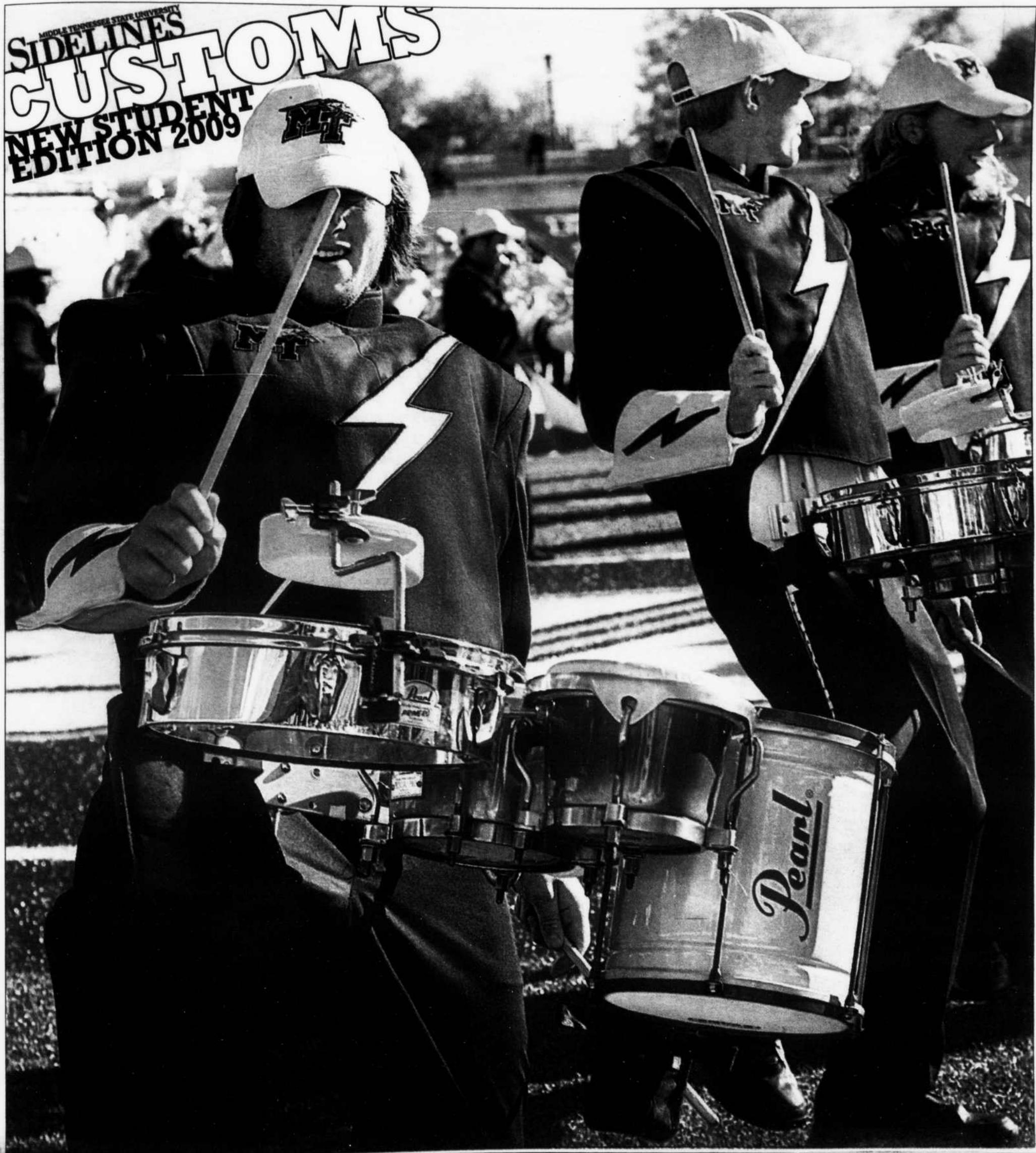


MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
**SIDELINES**  
**CUSTOMS**  
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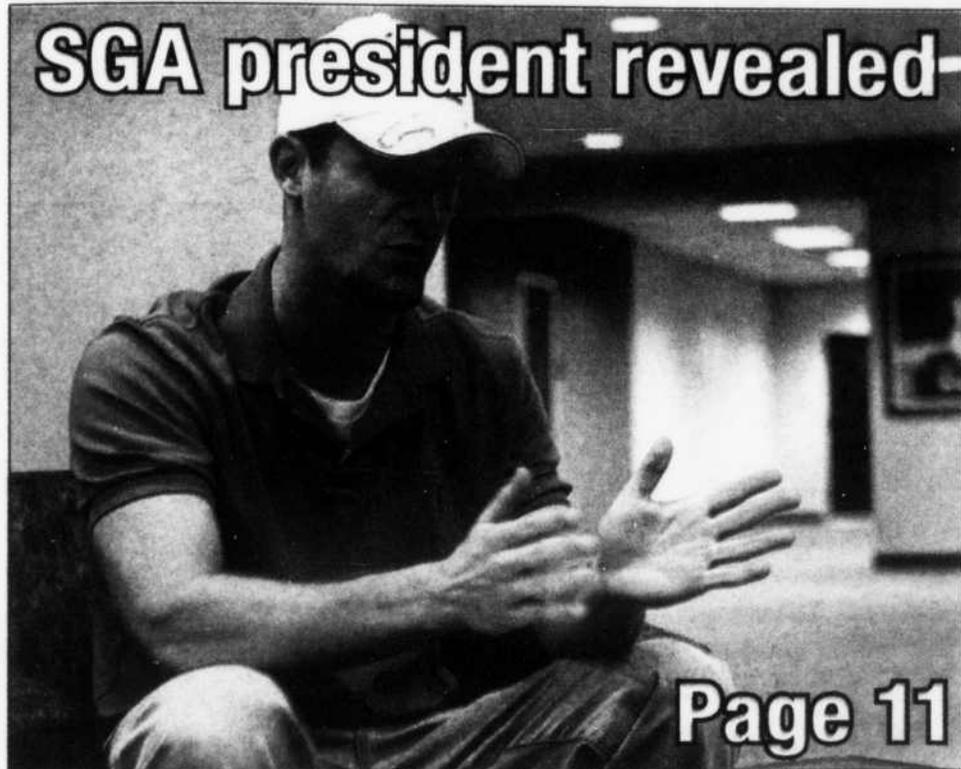
# CUSTOMS

## NEW STUDENT EDITION 2009

Cover photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor  
Cover design by Alicia Wilson, production manager



### SGA president revealed



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Sidelines sat down with Brandon McNary, Student Government Association president, to talk about budget cuts, MTSU's administration and the future of the SGA.



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### Kaylene Gebert steps down

Executive vice president and provost of Academic Affairs leaves position to return as a full-time professor in the Department of Speech and Theatre.

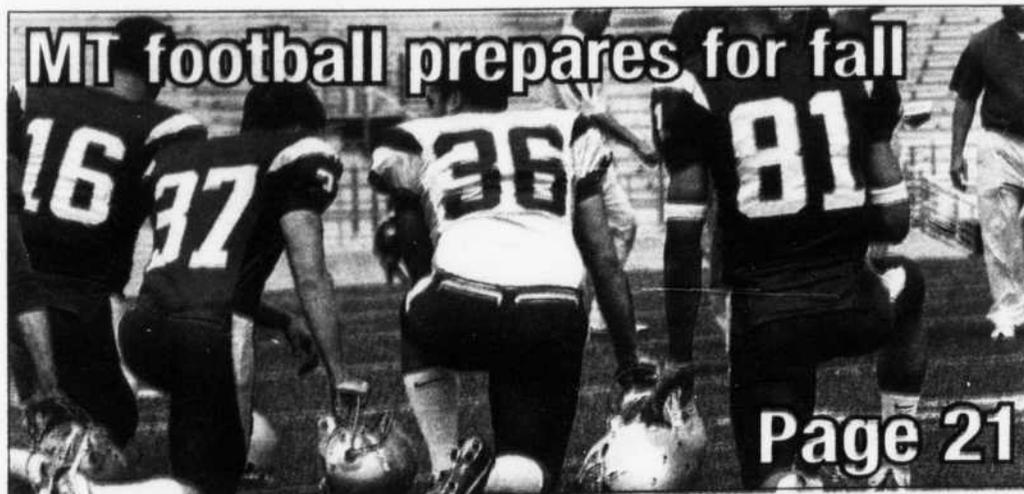
Road construction to come to an end **9**

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**17** The pros and cons of MTSU

### MT football prepares for fall



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Byron Lightsy & Katy Riddle, Coordinators of Greek Affairs – <http://www.mtsu.edu/~greeks/>

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- Rep Your Roots Day
- Hispanic Heritage Month

### **International Programs & Services**

Dr. Tech Wubneh, Director of International Programs & Services – <http://www.mtsu.edu>

- Welcome Week project
- November is International Month

### **June Anderson Women's Center**

Terri Johnson, Director of June Anderson Women's Center – <http://www.mtsu.edu/~jawc/>

- Gender Circles
- Our Friends: Our Selves Book club

### **Leadership & Service – <http://www.mtsu.edu/~mtleader/leadandservice/>**

Jacqueline Victory, Director of Leadership & Service – <http://www.mtsu.edu/~camporgs/>

- Lightning Leadership
- WE-Haul
- Volunteer Fair
- Student Organization Fair

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Dr. Carol Ann Baily, Director of Off-Campus Services – <http://www.mtsu.edu/~ocss/>

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- Open House

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Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Fraternities and sororities are preparing for to recruit incoming students in the fall. Meanwhile, the search for a director for the Office of Greek Affairs has yet to be filled.

# Greeks prepare for future

By EMMA EGLI  
Assistant News Editor

With the position of Greek Life Director still vacant, the Office of Greek Affairs plans to host events and recruit incoming students in an attempt to increase the number of members in fraternities and sororities.

The Greek community hosted numerous events during the fall and spring semesters that not only brought MTSU students and the community together, but raised thousands of dollars for their philanthropic organizations.

One of the biggest philanthropic events was Kappa Delta's sixth annual "Wing Fling," an event that raised more than \$18,000 for the organization Prevent Child Abuse in America.

Danny Kelley, dean of Student Life, said joining a Greek organization provides some great opportunities to participate in community service projects.

"Over the past year, Greeks have raised several thousand dollars to support events such as the upcoming Habitat for Humanity builds," Kelley said.

Other community-wide events included the PanHellenic Easter Egg Hunt, which brought out more than 1,000 participants, and the National Panhellenic Council's Step Show, which has been the highest attended student-run event during Homecoming for several years.

Edgard Izaguirre, a junior business major and member of Alpha Tau Omega, said many members of sororities or fraternities are attracted to particular organizations because of their national and local philanthropies.

"The community service part is what attracted me most," Izaguirre said. "Our fraternity recruits guys who are good at heart and who are willing to make a change for the better within the community."

Many organizations won awards during the past school year, including Sigma Nu, which won Most Improved Chapter, Outstanding Risk Reduction Programming and Outstanding Public Relations awards.

Brandon McNary, the Student Government Association president and former president of Sigma Nu, said its biggest accomplishment was getting its charter back after hazing allegations in 2007.

McNary, who is currently vice president of the Interfraternity Council for recruitment, said he hopes Sigma Nu will continue to have good public relations and represent Greek life in a positive way.

"This year, we focused on raising funds for our local philanthropy, the Multiple Sclerosis Walk," McNary said. "We plan on focusing on recruitment in the fall to continue to have our numbers increase and continue to have our members be involved in various areas on campus."

Erin Johnson, a junior mass communication major and current president of Alpha Omicron Pi, said during the fall recruitment process, her sorority will focus on new members to make sure they become familiar with current members of the organization.

"When you go through recruitment, you're going to pick a sorority that you feel is most like you," Johnson said. "When you are with girls who share the same ideas, you know you are going to get along well."

While many stereotypes are associated with Greek organizations, McNary said the typecast of Greeks partying and paying for friendships aren't true.

"Aside from the whole social aspect of it, you learn various values that you can carry with you forever," McNary said.

Johnson said incoming students who don't know how to get involved on campus can join a Greek organization to branch out and meet new people.

"Your sorority is like a family full of girls who are always there for you," Johnson said. "It's a whole different level of loyalty than I've ever experienced."

Kelley said there are numerous positive aspects in joining a Greek organization, however there is one major downside to joining one.

"Someone looking to join one must consider the time commitment in-

involved," Kelley said.

Johnson said she felt overwhelmed when she first joined Alpha Omicron Pi because of all the events her sorority was involved with.

"It's definitely a crash course in time management," Johnson said. "But in the long run, it makes you a better person and teaches you how to get involved and utilize your time wisely."

Recruitment begins in the fall and Debra Sells, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment and Academic Services, said Greek Affairs plans continue its search for someone to fill the position of director of Greek Affairs.

"We want to have that position filled by the fall," Sells said. "We have a large Greek population on campus, and our intention is to make sure we are fully staffed."

Sells said that because of the current budget situation, they must follow certain procedures set by Human Resources to get approval by the vice president or president in order to post the open position.

"Once we get permission to post it, we will look for qualified folks and hopefully have the spot filled as soon as we can," Sells said.

