

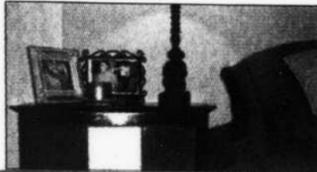
Friday

HI: 43°
LO: 36°

Saturday

HI: 42°
LO: 40°Women's volleyball
season success

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Living with style, cheaply

page 7

Vol. 82 No. 38
www.mtsusidelines.com

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007
Editorially independent

Drugs involved in shooting

By Michelle McCrary
Assistant News Editor

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O'Connor, 23, were both transported by LifeFlight to Vanderbilt Medical Center. Michael Holt, 21, was transported to Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

Eckerly and O'Connor sustained gunshot wounds, while Holt was treated for head injuries.

Gage also said the Murfreesboro Police have been able to piece together what happened at Campus Crossings South apartment 506, but they are not releasing that information at this time.

"Drugs were recovered from the victim's apartment from one of the suspects," Gage said. Don Fanning, sergeant for the

Murfreesboro Police Department, wrote in his police report that "a line of white powder and a short straw" were seen on the dresser in one of the bedrooms of the apartment.

Gage also confirmed Billy Tackberry was not involved in the shooting, but was only a witness.

"Tackberry was merely a witness and offered assistance to Mike Holt after the incident occurred," Gage said.

According to the police report, Holt and his roommate O'Connor were in their apartment watching television when the two suspects knocked on the

door and entered the apartment.

The two suspects then pulled guns, cut the chord from a black light, and proceeded to tie up Holt and O'Connor, saying they were going to rob them. Holt was then struck in the back of the head with a gun, while O'Connor was assaulted by one of the suspects. Holt then ran to get help.

A second victim later identified as Thomas Eckerly had also been shot multiple times.

While this investigation is still ongoing, no charges have been filed at this time against any of the suspects or victims. ♦



Photo by Chris Barstad | Photography Editor
Murfreesboro police were called to building 500 at Campus Crossings South apartments last Sunday in response to a shooting that left one dead.

Sigma Nu Fraternity accused of hazing

By Christin Pepple
Staff Writer

The Sigma Nu Theta Iota Chapter was under investigation in November from their national office in Lexington, Va., after several concerns were brought to the office's attention regarding the chapter's fall pledge class.

The investigation continued for several weeks, until the decision was made to revoke the charter for the Theta Iota Chapter under accusations of "violations of the Fraternity's laws, policies and principles primarily related to the treatment of candidate [pledged] members of the chapter," according to Brad Beacham, Executive Director of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc., in a Dec. 15 press release.

In a Jan. 17 press release, it was made clear that allegations have been made against

members who may have participated in hazing over the past

three years.

"The fraternity's board of directors reserves the right to revoke the charter when they believe circumstances warrant it," said Beacham. "Significant violations, as there were in this case, led our board of directors to conclude that it was wise to revoke the charter in this instance."

Sigma Nu has an anonymous hazing hotline, which allows any hazing to be reported. The hotline is available in e-mail form and a telephone service is available 24 hours a day. It is available to both undergraduate members, parents or anyone concerned with hazing.

"I received a phone call from a concerned parent of one of their candidates on the same day that I received it from another parent from the hazing hotline," said Gentry McCreary, director of Greek Life at MTSU.

"The national office felt they needed to conduct an investigation and their findings were that there were some inconsistencies in the program and felt the need to revoke the charter after consultation with chapter alumni leaders," McCreary said.

Chassen Haynes is the new president of the chapter. He was elected for the spring semester after the investigation took place.

"Everyone feels that we were dealt with in the wrong manner. Both the campus and myself

believe that it was a very harsh and rash decision that was made," Haynes said.

Haynes said that obviously there were issues that needed to be handled concerning what was done, especially since this past year, Sigma Nu adopted a zero-tolerance policy concerning the hazing of pledges.

"The campus had several guidelines that they wanted to see done, but, overall, it was going to be much more effective than just revoking our charter," Haynes said. "So revoking our charter wasn't the best thing that could have happened."

McCreary said they are currently working with the Sigma Nu chapter in hopes of an appeal.

Bob Glenn, MTSU vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for enrollment management, stated in the Jan. 17 press release that he felt the punishment was too harsh. He said he was disappointed in the fact that the alumni and national members were supposed to be in partnership with the administration to decide the severity of the punishment given to the Theta Iota chapter.

"We don't think the national office is acting in a way that is consistent with a true partnership," Glenn stated in the press release.

"We are, as of now, aiding the chapter in the hopes of an appeal," McCreary said. "We felt very strongly that Sigma Nu 'threw the baby out with the bath water,' so to speak."

McCreary strongly stated that the administration in no way condones hazing in any form or fashion, but that the actions of a few members should not affect the entire chapter.

"Sigma Nu was one of the most successful organizations on our campus,"

McCreary said. "They were one of the top fraternities in grades and leadership roles. You name it and there was someone from Sigma Nu involved in it."

McCreary continued to extol Sigma Nu's virtues as one of the great fraternities on this campus and that because of their status, the investigation came as a great shock to everyone.

"They are an outstanding organization," McCreary said. "This was such an appalling surprise due to how much we try and prevent hazing from happening."

McCreary said that while the actions taken by the members were atrocious, it was only the actions of a select few and the inability of the leadership of the fall semester to do their duty that was the problem.

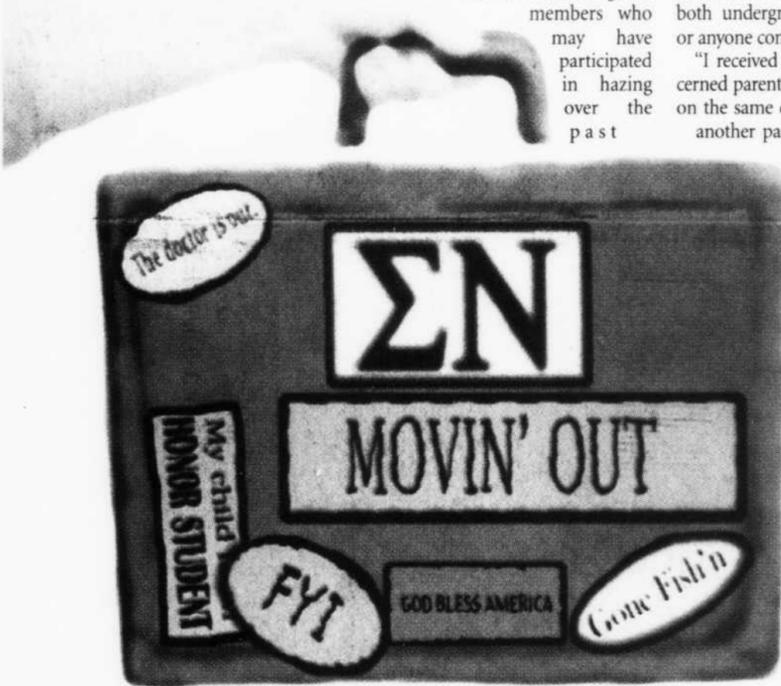
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"The fraternity has specifically communicated the fact that those individuals who were candidate members at the time of the revocation decision were able to become initiated if they wished," Beacham said.

While the charter is revoked from the Theta Iota chapter at MTSU, the question will still be allowed to live in their house on Greek Row.

See Sigma Nu, 2



Recreation center plans for expansion problems

New construction will add student services, reduce available parking spaces on campus

By Josh Daughtery
Staff Writer

Construction to expand the Recreation Center will begin this spring, resulting in the discontinued use of the parking lot in front

of the center.

