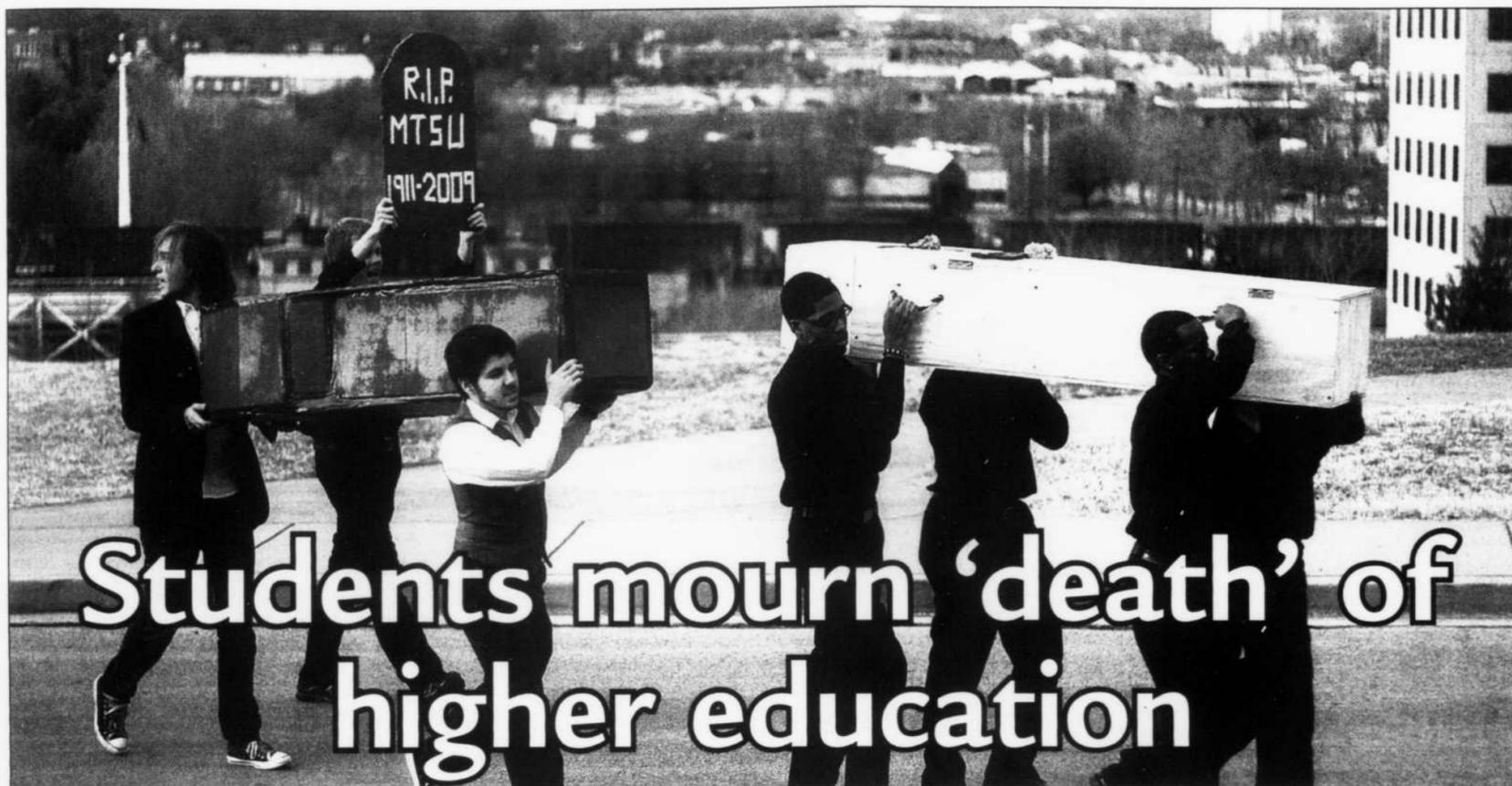


# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2009

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 85 NO. 8



## Students mourn 'death' of higher education

Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer  
MTSU students Hudson Wilkins (left) and Jacob Wittenburg (center) carry a coffin for the university behind Tennessee State University students in the march toward the State Capital Building during the higher education 'funeral' protest Monday.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer  
Patrick Calvin, a senior history major at TSU, yells chants as he marches toward the State Capital.

### Coalition to Save Our Schools marches on State Capital to protest budget woes

By ALEX MOORMAN  
Campus News Editor

Students, faculty and people from all over Tennessee joined together Monday to protest the 'death of higher education' at the State Capital Building.

The Coalition to Save Our Schools organized the funeral-themed protest to coincide with the State of the State Address given by Gov. Phil Bredesen later that night. Middle Tennessee Jobs with Justice also co-sponsored the event.

Members from Tennessee State University, East Tennessee State University and MTSU participated in the protest.

The COS is an organization that uses students, staff, faculty, future college students and alumni to try and maintain the quality of higher education in Tennessee, said Ashley Renner, a senior liberal arts major and a member of COS.

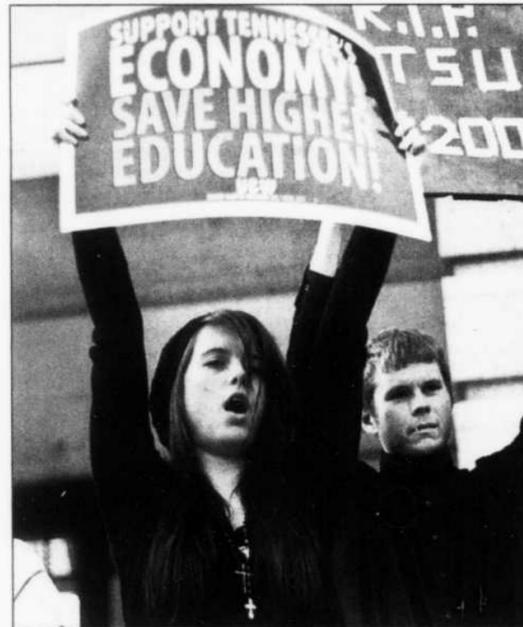


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer  
Sarah Prince, a senior at Cleveland State Community College protests the looming budget crisis in higher education.

PROTEST, PAGE 4

## McPhee steers toward possible budget options

By JESSICA HASTON  
Copy Editor

President Sidney McPhee posted an interim report of recommendations and possible eliminations that aim to cut up to \$19 million off of the university's budget.

The Steering Committee submitted a report to McPhee on Feb. 5 composed of suggestions made by the Strategic Work Groups. McPhee posted the summary report on MTSU's Web site Monday.

"The Steering Committee was organized to exercise oversight coordination of the four working groups," said Steering Committee Chair Charles Perry.

As chair, Charles Perry said he summarized the reports that the work groups submitted on Jan. 29, discussed his summary with

the steering committee and after any changes that were made, he sent the finished report to McPhee.

