department, said that gas prices are very "volatile" and not easy to predict. Kyle did give several reasons to blame for the sudden increase in gas prices.

The first major cause of these high gas prices are Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that hit last fall. Kyle said those disasters disrupted a very significant part of the oil refining capacity. With no excess to make up for what was disrupted, gas prices shot up to record highs.

The hurricanes also shut down both oil production and distribution, Kyle said. This caused a shift in the supply and demand cycle because one of the major distributors had been destroyed.

This problem was somewhat solved in the fall, and the supply problem was also eased, but the oil prices did not come down, still leaving them higher

than normal.

Oil prices have spiked again over the past month, causing significant changes in supply and demand. Kyle said that this rise in gas prices is due to the recent rise in oil prices, which are now at a new record high.

Kyle said that other factors in rising gas prices include unusual weather patterns, natural disasters or a breakdown in a facility. Supply and demand standard oil prices are also major contributors in determining gas prices.

Many people believe that price gauging is an issue when it comes to high gas prices.

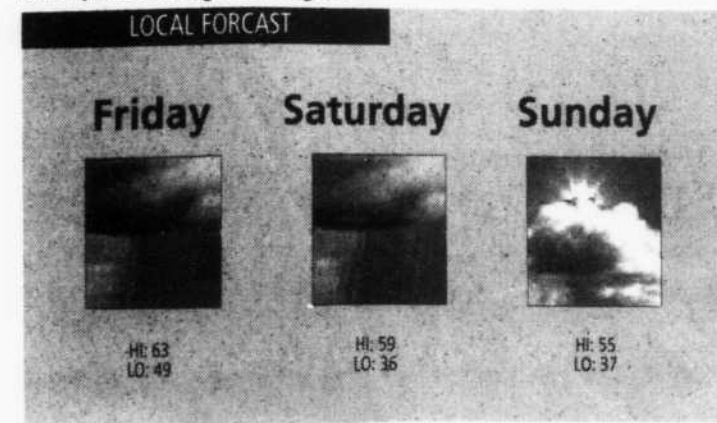
"I do not doubt that some people may take advantage of the situation," Kyle said, "but because of the competition between gas companies, they cannot do that for very long."

Prices range from \$2.17 to \$2.29 per gallon in Murfreesboro; which is slightly below the national average of \$2.32 per gallon.

Tennessee does hold a certain advantage to some northern states, Kyle said, because it is located conveniently to various pipelines and refineries.

Tennessee has lower gas taxes than some states, resulting in gas prices than the national index.

As for a change in gas prices, Kyle said financial markets are predicting that the prices will not decrease any time soon.



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## SPRING BREAK HOT SPOT

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

Its popularity stems from its "World's Largest and Longest Keg Party" and on-site resort bar, giving Spring Breakers plenty to do without ever leaving the resort. DJ Big Donna has been playing the hottest dance mixes since 1995 and the Sandpiper has been host to other well-known DJ's including the Sandpiper in 2005 with MJ and Robin as special guests at an Axe/Stuff Magazine Beach Party. They sponsored a model search, keg party, free beer and a swimsuit competition. Alloy Marketing has also brought in model searches,

along with Classmates Spring Breaker calendar model search. Spring Breakers can expect plenty more of the same this year with bikini and wet t-shirt/wet jockey shorts contests daily and nightly.

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

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

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# FEATURES

## Empty-theater: why there are no bands

By BRIAN STRAKA

Contributing Writer

Few people know that on the north side of the Bragg Building of Mass Communication, in plain sight, is a small amphitheater designed to give students a place to congregate between classes and host musical performances or other entertainment events.

When the \$15 million building was constructed in 1991, the architect, Clay Hickerson, and Ed Kimbrell, who was dean of the College of Mass Communications at the time, decided that a small amphitheater would be a great addition to campus. Their idea was to give performers an area that would serve as a creative outlet to hold performances and exhibitions, and for students to have a place to hang out between classes.

Since its completion, however, the amphitheater has lain dormant and, mostly, unused.

"[The amphitheater] was the architect's idea," Kimbrell said. "It was designed to be an entertainment area, especially for music to be played because of our deep relationship with entertainment. It was used the day the building was opened, but to my knowledge, it hasn't really been used since. I doubt if anyone knows it's there."

Keith Moyers, a senior recording industry major,



The Amphitheater on the north side of the Bragg Building has gone unused since its construction. Most students do not know the amphitheater even existed.

agrees with Kimbrell.

"Yeah, it's a good idea, but no one knows about it," Moyers said.

"When I worked for production services, we set up for a show there

once. That's the only time I know of that it's been used."

Travis Tipton, another recording industry student, was unaware that the amphitheater even existed.

"That's what that is?" Tipton said. "I always thought it was just a circle—that's cool."

Moyers offered a few ideas about why the amphitheater's

hibernation has lasted so long.

"It's in a really bad spot," he said. "It's out of the way and not very comfortable. Also, the sun sets on the other side of the

building so it gets dark on that side really early."

This premature nightfall, which may contribute to the area's lack of use, was actually part of the venue's design.

"The architects weren't trying to find a spot for maximum sun exposure," Hickerson, the theater's architect, said. "Instead, they thought a shaded space from the hot sun would allow students to congregate there."

Chris Haseleu, the chair of the department of recording industry, offered similar reasons for the amphitheater's lack of use.

"Because it is on the north side of the building, it never gets much sun," Haseleu said. "There were never any benches or places to sit other than the grass, which is usually wet."

The amphitheater has recently shown signs of awakening from its dormancy, however. Every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m., Hal Newman, an assistant professor of recording industry, coordinates "Music on Main Street," a showcase of MTSU singer/songwriters.

"We have been playing outside most of the semester in the [amphitheater]," Newman said. "We have only been inside for about three weeks, but we will be outside again in the spring."

Photo illustration by John Hecht

## Munich-Spielberg's thriller a timeless classic in the making?

By ANNA PARKER

Staff Writer

From the tale of a blood-thirsty shark and encounters with a masked Spanish hero to the search for a lost soldier, Steven Spielberg has driven audiences to movie theaters time and again.

His latest film, *Munich*, is no exception to the rule.