For more information on MTSU's Office of Greek Affairs and how to register for fall recruitment, visit [mtsu.edu/greeks](http://mtsu.edu/greeks).

Open forum ends in students' protest; McPhee responds  
*Opinions, page 4*

MON  
66°/50°

TUES  
60°/45°

WED  
67°/44°

MT baseball takes series against Florida International  
*Sports, page 7*

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2009

VOL. 85, NO. 23

## Tornadoes tear through Rutherford County



Photo by Maggie McLean, contributing photographer  
A house in Murfreesboro stands severely damaged after tornadoes hit Murfreesboro Friday. This house is just one of the 519 structures damaged or affected by tomadic activity that left the city reeling in its aftermath.

By RYAN WILKES  
*Opinions Editor*

A series of tornadoes ripped through north Murfreesboro Friday, April 10, causing massive damage to residential and industrial areas while injuring dozens and killing two.

One tornado tore down Medical Center Parkway before changing directions, traveling down Thompson Lane and Broad Street prior to moving through the Riverview Community and the Tomahawk Trace area, where it proceeded to devastate the Compton Road area.

"We responded at approximately 12:40 to about 59 calls," said Randy White, Rutherford County Emergency Medical Services public information officer. "We transported approximately 35 patients. Out of those 35 patients [there were] 7 critical patients, and we also had 2 DOA [dead on arrival] patients."

According to White, Kory Bryant and her 9-week-old daughter Olivia were found dead outside of their residence, apparently attempting to get into a car. The child was found in a car seat.

"I looked out my window

and saw it," Murfreesboro resident Roger Daniels said. "It was full of wood and furniture and stuff. It was just dancing."

The twisters destroyed numerous houses and businesses as they forged a corridor through roads, neighborhoods and other properties.

Sightings of the tornadoes vary from witnesses, but police confirmed the funnels touched down in several places.

"We believe we had at least two confirmed touchdowns in the county area, possibly as many as four," said Sgt. Dan Goodwin of the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office. "We had reported touchdowns all the way from Rockville in the southeastern part of the county out to Milton, which is in the northeast part of the county."

Goodwin also stated that at least three dozen homes were destroyed or damaged in the county.

"My son ran in and said 'Mom, look out the window,'" said Jennifer Farley, a Mary Kay sales director who lives on Tomahawk Trace. "We got in the closet, and we could just feel the pressure in our ears and the house. We were pray-



Photo by Maggie McLean, contributing photographer  
A Murfreesboro family surveys destruction wrought by the storm.

ing the whole time."

Designscape, Stampede Dance Hall and Soloon and, Inolap Pallet and Crating Incorporated were just some of the businesses that incurred damage from Friday's storms. "I left here about 15 minutes before it hit," said Diane Delk, owner of Designscape. "I'm numb right now. We're just waiting for the insurance company to get here and see what happens next."

Traffic came to a standstill as droves of people filled the roads trying to get to various parts of town in the after-

math.

"I watched as one guy stopped in the middle of the road and tried to turn around," said Ronald Wilkinson of Rich Products Corporation. "Sightseeing freaks are coming out here all day, and police and firemen can't get around them."

Police and EMS response time was delayed due to the voluminous amount of traffic on roads surrounding the affected areas.



Photo by Maggie McLean, contributing photographer  
Many of the houses on Tomahawk Trace were destroyed on Friday.

TORNADOES, PAGE 3

## Rutherford County homeless granted basic needs

By DUSTIN EVANS  
*Staff Writer*

In the midst of a controversial stimulus package, Congressman Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., announced that Rutherford County has been awarded \$80,139 as a grant to aid people without food or shelter on April 9.

Gordon said that the grant, a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, comes at a time when homelessness and hunger have significantly increased in Middle

Tennessee.

"I am confident that grants like this, in addition to the job creation components and federal grant programs that received funding from the Recovery Act, will pull Middle Tennessee and the rest of the country out of this recession and back on the track of economic prosperity," Gordon said in a news release.

The Nashville Homeless Power Project stated on its Web site that since 2007, the city of Nashville has al-

**“The money allocated today will help expand Rutherford’s existing programs.”**

BART GORDON  
CONGRESSMAN, D-TENN.

ready benchmarked funding to develop 200 units of housing for the homeless a year before the grant.

The NHPP Web site also stated they had previously asked for \$2.3 million for 200 units to build during 2007-08, the city budget

was only able to allocate \$800,000, which was still able to produce 60 units of shelter.

Gordon said that this grant will be able to assist projects like the NHPP that exist in Rutherford County.

"The money allocated today will help to expand Rutherford's existing program," Gordon said. "Not only can the funds be used for food and shelter purposes, but they can also be used to provide one-month assistance with rent, mortgage and utility payments to prevent evictions, and transition assistance from shelters to stable living conditions."

Gordon said that the funds were allocated by a formula that took current population, unemployment

and poverty into account.

Gordon also said that this funding from the ARRA provided funding to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program. The ESFP's goals are to provide funding to the "neediest areas," to respond quickly, and to maintain accountable reporting.

For more information on Rutherford County's grant, you can contact United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties at 893-7303.

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Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Construction around campus will continue through the summer in an effort to finish projects before fall.

## On campus construction continues through summer

By BRYCE HARMON  
Staff Writer

Throughout MTSU's summer sessions, some underground plumbing and electrical construction may affect student's pathways across campus.

According to Tom Tozer, director of News and Public Affairs, there are no planned road blockages on campus this summer, but some equipment such as bulldozers, tow-trucks and safety-fencing will be around. He added these may act as potential "hold-ups" for students moving through the area.

"Most of it is infrastructure work [that's] pretty invisible to the eye," Tozer said. "They're finishing the elevator systems in the Stark Agricultural Building and the fire-alarm systems in the Murphy Center."

Continuance of the underground electrical work at the James Union Building's parking lot next to the campus' Faulkinberry entrance is scheduled along with some sewer maintenance in the parking lot next to the James E. Walker Library.

Renovations are near completion in Jim Cummings Hall, which was closed this past school year, and are set to be finished this summer. Renovation on Corlew Hall is scheduled to start immediately after the construction in Cummings.

"They're basically going in to install new windows, new bathroom fixtures and the sprinkler systems

they've been working on over several years," Tozer said. "Corlew will probably be closed this next academic year, but will be finished by the next summer."

Tozer said the construction on Corlew will include McCallie Dining Hall as well. The Veteran's Memorial Wall near the dormitories will also be finished after the lettering is engraved.

According to Tozer, funding for the renovations comes from bonds and student fees. Federal funds will provide the extra revenue needed for the work on Cummings and Corlew.

"No new buildings will go up because of the recent budget situation," Tozer said.

Tozer said MTSU has contracted local firms around the Rutherford and Davidson county areas to take on these two campus construction projects.

"[The firms] specialize in different things," Tozer said. "The student body doesn't get involved in it very much." Scotty Williamson, a senior journalism major, said he hopes that construction at MTSU "doesn't turn into a headache."

"I'm taking a class in May," Williamson said. "[The construction] hopefully won't make it that hard for kids to get around, and it surely won't be as crowded with people during the summer."

For further information on campus construction, contact Campus Planning at 898-2411.

# Gebert steps down to teach

Diane Miller appointed as interim provost

By TIFFANY GIBSON  
Managing Editor

Diane Miller, vice provost for Academic Affairs, will take on the additional role of interim provost on May 11 due to Kaylene Gebert's decision to step down and become a full-time professor.

"I'm honored to accept President [Sidney] McPhee's invitation to serve MTSU as the interim provost and appreciate his confidence in my ability to take on this responsibility," Miller said. "I appreciate the leadership Gebert has provided Academic Affairs for the past six years and wish her continued success and happiness in her role as a member of the faculty."

Miller will serve as interim until a permanent replacement is found, McPhee said.

"We will start in the fall and do some interviewing of candidates," McPhee said. "I will put together a university committee to review those candidates for me and make some recommendations with regards to the candidates."

McPhee said he hopes to have a new provost appointed by the spring of 2010.

"I have no hesitation or concerns at all that we will attract very strong candidates for this position," McPhee said. "This is a very important position, and it's an excellent university."

Before coming to MTSU, Gebert served as a faculty member at Louisiana State University, provost at the University of North Alabama and worked on both the Tennessee Board of Regents and the Pennsylvania State Regents System of Higher Education.

"I made the decision, and the president agreed with me that it's time for me to take a new role at the university and become a professor," Gebert said. "If you look at my resume, every four or five years I change and do something different."

Gebert said that she loves working as an administrator but misses the joys of teaching students in the classroom. In the fall, she said she would like to teach an introductory speech class in the Department of Speech and Theatre.

Gebert graduated from Hanover College with a double major in English and speech and theater. She said she got her master's degree at Cornell University and attended Indiana Uni-

versity to get her doctorate in historical and contemporary communications.

"I really am looking forward to getting back to the classroom," Gebert said. "If you look at my career, I do something and I really like it, but then I'm looking for the next thing that I can do."

McPhee said there have been significant accomplishments at the university because of Gebert's leadership as chief academic officer.

"Six or seven years ago, we were bringing in more than \$6 million in external research grants, [and] today, that [number] is more than \$40 million," McPhee said. "Our graduation rate, which directly relates to what happens in the classroom, has gone from ranking No. 3 in the board of regents system to ranking No. 1."

In addition to helping with increasing the graduation rate, Gebert said she is also interested in educating students in the community.

"I brought the American Democracy Project with me when I came," Gebert said. "A number of faculty in their courses bring in ideas and focus on what we call 'civic engagement,' which is focusing on students not only becoming well prepared in their discipline and skill, but also what we are trying to do in higher education is educate citizens."

This year, the ADP held several events, including the reading of the Constitution in the middle of The Quad and trying to get students to register to vote in the 2008 election.

Gebert said that even though she will miss the position of provost, there are perks about having a flexible schedule.

"I have a 7-year-old granddaughter that I don't nearly get to see enough of," Gebert said. "She lives in New Orleans, so I think that's another thing I will be able to do."

McPhee said that a lot of administrators have the same idea as Gebert and return to teaching or retire altogether.

"The job at a university this size is very demanding, and a number of administrators decide over a period of time that they want to slow things down and not continue to grind off a day-to-day administrative position," McPhee said. "I understand her decision to slow down and become part of the faculty."

# CURRENT EVENTS

## The Twilight of the Golds Presented by the Murfreesboro Little Theatre

Sunday, May 10 at 2 p.m.

Friday, May 15 to Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 17 at 2 p.m.

Admission: \$5 for children and seniors, \$10 for adults

More Information: call 615.893.9825

## Face 2 Face 2009: Elton John and Billy Joel

Saturday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Sommet Center

Admission: \$100+ for general admission

More Information: call 615.770.2000

## Murfreesboro Little Theatre and Out Front Productions to hold- open Auditions for Del Shores' "Daddy's Dyin'...Who's Got The Will"

Roles available for five females  
and three males of varying ages

Monday, May 18 and Tuesday May 19 from  
6-8 p.m.

Location: Murfreesboro Little Theatre

More Information: call 615.869.8617

## Lorien

Featuring Hollywood Kills, Fare-  
well Flight and The Family Tree

Monday, May 21 at 8 p.m.

Location: Exit/In

More Information: call 615.321.3340

## Memorial Day Program

Saturday, May 23 at 1:30 p.m.

Location: Stones River National Battlefield

Admission: Free

More Information: call 615.893.9501

## Drive By Truckers

Thursday, June 4 at 9:30 p.m.

Location: 527 Main Street

Admission: \$25

More Information: visit [myspace.com/club527](http://myspace.com/club527)

## 7th Annual Juneteenth Celebra- tion and Street Festival Food, live entertainment, shop- ping and fellowship with the Murfreesboro community

Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural  
Arts Center

Admission: Free

More Information: call 615.335.9416

## Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour of Stones River Na- tional Cemetery

Saturday, June 6, Saturday, June 20, Satur-  
day, July 11, Saturday, July 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 8 at 7:15 p.m. and Satur-  
day August 22 at 7 p.m.

Location: Stones River National Cemetery

Admission: Free

More information: Reservations required, call

615.893.9501

## Coldplay Featuring Snow Patrol

Saturday, June 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Sommet Center

Admission: \$50+ for general admission

More Information: call 615.770.2000

## Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival

Thursday, June 11 until Sunday, July 14

Location: Great Stage Park, Manchester Tenn.

Admission: general admission \$224-250

More Information: visit [bonnaroo.com](http://bonnaroo.com)

## International Folkfest 2009: International dance groups per- forming for area schools, youth, senior citizen organizations and civic clubs

Sunday, July 14 to Sunday, July 21

More Information: contact Steve Cates at

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# Road openings may alleviate traffic



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Traffic on campus is sometimes congested due to road construction, but, according to Parking and Transportation Services, all road construction will be completed over summer break.

## Parking and Transportation Services to complete projects over break

By **DUSTIN EVANS**  
Assistant Production Manager

Construction from this past semester on parking lots and roads is scheduled to be completed during summer break.

Nancy Weatherly, manager of Parking and Transportation Services, said that students will have access to all roads after the completion of the campus-wide underground electrical project, as well as construction to Alumni Drive and various parking lots on campus.

"I have been in the university for 30 years, and I have been in parking for 26 of those years," Weatherly said. "Things have gotten a whole lot better."