The four work groups are External Resource Development, which seeks ways to generate new revenue; Energy Efficiency and Conservation Initiatives, which makes suggestions regarding the usage of energy and resources; Realignment, Restructuring, Consolidation or Elimination of Non-Academic Support Units, which deals with non-academic programs such as athletics, Sidelines and WMOT; and Academic and Instructional Review, which makes recommendations in areas like course scheduling and academic programs.

OVERVIEW, PAGE 3



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer  
Brenna McDaniel, a junior mass communications major, questions President Sidney McPhee about possible budget reductions.

## Town Hall Meeting spurs debate

Students confront President Sidney McPhee with budget concerns

By ALEX MOORMAN  
Campus News Editor

President Sidney McPhee held the first of two Town Hall Meetings last night in the effort to 'engage the community' and get feedback about the recent Interim Work Group report

with possible budget cuts.

Around 30 students and faculty joined in the meeting, which started with a speech from McPhee and ended with questions from the audience. The meeting was held in the Keathley University Center Theater. "In a time of crisis we

have to make the tough decisions about who will stay on the bus and who has to get off but the goal is to make sure that the bus keeps moving," McPhee said.

Alli Scott, a senior liberal arts major and general major at WMTS, said

she had concerns about the livelihood of the jazz station and presented McPhee with a petition to stop the cut of WMOT that was said to have over 1,000 names on it.

MEETING, PAGE 3

# Work groups' report suggests eliminations

By FAITH FRANKLIN  
Community News Editor

A report released by President Sidney McPhee Monday suggested six possible eliminations estimating a savings of more than a million dollars.

The report summary, which was prepared by the Interim Work Group, recommends cuts from "non-academic support units."

The work groups are overseen by the Steering Committee, which is appointed by McPhee.

Currently, McPhee has said no decisions have been made regarding non-academic eliminations.

A cut of \$450,000 could be accomplished if a suggestion to eliminate the station WMOT 89.5.

In order to maintain WMOT's possible termination, student-run radio station WMTS 88.3 hosted a benefit concert last Thursday. WMTS raised \$4,200 in donations and pledges.

"We really want to con-

vince the university that we have value academically," said John Egly, director of broadcasting for WMOT. "Our value to the College of Mass Communication warrants us to stay around."

The community as a whole would lose a jazz source that has been around for 40 years, Egly said. The loss would impact both the community and the students.

"We do give [students] experiences that translate into things they can put on resumes and that's how students get jobs," Egly said.

While working at WMOT, students have the opportunity to generate news copy, create public service announcements and to be on air hosts, Egly said.

"WMOT gives students an opportunity to translate into an off-campus job," Egly said.

ELIMINATIONS, PAGE 4

# Course structures may feel budget cuts

By MICHAEL STONE  
Editor in Chief

The committee overseeing MTSU's plans to deal with budget cuts released an updated report Monday that includes suggestions that could restructure courses within the university.

The Steering Committee, which includes various faculty, staff and students organized by President

non-academic support units and academics.

Charles Perry, chair of the Steering Committee, said that the components of the report are suggestions and that different parts would have to be adjusted for different parts of MTSU.

"There is no one-size-fits-all solution," Perry said.

If a summer semester were to be implemented, the academic school year

**"There is no one-size-fits-all solution."**

CHARLES PERRY  
STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Sidney McPhee, suggested adding a summer semester into the academic school year, offering online classes, and cancelling Friday classes and summer classes with low enrollment.

The suggestions within the report were submitted to the Steering Committee by working groups researching four different areas - external resource development, energy efficiency and conservation,

would consist of three 14-week terms with "breaks between each term," the report said.

Fall and spring semesters would be cut to 14 weeks from 16 weeks.

"I personally like the idea [of a trimester system]," Perry said. "This is one of those long-term approaches where we can have more students with the same space."

ACADEMIC, PAGE 8

**Back to school-do's**  
Do get a great cut  
*Don't jack it up to heaven* (...and DON'Ts)  
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*Don't nap in the mall massage-lounge*  
Do get a rejuvenating facial  
*Don't zap it over the bad spots*  
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*Don't clean your nails with your keys*



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# Steering Committee Report

## Possible effects:

- Online classes
- Leasing MTSU facilities
- Faculty/Staff furloughs
- Cancel Friday classes
- Three-semester school year

## Possible eliminations:

- WMOT - \$450,000
- Office of Community Engagement - \$400,000
- Sports tickets for retired employees - \$235,000

## Large cuts / savings:

- Tennessee Miller Coliseum - \$350,000
- Office of Student Involvement and Leadership - \$350,000
- Student Affairs - \$300,000
- Diversity Affairs - \$150,000
- Sidelines - \$100,000

Graphic by Alicia Wilson, production manager

# Green light on campus energy

By DUSTIN EVANS  
Staff Writer

MTSU has been advised that it should make changes in energy efficiency in numerous facets around campus.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation work group, a division of the Oversight Steering Committee, released its findings on Jan. 29. They said that certain changes could help to aid MTSU's budget crisis.

"We all have to change

our paradigm when it comes to energy," said Charles Perry, the chairman of the Oversight Steering Committee.

Perry said that there are things that we can do in the current term that will affect this fiscal year, but most of the projects will focus on long term infrastructure improvements.

"We are trying to position the university for the future," Perry said.

The EEC work group's interim report said that projects like the Campus

Lights Out program could save the campus around \$102,000.

The EEC work group also said that a 2 percent reduction in heating and cooling energy, and removing the lamps from the Pepsi vending machines could result in immediate savings.

Perry said they are looking at different ways to save money and bring money into the university.

Perry said that the changes would be transparent and not show any

major differences in campus life for the faculty, staff and students.

"It would be hard-pressed to find any part of our student body that could be affected by our proposal," Perry said.

Perry said that they are proposing a minor change in thermostat settings campuswide, yet it would only cause the campus community to add an extra layer to their normal wardrobe.

ENERGY, PAGE 3

# Bredesen warns of tough times

By FAITH FRANKLIN  
Community News Editor

Gov. Phil Bredesen said that education is still a priority within his administration as he delivered his State of the State Address Monday.

"Nothing is more basic than education, and it has always been my number one priority," Bredesen said.

Bredesen also discussed the state of the national

economy and how it is affecting the citizens of Tennessee.

**"Please let me make it clear that no proposed version of the stimulus bill is any panacea or silver bullet."**

PHIL BREDESEN  
GOV. OF TENNESSEE

"We're in a serious recession," Bredesen said. "We are living in tough times and we have some difficult

decisions ahead."

President Sidney McPhee said that he thought that

the governor did a good job of explaining what the issues are.

"He has made it clear to

the academic community that we are really in a tight spot," McPhee said.

Higher education costs in Tennessee continue to grow and the state government's ability to cover the cost is limited, Bredesen said.