*Munich* is set after the murder of 11 Israeli athletes during the 1972 Olympic Games in the titular city. The film follows a man heading up a team of assassins hunting down the terrorists who killed the Olympians to, well, kill them.

Eric Bana (Troy, *Finding Nemo*) plays the assassins' leader. With a wife at home and a baby on the way, he's not keen on taking the mission, but the large amount of money offered to him is hard to resist, and he accepts.

This marks the beginning of a three-hour journey seeking the killers throughout Europe. The five hit-

men travel from country to country following leads as clues surface of where the terrorists might be located.

One of the highlights of the film's globetrotting is that everything is spoken in the native language of that country. In Italy, the natives speak Italian, in Germany, they speak German. Rather than taking the easy route and having ever-present American accents, the filmmakers took the time to insure authenticity.

Often, the filmmakers don't even provide subtitles, so the audience must guess what characters are saying. Although this sounds confusing, it provides for a neat experience.

Something that always sets Steven Spielberg apart from other directors is his emphasis on reality. To put it plainly, this movie is very bloody. Spielberg doesn't hold anything back when people are being killed, and you see everything.

*Munich* brings home an idea that many Americans are not used to: the thought of our friends

and neighbors being killed by terrorists. Watching this movie, I couldn't help but think that, even though this was set in the 1970s, the events going on in the movie happen all over the world this very day.

As to the film's intended audience, here's a word to the wise: this is not exactly a date movie. I'm not sure if I would want my boyfriend to surprise me with tickets to see *Munich*. Since I'm not a big fan of blood and guts, sitting through this movie was a bit of a strain for me.

One other thing, it is really, really long, clocking in at around one hundred and sixty-eight minutes (about 2 1/2 hours). This is not a movie to take a large popcorn and soda into either because you will be hurtin' by the time the credits come around.

*Munich* is a well-made movie that is sure to go down in Spielberg history as another hit. The realistic plot and wonderful cinematography really take it places. While it may not be a good date movie, it will definitely be a movie that will never be outdated.

*"Munich brings home an idea that many Americans are not used to the thought of our friends and neighbors being killed by terrorists."*



NickSharpWillSee rocks out at Bluesboro on Jan. 12. The band will play at Liquid Smoke on Friday, Jan. 20.

Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

## NickSharpWillSee has played, was heard at Bluesboro

By MIKE HENDERSON

Staff Writer

The band NickSharpWillSee set Bluesboro on fire for the third time Thursday. Well, not literally: Bluesboro loved them, they loved Bluesboro and their audience seemed to love the 25-cent drafts.

NickSharpWillSee is a mellow, acoustic duo with influences ranging from Jimi Hendrix and Bob Marley to Outkast and 2Pac.

The band isn't just creative on stage, but out of the spotlight as well. NickSharpWillSee is not simply a grouping of the two members' names, Nick Sharp and Will See; it's an ironic statement because Nick Sharp can't see—he's blind.

The majority of their shows are in Murfreesboro, and while playing Bluesboro and Wallstreet, NickSharpWillSee was accompanied by Nate Lopez

on the drums, Dave C. on the bass, and Charlie Brown on the Keyboard.

Though the group has more members, Nick and Will are the core and have been playing together for about a year and a half.

Nick has been playing guitar for 13 years, and before teaming up with Will, his music was more Brooks than Hendrix. On his own, Nick and his guitar could be heard playing country tunes around the Bragg Mass Communication building.

Will said his influence was drawn more from Will Smith than Willie Nelson, and before he started playing with Nick, he competed in freestyle rap battles and talent shows around Murfreesboro. Talent didn't start late in life for Will, however; he claims to have written his first rhyme at the tender age of two: a clever little ditty about poo poo.

Nick said he plays for the "audience and a con-

quest for excellence," and, although he didn't openly admit it, Will obviously plays for attention. Even off stage, his loud and absurd ideas soak up the attention of everyone around him.

To his fans at MTSU, both current and potential, Will said, "If they don't know who we are, they will find out, and I will harass them with music. And if you do know, don't be a stranger."

NickSharpWillSee produced a self-titled album last November, with the help of a friend, Collin Peterson. Based on Will's personal testimony, the CD is all live, all acoustic and combines "a bunch of different flavors: hip-hop, rock, soul, blues, spoken word, etc." It's very unique and original.

From a guitarist's perspective, Nick's guitar playing is absolutely amazing. The album's lack of drums make the CD perfect for winding down, relaxing and even sleeping. Those looking for this

kind of relaxing feel, more like their album, can catch their strictly acoustic show at Liquid Smoke, on January 20.

The band is always promoting their music, even selling CDs on campus, and they are candid about what kind of feedback they want from the public.

"They're only \$5," said Will, "and if you don't like it, you can e-mail me and tell me I suck. I will give you your money back. Plus, it comes with a Mint Tingle Trojan Condom and some Ramen."

Nick and Will are playing several more venues in the Boro in the next few weeks. NSWS has shows Friday, Jan. 20 at Liquid Smoke, Saturday, Jan. 28 at Bluesboro and Saturday, Feb. 18 with Corleone at Wallstreet. If you would like more information about their self-titled album, their Web site is at <http://www.NickSharpWillSee.com>



## Associated Press World Briefs

### Supreme Court gives New Hampshire a chance to save its abortion limits

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court gave New Hampshire a chance to salvage its restrictions on abortion Wednesday, sidestepping for now an emotional subject that is likely to be revisited when a new justice joins the court.

New Hampshire's victory may be short-lived because the justices ordered a lower court to consider how to fix problems with the 2003 law requiring a parent to be told before a minor daughter ends her pregnancy.

The 9-0 decision reaffirmed that states can require parental involvement in abortion decisions and that state restrictions must have an exception to protect the mother's health. It also gave states new ammunition in defending restrictions on the procedure.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote the decision, most likely the final one of her 24-year career. O'Connor, a key swing voter at the court on abortion rights, capital punishment and other issues, is retiring and will step down soon if the Senate confirms nominee Samuel Alito.

### Pakistan seeks bodies of militants killed in U.S. strike; report bombmaker among dead

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistani intelligence agents hunted Wednesday for the graves of four al-Qaida militants believed killed in an airstrike near the Afghan border — including one authorities suspect was a high-ranking al-Qaida master.