Weatherly said that MTSU's ratio of parking spaces to students is above the national average.

"The average is 4.9, and we have a ratio of 6.2 spaces per student," Weatherly said. "With our 11,000-plus parking spaces, we have never been totally full."

Amber McKellar, a senior broadcast journalism major, said she is looking forward to an easy summer after commuting to commuting to MTSU.

"I have to make sure I get to class 20 to 30 minutes before because parking is very hard to do on MTSU's campus," McKellar said. "When you live on campus, you don't have to worry about moving your car. But when you are trying to get to class on time, you have to get to campus earlier."

MTSU is also working on some advancements in campus access and the timeliness of the Raider Express routes.

"One thing we are trying to do is get the designated bus lanes so we can get the students to their classrooms quicker," Weatherly said. "The bus won't be sitting in traffic - [it] will be able to stay in [its] lane."

Weatherly said that Parking and Transportation Services will be attending Customs to assist incom-

ing students and their families with questions or concerns.

"Ride around campus and get your bearings and try and figure out where the best place is for you to try and park," Weatherly said. "Don't expect to park in the center of campus."

Weatherly said that students living off campus can "save their gas and their frustration if they just park in the outer lots and take the bus."

Weatherly also said that one key thing to keep in mind is that students are not here all of the time.

"We have 23,000 students and 3,000 employees," Weatherly said. "But, with our 11,000-plus parking spaces, we have never ever been totally full."

MTSUparkingsucks.com, which returned in August of 2008, shows an article about Starlett Custer, an MTSU student who allegedly assaulted another student over a parking spot. According to the Web site, its

**“ Ride around campus and get your bearings, and try and figure out where the best place is for you to try and park.”**

**NANCY WEATHERLY**  
PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGER

readers should "turn their violence on Parking Services and Transportation."

"Next time you see that little weasel out there writing tickets, give them your best look," the Web site states.

Weatherly said that while PTS handles complaints, the ticket writers should be treated like any other campus employee.

"They are just students that are doing a job," Weatherly said. "They don't get paid quotas, and they don't have to hide in the bushes."

Weatherly said that even though parking and on-campus transportation is improving, her department will still enforce all rules and regulations of MTSU.

"It's a thing of life - you have to have rules, and we are just a stepping stone on the way," Weatherly said. "Rules have to be followed."

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# Financial Aid switches to direct loans

By FAITH FRANKLIN  
Community News Editor

Starting in the fall, MTSU will offer Stafford and PLUS loans funded by the Federal Direct Loan Program, said David Chambers, associate director for Financial Aid.

MTSU will no longer offer loans through lenders in the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

"We are going with the Direct Program because it's the best thing for our students," Chambers said.

In the past, private and non-profit lenders, sections of FFELP, offered students benefits for borrowing money to fund their education.

"This is the best thing for the students right now because the banks used to offer backend benefits, which may have cost students less overall to get a loan from a bank than it did from the government," Chambers said.

Recent issues in the national credit market and federal subsidy reductions have made it harder for FFELP lenders to offer

students discounts.

"With this credit crisis and Congress changing the rules, the banks can't afford to give students those benefits anymore," Chambers said.

The U.S. Department of Education serves as the lender in the Direct Loan Program, which provides funds for the Stafford and PLUS loans. This means the source for the funds comes directly from the federal government.

"Last year, the banks changed a few of their policies and did not inform the school until the last minute, so I believe that it is best to switch now," Chambers said.

Chambers said that with the current economic climate, statements from Congress and President Barack Obama, Direct Loans are the best and most assured way to go.

Obama's education plan was taken into consideration when Financial Aid Department was making the decision to switch, Chambers said.

In Obama's budget, he wants to eliminate the FFELP program.

Eric Lotke, research director for Cam-

## FINANCIAL AID *Do's and Don't's*

- Do fill out the FAFSA early
- Do check your RaiderNet account
- Do check your e-mails
- Do respond to the e-mails
- Don't procrastinate
- Don't wait to send in required documentation

Graphic by Dustin Evans, assistant production manager

paign for America's Future, which released a report about Obama wanting to end the bank subsidy lending programs, said that students would not receive loan funding from banks under Obama's plan.

"His budget says that we are going to end the bank subsidizing lending program and redirect those funds to the students," Lotke told *Sidelines* in April.

Chambers said if students are going to receive the funds from the Department of Education, "Why not originate the loans there and deal directly with the Department of Education?"

Another reason why MTSU is switching to Direct Loans is because no lenders are offering consolidation loans, Chambers said. The only place a student can consolidate their student loans is through the Department of Education, Chambers added.

Students receiving fund through FDLP are required to complete an entrance interview and sign a Master Promissory Note. The interview gives students basic information about student loans.

Students complete the interview and the MPN in order to confirm their registration for the fall.

"Your loan will be on [RaiderNet] as an offer, but it will not appear on your bill as a credit until we get the promissory note," Chambers said.

Chambers said that the most common mistake that students make is waiting too late to respond to their request for information.

Hyperlinks to complete the entrance interview and sign the MPN are available at Financial Aid's Web site, [mtsu.edu/financialaid](http://mtsu.edu/financialaid).

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# SGA president speaks out

By ALEX MOORMAN  
Campus News Editor

The new president of the Student Government Association, Brandon McNary, spoke to *Sidelines* about budget cuts, unifying the student body and what he hopes for the future of MTSU. McNary officially took office on May 1 and said he hopes, as SGA president, he will be able to unify the campus community.

## How do you feel like you will change SGA as president?

The big issue this year is budget cuts, and so a lot of students are going to be looking toward SGA to get their voice heard. It's not the best circumstances because of the cuts, but it's good for SGA and the student body as a whole, because I think a lot more students will be seeking out the SGA. They will come to us with issues and we can help work on things that are important to them. I want to be a student-first president. I want to be as present as possible and as visible as possible and really hear what the students have to say.

## What most intrigued you about SGA when you first started?

I had fraternity brothers encourage me and tell me it was a great way to give back to the university, and it looked great obviously on your resume. But it was a great way to show you cared. I got involved, and I just really fell in love with it. I love meeting new people, working with students, hearing what they have to say and trying to improve MTSU.

## This year, only around 13 percent of the student body bothered to vote in the SGA elections. Why do you think that is? And how do you feel you are going to get more students involved in the elections?

Thirteen percent is about the same it has been since I came to college. However, the largest voter turnout was for the parking referendum. I just think it's really important that we have enough senators to reach out to people, and we need to partner more with the departments and the deans of each college. We utilize *Sidelines*, and we started really utilizing MTTV. So we are going to continue those next semester. Our student media is very important to us and this university.

## What would you say to students who feel like SGA is made up of solely Greeks?

They are partially right in saying that the SGA is made up of a lot of Greeks. This past year, our Senate, which is the largest part of SGA, was about 50/50. The executive officers ratio was 5-to-2 Greeks to non-Greeks. I encourage everyone to run and have the opportunity to have their voice heard. It all goes through the election process, so everyone has a fair shot to win. It's not swayed toward the Greeks. It just seems that they just want to be involved.

## How do you plan on evening out the population of SGA, or do you think that is important?

We need both viewpoints, so I encourage everyone to get involved. There are plenty of opportunities. I would like to make SGA this next year the best one we've had, and I'd love to have everyone get involved. There's basically no limit to how much you can do in SGA. If the Senate is full, we'll find a spot for you to work on something else.

## How do you feel about the upcoming budget cuts?

It's a tough time for everybody. It's not just MTSU; it's not just Tennessee. A lot of emphasis has been placed on MTSU, and you've seen protests all over campus. I'm glad to see the protests because I'm glad we have students that care. We're getting cut by a large number – \$20 million. But it seems to me we should be taking our fight to the state legislature and letting them know education is important. We should be asking them why they are cutting our budget year after year.

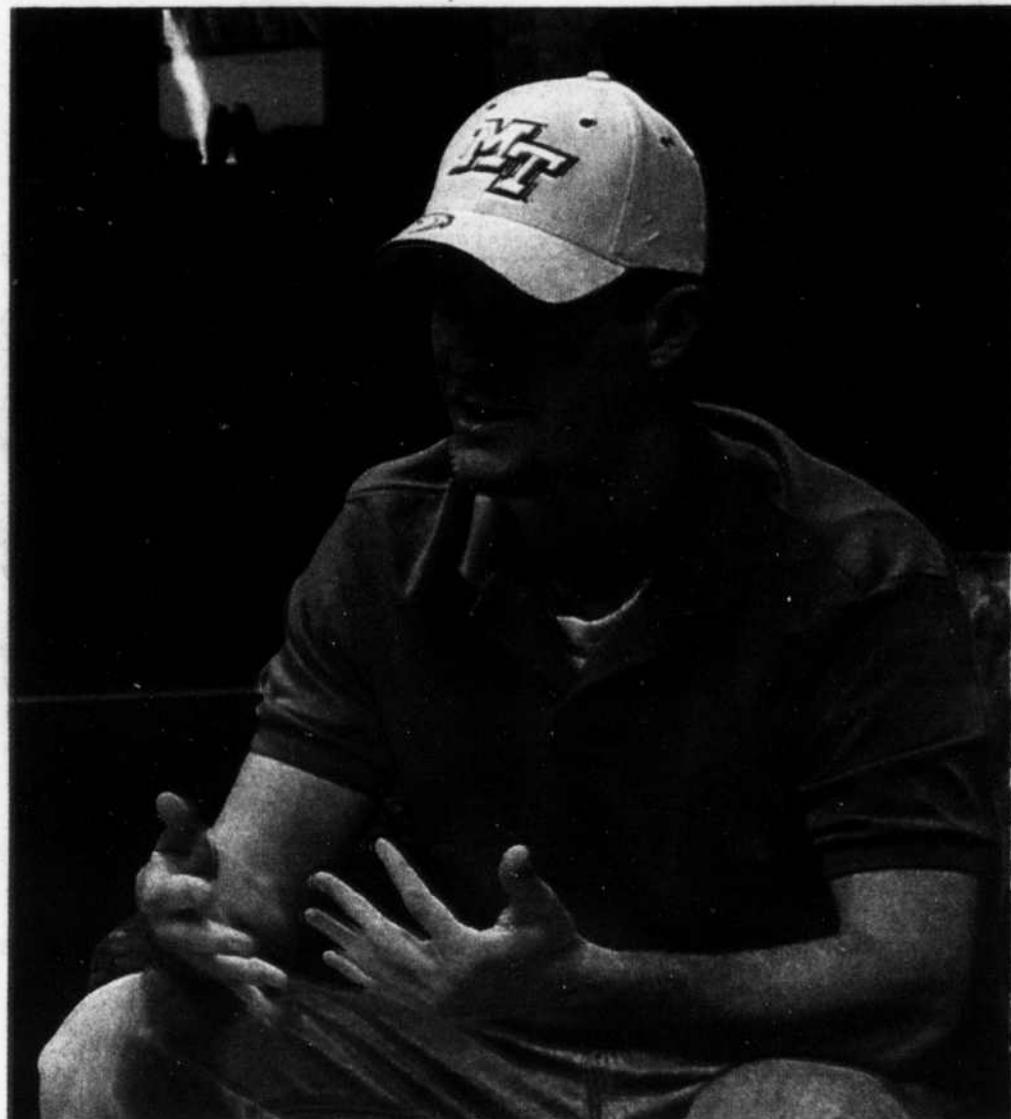


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

SGA President Brandon McNary discusses his plans for his upcoming presidency.

## Do you think that President Sidney McPhee is handling the cuts appropriately?

I think he's done a pretty decent job. He's created the Steering Committee and it has members from departments all over campus – professors, department chairs and other administration. He made it as public a process as possible, and that's all that we can ask for – that the administration keeps us informed.

## Why is it that SGA has done no public outcry to try and save departments at MTSU? If SGA is for the students best interests, then don't you think you should be openly talking about budget cuts whether you bash them or condone them?

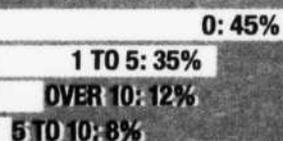
We are not happy about the budget cuts. We understand that people are going to be upset, however we also understand that we are more informed because we keep track of what's going on. We understand that students are going to be upset and we are going to help as much as we can. We have been working on different things like talking to different people, lobbying the state legislature and working with the legislation. We understand that things are going to be cut, and there is not exactly a lot that we can do. The cuts come from the committee, and they get recommended by the university president to TBR [Tennessee Board of Regents], and TBR will then decide whether the cuts are appropriate. It is affecting us all – we are doing what we can. I've been able to give my opinion on a few things, but I understand there is a lot of money that has to be given back.

# MT BY THE NUMBERS

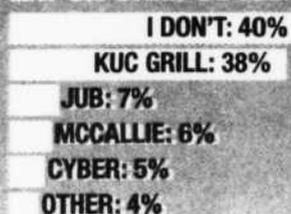
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These results are non-scientific and are from a survey conducted online during the month of April. Approximately 200 MTSU students responded to this survey, which was made available to all students through MTSU's banner system, PipelineMT. The results represent a random sampling of those students who chose to participate and DO NOT represent the opinions of Sidelines or of any of the Sidelines staff.