Bredesen said that the result of tuition increase might cause some students

BREDESEN, PAGE 8



# Clean Energy Fee Funding Available

A Clean Energy standing committee has been established to administer the funds generated by the \$8 per student per semester Clean Energy Fee.

**Eligible Spending May Include:**

- On-site generation projects that utilize and publicize renewable energy technologies, such as solar array displays on campus;
- Opportunities that may arise to gain additional funding or offset costs through rebate programs, such as the *Generation Partners* program provided by Tennessee Valley Authority and Murfreesboro Electric Department;
- Up to 10% of the total annual appropriations may be allocated to perform studies that analyze energy efficiency initiatives;
- Up to 10% of the total annual appropriations may be used for research grants, as well as academic programs for educational, training, and research purposes, to help develop awareness of energy use, consumption, and conservation to be awarded within the MTSU community.

**All Clean Energy Projects and Proposals Should Focus Primarily On:**

- Renewable Energy
- Energy Conservation/Efficiency
- Alternative Fuels
- Sustainable Design

To submit a Clean Energy fee funding proposal, please visit SGA's website at [www.mtsu.edu/~sga](http://www.mtsu.edu/~sga).

For more information, please contact Dr. Gene Fitch at 898-2750 or [gfitc@mtsu.edu](mailto:gfitc@mtsu.edu).

# Deadline to submit applications is February 27, 2009.

**MEETING  
FROM PAGE 1**

In response to the Scott's question McPhee said, "No matter what program we cut there will be people who feel like it is crucial to this university, but in a time of crisis something has to go."

Skyler Crews, a sophomore computer information systems major, told McPhee that he thought if the budget was left up to the students to figure out that it would end up with better results.

"That is exactly what the forum is," McPhee said. "I am having open discussions now to find out your concerns and answer your questions."

The cuts that MTSU could be facing could total almost \$19.3 million, but if the stimulus package warrants money for MTSU the cuts will still range above \$11 million.

Ashley Renner, a senior liberal arts major and member of the COS, said that McPhee's support in the coalitions efforts to get funding put back into the Hope scholarship would be greatly appreciated. He agreed to a meeting but refused to comment on whether he would



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer  
President Sidney McPhee talks during the Town Hall Meeting. He answered students concerns and explained possible budget cuts that the Strategic Work Groups have suggested.

support the group. "I don't care how you look at it if you are cutting, best case scenario, \$19 million from a \$91 million budget we have to cut things," McPhee said. "We have to make cuts that are best for the overall university."

Jacob Wittenberg, a sophomore psychology major said, "with all of these budget cuts, would [McPhee] be willing to take a pay cut in an effort to keep some organizations around." "I am willing to do whatever it takes to help this

university," McPhee said. "But I don't make \$11 million, so it would take more than just my pay." McPhee will have another Town Hall Meeting tomorrow at 11 a.m. in the KUC Tucker Theater.

**OVERVIEW  
FROM PAGE 1**

The Steering Committee and work groups planned for two possible budget-cut amounts. The lower target was \$11 million and the higher target was \$19 million.

"Now because, as you probably know, the news has continued to be disappointing out of the state revenues and all of things we're seeing coming out of

the president [McPhee] can decide at which point he wants to draw the line in terms of how many reductions he wants to make in various areas."

Perry said the work groups will make their final reports to the Steering Committee on Feb. 19, and the Steering Committee will give their final report to McPhee Feb. 25.

"In a couple weeks, we will submit to the president our final report and then, even after the final

**“ If there is a stimulus package passage or something happens in the economy between now and then, that's just good news.”**

**CHARLES PERRY**  
STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

the state, we were targeting for the higher number," Perry said.

The committee chose the higher number to prepare for a worst-case scenario, and the cuts will not exceed the \$19 million figure, Perry said.

"[If] there is a stimulus package passage or something happens in the economy between now and then, then that's just good news," Perry said. "And for that reason...our report will reflect a prioritized list so that

report is submitted, there will be lots of discussion," said Perry. "There will be discussion between the president [McPhee] and his executives. There will be discussion between the president and members of the steering committee, so there's going to be a lot of discussion going on before the president makes his final decisions."

After McPhee makes his decisions, he must submit them to the Tennessee Board of Regents.

**ENERGY  
FROM PAGE 2**

MTSU has been advised that it should make changes in energy efficiency in numerous facets around campus.

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**CHARLES PERRY**  
STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

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campuswide, yet it would only cause the campus community to add an extra layer to their normal wardrobe.

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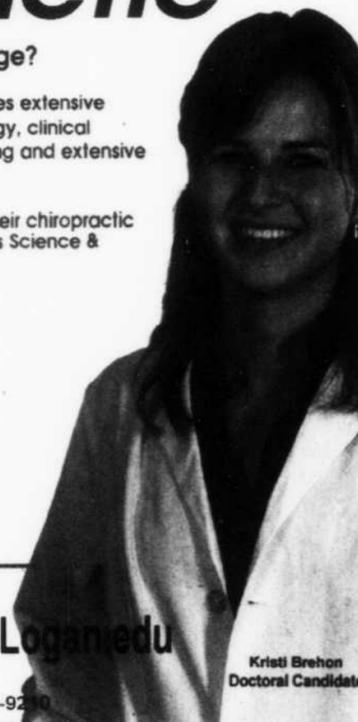
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Doctoral Candidate

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
**SIDELINES**

Middle Tennessee State University  
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editorial: 615-904-8357 Fax: 615-494-7648  
Advertising: 615-898-5240 Fax: 615-904-8193

www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor in Chief  
Michael Stone\*  
sleditor@mtsu.edu

Sports  
Chris Welch  
slsports@mtsu.edu

Production Manager  
Alicia Wilson  
slsdesign@mtsu.edu

Managing Editor  
Tiffany Gibson\*  
sidelinesmanager@gmail.com

Assist. News  
Emma Egli  
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Photography  
Alex Blackwelder  
slphoto@mtsu.edu

Campus News  
Alex Moorman\*  
slnews@mtsu.edu

Assist. Features  
Malarie Woods  
slflash@mtsu.edu

Adviser  
Steven Chappell  
schappell@mtsu.edu

Comm. News  
Faith Franklin\*  
slstate@mtsu.edu

Assist. Sports  
Zach Reves  
slsports@mtsu.edu

Advertising  
Jeri Lamb  
jlamb@mtsu.edu

Opinions  
Byron Wilkes\*  
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Copy Editor  
Jessica Haston  
jkh3g@mtsu.edu

Business  
Eveon Corl  
ecorl@mtsu.edu

Features  
Katy Coil  
slfeatur@mtsu.edu

Online  
Bryan Law  
slonline@mtsu.edu

\* denotes member  
of editorial board



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer  
Students march to the Capital Building carrying signs and singing chants to raise awareness on the increase in cuts of the higher education budget.