The Rec Center expansion is part of a major project that includes new recreation fields and a chiller plant addition, currently under construction, said Arthur Reed, project manager. The new

recreation fields will be located off of East Main Street and the chiller plant addition will be used to cool water for several buildings on campus.

Funding for the entire project including the Rec Center expansion, recreation fields and chiller plant addition is \$21.5 million, according to the Campus Planning Web site.

The 60,000 square foot Rec Center expansion will be the new location for Student Health Services, Reed said.

The new Health Services Center will have several amenities the current Center does not.

The expansion will double the number of exam rooms, adding an X-ray machine with an X-ray tech, as well as wellness classrooms, said Rick Chapman, the director of the Student Health Center.

"We'll have a pharmacy with a pharmacist and expanded over-the-counter supplies," Chapman said. "[Students will] be able to fill outside prescriptions."

The wellness classrooms will be used for seminars, on such topics



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The idea behind moving Health Services to the Rec Center is a wellness concept: by combining health and fitness you obtain wellness for the whole student.

The expansion will add to the front side of the Rec Center, Reed said.

Beginning early February, a fence will be constructed around the Rec Center's parking lot in preparation for the expansion, Reed said.

The fence will close the Rec Center's parking lot, eliminating 346 parking spaces, according to the parking map at the Campus Planning Web site.

"The current lot will be smaller once construction is done," Reed said.

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"There will be some inconvenience during construction," said Charles Gregory, director of the Recreation Center. "There is enough parking on campus, just

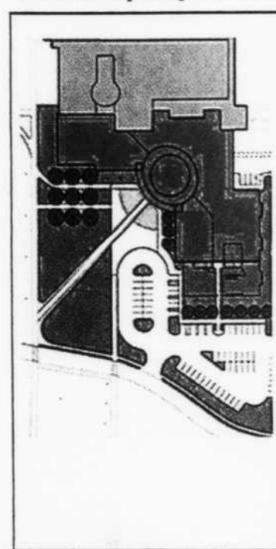
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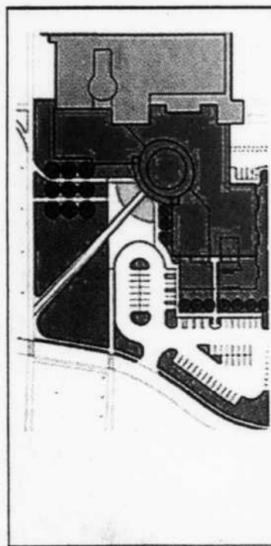
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CRIME BRIEFS

Thursday, Jan. 4 – 4:30p.m.
Murphy Center
Theft Under \$500
Missing Video Equipment

Friday, Jan. 5 – 11:27a.m.
Gore Hall
Vandalism
A secretary for the maintenance department at Smith Hall called and said the Gore Hall coke machine had been broken into.

Saturday, Jan. 6 – 10:48p.m.
Fraternity Row
Harassment
Identity Theft and threatening calls on cell phone.

Saturday, Jan. 13 – 7:55p.m.
Miller Horse Coliseum
Theft
Officer reported investigation of stolen wallet.

Sunday, Jan. 14 – 11:28a.m.
Fraternity Row
Vandalism
Paint was splattered on lions in front of Sigma Alpha Epsilon house and a gutter was broken away from the building.

Monday, Jan. 15 – 3:39a.m.
Womack Lane
Alcohol Consumption
Someone under the age of 21 was found consuming alcohol.

Tuesday, Jan. 16 – 9:14a.m.
Greenland Drive Lot B
Traffic
There was an accident in which a vehicle left the scene.

Tuesday, Jan. 16 – 4:51p.m.
Scarlett Commons
Theft Under \$500
Caller stated that someone entered apartment over winter break and removed items. Items missing included an X-Box and a TV.

Tuesday, Jan. 16 – 5:48p.m.
Murphy Center
Theft Under \$500

Tuesday, Jan. 16 – 10:56p.m.
Ezell Hall
Miscellaneous
Officers stated that they saw individuals in Ezell Hall throwing objects from the top floor.



The Theta Iota chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity Inc. at MTSU lost their charter after their national headquarters investigated allegations of hazing. Their charter was revoked by the national office at the end of the fall 2006 semester.

Sigma Nu: Members allowed to stay for semester

Continued from 1

McCreary said that members are being allowed to at least live out the rest of the semester in their house and that the parties involved will have a say when it comes time to decide how the house will be occupied.

Along with housing, charter and legal issues, the Theta Iota chapter still has the unidentified hazers to contend with.

Glen said in the press release that once the hazers are identified, they could face expulsion from the fraternity, university discipline and perhaps even face legal action since hazing is against the law.

Haynes made it clear that the whole house was not involved.

"We are just trying to make the gentlemen who participated in these activities realize the consequences of what they have done," Haynes said.

Even though the consequences of the action taken by some of the members of the chapter have been decided in favor of removing them from the campus, both the chapter and the national office hope that one day they can be reinstated.

"Our hope and desire is obviously that we are very much concerned with the loss of this chapter, we never want to see any chapters lost," Beacham said, "We have a long tradition at MTSU and it is a school where we would very much like to re-establish the chapter sooner rather than later." ♦

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SGA Senate Positions Available!

If you are interested in filling one of the vacant SGA Senate seats below, please fill out an application in the SGA Office in KUC 208.

- Business (2 Seats)
- Education & Behavioral Sciences (3 Seats)
- Undeclared (2 Seats)

Requirements
2.3 Cumulative G.P.A.

Attend Senate Meetings (4:30 p.m. Every Other Thursday)

Fulfill Senate Volunteer Hours

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Campus Briefs

Art show helps graphic design students

The Murfreesboro Little Theatre is hosting a benefit for MTSU graphic design students to help raise money for educational trips. Local artists, musicians, crafters, performing artists and MTSU graphic design students will all be featured at the show.

"It's not only an art show and benefit, but a coming together of all types of creative people from the area," Tyson Smith, Graphics Guild manager for the Murfreesboro Little Theatre, said. "This type of event has never happened before, and it would be great if it could become an annual event."

The show will take place at the Murfreesboro Little Theatre at 702 Ewing Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN, on Jan 20, 2007 at 6p.m.

Admission to the show is free and refreshments will be served.

For more information contact Tyson Smith at 496-3789 or via e-mail at art@murfreesborolittletheatre.org.

intersection of Blue Raider Drive and Faulkinberry Drive.

The first floor features a 60-seat Dell computer lab classroom, a 78-seat master classroom and a student seminar room. The second floor includes 12 faculty offices and secretary and reception suite, a 30-seat clinical consultation room and a state-of-the-art 20 bed clinical lab with storage areas.

"We're very excited to have the potential space to allow us to expand the program," Tom Cheatham, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, said. "Two issues that have to be dealt with are the physical space to hold larger classes and serve more student, and to increase the number of nursing faculty, which is something over the next few years we can address."

Students, faculty, alumni and the local community are invited to attend the dedication. David Gregory, the Vice Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents will also be in attendance at Friday's ceremony along with MTSU President Sidney McPhee.

A reception will follow the dedication ceremony.

monthly program where the presidents of MTSU student organizations or their representatives are invited to have lunch with Dr. Gene Fitch, associate dean of Student Affairs and dean of Student Life and other administrative guests.

"We started the Raider RoundUp in September of 2006 and have gotten a great response," Collette Taylor, associate dean of Students for Student Involvement and Leadership said. "We have good discussions on how we can fix problems on campus and what student life should be like for our students."

A variety of topics will be discussed at the meeting with past topics at the Raider RoundUp, including athletics and campus planning.

Free lunch will be provided. For more information contact Collette Taylor, associate dean of Students for Student Involvement and Leadership at 898-5812.

Cheerleaders raise more than pyramids

The second annual "Cheer for Humanity" will take place Sunday, Jan. 21 at 1:00p.m. in the Murphy Center.