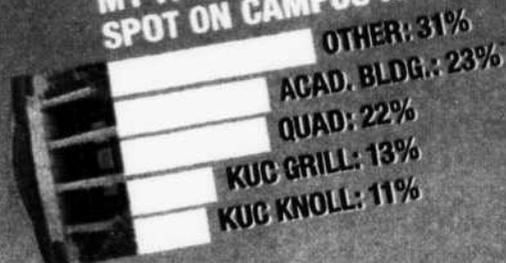
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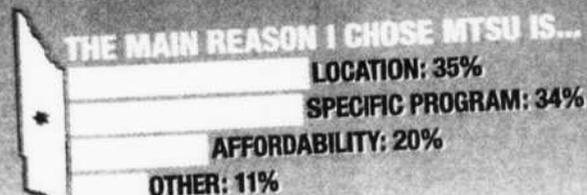
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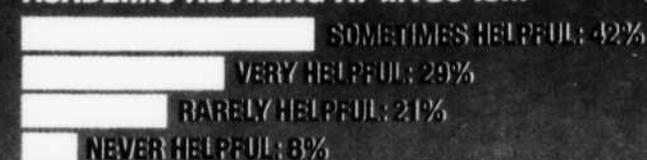
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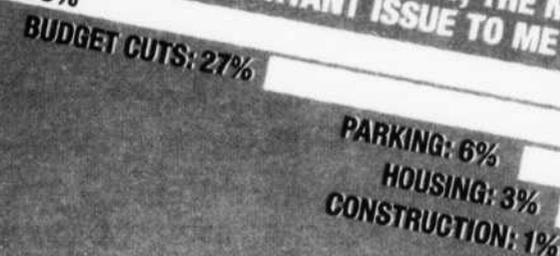
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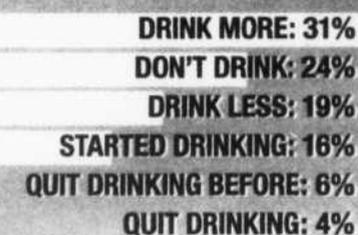
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# FEATURES

## The dos and don'ts of roommates

By BRITTANY KLATT  
Contributing Writer

The scariest part of college for those who plan on moving into a dormitory may not be the exams or the papers but the idea of sharing a room with a stranger.

Stories of dorm roommates who make life miserable haunt some of those who will be moving into the dorms. Some hope that they will not get a nightmarish roommate, and the unlucky few who do know that the semester will be a test of their strength.

Nothing ruins the college experience faster than a bad roommate. However, there are ways you can lessen the chances of having a bad experience.

It is a good idea to contact your roommate during the summer. Try to get to know one another by talking about your habits and hobbies so that you have an idea of what to expect in the fall. Obviously you will have a limited amount of space in your dorm room, so you may want to talk about bunking beds and sharing appliances.

The key to a good relationship with your roommate is compromise. If you are a night owl and you see your roommate is asleep, do not turn on all the lights. If you are a morning person, try laying out your

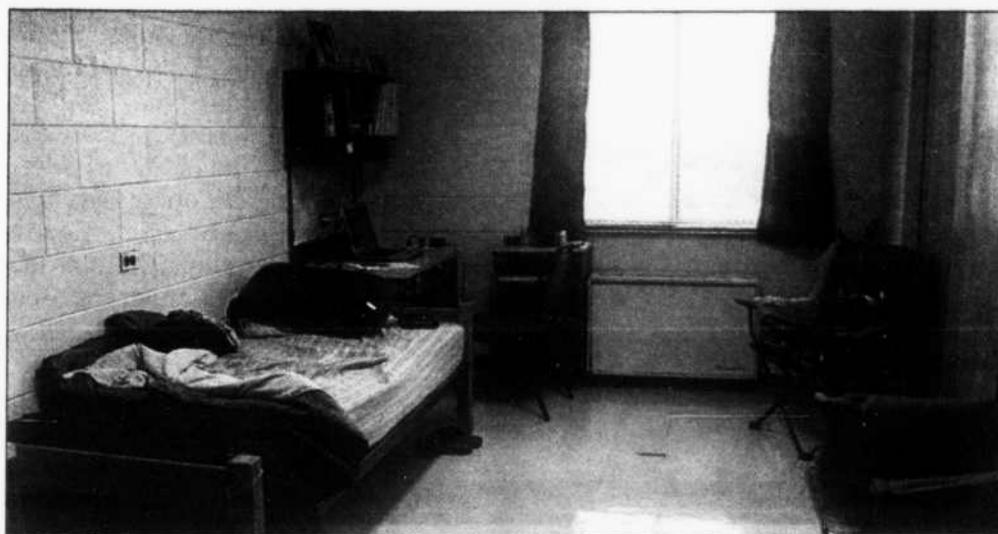


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

For many freshmen who live on campus, the first peer they meet is also their roommate. Living in confined spaces, like in Corlew Hall (above), may lead to friendship or tension.

clothes the night before so you can keep the noise to a minimum. You do not want to be the person sacrificing everything, but you also have to remember that you are sharing the dorm room.

To make sure you both will follow any rules you may have agreed upon, your

**VIDEO:** Students discuss on-campus living

online

[www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com)

resident assistant can help you write up a contract. A contract is useful because it states what your expectations are of one another, and it involves a third party that can help sort out any disagreements.

Unless you know it will not create any tension, do not bring up controversial top-

ics like religion and politics. Remember, you have to live with the person, and the last thing you want is to notice him or her constantly glaring at you.

If nothing else, be considerate of one another. If your roommate is in the room, do not start making out with your boyfriend or girlfriend. For those of you always in the room, give your roommate some privacy every once in awhile and go for a walk or visit the library. Try to respect one another, because no one wants to live in an unfriendly environment.

Despite all of your efforts, you may still end up with a roommate that you dislike. Even if you have a good relationship with your roommate, there may be days where you cannot stand him or her.

In any situation, it is best to be honest with your roommate. If there is something that is frustrating you, let him or her know. In some cases, your roommate may be unaware that you are bothered by his or her actions. When your roommate knows that his or her actions upset you but continues is when you have a problem. If you don't feel comfortable talking to your roommate about your concerns, your RA should be willing to speak to him or her for you.

**ROOMMATES, PAGE 16**

## Off Campus Student Services provides resources Staff helps students adjust to college for those outside dorm life

By JUSTYNE MCCOY  
Contributing Writer

For some students, living off campus is one of the most difficult parts of attending college. Since around 85 percent of MTSU students live off campus, some students may feel disconnected with campus.

Whether you are considered a traditional commuter student or a non-traditional student, Off Campus Student Services can help you manage your college career while living off campus. There are many friendly students, staff and faculty there to assist students.

Since there is only around 3,500 living spaces for students on campus, many MTSU students will have to find housing off campus. The Off Campus Student Services has a Web site, [mtsu.edu/~ocss](http://mtsu.edu/~ocss), that

provides students with the capabilities to search local rental houses and apartments, as well as property for purchase. The Web site not only includes informa-

tion, but also has message boards that allows students to find roommates, carpools and furniture

Off Campus Student Services provides advice to students that may want to lease or have legal questions on how to handle their situations.

Non-traditional adult students may want to join groups like Older Wiser Learners or the Pinnacle Honor Society in order to meet other non-tra-

### Off-Campus Student Services

**Location:** KUC 320  
**Web site:** [mtsu.edu/~ocss](http://mtsu.edu/~ocss)

ditional students with similar lifestyles.

The OWLS meet in the Off Campus Student Service Office and give non-traditional students an opportunity

to mingle with other non-traditional students. OWL students discuss caring for children, working full-time jobs or other serious commitments outside of college.

"OWLS has aided us in staying in school", says Madonna Myers, a senior basic and applied sciences major.

Members of OWLS who have been active in the organization for a few semesters give advice to newer members

on choosing professors and classes. Off-Campus Student Services offers a place for OWLS members to have a quiet area to do class work while they are on campus. Currently, there are 169 students that use the OWLS program to enrich their college experience.

"OWLS has kept me here," says Michelle Merryman, a senior nursing student. "If OWLS was not here, I would go to a community college."

Off Campus Student Services may not be available much longer, for it is at risk for being eliminated in accordance with MTSU's budget cut and restructuring proposal. Many students living off campus may have to find alternate ways to keep up with campus activities and find students with similar life situations if the office is shut down.

# The Devil Wears Prada defies labels

## Ohio-based band talks about touring, playing Christian music

By JESSICA PACE  
Staff Writer

In a small room above Rocketown's basement stage on April 30, hours before The Devil Wears Prada was set to go on, guitarist and vocalist Heremy DePoyster talks about how bands have to work harder than others to sell albums in this day and age.

"For some reason, people think they can have art without paying everyone involved in it. And like with a painting, it's not fair to the artist," DePoyster says. "Within our genre, I think it's a bigger danger than, say, rap, because I feel like there's still a really big buying public for country music and rap and pop.

"Obviously, it's going to be a bigger danger to us than it will be to Justin Timberlake. He's still going to sell tons of CDs."

The unabashedly self-proclaimed Christian band is having little problem selling albums and other merchandise at Rocketown tonight. Hundreds of a wide demographic fill the venue, from skinny middle-school kids to college students with barbells and guyliner, and even some middle-aged fans.

DePoyster says he feels that The Devil Wears Prada is lucky to have a largely youth-oriented fanbase that is willing to buy every new record, vinyl and t-shirt the band puts out. He says he used to be the same way about downloading music, but that there is something about a CD, presented with all its art and packaging, that remains a big deal to him.

"It's just a feeling, you know, unwrapping a CD and putting it in your car and hearing it," he says.

On May 5, The Devil Wears Prada released its second CD, which was recorded earlier this year and was the band's first release through Ferret Music. Titled "With Roots Above and Branches Below," comparisons have been drawn between the current album and the band's last, "Plagues."

"I feel like we went into places we wouldn't have before," DePoyster says. "We did a song with no screaming, and we did a lot of things differently with guitars and choruses and keys. But at the same time, I feel like it's the natural progression of The Devil Wears Prada.

"It's not like, you know, we went crazy with it. It was the natural next step for us to take."

Influences ran across the board in the making of "With Roots Above." DePoyster says it varies for the band members, but they drew from the music of Lamb of God and hardcore bands for breakdowns. Bands like Interpol also had an impact on

guitar parts and cinematic experimentation with keys.

The Devil Wears Prada's 10-song set, complete with an encore, included a cover of Big Tymers' "Still Fly." The band also played multiple tracks from "With Roots Above and Branches Below," including "Assistant to the Regional Manager" and "Dez Moines." Lead vocalist and lyricist Mike Hranica's throaty screams complimented by DePoyster's clearer vocals.

Then, as DePoyster says The Devil Wears

Prada always does, Hranica alluded to the band's Christianity. The "Christian band" label is laden with so many negative connotations, and the mere mention of religion is enough to make plenty of audience members shift uncomfortably.

"I don't think we even really started out like that, but we do kind of label ourselves as a Christian band," DePoyster says. "We try not to be too preachy and not shove things down people's throats. But at the same time, the entire reason for the band

as long as I've been a member is to have that message. Obviously, music is really important and that's a big deal to us, but I feel like the message is the most important thing for all of us."

DePoyster says that for so long, metal has been labeled as a dark genre and associated with rebellion, and that The Devil Wears Prada is almost ironic in the sense that as a Christian band, it rebels against what is deemed "metal."

DEVIL, PAGE 16

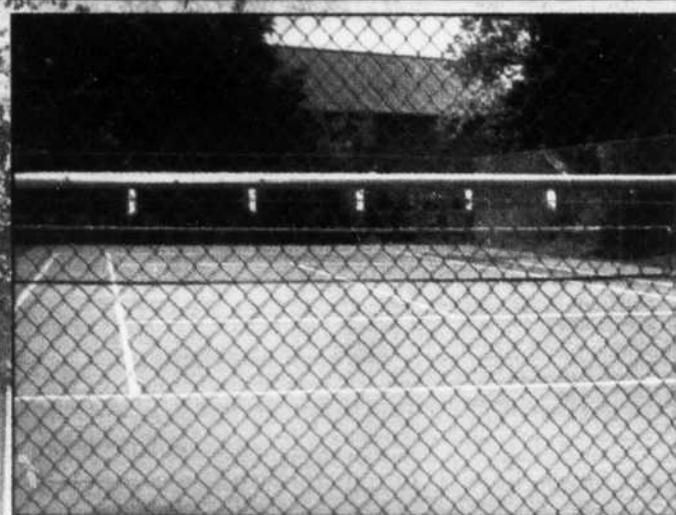
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# Students take advantage of international learning

## Study Abroad programs afford new friends, promote cultures from around the world

By ANDREW SINGLETON  
Contributing Writer

How would you like to spend a semester, or even an entire school year, studying in another country? Student exchange programs might not be news to you, but you might be surprised how easy it is to leave the country and how many of your fellow students have already done so.

According to Open Doors, an organization that studies exchange programs in the United States, nearly 250,000 students studied abroad during the 2006-2007 academic year. More than 3,500 of these students were from Tennessee.

At MTSU, the Study Abroad program offers specific exchanges with several universities worldwide and an even larger number through International Student Exchange Programs (ISEP), a non-profit organization for student exchanges. Programs are usually open to anyone with a GPA of over 2.75. Stu-

dents interested in the program have 38 countries from which to choose.