**PROTEST FROM PAGE 1**

"This journey did not start today on 9th Avenue North," said William Buchanan, pastor at the 15th Avenue Baptist Church where the protest began. "It started a long time ago, but we can make a difference today."

Students marched with caskets bearing the names of each school present and signs reading such things as "R.I.P. Higher Education, R.I.P. Students and Totally Bureaucratic Regime." Students also chanted as

they made their way to the Capital yelling "Save our schools."

"We need to tell your state governor that we won't stand by while our goals and livelihood are thrown into the fire," said Michael Cannon, president of the COS.

Senator James Kyle spoke at the rally and encouraged the participants to "stay strong."

"Only with education will Tennessee move forward in this country and in this world," Kyle said. "This year we are going to win, this country is changing, our state is changing

and people are finally seeing the value of education."

A candlelight vigil was scheduled to follow the protest, but was canceled due to intense winds.

"The road may be long [and] the road may be hard, but always remember as long as your speaking out for what you believe someone will always hear your voice," said Andy Smith, a representative for the American Association of University Teachers.

Jacob Whittenberg, a sophomore psychology major said he thought edu-

cation should be the most important thing to preserve in Tennessee.

"They are our schools and the government is trying to take them away from us and that should matter," Whittenberg said.

Also attending the protest to speak was Tennessee State Representative Brenda Gilmore, who said she felt the government had been doing a great disservice to students.

"We can not continue to balance the weight of the budget on the backs of our students," Gilmore said. "We can't bleed you all dry to balance the budget."

**ELIMINATIONS FROM PAGE 2**

The Office of Community Engagement and Support is another organization that the report suggested to cut – garnering an estimated savings of \$400,000.

The OCES is designed for advancing and institutionalizing public engagement with the greater community, said Gloria Bonner, assistant to the president in the OCES.

"We focus on continuing to put into place a number of structures, activities and systems that support the advancement of partnerships, governmental relations and policy development, as well as the advancement of public engagement," Bonner said.

Bonner said that OCES serves as the bridge to connect the university, its students and faculty.

"We all have a stake in reaffirming and reassessing the operational principles of the academic mission of the university, and the Office for Community Engagement and Support is an integral part of that process," Bonner said.

A position in the James E. Walker Library is also on the list and expected to save \$60,000.

HR-Retiree Tickets, given to retired faculty and staff for athletic events, is an estimated \$250,000.

The report also listed Administrative Services, EESP, InRoads amounting to \$250,000 in possible eliminations and Duel Services, which did not have an estimated savings amount.

Members of the Interim Work Group could not be reached for further explanation of the Administrative Services, EESP and InRoads recommendations.

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**ARMY STRONG!**

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# OPINIONS

## FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

### McPhee's obscurity a major road block

Yesterday afternoon, President Sidney McPhee held a Town Hall Meeting to field questions concerning the effects of the budget cuts on campus programs. The meeting was sparsely attended to say the least, and many questions were left unanswered as McPhee reaffirmed that it is still too early in the strategic planning process to announce any definite program cuts or departmental reductions. This is ironic, considering that McPhee's Steering Committee will make its final report to the president Feb. 25 concerning these pertinent suggestions.

But don't think you can finagle any real information out of the bureaucratic jungle that is the MTSU administration. A call to one of McPhee's working groups will yield a transfer to another office.

Let's say you want to get in touch the Work Group for Realignment, Restructuring, Consolidation or Elimination, perhaps because you want more information on what amount of money might be potentially cut from your specific department. Calling the work group itself will conclude with being referred to Steering Committee; since the work group itself is large and consists of many people, giving you a specific answer might contradict information provided by other members of the group.

The call to the Steering Committee will then be referred to Charles Perry, the chair of the committee.

Then Perry will tell you it's hard for him to comment too specifically on the matter due to the number of people still working on the issue and the breadth of their work.

It's a Penrose triangle. It's an M.C. Escher drawing.

It's the classic MTSU runaround.

What's more astounding than the cellophane-like nature of the proposed revisions to the MTSU infrastructure is the number of students left unaware of this black hole of anti-information. Though slowly its event horizon will affect a vast majority of the programs on campus.

It's true: there were flyers put out concerning the Town Hall Meeting.

Because flyers are definitely the most effective way to communicate to students on a campus where flyers flow like Scrooge McDuck's doubloons.

Students on this campus pay as much attention to flyers as they do the fencing team.

His vagueness on the situation as a whole aside, McPhee's office should've sent e-mails to all students and faculty at the least so each and every one of them could be aware it's happening.

Let's be honest, the severity of the probable cuts being discussed will resound to the consequence most if not all students here.

## Valentine's Day still rocks

St. Valentine's Day, celebrated world wide on Feb. 14 of each year, has always seemed to be an important holiday for most of those in love, or at least for those in a relationship in any stage of development.

Maybe that is why after all these years, lovers still use it as a day to express their love through Valentine's cards and other gifts.

However, single people often tend to view it negatively, calling it "Single's Awareness Day" or shrugging it off as a holiday invented by greeting-card companies and chocolate manufacturers just to make a quick buck.

This day is among the biggest card sending days (second only to Christmas), aisles in stores are



### The C-Word

Courtney Watson

decked out with red and pink Cupid-themed or heart-shaped packages of neatly wrapped confectioneries and other gifts. Though roses at the florist cost three times what they normally would, Valentine's Day is still a commonly recognized symbol of love and romance.

Therefore, even though it is a high-profitting and

successful holiday for some companies and is generally viewed in the United States as an overly commercialized holiday, how can anyone view a day that is all about love as a bad thing? And honestly, what holiday in this country isn't overly commercialized?

Valentine's Day is alive and well and still widely celebrated. It isn't going anywhere. However, it still gets such a bad rap from the single community. For those who have someone to share it with, there is no reason not to embrace it. For everyone else, send a card or candies to a friend, co-worker, crush ...

It does not have to be viewed as a holiday concerned only with roman-

tic love. Valentine's Day should only be concerned with love itself.

While the origins of Valentine's Day can be traced back to several different stories, the point is that people used to give letters of love and admiration, and even today, we still do.

The tradition has carried on. We even have the modern equivalent of those cards now, including electronic cards for those who can't get to a card shop or post office. So even though handwritten notes have largely given way to mass-produced cards and e-greetings, the message of love still exists.

My point is if you love someone, tell him or her. Don't let other people's nega-

tivity affect something that has always been so positive. No one is asking anyone to go out and spend a fortune, though some do. We all know times are tough, but a box of chocolates isn't likely to break anyone, and if so, e-greetings are always free.

Even if you don't love someone in a romantic way, you can still give gifts and spread the happiness. There's nothing wrong with that, no matter what anyone says. So make February 14 a day of love, either way. There is enough cynicism to deal with without stomping a well meaning holiday to the ground.

