

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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## Women's basketball wins Sun Belt



Photo by Richard Lowe, staff photographer

The Lady Raiders celebrate their Sun Belt Conference championship with the Band of Blue and the cheerleading team. The Ladies beat the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to earn the championship.

By CHRIS WELCH  
Sports Editor

After a season characterized by broken records and highlight performances, the Middle Tennessee women's basketball team did not disappoint in its conquest of the Sun Belt conference tournament.

Following wins against New Orleans (82-47) and South Alabama (77-71) earlier

in the tournament, the Lady Raiders capped their SBC season with a 74-54 win against the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in Hot Springs, Ark.

The win was enough to grant the Lady Raiders a seed in the upcoming NCAA tournament. The Ladies will learn of their destination and opponent through the a nationwide broadcast of the NCAA Selection Show, airing tonight at 6 p.m. CST on ESPN.

BASKETBALL, PAGE 7

## Debate Team up for elimination

By EMMA EGLI  
Assistant News Editor

The MTSU Debate Team may lose all funding due to recommendations by the Steering Committee, the group overseeing budget cut suggestions for MTSU.

The team receives a \$16,000 yearly budget, which covers the cost of transportation, lodging, entry fees, supplies and occasional meals. The money covers all costs for the Debate Team's eight undergraduate members.

The team's budget was previously cut by 23 percent at the beginning of the year after the College of Liberal Arts was forced to make a 10 percent budget cut.

"I knew we were going to lose a lot of our budget at the beginning of the year," said Greg Simerly, director of the Debate Team. "That's why I didn't do a lot of recruiting. I only recruited what the budget could support."

Simerly said he has no idea how the team will find funding now that it might lose its entire budget.

"I don't even know if it's possible to find funding," Simerly said. "It's not like corporations are willing to donate money with the way the economy is."

Simerly said one option to continue the program would

be for students to pay for the costs themselves. However, he said he doubts students would be able to afford it.

"I don't see the rationale in doing away with the funding," said Russell Church, a speech and theatre professor and former director of the Debate Team. "The money that is involved to support it is a really small amount compared to other suggested cuts."

Simerly said the Debate Team attracts students from all majors because the topics the team covers touch on all academic disciplines across the university.

"The debate meets we attend cover a broad range of subjects, like the economy, politics and feminism," Simerly said. "All these topics touch women's studies, gender studies, sociology and numerous others."

Church and Simerly said they are working with John McDaniel, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, as well as Executive Vice President and Provost Kaylene Gebert, on making a case to President Sidney McPhee about keeping debate team funding.

"I understand that some cuts do need to be made," Simerly said. "I just don't know why they would want to eliminate a successful academic program."

## Journalist lectures on pop culture

Award-winning pop journalist Chuck Klosterman, author of 'Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs,' visits MTSU to help enlighten students

By EMMA EGLI  
Assistant News Editor

Pop journalist Chuck Klosterman is scheduled to deliver his lecture "Life Through the Prism of Pop Culture" tomorrow in Room 221 of the Learning Resource Center at 1 p.m.

In his lecture, Klosterman will discuss how music, movies and TV influence our lives and help to inform us, as well as to help us better understand the world.

"He is going to talk about America's pop culture and what it says about us as individuals and as a society," said Beverly Keel, a recording industry professor.

Klosterman is a former SPIN senior writer and had a monthly column entitled "Chuck Klosterman's America" in *Esquire*. He has also written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *GQ*.

"He is a very gifted writer who has a huge following," Keel said. "He's got a wonderful sense of humor and amazing insights."

One of America's foremost authorities on pop culture, Klosterman is



Photo courtesy Beverly Keel, director of the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence. Chuck Klosterman, an award-winning pop journalist, is set to host "Life Through the Prism of Pop Culture" tomorrow in Room 221 of the Learning Resource Center.

the author of four best-selling nonfiction books including "Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs" and "Killing Yourself to Live: 85 Percent of a True Story."

Klosterman also wrote his first novel, "Downtown Owl," last year.

Keel said that a student in one of her previous classes read one of Klosterman's novels and suggested trying to bring the author to campus.

"The thing about Chuck is that he finds the universal themes in everything he writes about," Keel said. "Clearly there is interest from recording industry majors, journalism majors and even English majors."

Keel said she hopes Klosterman has fun anecdotes to go along with his lecture because he has interviewed all sorts of people from Britney Spears to other famous

celebrities.

The lecture is open to the public and Keel said students are encouraged to attend to better understand how important pop journalism is today.

"I think pop culture is important because it tells us who we are, how we are changing and perhaps how we should change as a nation and as individuals," Keel said. "Today's pop culture is tomorrow's history."