Students don't only go abroad to learn languages. Kawan Baxter, a senior sociology major, spent his junior year in Japan at Nagoya Gakuin University. He went there after taking a year and a half of Japanese classes.

"I didn't learn as much Japanese as I thought, but I still learned a lot," Baxter says. "And as a sociology major, it was insightful to spend a year in another country's culture."

Clara Rasmussen is a junior liberal arts major at MTSU, but she isn't your typical student. She came from Romania and is studying international relations. As an international student, she's had some unique experiences in the United States, as well as studying abroad in other countries.

"I wanted to experience life and was willing to travel to try and understand the world and expose myself to that," Rasmussen says. "I am now able to see my former

life through a different set of eyes."

Exchange programs aren't usually limited by major, but, naturally, some knowledge of local languages is recommended. If you want to take full advantage of the foreign language curriculum, two years of prior study in these languages is recommended.

Of course, English-speaking countries are available for exchange as well, an option that is open to nearly anyone. However, you don't have to be fluent in a country's language to study there. Many universities offer English language courses for foreign students.

The cost of such a program may seem daunting, but this does not take away from the beauty of the exchange program. The bulk of the cost is handled by literally exchanging with another student. A student pays all of his or her tuition and school fees as if he or she were spending another semester at MTSU, and so does another student at the des-

tinuation university. The two students are essentially switching seats at their respective schools, and school costs are taken care of.

There are other costs to keep in mind, however. Travel expenses and purchasing souvenirs will be your responsibility and, depending on the program, so will room and food.

There are a multitude of scholarships available to students studying abroad in all countries, especially for those students going to learn a language that is in high demand, such as Chinese or Arabic.

Baxter says you can expect to meet a lot of new people while abroad. Baxter says he made friends with not only Japanese people, but with people from all over the world in his dorm for foreign students.

"My best [experience] would be all the friends I met and learned from," Baxter says.

### MTSU's Study Abroad

**Location:**  
Peck Hall 207

**Web site:**  
[mtsu.edu/~mtabroad](http://mtsu.edu/~mtabroad)



**Ronald E. McNair**

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## ROOMMATES FROM PAGE 13

If you are having problems with your roommate, try talking to other people in your dorm. Chances are, there is someone on your floor who is having similar problems and can offer some advice. You might even find a person who is willing to swap rooms with you.

The less time you spend with your roommate, the less likely you are to annoy one another. If you find yourself becoming aggravated with your roommate all the time, try spending less time in the room. Find a club that you would like to join. It's a great way to meet new people and keep busy.

Although it can be tempting, one of the worst things you can do is retaliate against your roommate. All that will happen is that he or she will try to get even, and soon you two will be caught in an endless cycle of revenge. Try talking things out instead. Whenever there is a problem that cannot be solved between the two of you, go to your resident assistant for help.

If all else fails, move into another room or dorm. Housing and Residential Life can help you look at your options. However, there are a few things to consider before you move out.

If you want to move out immediately, you will have little say in which dorm you will be placed. Certain dorms are more expensive than others, so be prepared to pay extra money. You also have to be out of your current room within 24 hours, so you will want to make sure your friends or family are able to help you move.

If you know you don't want to room with the same person next semester but can hang in there for a little while longer, a better option would be to move out at the end of the semester. The chances of getting a room in the dorm you want are much higher, and you will have more time to move your things.

In either situation, you have to understand that there is no guarantee that your next roommate will be any better. There is a chance that you might even get a roommate that is worse than your previous one.

When considering rooming with a friend, think carefully about your decision. It is sometimes harder to share a room with a friend because you are reluctant to say anything that may hurt them. Make sure that the two of you talk about expectations before you make any final decisions.

Sometimes people get lucky and have a roommate that they absolutely love. But for those of you that are not so lucky, look on the bright side: You will have plenty of stories to tell your friends.

## DEVIL FROM PAGE 14

"People just want to see middle fingers and cuss words, and we don't really have that," he says. "But we have a lot of the same sounds. We say something onstage every night, but I think it's really respectful. I hope that as we continue to tour with other kinds of bands, after they see the show or hear the record, people might say, 'Oh, well they are a Christian band, but I don't feel like anything was forced on me.'"

The Rocketown show is one of the last for The Devil Wears Prada's tour with Emarosa, Sky Eats Airplane and A Day To Remember. Last fall, the band toured

with Underoath, a group that DePoyster cites as a great influence for The Devil Wears Prada.

"When we first started this band, Underoath was a really big influence to us," he says. "Since then, I think musically we've come a long way from that and really defined our own sound. But it was awesome to go on tour with them and become friends with them."

"It's just the way they treat other people and fans and other bands on tour."

This summer, the band joins A Day to Remember and Underoath again for another Vans Warped Tour. While DePoyster says that Warped Tour is awesome, he thinks multi-band tours feel almost competitive.

"When you're put at the same time as

another band of your genre, it's kind of like, 'I hope kids come,'" he laughs. "But on a club tour, it's just one lineup, so you know people have to be there to watch you."

Either way, DePoyster thinks that metal and hard rock are genres that are here to stay, sustained by people who are partial to different sounds.

"There's always going to be mainstream genres, and then there's always going to be stuff with a different sound that other people are into," he says. "For whatever reason, different types of music appeal to different types of people."

"And I think metal will continue to grow, because there are a lot of bands out there that are doing things to keep it from going stale."

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**OPINIONS****Pros, cons of the MTSU voyage**

Welcome, freshmen, to MTSU. I just completed my eighth semester at the university – and no, I haven't graduated yet. So I thought I would convey some observations I've made over the past four years because for some of you the only perspective you've received of MTSU is from the old public relations game.

Here are my top five compliments and criticisms about our university.

**Compliments**

**Professors** – I've had a couple dozen outstanding professors who, in a semester, managed to influence my life – mostly in a way that I see as positive. Many of the teachers here at MTSU go above and beyond what they are contractually obligated to do.

Don't pay attention to the critics at [mtsureview.com](http://mtsureview.com) – a Web site that permits students to critique professors and their teaching methods. From what I have noticed, the harder the professor is, the more he or she ends up getting bashed on the site and the more I end up learning from him or her.

**Facilities** – MTSU some outstanding facilities that can greatly enhance your college career, including the newly remodeled Campus Recreation Center, state-of-the-art Mac computers in the Learning Resource Center and the four-story James E. Walker Library.

There are also a lot of major-specific facilities, including the Mineral Gem and Fossil Museum for geology majors, five recording studios for recording industry majors, and a television station for electronic media majors. There's even a computer lab in the Business and Aerospace Building that is open 24 hours a day.

**Extracurricular Activities** – There are more than 200 organizations on campus, including social, religious, professional and special interest ones.

Joining a social, or Greek, organization is a great way to get your foot in the door in many other organizations, including the Student Government Association, and also meet a lot of people if you don't know anyone at MTSU ([mtsu.edu/~greeks](http://mtsu.edu/~greeks)).

Many of the majors on campus have an organization related to them, including Omega Delta Psi for recording industry majors, Alpha Kappa Psi for business majors, and Delta Omicron and Phi Mu Alpha for music majors. As for the special interest orgs, there's everything from the Salsa Dance Club, to the Anime Club, to

MTSU's chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws ([mtsu.edu/~camporgs](http://mtsu.edu/~camporgs)).

There are also intramural leagues for almost every sport, as well as sports clubs – including hockey, rugby and wrestling – for those who take their athletics more seriously ([mtsu.edu/~camprec](http://mtsu.edu/~camprec)).

**Diversified Student Body** – Well let's see, first

you have your preps, then your nerds, then your stoner rockers... This would be a stereotypical way of classifying people, but individualism is strongly encouraged as MTSU. You won't find the popularity ranks of high school at the university.

As I previously stated, there are hundreds of different organizations on campus; therefore, there's a great deal of diversity among MTSU's 22,000-plus students. There are also many organizations that are primarily minority based – MTSU has eight National Pan-Hellenic Council fraternities and sororities that are traditionally geared to black Americans, as well as organizations for Latino, female, homosexual and transgender students

Diversity at the university also comes from age. MTSU, in recognizing all the non-traditional students that attend the university, created Off-Campus Student Services. OCSS offers carpool and roommate matching, as well as other services for non-traditional students.

**Events** – Over the years, MTSU has had some big name acts, like Elton John, Steve Miller Band and Pearl Jam, grace its campus. Concerts, as well as movies, guest lecturers and sporting events, seem to be happening all the time at the university.

And the best part about them is they're free or very affordable. All sports games and lectures won't cost you a penny to attend.

Student Programming only charges \$2 for movies, which are usually between the theater and DVD stages. Sometimes, the organization shows older movies and doesn't charge students to see them. During the school year, a new movie is shown each week in the KUC Theatre.

Concerts usually cost a little more than \$2, but the bands are usually well worth the price. Corey Smith played a show this

**From the Editor**

Michael Stone

past school year thanks to one of the university's fraternities, Sigma Phi Epsilon. The year before that, Widespread Panic jammed before a packed crowd in the Murphy Center.

**Criticisms**

**Allocation of funds** – MTSU has been asked to cut its budget by almost \$20 million by July 1, 2011. And meanwhile, if you haven't already noticed,

there's a lot of construction going on campus. There's apparently some bureaucratic mumbo jumbo through the Tennessee Board of Regents, the university's governing body, about what funds go here and what funds go there.

It just doesn't make sense to me why MTSU and the TBR put so many of their eggs in the aesthetics basket while degree programs may soon be forced to face the budget ax.

Earlier this year, MTSU's Events and Transportation Services spent \$10,000 on an advertising campaign in an attempt to influence students to vote in favor of a referendum that would increase student fees to fund a parking improvement plan. The increase in fees, which would have primarily gone toward the construction of a parking garage, was rightfully voted down by the student body. But this happened after the \$10,000 was wasted.

**Student apathy** – Throughout the school year, students are permitted to vote on referendums – like the aforementioned parking one – in the Student Government Association elections, and for the Homecoming king and queen.

The most recent vote happened in late April, and only about 5 percent of the student body participated. Even in this spring's crucial SGA elections, around 15 percent of MTSU students voted.

MTSU gets stereotyped as a "commuter campus" – one where students come just for class and have nothing else to do with the university. And it doesn't look like that label is going to be going away anytime soon.

**Food services** – Aramark received the rebid to be MTSU's food service vendor this spring. The company is up for rebid every five years, and the process seems to be a formality – everyone knows that the com-

pany is always going to get the contract.

Why? Because even though Chartwells, Aramark's yearly opponent for the contract, gives better presentations, Aramark offers MTSU a bigger cut of the profits. And the way it can do this is by taking away from the money it pumps into food quality for students.

MTSU forces freshmen living on campus to buy meal plans at the beginning of the semester. Since Aramark gets its paycheck at the beginning of the semester, it has no incentives to attract customers. In fact, the more customers it repels, which usually turns out to be all freshmen with meal plans, the less food it has to serve, the more money it makes, and the more money MTSU makes.

Oh, and don't expect to find anything to eat on the weekends. And those flex bucks aren't worth as much as you may think they are thanks to inflated prices in the KUC Grill and Cyber Café.

**Shafting liberal arts** – The majority of the programs that were proposed to be eliminated by the Steering Committee, the group that oversaw budget suggestions at MTSU earlier this year, were in the College of Liberal Arts.

Granted, President Sidney McPhee did say in his response to the committee that he wants some of those programs kept. But it still shows where the university holds liberal arts.

A liberal arts professor is the lowest paid at MTSU, making an average salary of \$58,188. Meanwhile, a professor in MTSU's College of Business receives the highest average salary – \$95,289 – of all the colleges.

**Business-related offices** – One of university's "I'm one" students on MTSU's Web site says that the rumored "MTSU shuffle" does not exist. Sadly, Mr. One, it does.

If you ever have to deal with any business office at the university, whether it be payroll, financial aid, etc., I feel bad for you. Chances are, you'll get sent to at least four different offices and pick up eight forms before you end up in the right place.

And I'd recommend that, if you're a transfer student, you don't believe that your credits transferred until you actually see your transcript.

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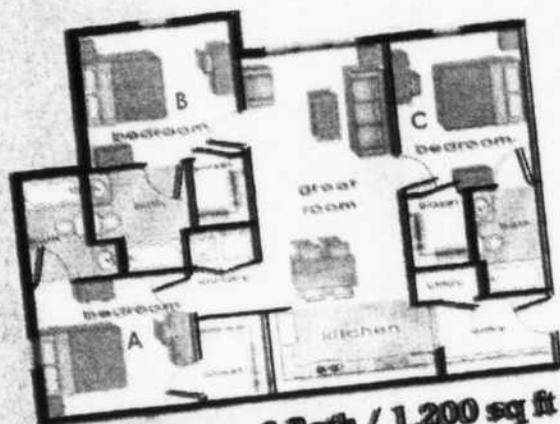
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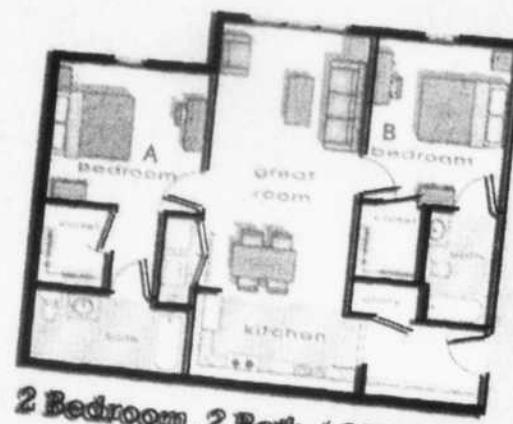
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# Attention all incoming conservatives

When my editor asked me to write one last column for *Sidelines* before I entered the real world, I thought long and hard about what final message I wanted to convey to the incoming freshmen class during Customs.