Cheer for Humanity is a cheer-leading competition for high school, middle school and All-Star cheer squads. The competition is geared towards raising money for the Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity.

"We are expecting over 25 teams from across the region to participate in this year's competition," Jonathan Pursley, the MTSU Spirit Coordinator and director of the event said. "We're overwhelmed about the support we have received from the community for this event."

This year's competition is geared towards raising money for a Habitat "blitz build" on the MTSU campus during the 2007 Homecoming festivities.

Winners from each division of the competition will receive a paid bid to CheerNation's World Open Cheer Championship to be held Feb 3-4, 2007 in Atlanta, Ga.

The MTSU Cheerleading Squad and dance teams will also give an exhibition of their upcoming competition routines and serve as volunteers at the event.

The competition is open to the public with the doors opening at 12:00p.m. Admission is \$5.

Celebrate New Year's with the Japan-US Program of MTSU

The Japan-United States Program of MTSU will present its annual New Year's celebration Saturday, Jan. 20 from 5:00 to 7:30p.m. in the annex of the Far East Restaurant. This year's entertainment will include traditional Japanese dancing, country music, and taiko drum music, as well as karaoke and door prizes.

Entertainers and party-goers should bring a 'potluck' dish in order to be charged \$1 admission or will have to pay the full admission price of \$5.

"Although some finger foods will be ordered from the restaurant, this event will basically feature 'potluck,' relying on Japanese food contributions, but we will also accept pizza and similar foods," Dr. Kiyoshi Kawahito, professor of economics and finance and the program director said.

The Far East Restaurant is located at 1529 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN. For more information contact Dr. Kiyoshi Kawahito at 898-2229 or kawahito@mtsu.edu.

Step into spring with the Raider RoundUp

The Raider RoundUp will take place Jan. 23 at 11:30a.m. The Raider RoundUp is a bi-

Stones River Chamber Players concert on Jan. 29

The Stones River Chamber Players will perform the second of its annual three-concert series at MTSU on Jan. 29 at 7:30p.m. in Hinton Hall of the Wright Music Building.

"The title of the program, 'Two, Four, Six, Eight,' describes how the program will unfold to the audience," Todd Waldecker, MTSU professor of clarinet and co-director for the group, said.

The concert will feature the music of composers such as Beethoven, Stravinsky and Maxine Warshauer.

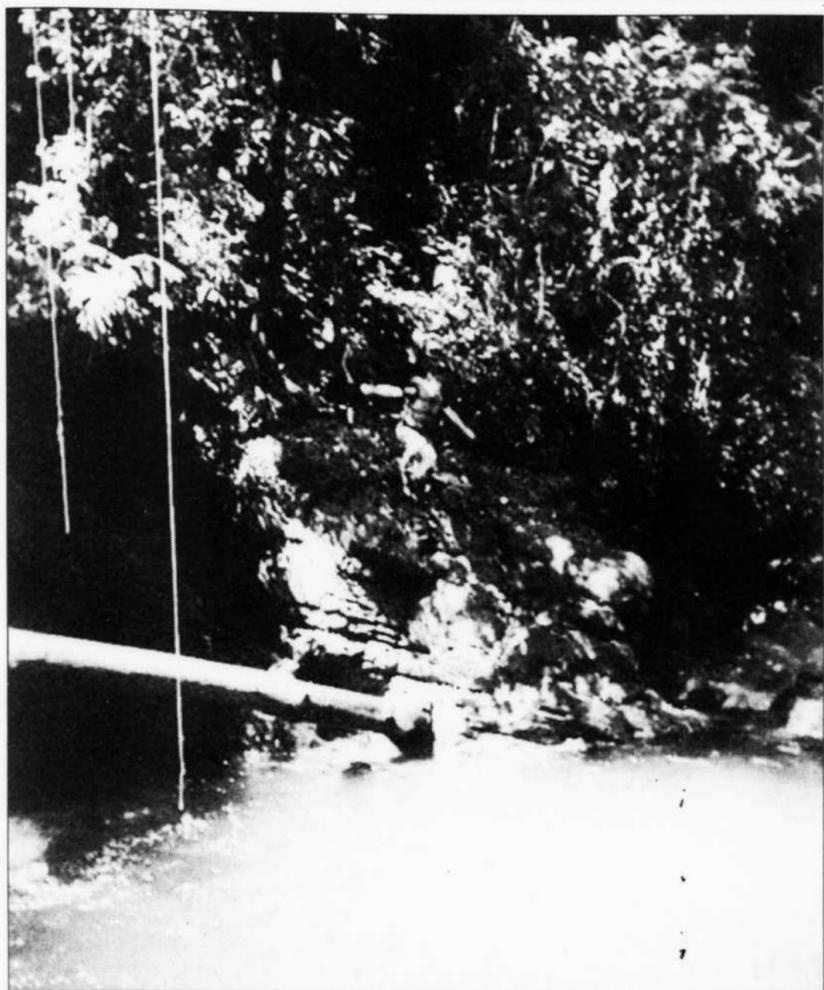
Paul Osterfield, professor of composition at MTSU, will also debut his piece entitled "Divertimento" for winds, piano, and double bass. Reed Thomas, MTSU director of bands will also conduct the final piece of the evening.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information contact the MTSU McLean School of Music at 898-2493.

Nursing Building to be dedicated Friday

The two-story, 23,717-square foot addition to the Carson-Kennedy Nursing building will be dedicated on Friday, Jan. 19 at 10 a.m.

The structure is located across from Tucker Theatre near the



Campus Rec pursues outdoors in Costa Rica

By Andy Harper

Campus News Editor

The MTSU Outdoor Pursuits program is planning their fourth trip to Costa Rica during Spring Break.

"Right now, the trip is close to being cancelled," said Scott Pruett, Recreation Center challenge course and climbing wall coordinator. "We need a minimum of eight people who can make a firm commitment as soon as possible. In addition to the minimum eight, two individuals attend as trip coordinators."

The trip, which has an informational meeting in February, has only four prospective members.

"I thought the trip was great," said Michelle Pruett, who attended the Costa Rica visit two years ago. "The experience is very diverse and everybody will have one or two things they love. Beside just the beautiful landscape, it was a pretty cool adventure where you meet many different locales, see a variety of wildlife and, of course, do a lot of outdoors activities."

Activities include kayaking, canoeing and zip lining, Scott said. The trip lasts seven to eight days and the group travels to five different locations in the country.

"You learn a lot about the landscapes and environment when you go," said Michelle, an exercise science doctoral student. "Scott and I went to dinner one night and while we were there we saw a two-toed sloth crawling in the trees. When we went to go take a look, we saw that she was carrying her baby in her pouch."

While the majority of the trip costs are included in the initial price, many side activities are available for an additional fee, such as horseback riding, snorkeling and whitewater rafting.

"We paid a little extra for some of the other activities like horseback, but it was the smaller adventures that made the trip worth it," Michelle said. "When we went, we rode on the beach and through the woods. We also rode to a butterfly garden. But even with all the little side activities, there was still plenty of time to shop."

The trip is designed for people who want to have recreational fun and it does not count for any credit, Scott said.

In fact, the program allows not just MTSU students but community members to attend.

"The cost is around \$1200," Scott said. "But it does not include airfare and spending

money. So in total, the trip becomes about \$1500. The trip is just a great alternative for people who don't want to study abroad. You get a great cultural experience and adventure."

Part of the cultural experience is the food, which consists mainly of chicken and rice based dishes, Michelle said.

"The food was a lot like you would see offered in American-Mexican restaurants."

One of the best experiences was the whitewater rafting, Michelle said.