ABC News reported that a Qaida figure and chemical weapons expert for al-Qaida was killed in the attack on the village of Damadola last week. He was identified as Midhat Mursi, also known as Abu Khabab al-Masri, who ran an al-Qaida training camp and has a \$5 million reward on his head.

A Pakistani intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he's not authorized to speak to journalists, said authorities still did not know the names of the dead foreign militants but suspect one was a ranking al-Qaida figure.

"We have no names. We know one of them had value in al-Qaida. He had intelligence value in the network, but we are still checking his name," said the official.

### U.S. and Europe reject Iran's request for talks on nuclear program

PARIS (AP) — Europe, backed by the United States, on Wednesday rejected Iran's request for talks on its nuclear program, cranking up international pressure on Tehran to reduce uranium enrichment.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said "there's not much to talk about" until Iran halts nuclear activity. But Iran's president accused the West of acting like the "lord of the world" in denying his country the peaceful use of the atom.

The quick dismissal of Iran's request for a ministerial-level meeting with French, British and German negotiators focused attention on the next step: the U.S. and European push to refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council, which could impose economic and political sanctions.

Russia and China, which have veto power on the council, appeared to remain the greatest obstacles. Both nations are opposed to sanctioning a country with which they have strong economic and strategic ties. In recent days, they have expressed reluctance even to the idea of referral.

### Donors pledge \$1.9 billion to fight bird flu, China logs new death

BEIJING (AP) — After a year of unprecedented appeals for money to cope with the Asian tsunami and the South Asia earthquake, the world dug deeper Wednesday, pledging \$1.9 billion to fight bird flu and prepare for a potential pandemic.

The United States alone came up with \$334 million that will largely be used to help poor countries in Southeast Asia, such as Vietnam

and Indonesia, where the H5N1 bird flu virus is endemic. The European Union pledged another \$261 million, responding with a renewed sense of urgency after the disease killed four children in Turkey.

As the two-day donors conference wrapped up in Beijing, participants were again reminded of the risk as China reported its sixth human death.

### Surge in bloodshed across Iraq kills scores of Baghdad, two American civilians

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Insurgents carried out two dramatic ambushes Wednesday, killing 11 people including two American civilians in a roadside bombing in Basra and an attack on an Iraqi convoy in Baghdad.

Meanwhile, Iraqi officials expressed hope that American hostage Jill Carroll would eventually be released, and kidnappers freed the sister of Iraq's Interior Minister after holding her hostage for two weeks.

The ambushes, in which gunmen also seized two Kenyan engineers, were part of a surge in violence that left scores of Iraqis dead across the country Wednesday.

In the most gruesome development, police said militants used this week's downing of a U.S. helicopter to carve out a killing field north of Baghdad, slaying more than 40 people on remote roads that Iraqis were forced to use after American troops cordoned off the crash zone.

Thirty people were dragged from their cars Wednesday at crude checkpoints erected on unpaved roads and shot dead execution-style in farming areas in Nibaei, a town near Dujail, about 50 miles north of Baghdad, said police Lt. Qahtan al-Hashmawi.

### Former Republican EPA chiefs accuse Bush of neglecting global warming

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six former heads of the Environmental Protection Agency — five Republicans and one Democrat — accused the Bush administration Wednesday of neglecting global warming and other environmental problems.

"I don't think there's a commitment in this administration," said Bill Ruckelshaus, who was EPA's first administrator when the agency opened its doors in 1970 under President Nixon and headed it again under President Reagan in the 1980s.

Russell Train, who succeeded Ruckelshaus in the Nixon and Ford administrations, said slowing the growth of "greenhouse" gases isn't enough.

"We need leadership, and I don't think we're getting it," he said at an EPA-sponsored symposium centered around the agency's 35th anniversary. "To sit back and just push it away and say we'll deal with it sometime down the road is dishonest to the people and self-destructive."

All of the former administrators raised their hands when EPA's current chief, Stephen Johnson, asked whether they believe global warming is a real problem, and again when he asked if humans bear significant blame.

### Face transplant patient has taken up smoking again, worrying doctors

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — The world's first face transplant recipient is using her new lips to take up smoking again, which doctors fear could interfere with her healing and raise the risk of tissue rejection. "It is a problem," Dr. Jean-Michel Dubernard, who led the team that performed the pioneering transplant in France on Nov. 27, acknowledged on Wednesday.

The woman's French surgeons made their first scientific presentation on the partial face transplant at a medical conference here this week.

The news about her smoking came even as American surgeons said that they were growing more comfortable with the French doc-

tors' decision to try the operation and that they hoped to offer such transplants to more patients.

The 38-year-old Frenchwoman received a new nose, chin and lips from a brain-dead donor after being mauled by her dog last spring. The woman has been identified only as Isabelle because of French privacy laws.

### Has Kelly Clarkson turned her back on the show that made her a success?

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Singer Kelly Clarkson, who vaulted to fame as the first "American Idol" winner in 2002, is not letting any of her songs be used by new contestants on the show.

A spokesman for Clarkson insisted it's nothing personal, but the stance prompted a public scolding from "American Idol" judge Simon Cowell.

"I think that by ignoring the show you're ignoring the audience who put you there," Cowell said Tuesday.

Clarkson has become a major star in the past year, with her hit "Since U Been Gone" earning both massive sales and critical respect, particularly from a rock community that has looked upon "American Idol" contestants warily. Her album "Breakaway" earned a Grammy nomination for best pop vocal album.

Yet it may have cost her a good relationship with the nation's most popular talent show.

"American Idol" must obtain permission from owners of song licenses before the music can be used on the show. While many love the exposure, some artists — the Beatles, for one — like to rigidly control use of their music.

### Nevada couple sentenced to prison in chili finger case

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — A couple who planted a severed finger in a bowl of Wendy's chili in a scheme to extort money from the fast-food chain were sentenced Wednesday to at least nine years in prison.

Anna Ayala, 40, who said she bit into the digit, was sentenced to nine years. Her husband, Jaime Escalante, 44, who obtained the finger from a co-worker who lost it in a workplace accident, was sentenced to more than 12 years.

"Greed and avarice overtook this couple," said Superior Court Judge Edward Davila, adding that the pair had "lost their moral compass."

The two pleaded guilty in September to conspiracy to file a false insurance claim and attempted grand theft with damages exceeding \$2.5 million.