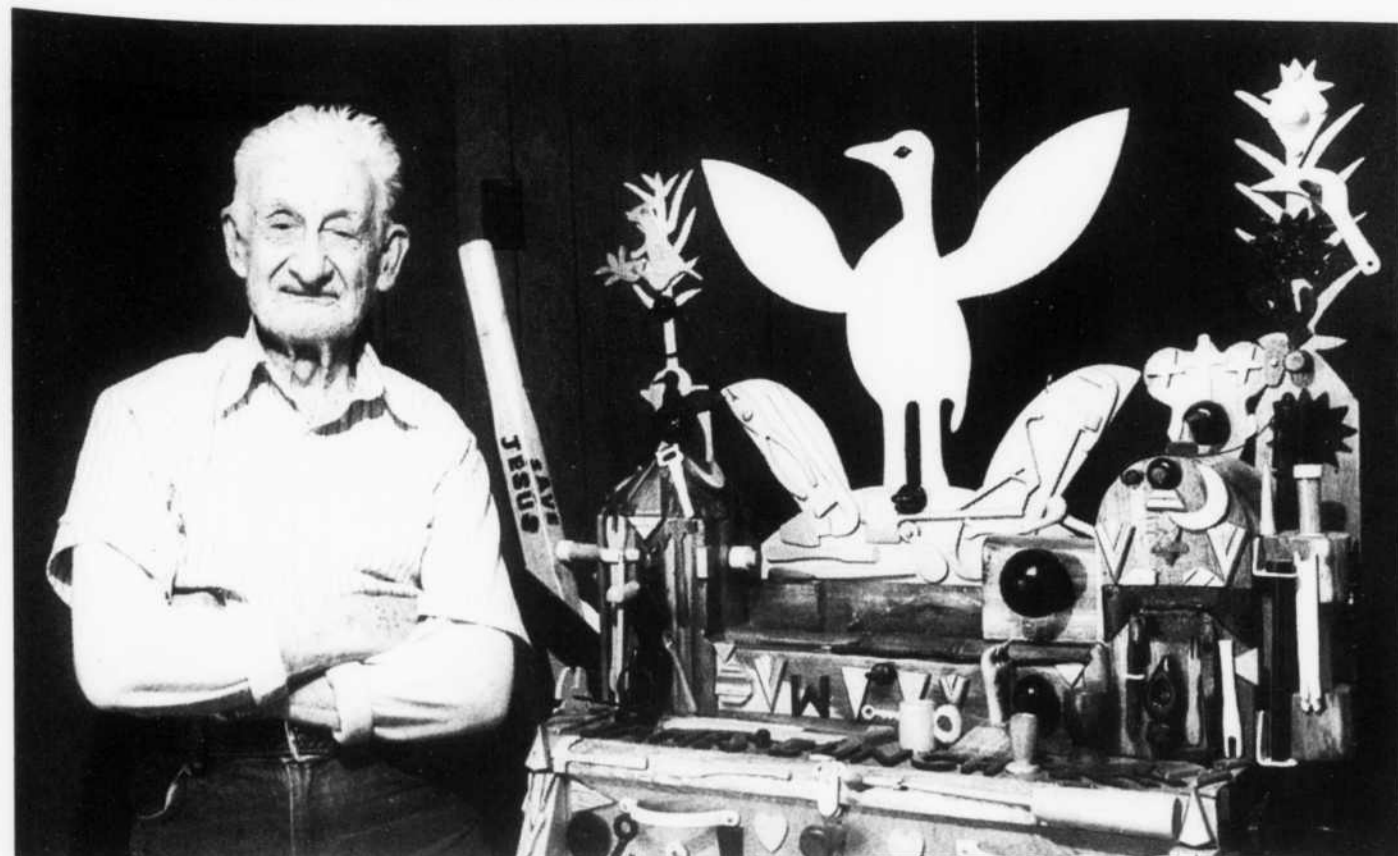


Photo courtesy Carol Reed, marketing director for Arts Center of Cannon County

James Bunch (seen above) carved his works from memory and used a pocket knife to create an estimated 300-piece woodcarving.

## Exhibit showcases woodcarvings

By FAITH FRANKLIN  
Community News Editor

The Arts Center of Cannon County opened "An Old Man Has Visions," an exhibit featuring the woodcarvings of James Bunch, on March 12.

The exhibition, consisting of around 300 of Bunch's works, is scheduled to be displayed in the Marly Berger Gallery until May 9. Admission to the exhibit is free.

"Mr. James Bunch is really one of the most outstanding local folk artists to gain attention in Tennessee in the past decade," said Robert Cogswell, director of Folklife for the Tennessee Arts

Commission.

Bunch, like many other folk artists, was carving with little public attention for years, Cogswell said.

The pieces for the exhibit were all found in Bunch's home and vary from familiar tools to moveable detailed pieces.

"He literally filled his house with these incredible creations that very few people knew about," Cogswell said.

Bunch never received formal training in the craft of woodcarving, Cogswell said.

"Although he never had any schooling in what he does, he was raised with a pocketknife in his pocket," Cogswell said.

"Over the years, he has developed an incredible personal style, exhibited both in human figures and replications of things from his past."

The exhibit is a rare opportunity for individuals to see Bunch's work all together in one place, Cogswell said.

"Individuals interested in traditional arts should come from some distance to see the exhibit," Cogswell said. "Most of this stuff was just in his house and just a handful of people were able to see over the years."

Cogswell said he thinks that the Arts Center in Cannon County has become one of the most

active places, providing a platform to showcase traditional arts in Tennessee.

"The presentation really calls attention to his body of work and how it related to him and his life," Cogswell said. "That's the type of exhibit that we do not see enough of."

The Arts Center receives partial funding from the TAC, Southern Arts Federation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Arts Center of Cannon County is located at 1424 John Bragg Highway in Woodbury, Tenn. For more information, call 615-563-2787.



File photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

McCallie Dining Hall is one of the places on campus that Aramark supplies.

## Aramark contract for rebid

MTSU's current food service vendor scheduled to give presentation along with Chartwell's Wednesday

STAFF REPORT

Two companies are scheduled to give presentations Wednesday in the KUC Theater in an attempt to earn MTSU's food service contract.

Vendors will share ideas outlined in their bids as a part of the food service bid process. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to attend each presentation to learn more about what each vendor has to offer.

Vendors presenting include Chartwells, one of the leading contract food service companies in the country, and Aramark,

who is MTSU's current food vendor.

Chartwell offers students a concept called Terra Vê, an award-winning comprehensive vegan and vegetarian menu, as well other diverse selections.

Aramark, who has been contracted by MTSU for many years, is a leading provider of food and support services to colleges and universities.

Chartwell's presentation is scheduled to take place from 1:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. and Aramark's is scheduled to take place from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m.

## Up 'Til Dawn raises \$81,000 for St. Jude

Positions are open for next year's Up 'Til Dawn. Once you become part of this organization, you will receive experiences sure to add value to your resume and make you feel good about helping children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

There are many ways to get involved as a volunteer, team member, executive board member or planning committee. Within these positions are opportunities in entertainment, catering, corporate sponsorship, public relations, recruitment, finance, patient relations, logistics, fundraising and more.

Applications are in the KUC room 326-S and are due Friday, Mar. 20. For more info visit <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~uptildawn> or call 615-898-5812.



Up 'Til Dawn is a national student-led, student-run fundraising organizations. Over 200 campuses participate in an Up 'Til Dawn event, but MTSU is among the best. For over 10 years, MTSU students have been leading the way in hosting this campus and community wide event, raising over \$640,000 to fight childhood cancer.



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# Gordon writes Obama for support

## Tenn. congressman calls on president to increase border patrol to help stop drugs, illegal weapons from coming into state

STAFF REPORT

Congressman Bart Gordon called upon President Barack Obama to develop a comprehensive border security strategy to combat drugs and illegal weapons from crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

Gordon voiced his concerns in a letter he sent to Obama on March 11.

"With the exception of Missouri and Indiana, more meth labs were discovered in my home state of Tennessee in 2007 than anywhere else in our country," Gordon said in the letter.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, most of the methamphetamine consumed in the state is transported from Mexico.

In addition to stopping the transportation of drugs, we should also stop illegal weapons and other



Photo courtesy U.S. Department of Defense  
The United States-Mexico border has had increases in drugs transportation over the years and Congressman Bart Gordon has decided that action must be taken to eliminate the drug cartel from entering Tennessee.

items from coming across the U.S.-Mexico border, Gordon said.

"As the Mexican government commits more resources and manpower [to combat the war on drugs], we too should expand the

Border Patrol and further efforts to complete the fence," Gordon said in the letter.

Gordon has been an advocate for properly securing the border. He also co-authored legislation with

Congressman Ralph Hall (R-TX) in order to provide U.S. Border Patrol with technology to secure the border.

Gordon and Hall plan to re-introduce the legislation in the next few weeks.