"We stayed in little huts and ate dinner. It was a lot like 'Gilligan's Island.' We just chilled out and the locales cooked for us, and the rapids were a great ride. The whole trip is really action-packed and you are doing something the whole time."

Although the trip has a lot of optional activities it is not a stressful time. There was plenty of opportunities for rest.

"Scott and I still see people on campus," Michelle said. "We sit with them in the stands at basketball games and visit. You really meet a lot of people and make a lot of good friendships." ♦



Clean Energy Fee Funding Available

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

All Clean Energy Projects and Proposals Should Focus Primarily On:

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

To submit a Clean Energy Fee funding proposal, please visit SGA's website at www.mtsu.edu/~sga.

Eligible Spending May Include:

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

For more information, please contact Dr. Gene Fitch at 898-2750 or gfitch@mtsu.edu.

Your mom called and said to come write for the Sidelines news team.

Application for writers being accepted. (Room 269 in Mass Comm Building)

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Classifieds

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January Move in Special! Two weeks free with approved application. Houses in Murfreesboro close to MTSU off Rutherford Blvd. Middle Tennessee Realty Group. 615-893-2380.

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Camp Counselors needed for great overnight camps in the Pocono Mtns. of PA. Gain valuable experience while working with children in the outdoors. Teach/assist with athletics, swimming, A&C, drama, yoga, archery, gymnas-

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OPPORTUNITIES SERVICES

Miscellaneous

POLICIES
Sidelines will be responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any

reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm, Rm 269. For more information, call the business office at 615-898-5111. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.

OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

Unclear hazing policy penalizes Sigma Nu for questionable actions

The MTSU chapter of Sigma Nu's charter was revoked after an investigation by the National Fraternity found that hazing had occurred. The university, however, plans to side with the fraternity in submitting an appeal to the national organization and support the Theta Iota chapter in its efforts to regain their charter.

Why have the details of the hazing not been released and why is MTSU standing up for a fraternity whose members went against school policy?

If MTSU is being so lenient, perhaps they have a better internal perspective on the situation than the Sigma Nu headquarters base that is stationed eight hours away. However, even if the fraternity does get its charter back, there are certain things that must change.

The biggest argument is that having the charter revoked is not a fair punishment to inflict on the whole chapter, when a only few individuals performed the hazing. In that case, they should adopt a Mafia-esque "cleaning house" system. Translation: kick out the culprits. Yes, it is a fraternity and brothers are supposed to stand and fall together, but does this hold true in an isolated, illegal instance?

Already, the entire fraternity is taking blame for the actions of individuals, and in doing so are fulfilling the "all for one, one for all" mentality. However, it is time for the guilty parties to man-up and be recognized for their actions. Everyone makes mistakes, some worse than others, but the worst mistake of all is dragging the innocent members down along with you.

However, the punishment should not end there. We are in college, so we enjoy sitting through lengthy seminars. That being said, officers in the chapter should have to give a mandatory seminar on hazing for the rest of their brothers, clearly addressing and defining the repercussions of hazing.

This way, MTSU comes out looking fairly neutral, neither an overbearing drill-sergeant nor a kid-pleasing parent.

U.S. politics require revolution, revision

The United States is on the path to destruction. This is not some religious warning of godlessness, rather an objective look at the current state of our Union.

I am troubled when I say the state of our Union is in shambles. Abraham Lincoln once said, "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

Lincoln's warning seems to ring true today. Democrats and Republicans alike take turns destroying our freedom and relinquishing our sovereignty. Whether it is the distortion of the Constitution or the unbridled growth of the federal government, both major parties appear to be proficient at hacking away at the foundation of our great nation. How would the founding fathers react to such a blatant disregard for the U.S. Constitution?

The solution is both simple and complex. Thomas Jefferson said, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

This solution is simple in that it addresses our needs immediately. Revolution would remove those tyrants who have usurped the Constitution and distorted its original intent.

Revolution would eliminate the problem of big government.

Revolution would put the power in the hands of the people. There must be American patriots who can restore our nation to the great Republic it once was.

On the other hand, this solution is complex because too many people are satisfied with the status quo - whether Democrats or Republicans are in power. Not enough people care about liberty to actually do anything.



Hurt Pride

Matt Hurtt
Staff Columnist

Honestly, many innocent and apathetic Americans would probably die in the process - all due to their lukewarm stance on liberty.

Is revolution absolutely necessary? It is fairly obvious there can be no major change in the American system, as the Democrats and Republicans have monopolized the political system and refuse to represent the American people accordingly. Members of both parties have become so drunk with power nothing else matters.

Politicians fully understand there is no alternative to the two major parties, and they have little or no incentive to improve the condition of the American political system. It is up to the modern-day Samuel Adams or Patrick Henry to rally the democratic mob against the corrupt government, as long as that mob was immediately subdued once its ends were met.

Whatever it takes to restore power to the American people is appropriate. For far too long, both Democrats and Republicans have trampled our freedoms and our Constitution, and it is time that we rise up and take back our country. In the words of Patrick Henry, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

Matthew Hurtt is a sophomore liberal arts major and can be reached at mch2x@mtsu.edu.

Nation loses sight of war's purpose

The news from the front is discouraging. Insufficient troops to quell further violence, and indications that the former ruling party is gathering strength to challenge the security forces. A staggering 400 percent increase in the number of attacks on U.S. forces, as of the past December.

But wait, you might say, that doesn't sound like Iraq.

You'd be right. I'm referring to Afghanistan, the "other" war that the United States is currently waging. This discouraging assessment of the state of affairs comes from Lieutenant General Karl Eikenberry, the U.S. military's top commander in Afghanistan.

He recently briefed new Defense Secretary Robert Gates in several closed-door meetings conducted this week. Eikenberry warns the brass that Pakistan is turning a blind eye to their leaky borders and that the Taliban resurgence is particularly worrisome.

This is coming on the heels of the announcement that President George W. Bush plans a troop increase of nearly 20,000 - in the wrong war zone.

Squint hard and think back to the latter months of 2001. We were informed, within days of the infamous Sept. 11 attacks, that the al-Qaida terrorist group was to blame, and it was harbored by the extremist Taliban government in Afghanistan. Simple, right?

The war machine promptly ground into motion to eliminate the threat of al-Qaida, and clean up Afghanistan once and for all. For a time, it seemed that the plan was working. There was support from the Afghans, and a local militia called the Northern Alliance threw its support behind the U.S. and NATO-led invasion. Public support in the United States and abroad for the war was robust.



Tenacious E

Evan Barker
Staff Columnist

Then, something happened. A wrench was thrown into the proverbial gearbox of the effort to eliminate terrorist threats. The bogus Iraq war was foisted on the American public and the rest of the United Nations. The massive American war effort shifted focus to a higher-profile, but unrelated bad-guy: Saddam Hussein. Aside from the political bickering and debate as to the actual danger posed by Saddam to the United States, the invasion went forward anyway.

With the focus removed from Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden, and placed squarely on Iraq, the Bush administration committed perhaps the largest error yet in the so-called War on Terror: the re-deployment of troops from Afghanistan, where a democratic government was in its infancy, to Iraq, to depose Saddam.

Outcry was heard, if only minimally. The most common complaint, stilled by the Bush administration, was that bin Laden and Saddam are by no means the same devil, and to abandon the hunt for bin Laden in Afghanistan was a grave mistake. Another complaint was that by reducing troop levels in Afghanistan, the Taliban militias would be able to regain a foothold and mount attacks on the new government. Both prophecies have been fulfilled, to the letter.

Instead of one democratic government, and

a land newly freed of the repressive Taliban government, we now have two quagmires, both with heavy loss of life, spiraling out of control. It's not farfetched to assume that al-Qaida could resume operations in Afghanistan, if it hasn't already done so.