Courtney Watson is a senior in journalism and can be reached at cew2y@mtsu.edu

## Obama's Gitmo choice huge mistake

Only days after being sworn in as president, Obama signed an order to close Guantanamo Bay within a year.

Although I have to congratulate him for actually keeping a vague campaign promise, I have to wonder if this is a good idea.

Obama has announced that he will close Guantanamo within a year, review all of the inmates' cases, and investigate reports of "harsh interrogation methods."

OK, there's so much wrong with this picture that I don't know where to start. Firstly, is closing a prison that houses terrorists a good idea during a war on terror? It certainly does seem odd. If he's so concerned with human



### Off-Center

Catharine Broemel

rights allegations, why not just investigate and fix what's wrong?

The solution is to ship them to mainland prisons. What will happen if any of them escape? It's harder to do in Guantanamo since it's located near water, 400 miles off the coast of Florida. But I sure hope someone in Washington is considering that possibility.

The European Union

has stepped up and offered to take some of the prisoners as long as they don't import a terrorist. Yes, that's right. America's No. 1 prison for terrorist suspects. They have to undergo "detailed screening" before the EU countries will potentially allow any of them into their countries.

Well, considering that out of the population of Guantanamo, 40 percent of the inmates are Yemeni extremists, two were charged with helping to plan 9/11, and at least 12 have been released only to be recaptured for more war crimes, that isn't very likely. But it's OK since it isn't likely that European governments will actually carry through with their promise: they have made

no specific or detailed agreements yet, only rhetorical assurances.

The real issue here that is offensive to me is how Obama is playing our foreign policy and how European governments are reacting to Obama's administration.

Did you know that Bush requested European help in taking Guantanamo prisoners but was flatly refused? I'm glad that Europe likes our president and things aren't as awkward between us any more.

But is enacting measures like closing Gitmo the answer to our problem of Europe not liking us? Frankly, I think it's fine if they choose to not like some things the U.S. does or stands for, as long

as Americans approve of our government's actions.

Obama seems to be unaware of how to fight a war. He was quoted as saying we don't have to "continue with a false choice between safety and our ideals."

We're in the middle of a war, man! You have to fight on our behalf. Presidents have to make some very rough choices.

I doubt Truman enjoyed dropping the bomb, but he did it to save lives and win the war. Woodrow Wilson ran on the slogan "he kept us out of war" but joined World War I to help our allies and protect the country. I just hope Obama is ready to make difficult decisions to protect our country.

## FACES IN THE CROWD

**Did you know that there is a Town Hall Meeting tonight with President Sidney McPhee about the statewide budget cuts and the effects on MTSU? How do you feel this concerns you?**



Williams

"No, but I'm concerned with the faculty. When I graduate, will there be jobs? Will there be a place for me?"

Rhoemary Williams, graduate English



Pearce

"Yes, we're really concerned about him cutting WMOT. We know how big of an impact it's going to have."

Elaine Pearce, junior business management



Ramey

"No, my concern is why we are having a budget cut but we are still adding more buildings on campus."

Cheleina Ramey, junior RIM



Higgs

"No. I think the cuts should be in sports. Why should we cut back on teachers?"

Dazarae Higgs, sophomore early childhood education

## COMICS



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

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# FEATURES



**IS PRESIDENT MCPHEE PROPERLY ADDRESSING BUDGET CUTS?**

BASED ON VOTES FROM  
MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

## One man's trash, another's music

Recycled Percussion brings 'trashy' music to campus

By JESSICA PACE  
Staff Writer

Fifty-five gallon drums, remnants from construction sites, discarded chain-saws – these items may be coined by some as trash. For the four members of Recycled Percussion, a little bit of garbage and a lot of duct tape can make quite a sound.

In fact, trash has been the foundation for the "junk rock" Recycled Percussion has been creating for the past 14 years.

"Anything from 5-gallon buckets to 55-gallon metal drums, fire extinguishers and grinders," says keyboardist and self-described "turntablist" Todd Griffin. "Basically anything we find with a tone we're looking for."

Griffin, who attended culinary school, began putting his creative skills to work in music instead of food three years ago when he first joined Recycled Percussion. He says the composition of the band's instruments and the materials it uses vary to some degree from year to year. They are always held together with ample

duct tape, and he describes the instrumental setup on stage as "ingenious."

It's hard not to be intrigued at the sight of the band's eccentric assemblage of pots and pans, old step-ladders and barrels. And these instruments are not



only industrial but loud. Recycled Percussion uses drum microphones in the buckets on stage to amplify their already-overpowering "power percussion."

Volume is a key factor in the band's music, which Griffin says is inspired by "the bucket drummers you would see in New York City peddling for money. The thought was 'how do we make them [the instruments] loud? How do we bring it to the next step?'"

NYC-peddler-inspired drumming from Justin Spencer and Ryan Vezi- na, combined with guitar played by Jimmy Mags and

Griffin's hip-hop/funk disc jockeying, results in unbelievably high-energy performances that incorporate everything from rock to electronic.

Spencer, labeled as "the world's fastest extreme drummer," is the only member of Recycled Percussion who has been in the band throughout its 14-year existence. Though Griffin is a fairly new member, Recycled Percussion's innovative way of making music is clearly of equal importance as the music itself.

"It's more than music," Griffin says. "It's entertainment. It's a full package. The music must be interesting enough to keep people listening and the presentation must be spot-on. When both come together, it's a beautiful thing."

Plenty of people nationwide think so. In the past six years, the band has performed at the Hard Rock Café in Las Vegas, for Bill Gates for the release of Windows Vista and opened for Kanye West and Godsmack, among many other musical milestones for Recycled Percussion. The

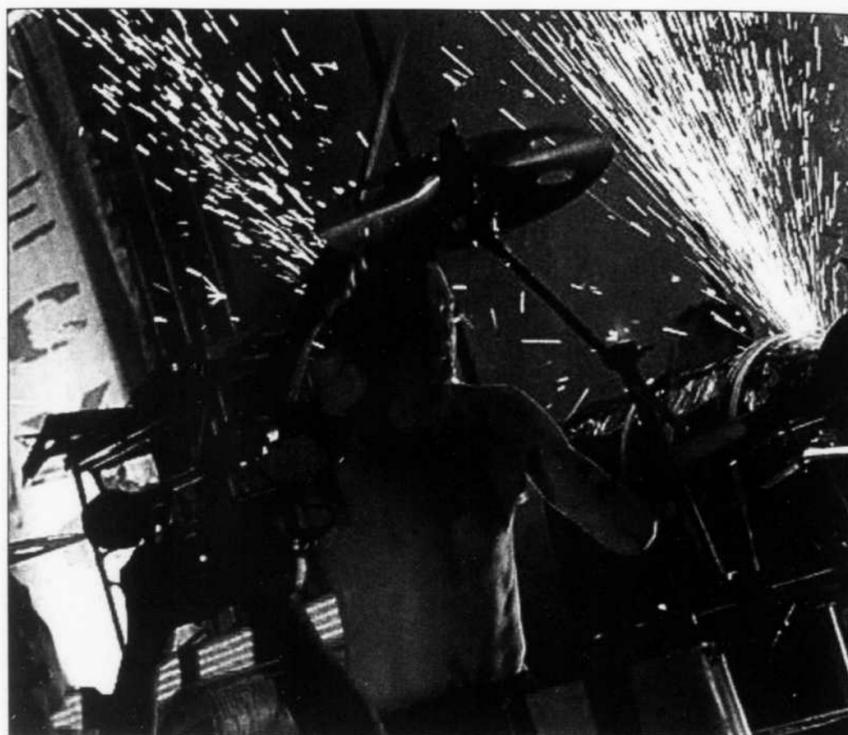


Photo courtesy of Recycled Percussion

Recycled Percussion member Justin Spencer performs during an explosive show.