## CURRENT EVENTS

**New Kids on The Block Concert**  
**When:** March 16, 7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Sommet Center

**Halabja Remembrance presentation: Survivors of poison gas attack speak out**  
**When:** March 16, 6 p.m.  
**Where:** BAS room S102

**Life Through the Prism of Pop Culture: A lecture**

delivered by Chuck Klosterman  
**When:** March 17, 1 p.m.  
**Where:** Learning Resource Center Room 221

**An Old Man Has Visions: Master Woodcarver James Bunch**  
**When:** now until May 9  
**Where:** Arts Center of Cannon County

**Vernice G. Armour: First black woman combat pilot**

**When:** March 24, 6 p.m.  
**Where:** James Union Building Tennessee Room

**Diversity Workshop**  
For administration, faculty and staff  
**When:** March 26, 1 p.m.  
**Where:** Tom Jackson Building

**Twelve Angry Men**  
**When:** March 27-29  
**Where:** Lamplighter's Theatre, Smyrna  
**Ticket price:** adults \$10, Children \$5

**Contact:** 651.534.0148

**Coming to See Privilege Systems Diversity Workshop**  
**When:** March 31, 4 p.m.  
**Where:** BAS State Farm Room  
Open to all

**Oaklands' 50th Anniversary Event**  
**When:** March 28  
**Where:** Oaklands Historic House Museum  
**Contact:** 615-893-0022

## CRIME BRIEFS

**March 5, 10:21 p.m. Disorderly Conduct**  
Business Aerospace Building  
There was a report of a fight between three females at the Aramark office.

**March 6, 4:05 a.m. Rape**  
Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House  
Complainant reported that a female was sexually assaulted at the house.

**March 6, 5:17 a.m. Underage Drinking**  
Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House  
Elizabeth Leon was issued a state citation for the consumption of alcohol under 21.

**March 6, 10:08 a.m. Theft**  
Business Aerospace Building  
Subject reported that someone had stolen his bike valued at \$1,900.

**March 6, 10:06 a.m. Harassment**  
Keathley University Center  
A subject involved in the fight in the BAS reported that the other subject involved, as well as her friends, were harassing her.

**March 9, 2:32 p.m. Unlawful Entry**  
Scarlett Commons  
Subject reported that someone had broken into his room and was still there.

**March 9, 6:34 p.m. Traffic**  
Greenland Drive  
Joshua Johnston was issued a state citation for driving on a suspended license.

**March 10, 9:49 p.m. Harassment**  
Scarlett Commons  
Subject reported harassment by threatening text messages.

**March 10, 11:58 p.m. Drug Possession**  
Alumni Drive  
Zachary Ingram was issued a state citation for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and a campus citation for speeding.

**March 11, 2:32 a.m. Traffic**  
Lytle Street  
Frank Hickerson was issued a state citation for driving on a suspended license.


**March 11, 11:17 p.m. Traffic**  
Middle Tennessee Blvd.  
Laurel Kozlowski was issued a state citation for registration violation and failure to show proof of financial responsibility.

**March 12, 3:06 a.m. DUI**  
Greenland Drive  
Eric Smith was arrested for DUI, simple possession of drug paraphernalia and violation of probation warrant. Thomas Holland was arrested for public intoxication.

**March 12, 3:53 p.m. False Alarm**  
Fairview Building - Old Bell Air Church  
A fire alarm went off at the building but was a false alarm.

**March 13, 1:07 a.m. Traffic**  
Rutherford Blvd.  
Jean Prathamavong was issued a state citation for failure to obey traffic control.

**March 13, 3:11 a.m. Traffic**  
Rutherford Blvd.  
Markell Webb was arrested for driving on a suspended license.



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**MTSU Student Affairs announces the**

## 2009 DEAN JUDY SMITH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

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

Applications are available now in the Office of Dean of Student Life, KUC Room 128.

**Application Deadline: March 27, 2009**

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

## FRIENDS OF AMY SPAIN SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Amy Spain Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$500, will be awarded this spring to a graduating senior planning on attending law school this fall. Amy Spain was an alumnus of Middle Tennessee State University and an active Alpha Delta Pi from 1982-1986. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree she went on to graduate with honors from the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. Amy obtained a position as an Assistant United States Attorney in Memphis. She held this position until a tragic automobile accident ended her exceptional life.

To continue Amy's legacy, some of her friends and family have established this scholarship. The Memorial Fund will be used to further the education of an MTSU Greek female who plans to attend Law School. Candidates must demonstrate the leadership, dedication, commitment, and integrity which characterized and described Amy.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, please obtain an application from Susan Thornton in the Dean of Student Life Office, Keathley University Center, Room 128.

**Deadline for applications is Friday, March 27, 2009.**

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

# SIDELINES

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# OPINIONS

## FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

### Candor of officials crucial to students

Spring Break is over and the second half of the spring semester has begun.

In these final days before summer, upper echelons of the university's administration are making some extremely important decisions; many speculate these sweeping evaluations are being made by too few MTSU officials, considering the breadth of the impact these verdicts could possibly have.

Some university personnel and even faculty can be, at times, foggy or unclear about budget issues that directly affect them or their department. It's not surprising that an individual wouldn't want to comment on something so tentative and so grave as the suggestion that his or her department be cut.

Unfortunately, this makes collecting real, hard facts difficult and newspaper coverage consequently seem one-sided or objective. In the big picture, though, this indolent indifference and apparent apprehension on the part of university officials undermines MTSU's real responsibility to students.

We at *Sidelines* have been catching some flak recently concerning our exposure of what the budget cuts will potentially do to MTSU as a whole, with some accusing us of not taking both sides on the matter. But if you'll glimpse under our title on the front page you'll see the phrase "Editorially independent," denoting our role to the MTSU community at large, not one to the office of the president, Steering Committee or any other administrative body.

With students organizing a second protest outside of not only President Sidney McPhee's residence Thursday, but also the Keathley University Center, this collective demonstration denotes the sentiments most students have regarding McPhee's imminent choices.

In order to provide students with accurate and timely information in regards to the budget cuts, and their real effects on MTSU as a whole, we call on the administration to be as transparent as its proclaimed duty to higher education and all students implies.

Additionally, if any reader of *Sidelines* sees a factual or grammatical error in the content, we ask that they please contact a member of our editorial staff as soon as possible so that we can continue to provide our readership crucial information in a precise manner.

## MTSU gorged with lethargic Aramark

Aramark, the food service vendor for MTSU, is up for rebid Wednesday, and it's no secret that students here despise the company.

I did a little digging on Aramark last spring, but unfortunately all my research was tossed in the garbage while I was helping someone move. So, needless to say, my "dirt" on the company was never published.

Here's what I recall, though:

The contract Aramark has with MTSU, which I obtained in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, is violated on a daily basis.

In one day of sitting in McCallie Cafeteria, I recorded between 30 and 40 infringements of the contract.