Scariest still; there is little mention in the media of the recent meetings between General Eikenberry and the Defense Secretary Gates.

It's time for the public to wake up. We need to finish one war before starting the next; a message that should have been heard in 2003 before Operation "Git-Us-Some-Oil" was begun. Bush's proposed troop increase should be redirected to Afghanistan, to fix the mistake he made four years ago in sending our troops to Iraq.

The American public ought to be outraged. Instead of hunting terrorists, an activity which the people generally support, the Bush administration has turned to wars of dubious motivation, in lands far removed from al-Qaida and Taliban strongholds.

The public has had the wool pulled over its collective eyes, by believing the Bush team's story about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and Saddam's "imminent" military threat to the safety of the United States.

Shame on us for being so stupid. We have allowed ourselves to be distracted from punishing those responsible for Sept. 11, to invading oil-rich nations.

Furthermore, it is a disservice to our armed forces that a shoestring military is left to fend for itself in Afghanistan, while the bulk of our already-spread-thin forces are sent to Iraq.

Divided, we fall.

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

Letters to the Editor

Anti-smoking regulations would be Marxist

To the Editor:

Since the anti-smoking laws are once again rearing their ugly heads, I thought that I would remind Tennesseans that smoking laws are indeed a prohibition issue, since the very act of smoking is a victimless crime. In order to be a choice issue, the act must be a victimless crime. We know that prohibition laws were laws that were passed over these victimless crimes, and were declared unconstitutional since it was a freedom of choice issue.

To have prohibition laws of any form is to take our society into Marxism, working for the "collective good," and the good of the group rather than for the rights and freedoms of the individual as our founding fathers strived for. Marxism is collectivism, or when there is a board or bureau deciding for everyone what is "best" for society as a whole, and the rights of the individuals in that society suffer loss of personal freedoms and decision-making for how they want to live their own lives. Such is the case in the recent anti-smoking laws in England, where smoking was banned even in the home. The collectivist leftist claimed that it was the cause of rising health care costs due to the socialized medicine being bankrupt. Our founding fathers were correct in not wanting socialism for this reason, that reason being that when you get government money you get big government control.

Banning smoking is just the beginning of the loss of personal freedoms for that nation, all being done because of having a big socialist government that is going bankrupt as socialist nations always do. We Tennesseans need to avoid the pitfalls of collectivism, by not allowing a board of people to make our personal choices for us in how we live our lives. It does not matter if they are trying to force their will on us because of their moral agenda, or their love for big government socialism and socialized medicine. The real issue is about keeping the right to decide for ourselves what choices we will make for our lives up to the individual, and not a board of collectivists trying to bring us the Marxist collectivism legislation.

Carrie Scoggins
Bigsby Creek Rd NW, Cleveland, TN

Lack of understanding creates intolerance

To the Editor:

This past semester I faithfully read every issue of *Sidelines* I could and have noticed a growing trend. This slant on social view is fairly insignificant, fairly common and fairly unwarranted. No one knows what it is like to be anyone else. Captain Obvious has spoken, but it is far more simply broken down than it should be. It has been relegated to this: whites do not know what it is to be black, the rich do not know what it is to be poor, non-Greeks do not know what it is to be Greek and professors do not know what it is to be a student. Most are so wrapped up in being cynical and sarcastic to be fashionable that they have either forgotten or were never taught something more important than their differences with others; the fact others have those differences as well.

I am willing to bet a large sum of money that no one on this campus except for me watched, not on television, but with their own eyes the events that took place on Sept. 11, 2001. That no one else, four hours later had every sense they possess assaulted as they walked into the Pentagon and started to assist in recovery. That no one else, six

months later, had to carry the casket of the first Special Forces fatality to its final resting place and saw the look of despair and sadness on the face of his wife and family and fellow soldiers when they realized they had already spent their last moments on earth with this person and did not get to say everything that needed to be said.

It has been said to me by many that I would be within the civil liberties I took an oath to uphold and defend to hate and belittle those who oppose the war on terror. That is not true. Many are so ignorant of the fact that a person's experience or lack thereof and the opinions derived from those situations is what makes the other person and themselves unique to each other. This is a good thing. If everyone in the world had the same experiences and came to the same conclusions it would be - well, it would be the military.

I do not think anyone should thank me for serving this country, although I do thank my military cohorts for their service, because that would be vain - although I do genuinely appreciate it when I get a thank you. On the other hand, I know from my experiences that something less than one-eighth of an inch across can change this campus, nation and planet in to something different and better than it has ever been. A single, properly timed tap on the space bar of your keyboard can fundamentally change the way you think.

Don't believe me? Try this: type WITHINTOLERANCE. Now, place the space in one position and you have a phrase that has plagued this small speck in space since the inception of life. Place that lack of a character two letters to the right and you get something all together different and truly great.

You no longer treat people with intolerance, but realize that why and how a person views the world may in fact be within tolerance.

Bill Metts
Senior, Criminal Justice

Store's policy leaves patron feeling uneasy

To the Editor:

Video game stores are collecting identifying information from their customers who sell game systems to them. That's good. I understand that is to protect me. What is not good is when a business misrepresents what is required by the law. I went in to a corporate-owned game store near the MTSU campus to sell a game for my 15-year-old. When I questioned the necessity of giving my weight and right thumb print, I was told that they were only complying with the law in requiring those as a condition of my receiving payment. I'm ashamed to say that I took their word for it.

I was unhappy enough to check around after I left. First, I called the corporate office in Gainesville, Florida who confirmed that their policy was in compliance with local law enforcement. Next, I called several of their competitors who said they require a driver's license for these type of transactions. Before I could find the letter to the Editor of the *Sidelines* Web site, the corporate office called me back, offering to return my information to me. It turns out this may be required in other states in which they do business but not here in Murfreesboro, TN. Next time, if you will take someone's word on something I'm not comfortable with. You will draw your own conclusions about what is proper, but especially if you're a female, you may want to call ahead and see if you're going to have to give your weight in a crowded store in order to do business there.

Linda Simmons
Foxdale Dr. Murfreesboro, TN

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. *Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. *Sidelines* publishes Monday, Wednesday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily *Sidelines* or MTSU.

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FEATURES

Stylish decor on a college student's budget

With a little creativity, great design can be cheap and easy

By Sarah Lavery

Features Editor

Stark white walls and a thin, firm mattress do little to curb the inevitable stress encountered by a college student.

Whether you're living in the dorms, you just ventured out on your own, or you're still shackled up in your pink-walled, stuffed-animal ridden room at your parent's house, it's up to you to get those creative juices flowing and redecorate your living space.

A lot of people succumb to boring design because they don't feel up to the task — maybe interior decorating just isn't your thing, or, if you're like 99 percent of your fellow college students, you don't have tons of disposable income to waste on duvet covers and wall hangings.

However, it doesn't have to be that difficult. Taking small steps toward a hip, comfortable living space is all you need to walk in the door after a hard day and feel thankful to be home.

First, and most importantly, invest in a mattress topper and some amazingly soft sheets. The secret to happiness lies in a welcoming bed. Cotton jersey "t-shirt" sheets are incredibly soft, inexpensive and come in a wide variety of colors at your local Bed Bath and Beyond or Linens 'N Things. Mattress toppers — the best are the fiber filled kind — will run around \$50, but are definitely worth the investment.

Next, make your furniture your own. One day, maybe you'll have the salary to go to Ashley Furniture and pick up the cherry-wood bedroom set, but probably not today. Instead, check out Salvation Army or any thrift store and pick up some unique, well-loved pieces. Anything wood can be easily sanded and re-stained — just go to Home Depot, it will only cost around \$15. If you're feeling extra artsy, buy some paint and go at it.