Although authorities suspected a hoax — in part because the finger was not cooked — word of the stomach-turning find quickly spread around the world. The Dublin, Ohio-based fast food chain claimed it lost \$2.5 million in sales because of the bad publicity, and dozens of workers at the company's Northern California franchises were laid off.

### Payton introduced as new Saints coach

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The latest Bill Parcells protege to get an NFL head coaching job is Sean Payton. The New Orleans Saints are hoping he can be as good a turnaround specialist as his mentor.

Payton, a Dallas Cowboys assistant the past three seasons, was introduced Wednesday as the Saints' new head coach, inheriting a team that won three times last season and played all its games on the road because of Hurricane Katrina.

Payton, 42, is taking on his first head coaching job. In Dallas, he worked with quarterbacks and also held the title of assistant head coach. Before that, he was a New York Giants assistant, a stint that included that team's NFC championship in 2000.

Payton succeeds Jim Haslett, whose tenure lasted six years. The Saints went 3-13 in 2005, but were a .500 team during Haslett's first five seasons combined. The victories include the team's only playoff win.

## Ford: "Judge blocks election"

Continued from 1

"There does not appear to be any additional deceased voters under whose registration someone may have fraudulently voted," Brook Thompson, state election coordinator told AP after checking the voters against the Social Security Administration's "master death file."

The ethics session, called by Bredesen, began Jan. 10. Bredesen asked the General Assembly to include three aspects in the legislation: stronger rules on lobbyists, campaign finance reform and the formation of an independent ethics commission.

Ramsey said voiding the election of Ford was important with the concern currently placed on ethics. He said the resolution was even more important than ethics legislation because voting "is the process that has made this country great."

Sen. David Fowler, R-Signal Mountain, noted the importance of preserving the electoral process.

The ballot box decides if someone makes it to legislative office, said Sen. David Fowler, R-Signal

Mountain. It determines if someone has a chance in office to be ethical.

Everyone has "the right to a fair, honest and accurate election," said Sen. Jeff Miller, R-Cleveland.

The vote to void Ford's election came after hours of working on amendments to the ethics legislation.

The Senate ethics committee approved an amendment limiting the contribution amounts multi-candidate political campaign committees can donate to candidates.

Several amendments written by Fowler were presented and passed. During the discussion of one of his amendments Fowler thanked the senators for being patient.

"I apologize for reading the bill," Fowler said.

The General Assembly has also been working on the formation of a bipartisan ethics commission that would include six members who would be able to investigate allegations of ethics violations.

The bill also requires all lobbyists and employers of lobbyists to register with the ethics commission.

## Features: "At Tucker Theater"

Continued from 1

as they are."

The overseas tour with the Kings of Leon was different compared to the shows Pelham and the rest of the band were used to in the United States.

"We had a good time because we hadn't really ventured out of this area — Atlanta, Lexington, Ky., that's the farthest we would go for shows," Pelham said. "We were playing to 200 or 300 tops capacity, and we had done that for years and years."

"Then we went from that to playing in front of 5,000 or 7,000 people. It was the most stressful part of it, but apart from that, it was fun."

The band also had a run-in with the outspoken Dee Snider from '80s hair band Twisted Sister.

"We were doing a radio show in Chicago, and it was sort of like a Bob and Tom thing, but it's one guy [Mancow] who just rambles on," Pelham said, recalling the interview. "He was interviewing Dee Snider while we were doing a live set. I don't remember what Dee Snider said, but he didn't care for us very much."

"It was one of those kind of things where it feels like maybe he had to say it pretty well. But he came in, apologized later and

shook our hands. We still like him."

When it comes to musical influences, Pelham doesn't name just one.

"I think we all like, in general, older music more than current music. I like the Kinks and Bob Dylan. Everyone in the band has completely different influences. I could name bands all day, but it would go on forever because there isn't one particular thing that we're all into."

Although the Features are often compared to the Bravery and other contemporary rock/pop bands, Pelham finds it difficult to describe exactly where the band falls within that genre.

"We sort of fall between commercial pop and indie," he says. "We're kinda between the two — it's not that and it's not that. It might hurt us, but that's what we like."

"Personally, I'm not an indie guy, but I'm not, definitely not, some sort of mainstream guy. I like good pop songs and that's what we try to do. We're not trying to be too left of center or too far to the right. We just try to walk a line down the center. It's a hard thing to be."

Currently, the band is in the process of writing songs and cutting demos for the next album, which Pelham says he hopes will

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# SPORTS

## MT Basketball goes 4-4 over break

By JONATHAN HUTTON

Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball faced many quality opponents during the winter break.

### Dec. 18 Middle Tennessee 92 Freed-Hardeman 48

The Blue Raiders did not hesitate to grab another win after an eight-day break due to semester exams.

MT guard Fats Cuyler had a career-high 23-point night, while senior Marcus Morrison came home with his fourth career double-double with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Junior guard Bud Howard added seven points, 10 assists and eight rebounds, while Tim Blue finished with 12 points and six boards.

### Dec. 20 Middle Tennessee 68 #10 Louisville 76

Louisville held on to the victory in front of over 16,000 fans, holding off a late comeback from MT.

Junior guard Adam Vogelsberg led the Middle Tennessee offensive assault with 14 points and shot 11-of-11 from the free-throw line.

Head Coach Kermit Davis was ejected from the game early in the second half for something he said to one of his own players.

"Bud Howard was complaining about the call and I was on Bud telling him, 'It was a good call. Play with your feet, hands away,'" Davis told MT Media Relations. "(Howard) tried to justify it again so I turned around to take him out and the ref (Karl Hess) tees me up, and then the other guy (William Bush), I don't know, I guess he was wanting to throw me out, so he threw me out. I haven't been thrown out before and you need to get your money's worth more than that, but I was telling my player it was a good call and then all of a sudden you get thrown out. I didn't understand that at all. I hated it happened."

On his way off the court, Davis went over to the Louisville bench to shake hands with Cardinal Head Coach Rick Pitino, who was drawing up a play.

"I didn't know what was happening," Pitino said. "(Davis) said he was leaving and I said, 'O.K.' I didn't know where he was going. I wish I could have gone with

him. As long as I have been (coaching) basketball, there is no way to explain what happened out there tonight. It was the most interesting interpretation of the rules I have ever seen."