I informed John Tate,



**From the Editor**

Michael Stone

head over Aramark at MTSU, of one of these violations – the cafeteria was offering three types of cereal instead of the contractual six.

Lo and behold, the next day McCallie was offering six different cereals.

I asked Sarah Sudak, executive director of Housing and Residential Life and in charge of Aramark's day-to-day operations, if

she felt it was OK that the company was violating its contract. She said that she thought it was.

Tate claimed he didn't know all these violations were happening, even though it's his job to make sure they don't. He admitted to me that he had never even read the contract in full.

The contract states that there should be no difference in food options at the cafeterias on campus during the weekdays and the weekends. Weekend food service was deplorable compared to weekday food service, though.

In talking with former Aramark employees, they suggested this was because MTSU higher-ups only eat on campus during weekdays. Apparently, students on campus during the weekends don't

matter to Aramark.

The majority of students I surveyed said they weren't pleased with the food service vendor.

But if the company is so bad, why would any student pay money for its food?

Freshmen who live on campus are required by the university to buy a meal plan from Aramark at the beginning of the semester. It doesn't matter what food is served throughout the semester since Aramark already has its paycheck.

I also found out that Aramark has been here for a while, and it has some deep roots in the university. In accordance with the contract, the more money Aramark makes, the higher the cut of its revenue MTSU receives.

I recorded much, much more information on the

company, like how Aramark basically forced a manager who was an advocate for quality food for students to quit because he disagreed with management about how the food vendor was operating.

Aramark shouldn't get the food service contract. Even if the company has stepped up its performance since I did my research, it's sure to fall into its old ways if it gets the bid.

Chartwells, the other company competing for the bid, will make a presentation for students and faculty at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in the KUC Theater. Aramark will present afterward.

All are welcome to attend.

*Michael Stone is a senior journalism major and can be reached at [sleditor@mtsu.edu](mailto:sleditor@mtsu.edu).*

## Parking must pay "All-Access" refund

The Student Government Association Senate will likely vote this week on a student-proposed resolution entitled the "MTSU Budgetary Responsibility Resolution" during its weekly meeting on Thursday.

The resolution requests two things: (1) that "Parking & Transportation Services be compelled to return the whole amount authorized for the 'All-Access' media campaign to the appropriate office for redistribution to other departments as needed," and (2) that the "Over-sight Steering Committee be charged with cracking down on financial waste by requiring independent departmental audits as



**Hurtt Pride**

Matt Hurtt

needed."

I'm seeking to raise awareness for the budget cuts MTSU will face in the coming months and to foster an atmosphere of financial responsibility among the many departments on campus. In the face of departmental downsizing and possible eliminations in academic programs, it's imper-

ative that every department seeks to make the best use out of every dollar.

By now, many have read the recently published report by the Steering Committee detailing the suggested \$19 million cuts.

The 28-page report offers a "worst-case scenario" list of programs and other expenses, each of which have made its way to the financial chopping block.

Students upset by these suggestions gathered outside President Sidney McPhee's home in an effort to voice their opposition on the Friday before Spring Break. Several hundred students and some faculty gathered for nearly six hours, encouraging

passers-by to honk in support of higher education.

The media response drew attention to the enthusiasm many students have for the quality of education currently available at MTSU.

For those who will undoubtedly be affected by these cuts, the resolution seeks to remind the administration and the various departments that every dollar matters – that every dollar should go to softening the blow of the imminent budget cuts.

By asking Parking and Transportation Services to return the money appropriated to the All-Access campaign, the SGA Senate would exhibit its commitment to financial respon-

sibility, showing solidarity with students on this issue. If SGA were to support this premise, it would send a message to administration that the student government is serious about addressing the budget shortfall.

Compelling Parking and Transportation Services to return the mishandled funds is only the first step. The second section of the resolution charges the Oversight Steering Committee to audit various departments as necessary, eliminating the potential for financial waste on campus.

*Matthew Hurtt is a senior history/political science major and can be reached at [Matt.Hurtt@gmail.com](mailto:Matt.Hurtt@gmail.com).*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### McPhee's \$250,000 salary subject for discussion

I was wondering how much Sidney McPhee makes. I'm sure that it is over \$100,000 a year.

The president at McCloud University in Minnesota makes \$191,000 a year, so I'm sure McPhee's salary is more than 100k a year.

Does he need that much with free rent? If he took a salary cut, couldn't it save two or three jobs?

Did the football team need new black jerseys last

semester? I'm sure there's a ton of money that could be spent more wisely.

I get angry when I think of the people who could, and probably will, lose his or her job due to the current economic situation.

*David Marshall  
Freshman, Aerospace*



### MTSU men's basketball team pillars in community

Our family recently attended the MTSU vs. Western Kentucky University basketball game, and I wanted to commend our guys.

During the National Anthem, every single player placed his hand over his heart.

I wanted to publicly thank them for being an example to the younger generation, as my 7-year-old son was watching.

In contrast, not one player from the WKU team placed his hand over his heart. In fact, two players hung their head in shame.

In a country where everyone who's willing to work has every opportunity afforded to them, they showed complete disrespect to its national song.

If you are ashamed of this country, then I suggest you find a better one. When you do, please let us know. I am proud of the way the young men from our team acted.

*Jennifer Burchfield  
Murfreesboro*

**The full version of this letter can be viewed online.**

### Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to [slopino@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopino@mtsu.edu), and include your name and a phone number for verification. 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 semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

## COMICS

\*Sigh\* The more I read about these proposed Higher Education budget cuts, the more depressed I get.



"And Friends"

Like, the Committee has Seriously Suggested "Elimination of the Women's Center," but NOT the "Greek Life Director, based on mission relevance." What does that even mean?



Hey, it'll save 'em \$250,000!

\*There should be a "like" there.

Where am I?

Who in their right mind thinks that's a good idea?



Well, we are talking about Fraternities here, they probably need a bit of supervision.

[frankhasenmueller@gmail.com](mailto:frankhasenmueller@gmail.com)

Frank Hasenmueller

**SHOULD ARAMARK GET THE REBID FOR FOOD SERVICE?**

**online** TELL US ONLINE AT MTSUSIDELINES.COM

# FEATURES

**SHOULD THE STUDENT UNION FUND BE USED TO HELP WITH BUDGET CUTS?**

YES 74% NO 26%

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

## Networks start new programing mid-season

### NBC, CBS, Fox use dramas, comedy in hopes of boosting ratings

By JARRETT MCCALL  
Contributing Writer

It is now the season for primetime network television's midseason replacements, the shows that try to make up for some of fall's failed efforts. This year, Friday seems to be the night for them.

Two of the shows are returning series ("Friday Night Lights" and "Flashpoint") and the other two are new ("Howie Do It" and "Dollhouse"). Of the four, only one is in need of an immediate cancellation. Hint: It's the only comedy of the bunch.