If you're lucky enough to have inherited some hand-me-downs

from your family's pad, don't stop there. Even if your clunky wood nightstand and black armoire appears to have no cohesive design, you can easily change it. Remove the knobs to the drawers, spray-paint them the color of your choice, and add a little creative flair to the furniture. Who says a purple coffee table belongs in a daycare? Make it your own.

When you first rent your own place, you're usually happy to have any sort of couch, be it plaid, huke green or bloodstained. Instead, try making your own slipcover — it's not as difficult as you may think.

First, measure your couch from its lowest point to the highest and

then measure the width. When

picking out a fabric

remember, the thicker

it is, the harder it

will be to work with,

and to double

check the measurements.

At home, place the piece of furniture

evenly, being sure to let out

enough fabric to reach the floor,

plus a little extra allowance for a

hem. Tuck the fabric around

curves and corners with a pleating

or fold and pin the folds in place.

At this point, you have the choice

to leave it as is — not many of us

are sewing aficionados — or, you

can hold the pleats in place per-

manently with a tacking stitch,

being sure that the fabric is held

securely in place while making the

pleats around the whole piece.

Pin up the edges of the fabric

that will touch the floor, trimming off the extra fabric to an inch longer than needed.

You can easily sew a hem around the bottom with a sewing machine or hand-sewn hem stitch, or, if you're lazy or just not keen on picking up a needle and thread, safety pins also do a decent job at keeping the slip cover securely attached to the cushions.

Finally, when it comes to adding pizzazz to your new space, always opt for creativity over design clichés. Sure, you could plaster your walls with inspirational posters or pictures of Playboy models making out with each other, but would it really be a place you'd be proud to show off to your new date? Didn't think so.

Be original and check out a record store — Cat's Music on Middle Tennessee Boulevard, has a good selection — and frame your findings on your wall in rows with even spacing.

Urbanoutfitters.com sells record frames at two for \$22. That Cyndi Lauper album might not be your cup of tea, but it'll sure look good framed and hanging on your wall.

Viola — a self-made, completely unique decoration that screams urban college student rather than porn-obsessed frat boy.

And for the ultimate in cheap and chic interior designing, you can never go wrong with a can of spray paint. Just make sure you use it outdoors with a mask — you probably won't pass the semester if you inhale half your brain cells away.

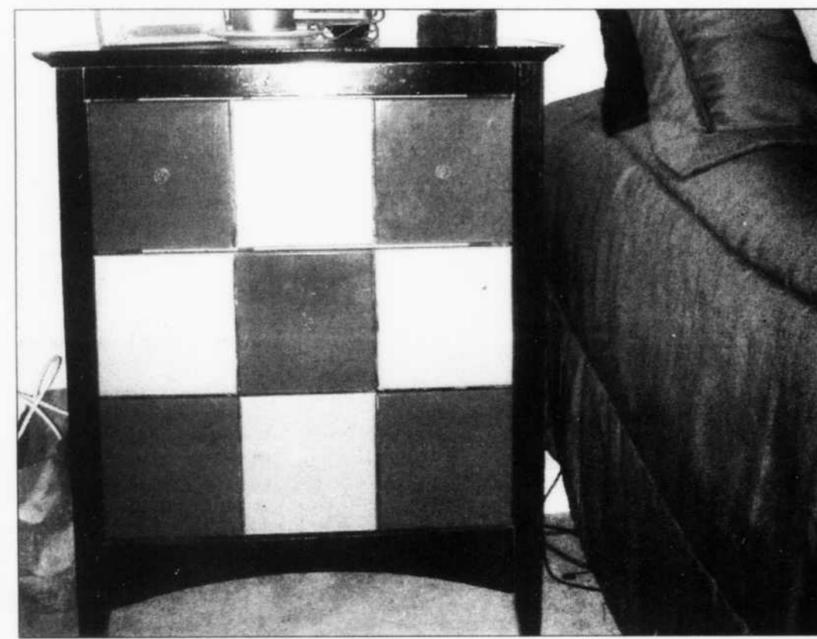
You'll find that this tip is a little addicting — once you see how awesome that \$3 lamp looks with a coat of gold spray paint, you'll be on an incessant search for your next victim.

Yes, most of us are broke. Yes, most of us don't know a thing about interior design.

However, does that mean we must feel satisfied with an ugly plaid couch, a plastic TV-stand and bare walls? No. All it takes is a little effort, a little creativity, a little bit of gas to get to the nearest thrift store and a lot of spray paint. ♦



Photos by Sarah Lavery | Features Editor
Junior broadcasting major Erin Porterfield turned this hand-me-down armoire (above) and nightstand (below) into works of art by carefully taping off the borders of the patterns she wanted



your

measure-

ments. At

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pleats around the whole piece.

Pin up the edges of the fabric

Tech Briefs

Netflix to offer online movies for viewing

LOS GATOS, Calif. (AP) - Netflix Inc. will start showing movies and TV episodes over the Internet this week, providing its subscribers with more instant gratification as the DVD-by-mail service prepares for a looming technology shift threatening its survival.

The Los Gatos-based company plans to unveil the new "Watch Now" feature Tuesday, but only a small number of its more than six million subscribers will get immediate access to the service, which is being offered at no additional charge.

The allotted viewing time will be tied to how much customers already pay for their DVD rentals. Under Netflix's most popular \$17.99 monthly package, subscribers will receive 18 hours of Internet viewing time.

Netflix's DVD library, by comparison, spans more than 70,000 titles, one of the main reasons why the mail is expected to remain the preferred delivery option for most subscribers. Despite its limitations, the online delivery system represents a significant step for Netflix as it tries to avoid obsolescence after the Internet becomes the preferred method for piping movies into homes. Besides preparing Netflix

for the future, the instant viewing system also gives the company a potential weapon in its battle with Blockbuster Inc. As part of an aggressive marketing campaign, Blockbuster has been giving its online subscribers the option of bypassing the mail and returning DVDs to a store so they can obtain another movie more quickly.

After first brushing off Netflix as a nettlesome novelty, Blockbuster has spent the past few years expanding a similar online rental service that provoked a legal spat over alleged patent infringement.

Online movie delivery already is available through services like CinemaNow, MovieFlix, Movielink, Vongo and Amazon.com Inc.'s recently launched Unbox. Apple Inc. also is emerging as major player, with hundreds of movies and TV shows on sale at its iTunes store and a new device that promises to transport media from a computer to a TV screen.

Like already existing online delivery services, Netflix's "Watch Now" option offers a lot of "B" movies such as "Kickboxer's Tears." But the mix also includes critically acclaimed selections like "Network," "Amadeus," "Chinatown" and "The Bridge On the River Kwai." ♦

iPhone latest technology to please Apple fanatics

By Sarah Lavery

Features Editor

Just when you think you've got the coolest phone, just after you've emptied your bank account for that shiny, state-of-the-art piece of technology, Apple comes around and makes your pride and glory look like a child's plaything.

Apple CEO Steve Jobs has just announced plans for the new iPhone, set to be released in June. The 4.5 inches high, 2.5 inches wide and less than half-an-inch thick cell phone has enough features to satisfy even the greediest of consumers. Most of us don't necessarily need an iPod, a Web browser, a text chat system, a version of Mac OS X, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and a global positioning system all at the same time. And, oh yeah, you can call people on it too.

Just like the iPod, the new iPhone will surely become the new face in technological status symbols. Aside from its plethora of features, the real point is how it looks and what it says about the person who has it glued to their ear.

And it looks spectacular. From the back, it looks just like an iPod, but from the front — all blackened glass with a flash of silver and a touch screen — it looks like groundbreaking design.

Most phones need to boast a multitude of features if they want to stand a chance in the crowded market. However, if you've ever tried to use your phone for something other than calling someone, you've no doubt reached the peak of frustration. It just won't move

fast enough.