band has also performed with artists like LL Cool J and played halftime shows for the National Football League and the National Basketball Association.

Still the band feels that great shows are everywhere, regardless of the audience or circumstances.

"It's all about the energy you create with the crowd," Griffin says.

High-energy performances and creative control take priority over major success within the industry as well for the independent band. Griffin says that Recycled Percussion's lack of a label enables them to have that control over their shows and

make its own schedules.

"Labels can be stifling and politically motivated Griffin says.

Anybody looking to check out a phenomenal junk-rock show will be able to see Recycled Percussion play a free set Thursday, Feb. 12 at 7p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. What attendees should not expect is a "stomp" type of performance, which Griffin says is a typical assumption for those who have never been to one of their shows.

"Recycled Percussion is far more interactive with the audience and far more

physical and loud," Griffin says. "It's more like a big rock show."

The show puts on an unforgettable performance that combines punk, funk, electronic, hip-hop and hard rock that will most likely appeal to everyone on some level, because they just want to see the audience get into the show.

"We want to turn as many people on to our music as possible, make people smile for 70 minutes a night and make them forget about everything else around them for once," Griffin says. "Music is a powerful tool. We're blessed to do what we do – make people happy."

## America is 'Taken' with Neeson's latest film

New action movie takes second place at box office

By JOHNATHON SCHLEICHER  
Staff Writer

There have been a wide variety of action movies in the past, but "Taken" has proven to be a suspenseful, heart-pounding cut above the rest. Presented by 20th Century Fox and directed by Pierre Morel, Liam Neeson's performance in this movie takes the adored James Bond genre to the next level.

Neeson plays Bryan Mills who has recently retired from his job as what he describes only as a "pre-venter" for the U.S. government to spend time with his beloved daughter.

Neeson's professional mannerisms and cold personality fit his character perfectly and keeps the audience longing for more. He has done well in other films such as "Star Wars" and "Batman Begins," but his commanding presence makes it seem like the script for "Taken" was written just for him.

The cast also includes Maggie Grace (of "Lost" fame) who plays the part of Kim, Bryan's daughter



Photo courtesy of 20th Century Fox

Bryan Mills (Liam Neeson) interrogates a suspect he believes participated in the kidnapping of his daughter Kim (Maggie Grace).

who lives with her mother Lenore (Famke Janssen). Janssen has been featured in other movies such as "House on Haunted Hill" and the "X-Men" series.

Bryan tries to connect with his daughter Kim, who lives in the luxury of her stepfather's wealth, by quitting his secretive job for the government. He gets along by doing odd jobs like working in security, with

his former colleagues.

Bryan's estranged relationship with his ex-wife Lenore makes his goal of connecting with his daughter increasingly difficult. When Kim asks to meet him for lunch to get permission to go to Paris, the idea of her leaving the country makes Bryan extremely uncomfortable.

He agrees to sign the permission papers under established circumstances after Lenore promptly tells him that if he continues to smother Kim, he will lose her. Bryan gives Kim a phone and specific instructions to call him when the plane lands in Paris.

After dropping her off at the airport, he learns that his daughter is not going to Paris alone, but that she is actually following the famous band U2 on their

tour through Europe. But Kim never gets to see the band perform.

Extremely skeptical about his decision to let his daughter do such a thing, Bryan tells Lenore that she has forgotten the world behind her mansion's walls and her servants.

Lenore assures Bryan that if he continues to smother his daughter, he will lose her. Despite Bryan's concerns, he waves goodbye to Kim as she boards the plane to Paris.

Upon arriving in Paris, Kim and her friend are marked by human traffickers and are kidnapped shortly after her arrival. Before being abducted, Kim speaks to her father in desperation. After she is taken, Bryan uses his contacts and deadly skills to track down his daughter's kidnappers

and wreak vengeance into Paris's crime life.

In one scene, Bryan goes to meet a group of human traffickers to find information about his daughter's location. Bryan adopts the guise of a governmental official from Paris in order to gain entrance into their hideaway. Once inside, he antagonizes the criminals with extortion threats.

When things get heated, a good old fashion gun-fight pursues. The movie only gets better from there.

The cinematography is fast paced and thoroughly enjoyable. "Taken" is filled with explosions and gun-fights that keep the adrenalin pumping, but with every parent's nightmare occurring right before the eye it is hard not to feel for Bryan or his daughter.

"Taken is a "must-see" masterpiece. Despite only recently being released to the U.S. on Jan. 30., "Taken" has already generated ticket sales at Carmike Cinemas Wynnson 16 of about \$20,000, according to Assistant Manager Drew Carpenter. The plot twists and action of the movie will keep any thrill seeking audience on the edge of their seat, and it will possibly be the crowning achievement of Neeson's career.

You have to root for Neeson, unless you are heartless. I give "Taken" four out of four stars because of the mix of action and the amount of heart-strings being pulled.

**Director:** Pierre Morel

**Starring:** Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace

**Rating:** Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence, disturbing thematic material, sexual content and language



**For a Valentine's Day review of "Bride Wars" and "He's Just Not That Into You," visit us**



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# SPORTS

## Lady Raiders shining star of Sun Belt

Women's basketball team undefeated in Sun Belt, best record in conference

By CHRIS WELCH  
Sports Editor

Amid persistent fouling and a rain of points from either side, the Lady Raiders left Trojan Arena yesterday with victory in hand.

MT entered the game on the cusp of the national Top 25, with a 26th placement. After yesterday's performance, they can only garner more national attention.

Junior forward Alysha Clark had her highest point total of the season, with an unprecedented 50 points throughout game play. Clark was also one rebound short of a double-double. She shot 20-of-28 from the field, with a 71% success rate.

Clark now leads the na-

tion in scoring, beating out James Madison's Dawn Evans for the top spot. Clark scores an average of 25.6 points per game, and averages 41 points in the last three games.