#### "Friday Night Lights"

First, NBC's sports drama "Friday Night Lights," which airs at 8 p.m., is in its third season. NBC began airing it on Jan. 16, and season three originally ran on DirecTV's The 101 Network from Oct. 1 to Jan. 14.

To keep the critically-acclaimed but low-rate series on the air, NBC and DirecTV created a cost-sharing joint venture. In the deal, DirecTV would be allowed to air the season first.

The series is based on a 2004 film of the same name that starred Billy Bob Thornton, which was based on H. G. Bissinger's 1990 non-fiction book, "Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream." The story takes place in the fictional town of Dillon, Texas.

The series revolves around the high school state football champion Dillon Panthers and the team's head coach, Eric Taylor (Kyle Chandler of "Early Edition"). It is shot in the cinéma vérité style of filmmaking using a handheld camera to achieve a realistic, documentary-style of storytelling.

Season three has Coach Taylor's wife, Tami (Connie Britton), beginning her career as principal of Dillon High. In the previous seasons, she was the school's guidance counselor.

Britton is one of the best actresses on television because of her realistic portrayal of a Southern, 40-something mom. She is reminiscent of a lot of Southern women her age,

which is rarely portrayed accurately.

With her new job as principal, Tami has to deal with school budget issues that largely stem from the school trying to put up a JumboTron while four teachers lose their jobs because of budget cuts.

In other storylines, high school beauty, Tyra Collette (Adrienne Palicki) is trying to rise above her working-class upbringing by trying to get into a good college with a 2.6 GPA caused by her being academically careless in her freshman year.

Also, star running back and recent graduate Brian "Smash" Williams (Gaius Charles) is trying to get a scholarship to a football-oriented college after coming back from a surgery that has slowed down his once remarkable speed.

So far, it looks like season three will be just as engrossing as the previous two. The series has already, since its beginning, appeared on many critics' top 10 lists. This is largely due to the rarely accurate portrayal of modern, small town Southern life, its cinéma vérité cinematography and its talented cast. I highly recommend this series.

#### "Howie Do It"

One series that I would highly recommend avoiding is "Howie Do It," airing at 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on NBC. It is a Canadian/American series that airs simultaneously on NBC and Canada's Global TV. It began airing Jan. 9.

It is a "caught on camera"-style prank show that stars Howie Mandel of "Deal or No Deal." It differs from "Candid Camera" because instead of a hidden camera, the prank's victims know that there is a camera there, believing they are on a fictional show, commercial or in an instructional video.

Each bit starts out with Howie in disguise, playing either a director or producer of a made-up production. He reveals himself as the real Howie Mandel by taking off a wig and sunglasses to let the person know that it was a prank for the show. It is filmed in a casino in Windsor, On-



tario, Canada with a huge studio audience.

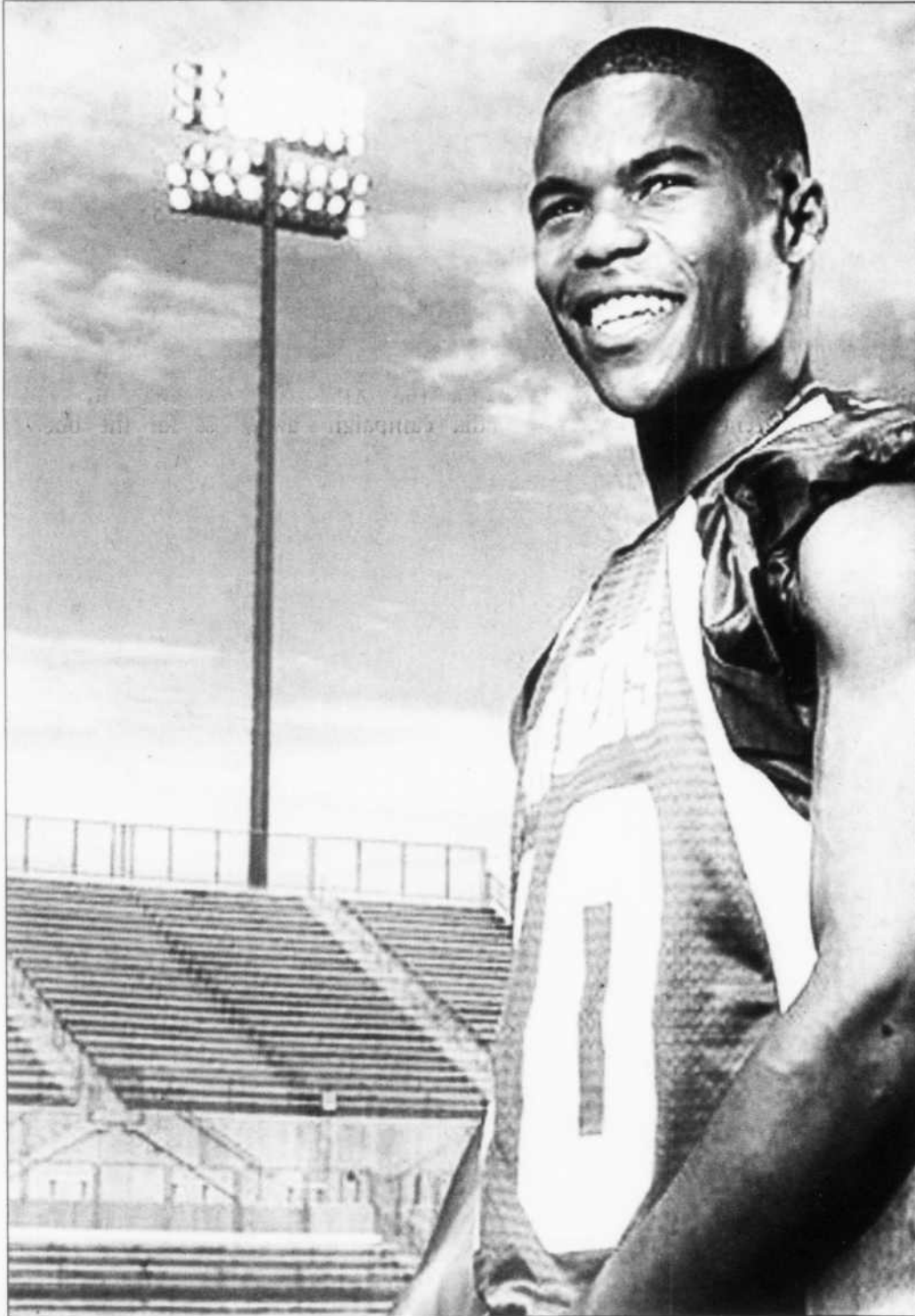
The bits are, for the most part, unfunny and many times too bizarre, not funny bizarre but cringe-inducing bizarre. One example was a mock mouthwash commercial that had a real married couple trying meet a director's (Mandel) expectations of how to kiss in bed for the commercial.