### Dec. 21 Middle Tennessee 90 Florida-Atlantic 76

Middle Tennessee obtained a new school record for three-point field goal percentage (.650) behind 13-of-20 shooting from beyond the arc, beating the previous percentage of 64.7. The 13 three-pointers made tied for fifth most in program history.

The duo of Fats Cuyler and Adam Vogelsberg combined to shoot 10-of-15 from three-point range.

"I was real pleased with how the team responded today after such a tough loss against Louisville last night," Vogelsberg told MT Media Relations. "We had guys hurt, some were sick, but we were determined to come out and play and get out of this tournament with a win today. Everyone contributed and we leave here with a good feeling about ourselves."

### Dec. 28 Middle Tennessee 67 Austin Peay 83

Middle Tennessee had a 19-game home winning streak against non-conference opponents up until this game against Austin Peay, which was the 14th longest streak in the nation.

The Blue Raiders, who never held a lead in the game, started slowly and could not recover from APSU's aggressive play.

"I thought from the first three minutes of the tip off, Austin Peay was more physical and unselfish," MT Head Coach Kermit Davis said.

### Dec. 31 Middle Tennessee 67 Tennessee State 57

The Blue Raiders grabbed a win on New Year's Eve and had four players in double figures at the Gentry Center. Marcus Morrison had his fifth career double-double with 15 points, 11 rebounds and added four assists on the afternoon.

Fats Cuyler led the Blue Raiders with 16 points behind five-of-nine shooting along with his five assists. Kyle Young finished with 12 points on six-of-seven shooting.

"We've had some challenging practices and we were able to execute some things

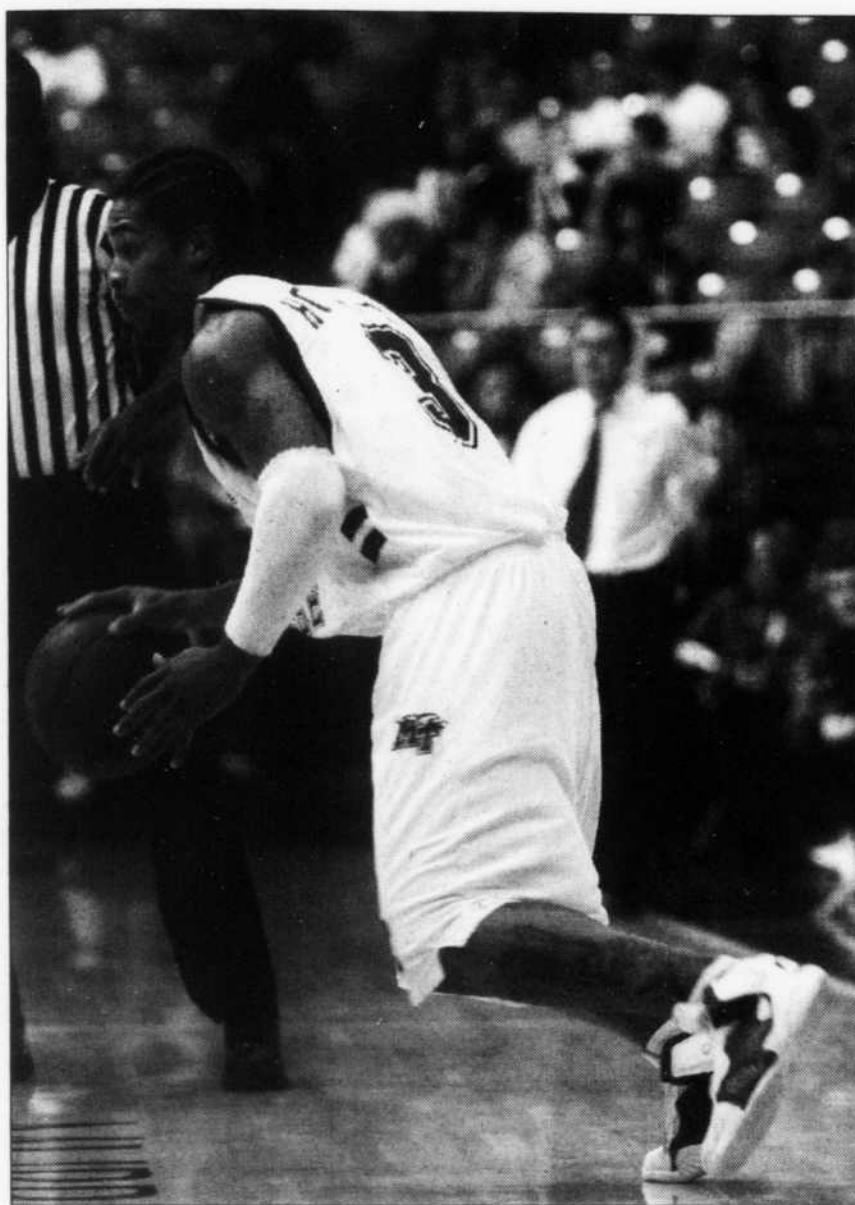


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer  
MT guard No. 3 Bud Howard dribbles the ball in a home game during the winter break. He is averaging 6.6 points and 3.2 assists per game.

today that helped us get back in the win column. It's a nice way to celebrate New Year's Eve," Morrison told MT Media Relations.

### Jan. 7 Middle Tennessee 48 Western Kentucky 80

The Blue Raiders shot 28 percent for the game against Western Kentucky and in the second half, the Blue Raiders shot 15 percent where they went over 17 minutes without a field goal.

"I don't think I have ever had a team go 17 minutes without scoring a field goal," Head Coach Kermit Davis said. "I can't remember that happening, and I didn't

realize we went that long without one tonight. Some of that was Western Kentucky and some of it was us. We had some shots around the goal and just couldn't make them."

Forward Brian Lake quit the team during the week prior to the game.

### Jan. 12 Middle Tennessee 77, Arkansas State 68

Adam Vogelsberg tied a career high with 19 points, and Marcus Morrison grabbed a career high 13 rebounds as the Blue Raiders returned home to get their first win of the new year 77-68 over Arkansas State.