The iPhone seems to be the answer to perpetual multitasker's prayers. It has the groundbreaking multi-touch, which reads what your fingers mean when they touch the screen a certain way, complete with an Apple-invented language of finger movements.

Put two fingers down and tap twice to zoom out; tap twice to zoom in. To scroll up or down, simply move your finger across the screen, as if slinging a quarter across a surface. Even more, the iPhone features an on-screen keyboard for composing e-mails and text messages.

Affordable, however, it is not. Starting at \$499, the iPhone blows Verizon's crowning glory, the Chocolate, out of the water on affordability. The Chocolate originally threatened the novelty of the iPod with its "Zune" digital music player, but the shroud of newness surrounding it has begun to fade. Clearly, the iPhone will become the new phone-to-beat.

The iPhone will face inevitable bumps in the road, though. The steep \$499 price tag is only offered if you sign a two-year contract with Cingular, the only cell phone provider with which it has teamed.

Even more, the complexity of the iPhone — as well as giving it its bragging rights — has the potential to backfire. The built-in accelerometer which is used to detect when it's flipped sideways, the proximity sensor the phone uses to tell when it's near your face, and its capability to understand countless finger movements all add to its potential

to crash or slow down, just like an bogged-down computer.

Along with Jobs' iPhone announcement, he also announced plans for the Apple TV, set to go on sale in February for \$299. The premise is a set-top box that can stream your digital media from your computer through to your high-definition television set; basically, from the comfort of your couch, you can

under the death grip IBM had on the computer industry, the iPod has turned Apple into the poster-company for hip, urban, young professionals — and those hoping to adopt the "Apple" persona.

In Steven Levy's book "The Great Thing," a look at the making of the iPod, he writes that the MP3 player has become the main item demanded by celebrities in their gift bags. If nothing else, the

iPhone will surely create a similar frenzy — perhaps making cameos in rap videos and adorning the swankiest celebs being hunted by the paparazzi. ♦



browse MySpace, Facebook, your e-mail, girlsgonewild.com or anything else from your computer on your television set, all with the flick of a handy Apple remote. Apple has become the leading force in technology. Once covering

SPORTS

Blue Raider volleyball scores successful season

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

After a successful season the Blue Raiders reflect on the obstacles they faced in the 2006 season.

The season began with the Mast General Store Appalachian State Classic where Middle Tennessee went toe-to-toe with other teams and swept the classic winning all three games.

Sophomore Ashley Adams had 49 kills over the three matches and won the tournament Most Valuable Player trophy. Both Alicia Lemau'u and Quanshell Scott were voted to the All-Tournament Team.

The following week Middle went to Lincoln, Nebraska for the Nebraska Tournament. Waiting in the wings for the Blue Raiders was Number 1 Nebraska who won the 2006 NCAA Tournament this season.

Middle lost to Nebraska and Long Beach, but bounced back to beat Saint Mary's (Calif.) in the tournament.

The Blue Raiders returned to Murfreesboro after winning the first games against Miami of Ohio and Illinois-Chicago, only to lose to Saint Louis and Creighton in the Blue Raider Bash.

Middle Tennessee rebounded with a sweep of the Albany Tournament before entering the Sun Belt Conference play. They went 14-3 in the conference losing to North Texas, Western Kentucky and Florida Atlantic.

MT's game against WKU brought in the second-largest crowd with 1,022 to see MT fall in five games to its rival.

The loss to WKU made the final game of the season against Western Kentucky more important because with a win the Raiders will claim the No. 1 seed in the conference tournament.

A loss by the Raiders sends them to the No. 3 seed.

After dropping the first match to WKU, MT won the next three matches and earned a share for the SBC East title.

The Raiders snapped a 24 home-game winning streak by the Mean Green when they final beat UNT 3-1 and for their first win over the Mean Green since 2000.

MT closed out their season with a 23-7 record and GVT head coach Matt Peck his third straight winning season.

MT faced FAU with ease and much the same with UNT, as MT was one game away from winning their first tournament championship in ten years and first SBC Tournament Championship ever.

The Blue Raiders took the court against Florida International for the SBC Championship and shutout FIU for the third time this season.

Adams was voted the Sun Belt Tournament MVP along with Scott and Jessica Robinson who were named All-Tournament. Adams finished the tournament with 63 kills. She averaged 6.3 kills per game in the tournament.

With the win the Raiders received an automatic bid in the NCAA Tournament and made history after winning their first round series against Louisville in five matches.

The Blue Raiders faced No. 18 Ohio State in the second round. They lost 3-1. MT finished the season 28-7, to give them the third-best season record in school history.

Adams and other Blue Raiders continue to receive rewards long after the season is over, with Adams being voted All-South Region and named AVCA Honor All-American a week later.

Adams completed the year with 547 kills and currently ranked third all-time in the Blue Raider record book for the most kills in a season. She averaged 4.45 kills per game, along with a .360 attacking percentage.



Redshirt sophomore Megan Carter played in 48 games and has four digs in the 2006 season.

Senior Megan Sumrell ended her career with the most assists in school history, with 4,020. Fellow teammate setter Leslie Clark was the first freshman to get 1,158 assists in school history in assists during the season.

Lemau'u shattered the school record for digs with

1,574, and she returns next year as a senior. Ashley Asberry broke the school record for block assists with 167 and currently ranks third in the record books for block per game, with 1.50.

The Blue Raiders received six votes in the final AVCA poll of the season ranked 34th in the nation.

Central Michigan defeats Raiders at Bowl



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Senior Clint Marks hands the ball off to Eugene Gross for the first touchdown for the Blue Raiders in Division I-A era football. CMU defeats MT 31-14 in Detroit.

By Wesley Mize

Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's dream season came to end on Dec. 26 with a 31-14 loss to Central Michigan in the 10th Annual Motor City Bowl.

A Motor City Bowl record crowd of 54,113 witnessed MT stage a late rally but fall short due to 10 penalties and a high-powered CMU offense.

Central Michigan looked to strike early and did just that, putting together a nine play scoring drive on their first possession led by Motor City Bowl Most Valuable Player Dan LeFevour.

LeFevour, who entered the game leading all freshmen quarterbacks in passing yards, drove the Chippewas down the field finding Justin Gardner on a 26-yard pass for a first down.

Four plays later, LeFevour used his legs and ran for 12 yards down to the one-yard line. Running back, Ontario Sneed took care of business from there, scoring on the very next play to put the Chippewas up by a score of 7-0.

Middle Tennessee looked to answer on their first possession as quarterback Clint Marks completed three straight passes for 16, 18 and 9 yards, respectively.

After a short gain on a run by Eugene Gross, Marks was sacked twice for a loss of 13 total yards.

Marks found Jonathan Grigsby on the very next play for a 13-yard pass to put the Blue Raiders in position to attempt a field goal.

Colby Smith lined up for a 39-yard field goal to put MT on the board but his kick sailed wide left ending the drive.

Central Michigan took advantage of the missed kick and LeFevour and Sneed led the way once again.

Sneed began the drive with a 26 yard run to the outside. Three plays later, Sneed was the recipient of a LeFevour pass good for 29 yards and a touchdown for the Chippewas.

The CMU offense was able to travel 78 yards on just four plays while taking only 51 seconds off the game clock to extend the lead to 14-0.

After each team punted, MT received the ball to begin their third drive of the game.

The Blue Raiders turned a third-and-one into a first down after Marks rushed for a three-yard gain.

The coaching staff called for a shot downfield, and Marks let one loose on the next play.

The pass fell incomplete but pass interference was called on CMU giving the Blue Raiders 15 yards and a first down.

The first quarter ended after a three-run by DeMarco McNair to put the Blue Raiders at the 50-yard line.