The prank is that the husband is not doing it right, so they get an actor posing as the mouthwash manufacturer who gets in bed with the wife to show the husband how he is supposed to kiss her. Judging from the audience's hysterical response, this kind of thing must be funny in Canada.

#### "Flashpoint"

CBS's "Flashpoint," airing at 8 p.m., another Canadian series that originally aired on Canada's CTV, Enrico Colantoni of "Just Shoot Me" and Amy Jo Johnson of "Felicity." It is entering its second season on CBS, which began Jan. 9.

When I was in Canada last summer, I remember seeing promos for the show on CTV. Judging from the promos, it did not appeal to me, but watching it recently for the first time I found that I had underestimated it.



Photos courtesy of Fox Studios and NBC  
Top: Echo (Eliza Dushku) is reprogrammed for her next assignment by Body Langton (Harry Lennix) as part of Joss Whedon's new show "Dollhouse." Bottom: Brian "Smash" Williams (Gaius Charles) stands on the home field in his football jersey during an episode of "Friday Night Lights."

FRIDAY, PAGE 6

## CALENDAR

movies, music, nightlife and more

### MUSIC

#### March 16

Rachael Yamagata with Cory Chisel - Exit/In - 8 p.m. - \$15

Hex Machine with Admirals Club and Across Tundras - The End - 9 p.m. - \$5

#### March 17

The Secret Common Wealth - The 'Boro -

8 p.m.

Blues Jam - Club 527 - 1 a.m. - \$5

Sexpipe with Mon Khmer, Armed Forces, Ophicus - Exit/In - 8 p.m. - \$7

Daikaiju with the Relatives, Pushy Lips, The Bohannons - The End - 9 p.m. - \$5

#### March 18

Diarama, The Aeronauts, Rocketship Park, Bathrop Alabama - The End - 9 - \$5

#### March 19

Mike Anderson and the Deputies, The Good Side - Club 527 - 9:30 p.m. - \$6-\$8

Daniel Novick CD Release - Exit/In - 8 p.m. - \$5

Mr. Satisfaction - Graffiti Bar - 8 p.m.

The Screaming Mimi's with Monsters on Television - The End - 9 p.m. - \$5

#### March 20

The Nim Nims - The 'Boro - 8 p.m.

THB - Wall Street - 9 p.m.

Battle of the Bands - Club 527 - 7:30 p.m. - \$8

Kraak & Smaak DJ Set - Exit/In - 8:05 p.m. - \$10

The Highlife - Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.

Turbo Fruits with Kintaro - The End - 9 p.m. - \$5

#### March 21

Beautifully Crude, Caprice, Kinds in Pieces - Wall Street - 9 p.m.

Extreme Cage Fighting - Club 527 - 7 p.m. - \$15

Steve Moakler, Brinely Addington, Josh Honson, The Westbound Rangers - Exit/In - 8 p.m.

Barefoot Renegades - Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.

#### March 22

Life of the Party - Club 527 - 7 p.m. - \$7 cover, \$4 w/ student ID

Pacakracrs - Graffiti Bar - 9 p.m.

### OTHER

#### March 16

Joker's Poker - Graffiti

Bar - 7:00 p.m.

#### March 17

St. Paddy's Day Party w/ SOS - Graffiti Bar - 8 p.m.

#### March 18

Nashville AllStar Band - Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.

#### March 21

Spat Records Night including Pussy Sisster from Germany, The Sediment, Devil's Blood, DJs Toxxic Blvd. and Dick 'n' a Blender - The End - 9 p.m. - \$5



Photo courtesy of NBC

A "caught on camera" style reality show, "Howie Do It" is produced, hosted and stars comedian Howie Mandel.

## FRIDAY FROM PAGE 5

Although it is formulaic in many ways, I still found it quite engrossing because of its fast-paced storytelling.

The series is about hostage negotiators from Toronto's Strategic Response Unit (SRU). Each episode contains a hostage situation that the SRU has to deal with.

A recent episode involved corporate greed. Three disgruntled men who were affected by the housing crisis lose their frustrations on the CEO of the company that provided their mortgages.

What makes the series standout from other series of its genre is that almost the entire episode deals

with the crisis, as opposed to other series that take some time to build up to it.

### "Dollhouse"

Finally, Fox's "Dollhouse" airs at 8 p.m., against "Friday Night Lights" and "Flashpoint". It stars Eliza Dushku from "Angel" as Echo, a "Doll" at a company called "The Dollhouse." It began airing Feb. 13.

According to the series, a Doll is an actual human being who is used as a service by clients of the company. Before the client can use a Doll, she must have her brain programmed by some type of computer to a certain personality that fits the client's wants to perform the requested task.

In one episode she is a

hostage negotiator, in another she is a backup singer trying to protect a pop diva being stalked by a fan.

After the client is finished with her, her memory is wiped clean, very much resembling "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind." Echo is the main focus of the show because she is supposed to be the best Doll in the organization.

The series was created by Joss Whedon, producer of such cult sensations as "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and "Firefly." Judging from the inventive concept of the series and Whedon's already faithful fan base, "Dollhouse" will likely be another cult phenomenon.

Dushku, a Whedon regular (she was in both "Buffy" and "Angel"), gives an intelligent, complex performance in her role as Echo.

With a healthy mix of brains and beauty, it is easy to see why Whedon often casts her in his shows. This could probably be her stepping stone to stardom beyond cult status.

Because "Friday Night Lights," "Flashpoint" and "Dollhouse" all come on at the same time, viewers must make a choice. I would go with "Friday Night Lights" because of its engaging serial storyline and its realistic portrayal of small-town Southern life.

But, if you have TiVo or DVR, I would suggest watching "Friday Night Lights" and taping "Dollhouse" because of its ingenious storyline and Dushku's performance. As for "Howie Do It," avoid at all costs.



Photos courtesy of CBS

Top: Ed Lane (Hugh Dillon) and Kevin "Wordy" Wordsworth (Michael Cram), who star in "Flashpoint," wait in their Strategic Response Unit uniforms. Bottom: Sam Braddock (David Paetkau) and Kira (guest star Pascale Hutton), also from "Flashpoint," prepare to handle a situation.

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March 17 – 1 p.m. – LRC 221  
Free and open to the public

# SPORTS

## Lady Raiders clench Sun Belt championship

NCAA Tournament next stop for Lady Raiders

### BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 1

Not only is this their 12th overall appearance in the NCAA tournament, but this is the Lady Raiders' fifth Sun Belt title in the last six seasons—the third in four years under current head coach Rick Insell.

The game started with a series of missed shots from either side. Both teams stayed neck-and-neck through the first eight minutes of the game. But a layup by junior forward Alysha Clark sparked the MT offense, making nine baskets for every UALR's one.