I came to the realization that I only wanted to address some of you – the conservatives – because it is you who have the ability to impact MTSU the most while you are here. Make no mistake, the rumors of academia as a liberal establishment are alarming and true. You need to understand how best to confront liberalism on campus, and I intend to help.

First and foremost: Welcome. You have decided to enroll in the largest undergraduate university in Tennessee, and with that comes certain responsibilities.

Like William F. Buckley, Jr. when he stepped foot on the campus of Yale all those years ago, you have the tremendous burden of carrying the banner of conservatism from the Keathley University Center Knoll to Peck Hall to the Business and Aerospace Building and to all points in between.

Confronting the administration, the faculty and even other students will

not always be easy, but doing so frequently and with great conviction will improve your ability to articulate and advance conservatism on campus. Achieving success depends on your ability to follow my very simple advice: stand firm in your beliefs, share your message with others and get involved.

By observing these guidelines, you will undoubtedly achieve success in advancing your conservative beliefs on campus.

By fully understanding your conservative beliefs, you will better understand the nature of the political debate between conservatives and liberals. Broadly, conservatives believe in individualism and personal responsibility. From these two tenets stem “academic freedom,” which is touted on many college campuses but rarely observed.

Liberal students and faculty will protest on campus or embed liberalism in a given lecture, and if conservatives are not confident in their convictions,



**Hurtt Pride**

Matt Hurtt

it could be difficult to counter student protests or refute liberal claims in the classroom.

Study conservatism: read Bastiat's *The Law* to understand proper economic policy; peruse Buckley's *God and Man at Yale* to understand liberal academia; pick up F. A. Hayek's *Road to Serfdom* or Barry Goldwater's *Conservatism of a Conservative*. These books and others will help you understand conservatism as an intellectual movement, and thus make your arguments against liberal indoctrination stronger.

Once you have become comfortable in your beliefs, begin to share those with others. Seek out like-minded students and hold meetings to discuss conservative ideals and develop a sounding board on campus for those beliefs.

Once you become comfortable with talking to other conservatives, try approaching students or faculty who do not agree with your political beliefs. Liberals are in no short supply on campus, as they can often be found protesting on

the KUC Knoll or teaching in Peck Hall. Confront these students and question these teachers as to why they hold their beliefs. Remember, one can disagree without being disagreeable.

Liberals sometimes use dishonest tactics when debating conservatives. In a protest atmosphere, conservatives are often shouted down and their beliefs disregarded. In the classroom, professors attempt to belittle or demean conservative thought. Conservatives must be able to respectfully disagree with liberals and present an alternative viewpoint.

Now that you can discuss your beliefs with like-minded conservatives and debate your beliefs with liberal students and faculty, get involved in campus organizations. The Student Government Association is a good place to start, as many people get involved there just to expand their resume. Run for a position in the SGA Senate and begin advancing conservative issues through SGA. Debate important issues like campus safety and academic freedom. You will likely be met with much opposition, but continue to advance these important issues.

CONSERVATIVES, PAGE 20

# Defining feminism in today's world

This semester, I took a class called “Women and Leadership.” And while the entire class was a blast, our last assignment really had me considering my beliefs over the past few years.

Our professor told us to consider the things we've learned and accomplished over the semester and prepare a speech. While I knew compiling a 10-minute speech would be easy for a class so full of inspiration, I tackled a subject that I don't think about too often: Feminism.

Anyone you ask who calls himself or herself a feminist will have different ideas as to what feminism means. So I talked with a few people I know as to what their definition of feminism was, but I didn't want some answer that I could find in a dictionary. We all talked about why feminism was important to them, and, most importantly, about those misconceptions that people have about feminism. Why are some people so fearful of this ‘f’ word?

While talking with a friend, we came up with a comparison: you're either a

radical or you're Sarah Palin.

There isn't a whole lot of a gray area when it comes to the public eye for feminism. People want to hear about feminists who are chaining themselves to the doors of abortion clinics or feminists who refuse to buy into marriage. When Sarah Palin made the news, it was often about how very conservative she was, instead of the decent things she had done. It was also about how she let her daughter get knocked up.

Within the murky waters of how feminism is perceived comes many misconceptions. And with this last article for the year, I wanted to discuss the misconceptions I run into on a regular basis.

Everyone has heard the saying, “bra-burning feminist,” but I will bet that few have actually stopped to think about where that came from.



**Tales from a Feminist**

MacKenzie Fox

Why would someone want to burn a bra? Who would come up with that idea?

The truth is that, from what we know, no bras were ever burned. The best guess as to where this myth comes from is during the 1960s when photos of women tossing their bras into trash cans and the draft card burning photos seemed to just

merge together in our minds. Nonetheless, it's completely false.

I've seen many arguments lately that say if feminism were about equality for both men and women, it would have a name like “humanism.”

At first, I almost saw this as a fair argument, until you actually look up the definition of humanism, which deals with the rejection of supernaturalism. And feminism has no dealings with supernaturalism as far as I know.

Another misconception is about what feminists are fighting for.

Sometimes people think that if sexism isn't slapping them right in the face, then it must not be there. We're still dealing with pay inequality, and women are still making 78 cents to a man's dollar.

Aside from women still being paid less on average than men, there are also a lot of companies who are unfriendly to married women and mothers (because those women must only be focused on their husbands and children, right?). But most people don't see things from the opposite side.

Consider this: on average, women are given less prison time than men for the same crimes. Men are also less likely to be given custody over a child if the mother is present, and oftentimes courts don't take into account whether or not the mother is stable and mentally sound enough to take care of a child.

FEMINISM, PAGE 20

# Adventures in race relations

Why Obama's election isn't the death knell for racism and why you should consider all ethnicities in your life, particularly in college

With the election of America's first black president, many touted Barack Obama's clinching of the executive office as a harbinger of a new decade of race relations, perhaps even the demise of the blight of bigotry and racism.

As much as it hurts me to say it, though, I must admit that I don't believe the true end of racial prejudice will exist in our lifetimes. President Obama's election does certainly say something about the voting population, and about the distance America has come as a country in the past 50 years. But so, too, does the opposition's reactions during the past campaign season.

Who could forget calls of "terrorist" from McCain supporters during rallies?

Or the feeble little old lady who said she just couldn't vote for Obama because he was an "Arab?"

Politicians are smart enough to distance themselves from such overt and ignorant discrimination, such as McCain did by deftly grabbing the microphone from said McCain supporter, and the word "terrorist" has become synonymous with Medieval England's "witch." Rush hour traffic terrorizes me, so why doesn't the Department of Defense cluster bomb it into obliteration?

My point here is not to belittle a certain group of individuals, however.

Racism can mean the process of making judgments based simply on the color of one's skin, but it spans all ethnicities, classes and countries.

As a white male, you may be surprised to discover that I have personally experienced racism. Admittedly, I have seen it more widespread in some groups than others, and especially in different parts of the country.

During election season, I often garnered looks of hate and numerous middle fingers on the highway as motorists saw my "Obama/Biden" bumper stick-

er, perhaps merely a chance result of the route I took from Murfreesboro to my hometown of Starkville, Miss. While stopping in luxurious Decatur one day, I was instructed to "Look in the mirror, boy," because I was "voting for the wrong color" by two grown white men in a mud-stained blue truck, one of whom was sipping a Natural Light. The rest of what they said is not printable.

Why did I, a law-abiding citizen, have to endure this hatred? Was it fate that brought me to that red light in Alabama? Or perhaps just chance that these two ignorant asses happened to pull up next to me on a sunny afternoon?

But I've realized since then that racism can be found almost anywhere and from anyone. I've seen the familiar looks of hatred and belligerent misunderstanding when I play my radio loudly with the windows down on a nice day. More than one race has glared at me for either playing the wrong race's music or trying to steal the cultural identity of another's.

Racism can occur at nearly every street corner in every town in America, though in the South, we are ingrained with at the very least a faint knowledge of it. Every time you look at someone and form any sort of prejudgment based on skin color before speaking with them, you've committed racism.

In fact, biologists do not place any sort of real scientific meaning to the term "race." All race comes down to is the number of melanin pigment producing cells in the skin, which is evolutionarily derived from ethnicity, a much more accurate term to describe a



**Desist! Rely! Conform!**

Byron Wilkes

person based on physical appearance.

Does that mean that the solution is to acknowledge that race doesn't exist? Are colorblind individuals the only ones who see life as it truly is?

Not really, mainly because of the historical and societal emphasis placed on race for the past several hundred years has permeated much of subsequent culture in America. Many of our grandparents will indubitably recall the bureaucratic manifestation of racism in Jim Crow laws and myriad civil rights protests. It wasn't that long ago that the same government now headed by a black man once permitted physical violence and *de facto* racism.

Pretending like race isn't a factor of life can just be as detrimental to peaceful human existence as blatant racism, however. Consider how far back we might be if not for explicit dialogues on the prevalence of bigotry in terms of specific races throughout history. It is chilling to imagine a world where no one considers the hardships and tribulations other groups have been through to get where they are today.

My point is not that racism will forever blot America's history and rear its ugly head for the rest of time, but that racist individuals exist in all facets of society. And the only way to ensure a diverse and egalitarian future is through intelligent discourse and vested communication (see "marketplace of ideas").

Try and keep an open mind while you're in college. You'd be surprised how many people here share your interests and beliefs if only you'd step outside your comfort zone. In the process of doing so, you might even expand your horizons and learn more about other cultures and fellow Americans.

Don't get left out or behind because you're afraid of what somebody might or might not do. Embrace people for who they are, not for who you thought they were.

*Byron Wilkes is a senior journalism major and can be reached at bdw3t@mtsu.edu.*

## CONSERVATIVES

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A former administrator always proclaimed that MTSU was the "marketplace of ideas," but upon further inspection, one learned that the marketplace was only open to ideas with which he agreed.

In a number of e-mail exchanges, he expressed his disdain for conservatism and its tenets. In fact, many universities support the concept of diversity so far as it does not extend to diversity of thought. Many prominent universities even charge conservative groups more than other groups to host conservative speakers on campus.

Organize with conservatives and counter liberal protests. Advance your beliefs in the classroom, even in the face of ridicule from your professors and other students. There are many resources students can access to help spread the message of conservatism on campus.

The Leadership Institute exists to train young conservatives to become tomorrow's leaders. The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education rates MTSU as a "red light" school, which means that the "university has at least one policy that both clearly and substantially restricts freedom of speech."

During your time here, try to make a difference, and last, but certainly not least – Be loud! Be Proud! Be Blue!

*Matthew Hurtt is a history and political science major and can be reached at Matt.Hurtt@gmail.com. Read more at matthewhurtt.com.*

## FEMINISM

FROM PAGE 19

So I don't think anyone can say that men and women are "equal" and that feminism is still needed specifically for this. Aside from the inequalities between genders, feminists also work for equality between all genders, classes, races and sexual orientations.

While you can write books upon books about why we still need feminism or even what feminism is, it's equally important to take the time to find out what it truly is, rather than taking it just at face value or what someone tells you about it.

*MacKenzie Fox is a sophomore liberal arts major and can be reached at mdf3c@mtsu.edu.*

## SPORTS

## Football team prepares for fall season

By RYLEE PATRICK  
Staff Writer

During the 2008 season, the MT football team experienced a series of highs and lows. While setting several school and conference records, the team finished the season 5-7 overall with a 3-4 record in the Sun Belt Conference.

Entering their third year under Head Coach Rick Stockstill, the Blue Raiders faced several setbacks, including having just 71 total scholarship players. This tied for the fewest seniors of any team in the nation.

Nevertheless, the Blue Raiders were able to accumulate several honors, including one of ESPN's "Plays of the Year" for the last second Hail Mary that brought down Florida Atlantic University during a nationally televised game.

Following the season opener against Troy, the Blue Raiders fought their way to a 24-14 victory over the University of Maryland Terrapins, an ACC team that spent time in the Top 25 and competed for an ACC title until the last two weeks of the season.

After beating the Terps, the Blue Raiders nearly beat out the University of Kentucky. But MT came up one yard short as the clock ran out, leaving MT with a loss of 20-14 against UK.

During the season, senior quarterback Joe Craddock set a school record with 10 200-yard passing games and set the record single-season touchdowns, passing yards, completions, and attempts as he threw for 2,677 yards to claim the second-best mark in school history.

Four of the Blue Raiders received all-conference recognition as a result of their season performances.

Defensive tackle Trevor Jenkins and safety Jeremy Kellem each earned a spot on the All-Sun Belt Conference second team, while quarterback Joe Craddock and linebacker Ivon Hickmon both earned honorable mentions.