Junior forward Brandi Brown had six rebounds, five of which were defensive. She was joined by sophomore forward Emily Queen, who had a total of seven. This added to the Lady Raider total of 27.

Both teams came out to the court well prepared. Troy's senior guard Kylie Morrissey opened up play with a two-point jumper nine seconds into the first half. Clark immediately answered.

Troy made full use of substitutions, subbing in

fresh legs a mere two minutes into the half.

The two teams stayed neck-and-neck throughout the first half. MT never led Troy by more than eight points.

A sea of turnovers, steals, and timeouts led the teams to the half. With a score of 33-30, MT was up, but not by much.

After the immediate fight for the ball at the start of the second, Clark added to her score further by scoring a layup, assisted by junior guard Chelsia Lymon.

For every goal Troy made for the remainder of the half, MT seemed to make two. The starting five maintained the helm



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Alysha Clark dribbles down the court in a practice session in the Murphy Center.

BASKETBALL, PAGE 8

## Coaches, fans gear up for new football season

Recruiting Roundup brings in MT fans for some one-on-one with MT coaching staff

By CHRIS WELCH  
Sports Editor

Coaching staff and dedicated fans alike met in the Kennon Sports Hall of Fame yesterday to talk about the finer points of the upcoming 2009 season.

This is the second annual meeting held by head coach Rick Stockstill and his staff, to give the Blue Raider nation a preview of the next season.

"This is a great chance for our staff to interact with the fans, and fill them in on the latest members to the Blue Raider program,"

Stockstill said. "It's just a great chance for our fans to be more involved with the program and get a closer look at our recruiting."

"We had a great time last year and enjoyed all the questions we received and are looking forward to another great night."

Stockstill used the night as a springboard to introduce the new members of his coaching staff, including new cornerbacks and special teams coach Steve Ellis.

Ellis takes the position at MT after serving six seasons

at Nicholls State. He served positions as defensive coordinator and supervisor

staff," Ellis said. "He is known across the country as a great teacher and

**"It's just a great chance for our fans to be more involved with the program and get a closer look at our recruiting."**

**RICK STOCKSTILL**  
HEAD COACH, MIDDLE TENNESSEE FOOTBALL

of academic progress, and also had a hand in coaching safety and linebackers.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to be a part of Rick Stockstill's

recruiter, and I am glad to be a member of his staff as I look to expand my knowledge as a coach and recruiter."

Also new to the staff is

offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Tony Franklin. He replaces G.A. Mangus, who held the same positions for the last three seasons.

"We are excited to have Tony joining our staff," Stockstill said. "I know he can help us expand our offensive philosophy while bringing a lot of energy and enthusiasm to that side of the ball."

Franklin comes to MT after coaching positions at Auburn and fellow Sun Belt conference team Troy.

All other members of

the coaching staff, both new and returning, were positioned throughout the room to answer questions ranging from inquiries of the new coaches, to the recruiting process, to why the newest Blue Raiders decided to come to Murfreesboro.

Due to NCAA rules, none of the 23 new recruits were allowed to attend the Roundup. But all who attended the night came out with a fresh perspective on Blue Raider football and a positive outlook on the 2009 season.

## Blue Raiders prepare for SBC battle

Men's basketball travels to second place Troy with much on the line

By ZACH REVES  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Blue Raider men's basketball team will look for a triumphant return to Sun Belt Conference play on the road against a very dangerous Troy team at 7 p.m. tonight.

The contest could easily be MT's most important game so far this season.

Troy is the hottest team in the Sun Belt right now, having won the last eight games in a row and 10 of their last 11. The Trojans also boast a formidable 8-2 record at home. But to MT, none of that matters, as the Blue Raiders will be fighting for their conference lives.

MT (8-4 Sun Belt) ranks third in the conference, one slot behind the 10-3 Trojans. A win would raise the Blue Raiders right back into contention, while a loss might create a hole too large to climb out of.

MT is coming off a dominant offensive performance last Saturday against Houston Baptist (3-21), a non-conference team. The boys in blue pulled off an 89-77 victory with junior forward Desmond Yates leading the way with 32 points.

For the season, Yates leads the team in scoring with 18 points per game. He also contributes 4.9 rebounds a game. Backing him up is the talented and experienced backcourt of seniors Demetrius Green and Kevin Kanaskie. Green pro-

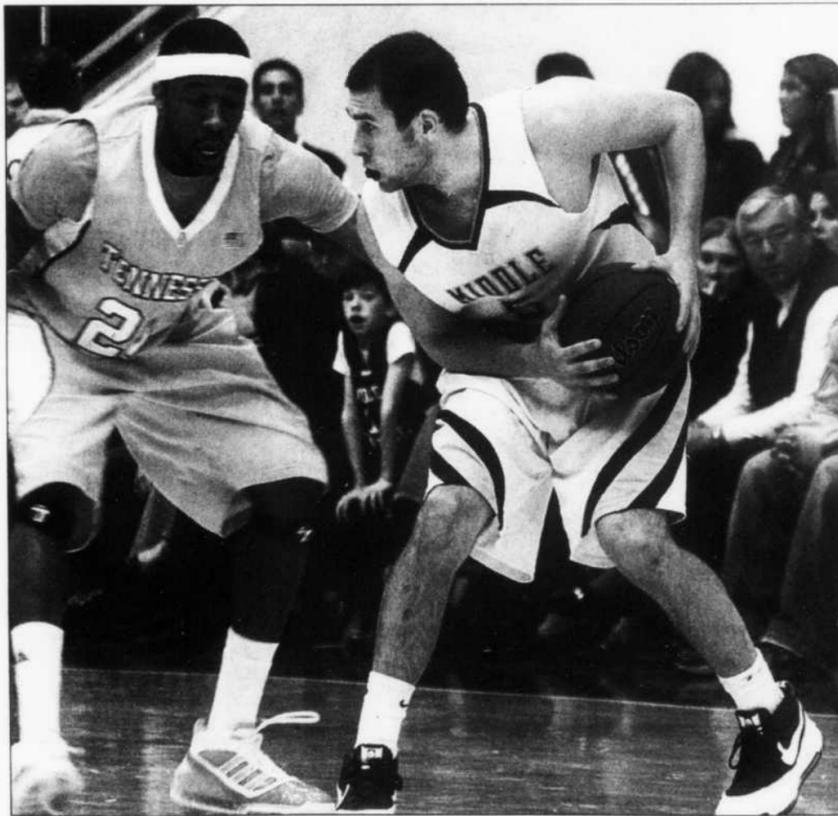


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Kevin Kanaskie protects the ball from a Tennessee defender in the Murphy Center.

vides MT with 11.9 points per game while Kanaskie distributes the ball around with his team-high 4.4 assists a game.

However, despite their high-powered offense, MT has been struggling with their defense on the opposite side of the court. In their last two games against Houston Baptist and Denver, the Blue Raiders have allowed their opponent to shoot 46 and 57 percent from the floor respectively.