Despite shooting 37 percent from the field, Middle Tennessee (8-6, 1-1 Sun Belt Conference) led most of the way, making baskets when they needed them, including Vogelsberg's three-pointer with just under two minutes to play, which put the Blue Raiders up nine, effectively sealing the game.

"It was good to get a win on a night where we didn't shoot particularly well," Blue Raider Head Coach Kermit Davis said. "But we're getting better offensively, and I really feel like we're about to get back on track."

The Blue Raiders out-rebounded ASU (7-11, 2-2) 41-31 on the game, including a staggering 17-5 edge in offensive rebounds.

Isaac Wells led the Indians with 18 points on seven-of-14 shooting, while Marcus Ardison chipped in 10 points and 12 rebounds.

### Jan. 14 Middle Tennessee 66 Arkansas State 68

Arkansas-Little Rock (9-7, 2-2) outscored the Blue Raiders 47 to 26 down the stretch for a 68-66 Sun Belt Conference Victory over Middle Tennessee.

Tim Blue scored 12 of his career-high 16 points in the second half to try to keep the Blue Raiders in the game in a half where they made seven of 27 field goal attempts.

Marcus Morrison had another big game for Middle Tennessee (8-7, 1-2) with 19 points, and made one free throw after the intermission for the Blue Raiders who went cold in the second half, losing for the fourth time in six games.

Early on, the game appeared to be a repeat of the Blue Raiders 80-45 thrashing of UALR at the Murphy Center last January. With 2:58 remaining in the first half, freshman point guard Kevin Kanaskie's three-pointer from the corner gave Middle Tennessee a 40-21 lead. But the Trojans finished the first half on a seven-one run and started the second half with a 15-three run to put themselves right back in the game before taking the lead for good with 1:25 left on a deep trey by Lekheythan Malone.

The Blue Raiders return to action next Thursday night as they head to Mobile, Ala. to take on Western Division leader South Alabama. Tip off is at 7 p.m.

Also compiled by Jared Hastings

## Men's track team wins events, break records

By JON LEFFEW

Assistant Sports Editor

The Blue Raider men and women and one former Blue Raider All-American represented Middle Tennessee on the track and field during last weekend's Kentucky Invitational in Lexington.

Senior Linnie Yarbrough won the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 7.80, an NCAA provisional mark, after posting a preliminary time of 7.92.

Yarbrough, who hales from Hunters Lane High School, finished third in this meet last year with a time of 7.92.

Junior Juan Walker finished second in the same event with a time of 7.97 in the finals and a time of 8.04 in the prelims.

Freshman Peterson Senatus finished eighth in the event with an 8.21 mark in the final round.



Yarbrough

"Linnie ran very well in the hurdles and did a good job in the long jump as well, and Juan again did well in both events," head coach Dean Hayes told goblueraiders.com. "We had a good effort in the hurdles all the way around with Peterson coming in eighth."

Yarbrough and Walker, who were high school teammates, finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in Saturday's long jump.

Yarbrough finished the event with a mark of 23-0.75, while Walker finished at 23-0.5.

As for other Blue Raiders, senior VanTonio Fraley placed fifth in the 60-meter dash with a finals time of 6.79, a career best.

Fraley also finished fifth in the 200-meters with a time of 21.62.

Fellow junior Derek Carey finished 10th in the 60-meter dash with a 6.92, and freshman Samuel Adade finished 14th with a time of 7.06.

Sean Waller, another junior, finished 10th overall in the 400-meters with a 47.90, which was the fifth fastest time by a collegian.

Jermaine Brown, also a junior, finished 13th in the

event with a time of 48.70.

"I thought Van ran good races against some very strong fields, and the guys in the 400 had good times, but again, they were up against a good many professionals," Hayes told goblueraiders.com.

Some of those professionals have ties to Middle Tennessee. Mardy Scales, a former Blue Raider All-American, ran the fastest 60-meter dash prelim time (6.68) and won the event with a 6.65.

Another former Blue Raider All-American, Godfrey Herring, finished second in the 400-meters with a 46.20 and second in the 200-meters with a 21.40.

Jonathan Guillou, a senior, posted a personal-best in the 3000-meters with a time of 8:33.65 for 15th place, while Derek Dell was 22nd with a time of 8:51.56.

In the relay events, junior Daryl Terrell, Barton, Orlando Reid and Senatus placed fourth in the 4x400-meter relay with a mark of 3:13.80.

As for Friday's field events, Blue Raider junior James Thomas finished ninth in the weight throw

and reset his own school record with a mark of 55-1.5. On Saturday, junior Willie Parker placed 10th in the shot put with a mark of 49-3.

For the MT women, sophomore Stephanie Tamgho finished fourth place in the triple jump on Friday, then finished sixth in the long jump on Saturday.

Meagham Byrd, a senior, finished seventh in the shot put with a mark of 42-10.25.

In running events, senior Candice Robertson finished eighth in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.82.

Sophomore Sierra Douglas finished 14th with a time of 9.25.

Freshman Erika Palmer finished 17th in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.92, while senior Kerry Barrow finished eighth in the 400-meters with a time of 57.34.

Both the men's and women's teams will return to action Saturday at the Blue Raider Invitational at Murphy Center.

The meet begins with field events at 10 a.m.

## Basketball coach looks to future Women's basketball defeats WKU 68-63

By JARED HASTINGS

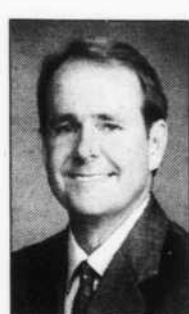
Staff Writer

Sidelines: Did you think the team's recent struggles would present themselves earlier than they have?

Kermit Davis: Well, we're still a very young team, there's no question about that. We've played well at times and we've shown our age at times. To me the only bad loss was at home to Austin Peay. As far as the Memphis game, that can happen to a lot of teams on the road to one of the best teams in the country. The Western Kentucky game, we were in for a half and then we just stopped competing. We've had a rough schedule playing 9 of 13 on the road, so we just have to get tougher and keep competing.

SL: You've brought in a lot of new players, talk about how they've adjusted.

KD: Well, I think the one that has adjusted the quickest has been Adam Vogelsburg. He's a tough kid that competes really hard. He hasn't been shooting as well the last couple of games, but he's still getting it



Davis

By CLARENCE PLANK

Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders completed their non-conference schedule and gained momentum with a win over Western Kentucky.