For the 2009 football season, MT has 45 lettermen returning, including 20 on offense, 22 on defense and four specialists.

Top returners on the offense include junior starting quarterback Dwight Dasher and senior running back Phillip Tanner.

Several wide receivers are also scheduled to return, including senior Eldred King, who shared the team lead in catches last season with 51 catches for 598 yards and four touchdowns. Rising senior Patrick Honeycutt, who took the other half of the



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Freshman quarterback Brent Burnette prepares to receive a hike at the Blue and White exhibition game on April 18.

team lead with 51 catches for 513 yards and three touchdowns, will also be returning.

Sophomore wide receiver Malcolm Beyah will return as a starter. As a true freshman, Beyah claimed 33 catches for 550 yards and six touchdowns. Senior Desmond Gee, formerly a running back, will switch positions and join the wide receiver core in the upcoming season.

On the defensive side of the ball, senior Danny Carmichael will be returning as the starting middle linebacker. Carmichael had 62 tackles and 27 assists, as well as three sacks and one interception during the 2008 season.

Juniors Jeremy Kellem and Kevin Brown return as the starting safeties. Kellem had 46 tackles and 26 assists, along with two interceptions and one sack. Brown had 50 tackles, 18 assists, one interception and one sack.

Returning senior Alex Suber and junior Rod Isaac will claim the starting corner positions. Suber recorded 20 tackles and six assists, while also claiming two interceptions and one sack. Isaac finished the season with 27 tackles, five assists and one interception.

The Blue Raiders will be losing 11 lettermen, including 10 graduating seniors: Craddock, Jenkins, Ivan Hickmon, Lonnie Clemons, Anthony Glover, Andrew Harrington, Wes Hofacker, Matt King and Ted Riley.

The Blue Raiders inked 29 new scholarships for the 2009 season, recruiting players in several different positions in hopes of providing strength and depth.

Arthur Williams from Glenwood High School in Phoenix City, Ala. is a three-star wideout who became MT's first commitment in August 2008.

Roderic Blunt from Everglades High School in Miramar, Fla. had more than 200 hundred tackles and 16 sacks in his last two high school seasons, while also forcing four fumbles during his senior year.

Blunt was ranked the No. 43 middle linebacker in the nation by Scout.com and played football in high school with MT junior defensive end Emmanuel Perez.

Juno Prudhomm from Naples High School in Naples, Fla. played quarterback in high school but will be moved to safety at MT. Prudhomm can run the

40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds.

The Blue Raiders are scheduled to begin the 2009 season on Sept. 5 with their season opener against Clemson University at Memorial Stadium in Clemson, S.C.

The first home game of the season is scheduled to take place on Sept. 12 as MT will face the University of Memphis Tigers in Floyd Stadium. The Tigers are Conference USA members and will be visiting Murfreesboro for the first time since 1953. MT lost to Memphis 21-7 at the Tigers' stadium two seasons ago.

Following the Memphis game, the Blue Raiders will hit the road to compete against the University of Maryland Terrapins at Byrd Stadium in College Park, Md. on Sept. 19.

For the rest of the season, MT will play on the road at the University of North Texas, Troy University, Florida Atlantic University and the University of Louisiana Monroe, while hosting Mississippi State University, Western Kentucky University, Florida International University, the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and Arkansas State University.

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### HEALTH

Working in the community, schools, hospitals and worksites, our students apply their talents and passions to improve the health of us all. Our students have found career opportunities all over the county. Here are a few of the companies our students have found opportunities with: Murfreesboro YMCA- Vanderbilt Hospital- St. Clair Senior Center- Middle Tennessee Medical Center- Rutherford County Health Department- Nashville Cares- Domestic Violence Program- Sarah Kennon Research

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The Physical Education major is designed to prepare teacher candidates by providing current knowledge for developing curriculum and effective teaching styles. This curriculum includes courses such as Teaching Physical Education, Application of Technology to Teaching, Innovative Teaching Strategies, and Teaching Students with Disabilities.

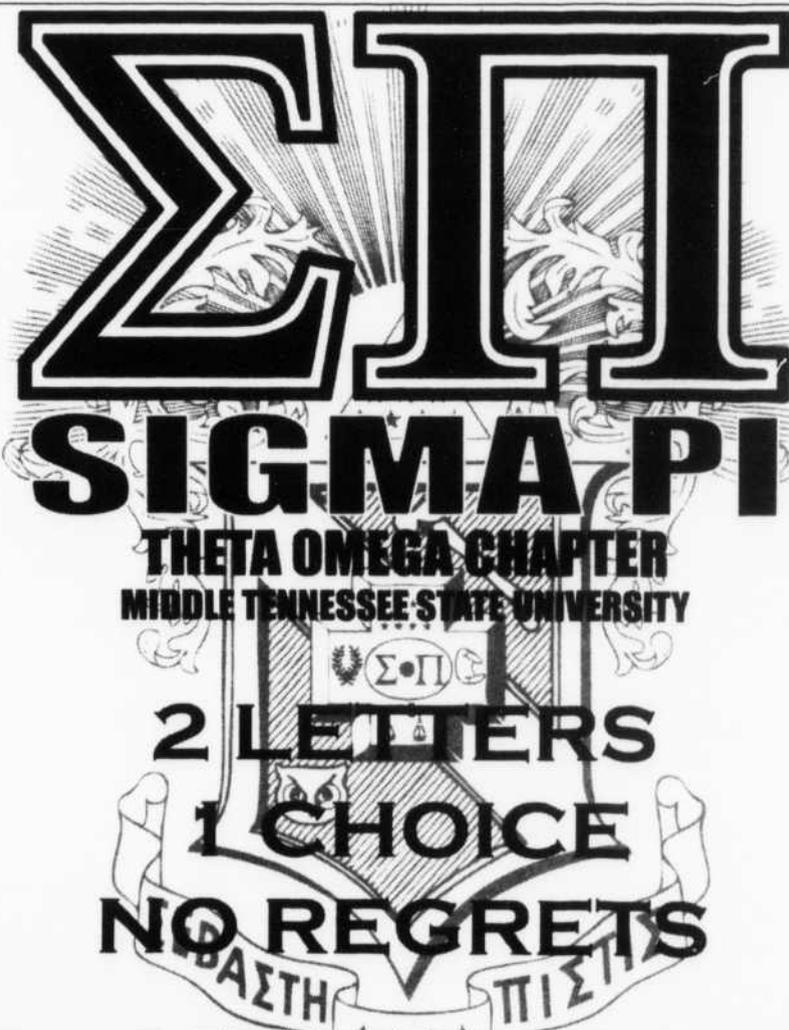
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# Men's basketball looks forward to new season

By ZACH REVES  
Assistant Sports Editor

After an injury-riddled 2008-09 season, the Blue Raider men's basketball team is looking to rebound and perform better than last season's 18-14 record during the 2009-10 season.

The new season will bring MT a chance to build off last season's milestone of 18 wins. It was only the 16th time in school history that the Blue Raiders posted at least 18 wins in a single season. But the team was unhappy in the way it ended, falling in the Sun Belt Conference quarterfinals to the University of North Texas.

"The season certainly did not end the way any of us wanted or anticipated," head coach Kermit Davis said. "Our goal was to reach the NCAA Tournament, and unfortunately, we fell just short of that."

Nagging injuries and poor play down the stretch run hampered the MT season from what, as many predicted, could have been a breakout year.

The Blue Raider's bench began to look like a medical ward halfway through the season as players dropped left and right. Junior center Theryn Hudson suffered a season-ending ankle injury, senior guard Nigel Johnson sprained his MCL, freshman guard Antwaun Boyd had a season-ending shoulder injury and senior guard Kevin Kanaskie played through a majority of the season with two fractured vertebrae in his lower back.

"Our season was impacted by some key injuries and we were not able to overcome all of those," Davis said.

A fresh team will help the Blue Raiders regain their swagger, but they will have to do it without the leadership and poise of last year's group of seniors. The team will move on without graduating senior guards Johnson, Demetrius Green and Kanaskie who ended their collegiate careers last season.

The void Kanaskie leaves might especially be hard to fill as the State College, Pa. native leaves behind an outstanding four-year legacy as a Blue Raider. Statistically, Kanaskie is the all-time leader at MT in assists (485), starts (105) and minutes (4,078), as well as the 14th all-time in scoring (1,251).

However, the Blue Raiders are doing their best to bring in new talent to fill the voids in the years to come. This spring, MT's signing class of recruits was highly ranked by national scouts and college basketball analysts.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Junior guard Calvin O'Neil drives the lane against South Alabama on Feb. 19 in the Murphy Center. The Blue Raiders lost 63-57.

Recruiting experts "HoopScoop" even proclaimed the Blue Raider 2009-10 class as the 28th best signing class in the nation.

"This class is the best class of shooters we have signed," Davis said. "I believe these new guys will bring an influx of energy and enthusiasm into our program."

The group contains five guards and two forwards, all with winning backgrounds that include state and conference championships. The signing class includes guards Rod Emanuel, James Washington Jr., James Gallman, John David Little, David Murray, and forwards Trevor Ottley and J.T. Sulton.

The new recruits will mix in with the Blue Raider returning veterans to form a potentially dangerous team heading into the new season.

"I feel we have a very good nucleus returning, and I am excited about our recruiting class being here and developing them," Davis said. "We feel we have a

chance to put one of our best teams on the floor next year."

Anchoring the group will be a solid frontcourt trio of Hudson and juniors Desmond Yates and Montarrio Haddock. Davis said he believes that the strength and experience of this group will provide a dominant force underneath the basket.

Yates became one of the faces of MT basketball last season after leading the Blue Raiders in scoring and field goal percentage. The power forward is currently 11th all-time in scoring at MT with 1,410 and is on pace to break the record of 1,622 sometime this season. Yates was second in the SBC last year with 17.2 points per contest.

Hudson is looking to return to form after missing most of last season with an ankle injury. The 6-10 center provides an upward dimension that the Blue Raiders clearly lacked the previous year. If Hudson controls the paint, it could free up players like Yates for easier baskets from the outside.

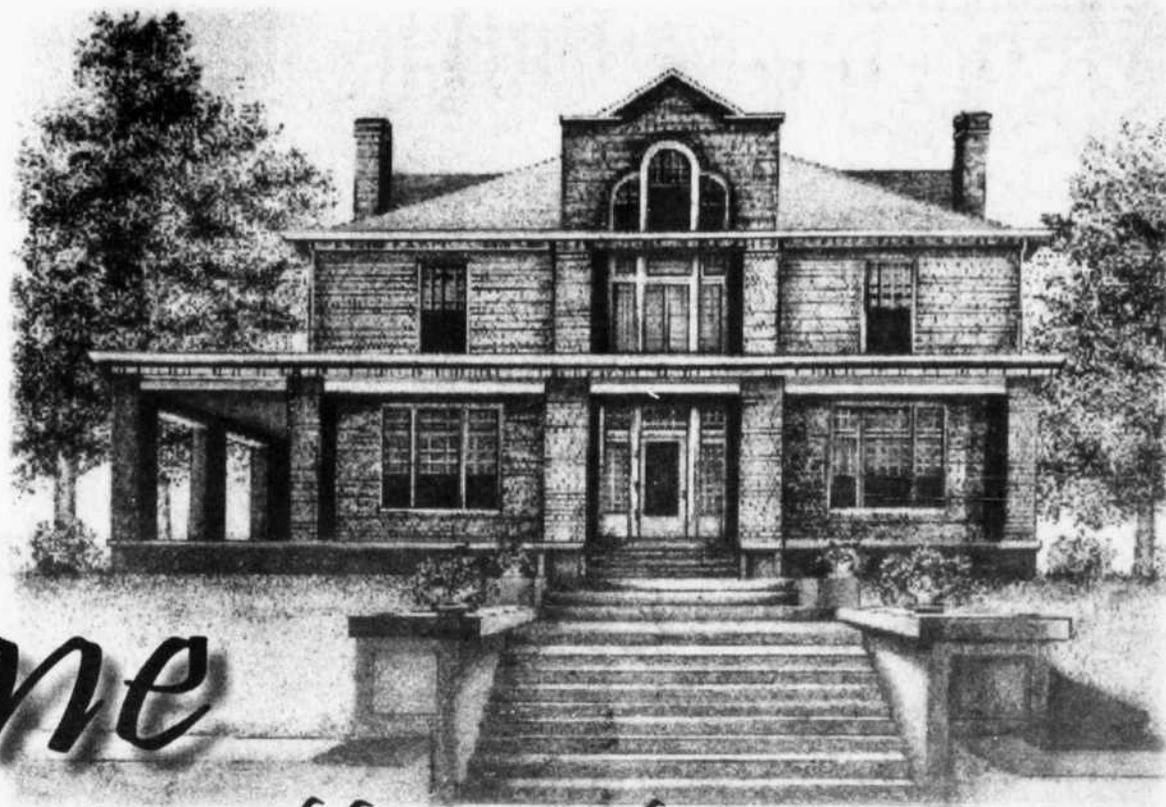
Haddock provides great versatility to the Blue Raiders as he can both play guard and forward. The Greenville, N.C. native acted as a huge spark plug off the bench for MT many times last season, averaging 9.9 points per game and leading the team with 5.2 rebounds per game. However, Haddock's biggest fault was his tendency to foul out of ball games.