UALR's freshman forward Megan Williams started the comeback with her layup at 7:09, helping the Lady Trojans begin to recover from their nine-point deficit.

But the MT defense would allow no more than 14 points to be regained in the first half, as the Lady Raiders ended the first 20 minutes with a score of 34-29, off of a 3-pointer from sophomore guard Anne Marie Lanning.

The second half seemed to start out in a familiar way, as a 3-pointer from junior guard Chelsia Lymon at 19:45 started the scoring battle. This gave the Lady Raiders an eight-point cushion only 15 seconds into the half.

But the Lady Trojans would not go down without a fight. A pair of threes from UALR's sophomore point guard Asriel Rolfe and a jumper from junior guard Kim Sitzmann would keep UALR in the game.

In the end, a series of layups by Clark and Lymon would bring the buzzer, heralding a 74-54 final score and a Sun Belt title for the



Photo by Richard Lowe, staff photographer

The Lady Raiders (seen above) swept the Sun Belt tournament, winning all three of their games on their way to becoming Sun Belt champions.

champion Lady Raiders.

Clark garnered her second consecutive double-double, while contributing 23 points to help maintain her post as the nation's leading scorer. Clark also set tournament records for

most total points (92) and most free throws (25).

Third Team All-Sun Belt player Brandi Brown, a junior forward/guard, tacked five 3-pointers and led the team with her 24 points in the game.

The Lady Raiders will participate in the NCAA tournament, starting March 21. The tournament will culminate in women's Final Four play, hosted by the University of San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas.



### Top Performers



**F Brandi Brown #21 Jr.**  
24 total points, 2 assists, 7 rebounds



**F Alysha Clark #22 Jr.**  
23 total points, 6 assists, 10 rebounds



**G Chelsia Lymon #00 Jr.**  
16 total points, 7 assists, 6 rebounds



**G Anne Marie Lanning #30 So.**  
6 total points, 3 assists, 1 rebound

## Baseball continues dominance over Spring Break

Blue Raiders on six-game winning streak powered by clutch home runs and solid starting pitching

By ZACH REVES  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Blue Raider baseball team won six games in a row over Spring Break and eight of their last nine, as MT holds onto second place in the Sun Belt Conference with a 13-2 overall record.

The boys in blue posted series victories over SBC rivals New Orleans and Arkansas State along with a non-conference 8-3 win over Lipscomb. MT took two of three against New Orleans with a 4-3 loss, 4-3 win and a 12-2 victory. The Blue Raiders also swept Arkansas State, 10-8, 14-3 and 10-3.

On Friday, March 6, MT began its Spring Break contests in New Orleans with a 4-3 loss to New Orleans. The Blue Raiders had a 3-1 lead going into the bottom of the ninth, but a bases-loaded single followed by a sacrifice fly gave UNO the

win.

In the second game against the Privateers, the Blue Raiders returned the favor as they came back from a 3-2 deficit in the top of the ninth for the victory. Senior Zach Dean hit a two RBI pinch-hit triple to give the Blue Raiders a 4-3 victory.

"It was a huge hit for us," head coach Steve Peterson said. "Pinch hitting is the hardest thing to do, but [Dean] definitely stepped up and got the big hit we needed."

In the series finale, the Blue Raiders opened up the floodgates against New Orleans by pouring in a 12-2 victory. Junior designated hitter Ben Darlington raked from the plate, hitting two-three run homers in the victory. Sophomore Jud Stoltz earned the win as he pitched five shutout innings of three hit baseball.

MT returned home for a Wednesday afternoon 8-3 victory over Lipscomb. Ju-

nior pitcher Chad Edwards earned the win by pitching six innings and giving up two earned runs, three strikeouts and two walks.

"I thought Chad was very solid," Peterson said. "His first inning was a little rough, but I thought he did very well and gave us a good solid performance."

This past Friday, the Blue Raiders first game with Arkansas State was postponed after five innings due to inclement weather but was resumed the next day with a 10-8 extra innings victory.

Senior Nathan Hines played the hero as he hit two home runs to lead the Blue Raiders to victory. His first, a solo home run, came in the bottom of the ninth to tie the game at eight and sent the contest into extra innings. In the bottom of the tenth, Hines cracked a two-run blast to hand MT the victory.

Later that day, the Blue

Raiders took a 14-3 win over ASU to ensure a series victory. Junior pitcher Kenneth Roberts had a solid outing as he earned his third victory of the season by pitching seven innings and allowing one earned run and five strikeouts.

"Kenny had great velocity and pop as all the hitters were reacting late to him," Peterson said. "I thought it was one of the better performances of his career."

MT finished the series sweep yesterday with a 10-3 victory over ASU. Senior centerfielder Nathan Hines had a career day going 3-for-4 from the plate with six RBIs and two runs scored. Hines was a single short of hitting for the cycle in the game.

"Nathan Hines was by far the star of the game," Peterson said. "Nathan has caught fire in this series."

MT will return to action against Southern Illinois at home tomorrow at 3 p.m.

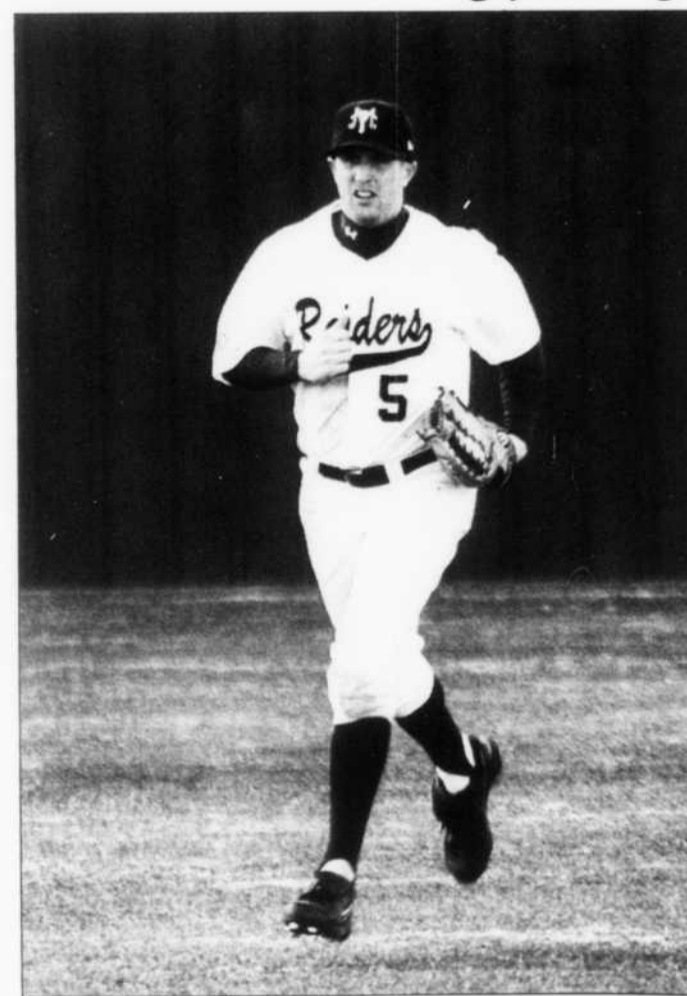


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Junior outfielder Zach Hudson trots off the field at the end of an inning. The Blue Raiders won six in a row over Spring Break.