Middle Tennessee women's basketball team completed the first half of non-conference schedule and made an easy transition into the Sun Belt Conference schedule. They finish all of their non-conference games with a (7-6) mark and pulled off a major victory over rival Western Kentucky 68-63 in their conference opener and slipped past Arkansas State 66-65 on Jan. 12 to go 2-0 in the SBC.

"We are excited to get our first conference win over Western Kentucky," Head Coach Rick Insell said. "That's big for our Ladies. That's big for our program"

The Lady Raiders (9-7, 2-1) have had flashes of brilliance during their non-conference stint this season under their new Head Coach Rick Insell a former MT alumni and coach at Shelbyville High School.

"We played one of the toughest non-conferences in the history of our school," Insell said.

"We have a lot of positives that surround our program already. We're already in a top ten recruiting class."

The Blue Raiders are currently leading the SBC in attendance for women's basketball, which people are starting to notice how well they are doing and seeing the results as they improved over the season.

"We will do anything to get people to come to the games. We want to get the word out to our students," Insell said. "It would be really exciting to look up and see 600, 700 to 800 students supporting the Lady Raiders. We're determined to do whatever we got to do to create excitement on this campus."

Middle Tennessee has played some notable teams this year including the University of Georgia, Penn State, University of Virginia and University of Houston. They also made a play for in-state bragging rights against teams like the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, Tennessee Tech and an old friend from the Ohio Valley Conference Austin Peay State University. While they had some success against these teams and lost other opportunities. However, that still has not changed the focus of this team.

*"We played the toughest non-conferences in the history of our school."*

-Rick Insell

Women's Head Basketball Coach

The focus to win another SBC title and enter into the NCAA Tournament in March. This is a possibility considering you have the likes of senior forward Tia Stovall, junior guard Chrissy Givens and junior forward Krystle Horton whom have scored in double digits during most of the non-conference games. MT also has great depth with a list of solid newcomers who can hold their own in any game.

MT stands at the mid-point of the season and looks to make strong run for a conference title this year.

See Davis, 7



## Davis: MT in middle of SBC play

Continued from 6

done for us. Some of the other guys it's been tough to keep healthy. We thought Dino Hair would give us a lot of quality minutes, but he tore an ACL in preseason. Marques Dawson's been out, Calvin O'Neil, who's a big part of what we want to do, has been banged up and is just been getting back. Tim Blue has been a little slower to adjust than we hoped, but he's starting to show flashes of what he can do, and Bud Howard and Kevin Kanaskie need to get better, but they've played well most of the time.

SL: What's the most important thing for the team as you head into the heart of the conference schedule?

KD: We just have to go out every night and compete. We're young and we're going to make mistakes, but we have to do a better job of dealing with that adversity. We're 7-5 in non-conference and if we win against South Dakota State we'll finish 8-5 in non-conference, which I'll be happy about. But as far as conference, it's a long season. We've learned how to win on the road, which is so important, and if we can just get better every time out, we'll be in good shape in March when we get to host the Sun Belt conference tournament here at the Murphy Center.

## Basketball teams head to Alabama for conference play

By DAVID HUNTER

Sports Editor

Tonight, the Middle Tennessee basketball teams head to South Alabama to face the Jaguars.

In the first part of the double-header, the women's team will be looking to bounce back from a 58-53 loss to Arkansas-Little Rock last Saturday. The all-time series is tied at four. The ladies are currently in second place in the Sun Belt Conference's Eastern Division with a record of 9-7, 2-1. South Alabama comes into the contest with an 8-7, 2-1 record that puts them in third place in the West Division. Tip-off is

scheduled for 5 p.m.

On the men's side, the Blue Raiders are also looking for a win after their 68-66 loss to UALR on Saturday night. Right now, MT is located in fourth place in the East Division with a record of 8-7, 1-2. However, they will be taking on the Best of the West.

USA heads into the game with a 12-3, 3-0 record. It is the best start for USA since the 1996-97 team began with a 13-3 record. The Jaguars lead the series 7-5, but the Blue Raiders won the last meeting at the Mitchell Center, 72-63, in 2004. Game time begins a few minutes after the women's game.

By JILL DAVIS

Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's women's basketball team (9-7, 2-1 SBC) spent their winter break playing basketball and defeating rivals. Thrown in the mix of wins and a few losses, a few milestones were set.

The Lady Raiders kicked off the break Dec. 8 with a win of 69-51 over Georgia State. With junior Krystle Horton out with an injury, sophomore Lakira Boyd picked up her first start of the season.

MT shot 50 percent from the field while forcing 23 Georgia State turnovers. Tia Stovall had her best offensive game of the year picking up 21 points, seven rebounds, four assists and steals.

The Lady Raiders entered the UAB Blazer Tournament Dec. 18-19, giving up a close game to host UAB 71-69 in the championship finals. However, MT started off with a 79-65 victory over Penn State on the 18th.

MT was on fire making their season high of 30-of-38 free throws. Although the team battled foul trouble with five players with four fouls each, the Lady Raiders survived the back and forth conquest, snagging the lead for the remainder of the game thanks to back-to-back jumpers by Stovall.

Due to the number of fouls on starters, fans saw the return of sophomore guard Starr Orr to the court.

The Lady Raiders kept the game against UAB close, shooting 63 percent from the field in the first half. However, 27 MT turnovers gave UAB what they needed to seal the victory.

With 1.3 seconds left in the game, a turnover by Chrissy Givens gave the ball back to UAB who hit a lay-up to win. Givens led all players with 25 points.

The loss to UAB did not keep MT from winning their last home game of 2005 74-46 against Tennessee Tech. Although the Lady Raiders had a slow start, six straight points gave MT the lead and it was their way the rest of the game.

MT had managed an 18 point lead at the end of the first half.

The Lady Raiders struggled through back-to-back losses against Austin Peay Dec. 28 and Virginia Jan. 2, bouncing back Jan. 8 to defeat conference rivals Western Kentucky in a close game.

MT shot 41.5 percent from the field against Austin Peay in their 69-71 losses. The Lady Raiders dropped their final non-conference game of the season against Virginia 79-63 with 23 turnovers. LaCondra Mason hit a career high of 15 points.