The schedule for the Blue Raiders has yet to be released, but big games are expected out of the team when it goes up against SBC opponents and rivals throughout the season. The team will surely look forward to playing for revenge against UNT, which ended MT's season last year, and annual rival Western Kentucky University which swept the Blue Raiders during the regular season last year.

"We had a lot of positives last season that we can take into the break," Davis said. "We will work hard this offseason to start getting ready for another successful year."

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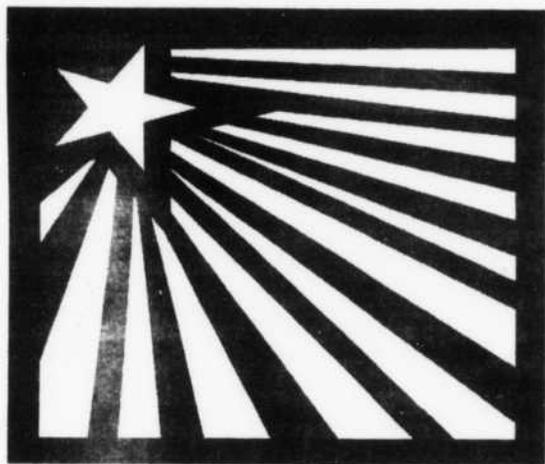


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# Baseball looks to take success into stretch run

By ZACH REVES  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Blue Raider baseball team has represented MT well this season posting a 33-14 overall record to start the season. But the team isn't done yet.

With seven crucial games left to go in the season, the Blue Raiders have a few chances to end the season strong and catch up to the division leading team, Western Kentucky University.

The Blue Raiders (19-8 Sun Belt Conference) are 1.5 games behind the Hill-toppers (19-5 SBC) with only the stretch run left to go in the season. The crunch time of the season will culminate in a three-game battle starting on May 14 between the two contenders.

The good news for the boys in blue is that all seven of the remaining games will be played in Reese Smith Jr. Field, a place where the Blue Raiders feel right at home. Inside the team's newly renovated stadium, MT is an astounding 22-3 this season with big non-conference victories against Vanderbilt University, the University of Memphis and Tennessee Tech University.

The beginning of the end of the season starts this weekend with the Blue Raiders welcoming Mississippi Valley State University for a three game set. On Tuesday, MT will play host to in state rival the



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Junior catcher Drew Robertson (left) calls a meeting on the pitcher's mound.

University of Tennessee in a single-game series. Finally, the Blue Raiders will close the season and SBC play against WKU – probably determining seeding in the conference tournament.

This season, MT has seen a sharp in-

crease in offensive production as it has scored 417 runs so far this season. Eight of the nine regular starters on offense boast a batting average above .320 with sophomore left fielder Bryce Brentz leading the way at .457. Brentz also leads

the team in power with a .913 slugging percentage and has provided 21 of the team's 77 home runs this season.

MT veterans are also providing leadership and scoring with their bats. Senior third baseman Rawley Bishop has experienced a great campaign with a .389 average, 36 RBIs, nine home runs and six stolen bases. Senior center fielder and leadoff man Nathan Hines leads the team with 60 RBIs and five triples.

From the mound, the Blue Raiders have recorded a lot of success as well. It's been a trio of juniors leading the way for the Blue Raider pitching staff all season long.

Junior Chad Edwards has the most wins for MT with a 7-1 record this season. Junior Kenneth Roberts leads the starting pitching staff with a 3.41 ERA to go along with his 6-1 record. And when the games are close, head coach Steve Peterson calls upon Junior Coty Woods to close out the game. Out of the bullpen, Woods has recorded a 1.84 ERA with 11 saves on the season to preserve the close Blue Raider wins.

MT will look to finish its last seven home games over the next week and go into the SBC Championships, which start on May 20, with momentum on the team's side. The Blue Raiders' opponents for the tournament are scheduled after the end of the regular season.

# Women's basketball returns all for 2009-10 season

By CHRIS WELCH  
Sports Editor

The very same Lady Raider basketball team that went to the NCAA Tournament last season will return in its entirety to play in the 2009-10 season.

The Lady Raiders, who went 28-6 overall last season, did not graduate any players and will return with six former juniors.

Rick Insell heads into his fifth season as head coach of MT women's basketball and brings along a set of stars in the college basketball universe.

Rising senior forward Alysha Clark led the nation in scoring with an average of 27.5 points-per-game. She was the Tennessee Sports Writers Association's College Basketball Player of the Year, Sun Belt Player of the Year, Sun Belt Newcomer of the Year, finalist for Coaches' All-America Team and earned Sun Belt Player of the Week six times, a single-season record in the Sun Belt Conference.

Rising senior forward/guard Brandi Brown currently ranks 10th on career-list in 3-pointers made (103) and ninth in

3-point FG percentage (.355). Fellow rising senior guard Jackie Pickel will also return to the court, boasting a double-digit scoring record in almost every game in which she started.

Also returning are rising senior guards Chelsia Lymon, Dana Garrett and forward Shytoria Davis.

Rising junior guard Anne Marie Lanning will return after an outstanding sophomore season, playing in all 36 games and assisting MT in the NCAA tourney. Rising junior forward Emily Queen will return after a foot injury left her sitting on the bench for much of the late season.

Rising sophomore guard Tina Stewart and forward Molly McFadden also be returning.

All in all, Insell said he is looking forward to another productive season.

"I'm very proud of the season our young ladies had," Insell said after the first round NCAA Tournament game against Michigan State. "They were successful and you have to give them credit. Now comes the time to improve."

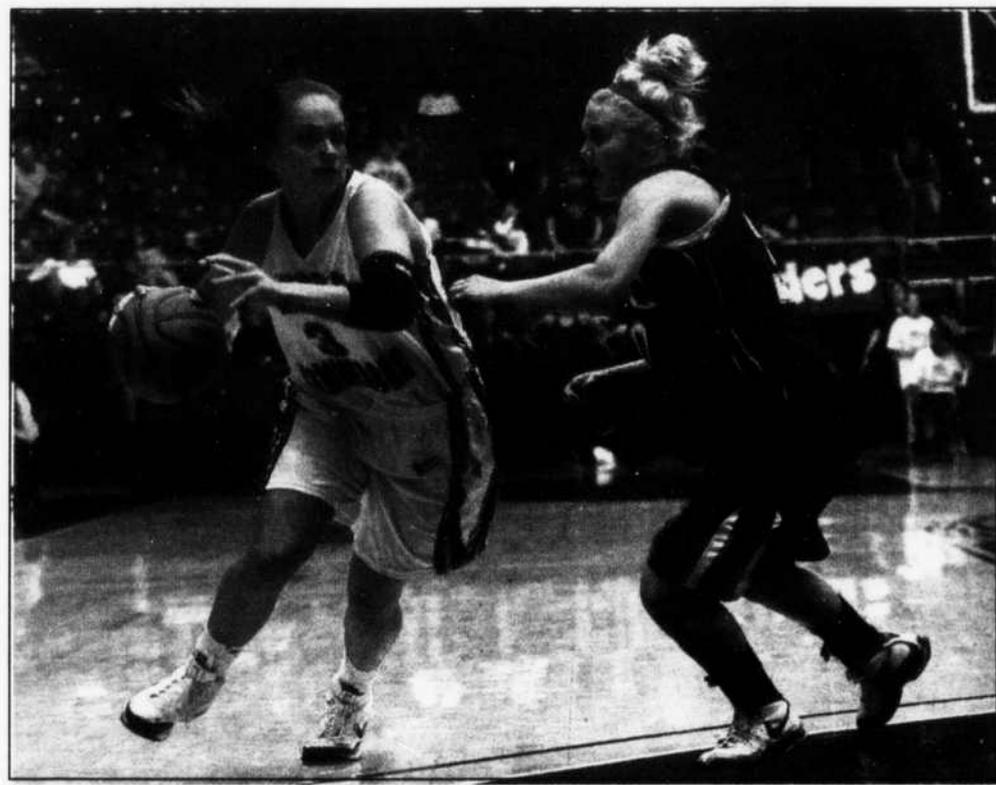


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

All players, including rising junior forward Emily Queen, will be returning to the team this fall.

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# Dean Hayes 44-year MT career immortalized

By CHRIS WELCH  
Sports Editor

Throughout Middle Tennessee's recent athletic history, there have been ups and downs for various teams. But the Blue Raider track and field team has been a powerhouse for the past 44 years – largely due to the man coaching.

Dean A. Hayes, the head track and field coach at MT, is celebrated as one of the most notable and successful Blue Raider coaches, leading to the formerly unnamed track and field stadium to bear his name. The unfortunate part is that many MT students are unaware of his many accomplishments.

"When I first got here [44 years ago], it was mostly distance runners and football players," Hayes says. "We started to split the program up [so that] football players did hurdles.

"A lot [of football players] did it so that they had something to do in the spring."

Hayes says he believes it was easier to coach when he began his career.

"Then, the athletes were more appreciative," Hayes says. "They wanted to com-

pete more. But, in typical fashion, we've made things easier now.

"Today, it's all about video games, TV, computers and stuff like that. We worked harder because we were used to it."

Hayes knows about working hard. Thirteen years after taking the position at MT, Hayes began his international experience at the first Olympic Sports Festival in Colorado Springs, Colo. This would later open up many astounding opportunities, such as the chance to be the head coach at the World University Games in Kobe, Japan in 1985, the 1994 World Cup in London, England, the 1997 World Championships in Athens, Greece and the Goodwill Games in Seattle in 1990 and in New York City in 1998.

Hayes has also served as an assistant at several prestigious events, including the World University Games in Bucharest, Romania in 1981, the 1983 World Championships in Helsinki, Finland and the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea.

"I started doing staff things with them in 1975, then I started dealing with the U.S.

Olympic Committee in '78," Hayes says. "A lot of [the athletes] were mine, anyway.

"So, when the governing body said that no committee could have more than one sport, I was in on the ground floor for the new governing body [for track and field]."

Hayes served as the Olympic chairman for men's track and field for eight years.

The U.S. team fared well under Hayes, even earning a nomination for induction into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in both the men's 4x400 meter relay and the women's 4x100 meter relay.

But while he was earning accolades around the world, Hayes still managed to coach one of MT's most competitive teams. Since joining the Sun Belt in 2000, the MT squads have captured 14 of the 30 indoor and outdoor titles for which they have been eligible. He is also a hall of fame member of four organizations, has earned 29 conference titles and 15 Ohio Valley Conference (MT's former conference) Coach of the Year awards.

The renaming of the track & field stadium is not lost on Hayes.

"It's pretty overwhelming," he says about the stadium-naming ceremony. "It'll sink in after it's done."

But Hayes credits the university for his success and says that the athletic department and his athletes are why he has been so successful.

"Integration was a new thing then, but we did it," he says. "I didn't do it to make a statement – just did it.

"[Athletic director Charles Murphy] said 'It's your program, do what you want to do.' So we did."

Hayes said that MT is largely responsible for collegiate integration in the South.

"When we first starting integrating track, I think Tennessee had one [black athlete] – Tennessee Tech had one. But we were really the first to take it and run with it.

"I was even the first president of the MTSU chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi. Can you believe that?"

Overall, Hayes says he just wants to continue what he is doing. "I just want to keep coaching," he says. "Get to a tournament, win something and just keep going from there."

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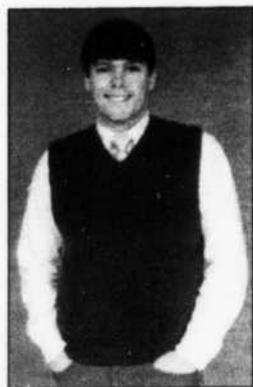
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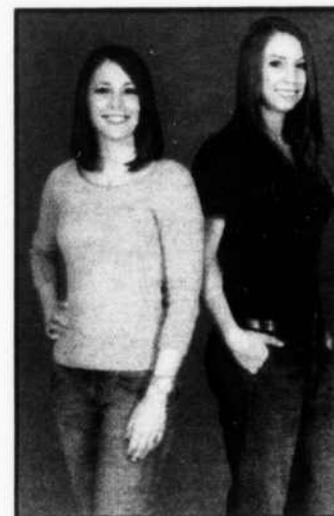
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### Justin Lane

When I entered college, my goal was to earn a degree and then move on to law school and a career. I wanted to enroll in courses that would help me achieve that goal so I decided to major in entrepreneurship. The field of law is not just about practicing law but is also about operating a business, and these are the skills I am acquiring with my entrepreneurship major.



### Casey Bevans

I chose entrepreneurship as a minor for several reasons. Leah and I plan to start a partnership. Primarily, I want to become my own boss, and I believe the entrepreneurship program at MTSU will give me the tools to be a successful entrepreneur—my ultimate goal. Entrepreneurship is much more than just starting a business—it's a way of life.

### Leah Ryan

I chose entrepreneurship because I plan to start a salon/spa business with my best friend of 11 years, Casey. I hope to learn all the skills and procedures that will help with this endeavor, and I have confidence that our business will succeed thanks to the knowledge and preparation acquired from the courses I took at MTSU. I advise anyone who wants to start their own business to major or minor in entrepreneurship because it will automatically put you ahead.



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