Troy will put the Blue Raider defense to the test tonight as they score an average of 77.9 points per contest. The Trojans haven't scored less than 75 points in their last four outings. In their last contest, Troy achieved a 78-63 victory over Florida Atlantic.

Guards Brandon Hazard and Richard Delk lead the Trojans on offense, scoring 15.2 and 14.0 points per game. At the point, Michael Vogler is

Troy's version of Kanaskie with his astonishing 5.8 assists per game. The rest of the Trojan team is balanced in scoring ability, giving them lots of ways to attack, including a strong amount of support off the bench.

Following tonight's 7 p.m. game at Troy, the Blue Raiders will make their way back to Murfreesboro Saturday night against Sun Belt rival North Texas at 5 p.m.

## Malina brings growth to MT, youth sports

By ZACH REVES  
Assistant Sports Editor

Visiting speaker Robert Malina from the University of Texas at Austin will give a free lecture entitled "Youth Sports for All and the Elite" in the State Farm Lecture Hall tonight at 7 p.m.

Malina, who holds doctoral degrees in physical education and anthropology, is considered one of the world's foremost authorities in children's physical growth and development. Now he brings his knowledge to Middle Tennessee.

"Malina knows all about growth and maturation, especially when it comes to sports," said Don Morgan, the MT director of the Center for Physical Activity and Health in Youth, who is sponsoring Malina's visit.

"He'll explain the importance of participating in youth sports as a lifetime activity for both casual and elite athletes."

Malina has worked extensively with youth in a multitude of sports including swimming, diving, gymnastics, track and field, and football. Recently, he has been researching growth in American foot-

ball as it deals with injury risk and maturity assessment.

In addition, Malina is actively researching the growth and maturity of youths in soccer.

"Malina researches functional capacities of youth, talent identification and risks inside the sport of soccer," Morgan said. "Right now, he works with soccer clubs in Portugal, Spain, Italy and Belgium in those respects."

For his research, Malina has achieved several professional awards, including the Citation Award from the American College of Sports Medicine and the Honor Award from the North American Society for Pediatric Exercise Medicine. He also served as editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Human Biology, and he serves on the editorial boards of 15 journals in the sport sciences.

Malina will give his lecture in room S102 of the Business and Aerospace Building. This lecture will mark the first of four upcoming guests in the Center for Physical Activities' "Distinguished Lecturer" series to promote physical activity and fitness in Tennessee youth.



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor  
Chelsia Lymon and Alysha Clark put pressure on the Kentucky Wesleyan College offense in the Murphy Center.

**BASKETBALL**  
FROM PAGE 7

throughout almost all of the game, and despite the obvious fatigue, scored again and again.

Troy began to extinguish their timeouts as early as 12:52 in the second half. But constant substitutions and team timeouts did nothing to help the Lady Trojans score.

MT, on the other side of the court, only started to sub with less than five minutes remaining, bringing in sophomore guard Anne Marie Lanning.

The game finally wound down with a barrage of MT scoring. Brown and Clark were the only factors in the last two minutes of the game, scoring six points between them.

The game concluded

“They have a really athletic ball club and we talked about playing really good team defense instead of just individual defense. They have a better team than what they showed tonight. So I’m really happy with the way the kids played.”

**RICK INSELL**  
HEAD COACH, MIDDLE TENNESSEE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

with a defensive rebound by Queen. The Lady Raiders stopped the clock with a 75-50 decision.

The Lady Raiders maintained their perfect inter-conference record and added to their winning streak, already the fourth longest in the nation. The Ladies have now been undefeated in the past sixteen

games.  
The Lady Raiders will play again this Sunday against fellow SBC team North Texas. MT will host the Pink Zone game to raise money for breast cancer, auctioning off the limited edition pink jerseys directly following the game. Tip off for the game is at 1:00 p.m. in the Murphy Center.

**ACADEMIC**  
FROM PAGE 2

The maximum number of credit hours students would be allowed to take would change to 15 from 18. Assuming that a student took 15 hours per semester, he or she would graduate in eight terms or two years and two terms, the report said.

“Another thing we’re looking at is Web-assisted learning,” Perry said.

The report offers suggestions similar to the Tennessee Board of Regents Business Model proposed last November regarding online classes.

The suggestions include courses being administered strictly online, Web-assisted courses and six-week online “mini” sessions.

The mini sessions would be primarily online-based and would meet once a week for five weeks of “instruction” before having one week set aside for exams.

“Classroom utilization would increase,” the report said of mini sessions. “Accelerated classes would help recruit adult, working students.”

MTSU would become “more competitive” and “headcount and tuition”

would increase, the report said of mini sessions.

Eliminating Friday classes would “reduce energy costs,” the report said.

“That was intended as an energy saving method initially,” Perry said. “The problem is, after reviewing, it doesn’t save that much money.”

Summer classes that do not generate revenue due to low enrollment could be eliminated, the report said, adding that MTSU lost more than \$300,000 of its summer school profits last summer.

“Summer school at MTSU is profitable, but those courses that were low-enrollment courses took away from the university’s profits,” said Charles Baum, chairman of the working group pertaining to academics.

Classes at the 1000 and 2000 levels would be required to have at least 15 students, 3000 and 4000 level classes would be required to have at least 10 students, and graduate classes would be required to have eight students, Perry said.

To read more, visit us online.



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**BREDESEN**  
FROM PAGE 2

Bredesen said that the result of tuition increase might cause some students to abandon the dream of college.

“It’s time now to fix that,” Bredesen said.

Bredesen asked the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents to step outside the box and work with him and the General Assembly to come up with a solution to keep higher education affordable.

“There is no question that tuition will have to go up as a result of these devastating cuts that we are experiencing, but I am not expecting that tuition will replace the cuts,” McPhee said.

Bredesen said that since the U.S. House of Representatives has passed its version of the stimulus bill, students can expect to know what help is forthcoming around the third week of February.

“It is clear that we will have a substantial amount of money to help soften the blow of this economy on state government,” Bredesen said.

Bredesen said he agreed not to submit “a pain-

ful budget” that would change substantially.

“We plan to wait until the federal government acts, and then fashion a budget that incorporates the effects of that stimulus package,” Bredesen said.

Upon receipt of the federal government’s plan, Bredesen said he would submit Tennessee’s budget three to four weeks later.

Bredesen said that is important for the state to remember that the “stimulus money” is for one time only.

“Please let me make it clear that no proposed version of the stimulus bill is any panacea or silver bullet. Substantial cuts are still needed under any circumstances,” Bredesen said.

While other states may use the money to push their economic problems back for two years, Tennessee will not do that, Bredesen said.

“We will recognize the money we receive as temporary help and present a multi-year outline for how we will use these funds to ease the transition from current spending levels to what we anticipate for 2011 and beyond,” Bredesen said.

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