MT defeated conference rivals WKU 68-63 in the first conference game of the season. The Lady Raiders managed a 17 point cushion until WKU went on an 18-4 run.

MT forced 21 WKU turnovers. This is MT's third straight win over the Toppers.

Givens was voted Alexander Automotive Family Player of the Game. With just 52 seconds left in the game, Givens sunk a three-pointer to give MT a four-point lead. A defensive rebound by Givens with six seconds left sealed the win for the Lady Raiders.

MT continued its winning streak defeating Arkansas State Jan. 12 by one point. The 66-65 victory included Givens making a career high 32 points. She had seven rebounds, five assists and went six-of-seven from the line.

The Lady Raiders ended their winter break play with a 58-53 loss to Arkansas-Little Rock Jan. 14.

MT jumped to a 2-0 lead, but after the Lady Trojans broke the 2-2 tie to take the lead, the Lady Raiders never saw the lead again. The loss to Arkansas-Little Rock is just the second in school history.

MT is back in action today when they play South Alabama in a double header with the men. Tip-off is set for 5 p.m.

## MT falls to Memphis over break

By JORI RICE

Staff Writer

Memphis University defeated the Blue Raiders 83-50 on Jan. 4 at the FedEx Forum.

The game marked the first time Middle Tennessee and Memphis have played each other since 1990.

"This Memphis team is one of the best, if not the best, in the country," MT head coach Kermit Davis told goblueraiders.com. "They are very talented and they showed why they are such a highly-regarded team tonight."

"We didn't get off to a good start, and they did," he said. "We took our chances with our zone and they came out and hit four quick 3-pointers and it went from there."

The Tigers jumped out to an early 17-4 lead. MT (7-5) shot 16 of 50 from the field goal and had a season-high 25 turnovers. Memphis (12-2) only out-rebounded MT by five, but out-scored the Blue Raiders by 33, taking the victory.

"Offensively, we were back to passing it to each other," Memphis head coach John Calipari told gotigers.com. "We were back easy plays. We didn't turn it over as much. We did some good stuff."

MT had only one player in double figures. Marcus Morrison had 11 points and Tim Blue scored nine points.

"Memphis is definitely as good as advertised," Morrison told goblueraiders.com. "We had one of our worst games tonight and they had a lot to do with that, but a bad game for us and the way they played was not a good combination. We just have to put this behind us and get ready for Western Kentucky."

The Tigers had four players in double figures. Rodney Carney was the leader of the bunch with 19 points.

Joey Dorsey had 14 points, Antonio Anderson had 13 and Robert Dozier had 12.

Memphis played stopping defense throughout the game by taking away two MT's leading scorers Fats Cuyler and Adam Vogelsberg.

Both Cuyler and Vogelsberg only scored three points. Cuyler averages 13 points per game and Vogelsberg 11 points per game.

If Cuyler and Vogelsberg both scored their average points the game would have been closer. Meanwhile, the Tigers never trailed throughout the game.

Memphis took the first lead of the game and increased it by 14 points at the half with a score of 40-26.

"To have that kind of energy after that Texas game and to have one day in between shows that we bounce back quickly," Calipari told gotigers.com. "We did what we were supposed to do. All I was concerned with was how we guarded, and I thought we were tremendous."

Dorsey, who had nine rebounds, six blocks shots and a 7-for-7 shooting range, thinks that it was hard work that got him a tremendous performance.

"We have been working on my hooks, right-and left-handed, trying to get me comfortable with the touch in my fingertips," Dorsey told gotigers.com. "It worked out well."

MT struggled with offense, but in the early in the second half the Blue Raiders were getting easy lay-ups and dunks behind the Tigers full court press. However, Memphis extended its lead after a media timeout in the half.

## Preds beat Penguins

By WADE NEELY

Staff Writer

Coming into Sunday night's tilt with the visiting Pittsburgh Penguins, there was one man that was on the Nashville Predator's mind—Sidney Crosby.

The 18-year-old Crosby led the Penguins in scoring entering the game, but was bottled up for most of the night by a smothering Predators defense. The Predators, playing at home after a two-game road trip to Atlanta and Carolina, made it a point to stop the young phenom and Pittsburgh's high-octane offense.

After the game, however, it was the Nashville Predators offense that had the last laugh. The Predators built a four goal lead in the second period, and held off a valiant comeback bid by the Penguins en route to a 5-4 victory at the Gaylord Entertainment Center.

And although the Predators were not extremely happy after giving Pittsburgh a shot to tie the game, the players will take a win any way they can get it. "It was a tough game, but we came away with two points and that's really all that matters," Nashville goalie Tomas Vokoun said.

"It was kind of depressing to have them down 5-1, but we'll take the points however we can get them," Predators winger Scott Walker said.

The Predators, who had lost their last two games on the road, found their offensive footing at home.

After a Ryan Malone goal gave Pittsburgh a quick one-goal lead; the Predators buried the Penguins with five unanswered scores. Two of the goals came from Walker, who is still recovering from an injury.

With the win, the Predators move to within two points of the rival Detroit Red Wings. The Predators will be in action again on Thursday when they host the Columbus Blue Jackets.



## Campus Recreation Spring 2006 Intramural Sports Schedule

EVENT	ENTRIES DUE	PLAY BEGINS
<b>5-on-5 Basketball League</b> \$35.00	January 24, 2006	January 30, 2006
<b>Indoor Soccer League</b> \$35.00	January 31, 2006	February 6, 2006
<b>Dodgeball League</b> \$35.00	February 14, 2006	February 20, 2006
<b>Sports Trivia Contest</b> \$10.00; up to four players per team	February 21, 2006	February 23, 2006
<b>Softball League</b> \$35.00	March 14, 2006	March 20, 2006
<b>Arena Football</b> \$25.00; three-week session	March 21, 2006	March 27, 2006
<b>TIRSA "Tip-Off" Classic</b>	March 24 - March 26, 2006	
<b>Kickball Tournament</b> \$25.00	March 28, 2006	April 3, 2006
<b>Flag Football Tournament</b> \$25.00	April 4, 2006	April 10, 2006
<b>4-on-4 Sand Volleyball</b> \$25.00	April 12, 2006	April 17, 2006

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Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

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