## MT tennis falls prey to nationally ranked opponents

By CHRIS WELCH  
Assistant Sports Editor

Both tennis teams failed to get off the ground in their matches last week.

The women's tennis team, aiming to recover from a series of losses, would struggle against the No. 74 South Alabama.

The ladies found a glimmer of hope in senior Marlene Chemin, who tallied

the only win with her 8-6 victory.

But after losing all three doubles matches, including an 8-2 loss by junior Natalie Araya and senior Andrea Herrera, the singles matches fared no better.

Herrera lost her match against USA's Katie Welch, a 6-3, 6-1 fall. Araya also lost the 6-2, 6-2 decision against her opponent, Michaela Babicova.



### TENNIS Top Performers



**John Peers**  
Sophomore  
7-5, 6-1



**Marlene Chemin**  
Senior  
8-6

The men's tennis team also lost their battle against No. 14 Louisville in a 6-1 decision Saturday.

Sophomore John Peers, ranked 85th in the nation, was the only savior for the Blue Raider men's team. His

7-5, 6-1 win was the only victory for the men's team.

Senior Robert McKenzie, a player ranked by the ITA poll as 110th in the nation, fell in his singles match against No. 40 Austen Childs 6-4, 6-3.

The men's team lost all three doubles matches, with even the strong team of Peers and McKenzie falling 9-8 (5) to the No. 15 doubles team in the country.

The women's team will

next face perennial tennis powerhouse Princeton here at home in the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center. The match starts tomorrow at 1 p.m.

The men will travel to Montgomery, Ala., for their next match. The Blue Gray Invitational will be held from Mar. 19 through 22 and will host tennis powers Tennessee, Hawaii, Penn State, William & Mary, and Notre Dame.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer  
David Emery gains on a Tennessee athlete at the Valentine Invitational in the Murphy Center.

# NCAA awards Nambawa

MT junior finishes second in nation at Indoor Championships

By CHRIS WELCH  
Sports Editor

Junior distance runner Sarah Nambawa had to travel to College Station, Texas, to receive her latest honor, but it was no less deserved.

After an outstanding season that included being named Sun Belt Performer of the Week twice and holding the record for long jump in both the long jump and the triple jump, Nambawa participated in the NCAA Indoor Championships Saturday.

She tallied the second-longest distance of her career with a 44-4.00 jump, enough



Nambawa

State led Nambawa by less than twelve inches.

Her total was still good enough to beat 15 other competitors in the event.

Nambawa has led the Sun Belt all season. Since January, Nambawa has consistently held the longest long jump and triple jump in the conference, according

to head coach Dean Hayes. Nambawa participated in the long jump, finishing sixth in the nation. Her jump, an 20-03.00 effort, was not enough to qualify for the finals, finishing one spot shy of the final nine. It was her second-longest jump of the season.

Nambawa broke an MT record that had been standing for 15 years when she jumped for 20-10.00 in the long jump. Her effort shattered the previous 1994 record of Dionne Rose, whose 20-8.25 jump could not stand the test of time.

The weekend's efforts were enough to earn Nambawa her 86th All-American award. Her second place finish also gave the Blue Raiders eight team points. The outdoor season of track and field will begin this weekend in Memphis. Rhodes College will host the Rhodes Open Meet, allowing Nambawa to rejoin her teammates in an outdoor meet.

Nambawa will be joined by fellow SBC Players of the Week and teammates Zamzam Sangau, a junior distance runner, and junior hurdles jumper DeRay Sloss.

## Blue Raider Football releases '09 fall schedule

By ZACH REVES  
Assistant Sports Editor

Six home games, including games against SEC and C-USA representatives, highlight the fall 2009 Blue Raiders football schedule that was released Saturday.

In Floyd Stadium, the Blue Raiders will host SEC opponent Mississippi State and C-USA, and in-state rival, Memphis. MT will also host key Sun Belt Conference matchups against Florida International, Arkansas State, Louisiana-Lafayette and Western Kentucky.

The 2009 season will be just the second time in MT Division I-A history that the Blue Raiders will have six home games.

"This is the first time in

the history of our league that an SEC team has played a Sun Belt school on campus," said Chris Massaro, director of MT Athletics. "There were a lot of exciting moments in Floyd Stadium last year, and it sets up to be more of the same in 2009."

The Blue Raiders will also contend in six contests on the road, including games against Clemson, Maryland, North Texas, Louisiana-Monroe and Troy. The schedule might prove to be a difficult one as five of MT's opponents made postseason play last season.

"This is a very challenging schedule and one we are very excited about," head coach Rick Stockstill said.

MT will start the season on Sept. 5 against Clemson on the road, which will be followed by the home opener against Memphis on Sept. 12.

The following week, the Blue Raiders will travel to Maryland looking for a repeat of last year's 24-14 victory over the Terps, which was MT's first-ever win against an ACC foe.

After an open week, the boys in blue will open conference play in North Texas on Oct. 3 and follow it up with a three-game home stand. MT will host SBC rival FIU on Oct. 10 and then Mississippi State on Oct. 17. The Blue Raiders will close out their home stand against Arkansas State on Oct. 24.

For Halloween, the Blue

Raiders will travel to FAU for a key SBC game, and then visit Louisiana-Monroe on Nov. 7. MT will then host Louisiana-Lafayette the following weekend on Nov. 14.

MT will then play their final road game of the season against SBC defending champs Troy on Nov. 21.

The regular season will end on Nov. 28 with a home game against rival Western Kentucky. The game will mark the first time the teams have played each other as members of the SBC.

"We are very pleased about the type of schedule we have put together for our fans," Massaro said. "We will be playing six great home games for all our fans."

### 2009 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	at Clemson
Sept. 12	MEMPHIS
Sept. 19	at Maryland
Sept. 26	OPEN
Oct. 3	*at North Texas
Oct. 10	*FIU
Oct. 17	MISSISSIPPI STATE
Oct. 24	*ARKANSAS STATE
Oct. 31	*at FAU
Nov. 7	*at Louisiana-Monroe
Nov. 14	*LOUISIANA
Nov. 21	*at Troy
Nov. 28	*WESTERN KENTUCKY
Dec. TBA	New Orleans Bowl (ESPN2)

\*Sun Belt Conference Game

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