Marks found Jonathan Grigsby on a 13-yard strike to begin the second quarter.

Three plays later, Marks was

able to connect with Gross for an 18-yard strike to keep the drive alive.

The Blue Raiders gave the Chippewas a heavy dose of Gross over the next three plays as he ran for 13 yards down to the three-yard line.

Middle called on Gross again to finish the drive and put points on the board. Gross rushed through the line and was tripped up before falling into the end zone.

The officials ruled that Gross was down at the one-yard line, but they decided to review the play upstairs.

After review, the officials declared that Gross had broke the plane of the end zone before his knee touched the ground meaning the Blue Raiders had scored their first touchdown in bowl history. Middle was back in the game trailing 14-7.

The Blue Raiders attempted an onside kick following the touchdown to try to catch Central Michigan off guard, but the attempt failed as CMU recovered at the 49-yard line.

Blue Raider head coach Rick Stockstill explained the decision to kick during the post-game press conference.

"They scored on their first two drives so we thought we'd try the onside once we scored," Stockstill said.

"Colby has really executed that play well the last two weeks and has kicked it perfect. I thought he was in a good rhythm, and I thought he had confidence in his

See SPORTS, 7



I am Sportsacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

Losing not an option for the Lady Raiders

Before the women's college hoops season started, there was much talk of this being the Lady Raider's year. After their success of last year and the addition of rising star Amber Holt, people were talking about going deep into the playoffs.

Talk such as that in Murfreesboro isn't uncommon, but what are the odds that they are doing even better than the talk predicted.

After starting the season by barely losing a buzzer beating against the defending National Champion Maryland Terps, Chrissy Givens and company have shown they aren't content to dominate the Sun Belt. This is a team that wants to compete at any level.

Insell's squad gained the national attention they felt they deserved when they beat No. 8 Georgia to close out their non-conference schedule. Graham Hayes of espn.com went so far as to say "this wasn't David slaying Goliath. In fact, the true importance of this game might have been in how little of an upset it really was."

With Givens averaging 21 points per game and Holt not far behind with 18.2, the Lady Raiders only need 17 points from the remainder of their team to score more than the 64 points per game they are allowing.

What's amazing is they are getting more than two and a half times the amount of points needed from the remainder of their starters and the bench.

How do they average 80 plus points in women's college basketball? The way any good team does. They use the rules to their advantage. The addition of Amber Holt has given them a go-to option in the paint or on fast breaks.

As good as Holt is at scoring, she seems to be even better at drawing fouls. In the Maryland game, she seemed to be responsible for every Maryland shooting-foul throughout the first two and a half quarters. She is leading the team in free-throw shooting percentage (by players with more than five free throws) at .824.

When you figure that Givens

is getting nearly 70 percent as many free throws this easily accounts for, at least 12-15 extra points a game, even with shooting and rebounding, that's a huge advantage.

The tough defense and court speed of the Raiders has also added a degree of panic to their opponent's play, which of course leads to turnovers. In fact, the Raiders average 11 more turnovers per game than their opponents.

Some teams' free philosophy is based solely on free-throw attempts, turnover margins or three point shooting. MT is dominant in all three, and that is why they are ranked in the Top 20.

Having met coach Insell I can guarantee you he could care less about that number. He isn't here to climb the polls-he's here to win every single game.

The first time I met the legendary former high-school coach was at a press conference before the Maryland game. A Fox News reporter had the audacity to ask him if he was worried about how a blow-out loss to Maryland might affect his team. His response was legendary.

"Well, I'm not trying to be facetious, but I don't plan on losing. I mean, I don't ever plan on losing. I know it may happen, but it's certainly not in our plans."

I wonder what would have happened if someone asked Coach Stockstill such a question? At the time, I saw it as a clever way of not calling a question stupid but after playing Maryland that hard, playing UT as hard as anyone could expect and beating the Bulldogs, I am starting to realize that was a mission statement.

J. Owen Shipley's column "Making sense of the Gonzo Bowl" has been posted to the Sidelines website as of Monday. Both this column and past columns of J. Owen Shipley can be seen on www.mtsusidelines.com.

J. Owen Shipley is a Senior (ish) English Major at MTSU. He can be reached Myspace.com/IamSportsacus

Men's tennis team win six matches

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

Men's tennis team won four matches in the Florida State invitational on Saturday in Naples, Fla.

The 31st-ranked men's team of Middle Tennessee picked up a couple of wins in singles action, after winning four matches on Friday.

The men's tennis open their season in Naples with the squad picking up some much needed wins against Portland, Illinois and Florida State in singles play.

Morgan Richard and Joao Paoliello both won their matches on the last day of the tournament. Richard beat out Georgia Tech's Eric Molnar, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, while Paoliello had little trouble beating Florida State's Andrew Bailey 6-2, 7-5.

Marc Rocafort lost to Illinois Kevin Anderson 1-6, 1-6 and Marco Boiron fell to Georgia Tech's Zach Rath 2-6, 3-6.

Friday the Blue Raiders got three solid wins in singles competition, as newcomer Richard Cowden got his first start for the Blue Raiders,

beating Florida State's Ryan Boyajian, 6-2, 6-1.

Richard beat Marc Spicijaric of Illinois, 6-4, 6-4 and he also won against Brandon Davis of Illinois, 6-4, 6-2. Boiron lost to Florida State's Michael O'Shea 0-6, 0-6.

Cowden and Rocafort teamed up to beat Alex Strom and Scott Kennel of Portland, 8-3, only to lose their next three matches in the tournament.

Boiron and Richard fell to Florida State's Paoliello and Boyajian, 4-8, while Rocafort and Paoliello fell to Georgia Tech's David North and Jose Muguruza, 6-8. Richard and Cowden lost to Florida State's Boyajian and Chris Cloer, 8-4.

Thursday, Rocafort lost his first game to Georgia Tech's Molnar, 3-6, 6-2, 6-7 (6), before beating out FSU's Cloer, 6-3, 6-2. Richard split on his first day of competition winning 6-3, 7-6 (2), over Georgia Tech's Rath. He fell to Portland's Strom, 3-6, 2-6.

Cowden and doubles team Andreas Siljestrom and Marco Born were not present on Thursday for the competition. Paoliello fell Portland's Strom 4-6, 2-6, and

lost to Illinois Ruben Boyajian, 0-6, 1-4. Boiron lost to Kennel, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, and he fell to FSU's Bailey.

"Overall the field is very strong and it is giving some special opportunities and it is our players since three of our top six players did not play," MT Head Coach Dale Short told MT Media Relations. "Marc Rocafort came within a point of winning both matches for the day, while Morgan Richard played very well in the first match against Georgia Tech."

The Blue Raiders return to the court for a set of duel matches, as they face Western Michigan at 10 a.m. and East Tennessee at 6 p.m. on Sunday over at the Racquet Club.

The men's home match against Vanderbilt has been changed. The new date has been set and its Sunday, February 25, at 1 p.m. at Buck Bouldin Tennis Center.

The Lady Raiders tennis team begin their season off against in-state rivals Tennessee Tech on Jan. 26, and UT Martin on Jan. 27 at the Racquet Club.

The women travel to Oxford, Miss. to play against Ole Miss and return home to face Virginia on February 9 at 1 p.m.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Senior Clint Marks is looking for his receiver Jonathan Grigsby on a 13-yard catch to help move the chains late in the first quarter. Middle Tennessee scored on this drive.

Sports: Bowl

Continued from 6

kick. It looked like we were going to have a hard time slowing them down so I thought we needed to score points, but it obviously wasn't one of his better kicks."

Central Michigan took advantage of the excellent field position taking only three plays to put the ball in the end zone again.

After a roughing the passer penalty against the Blue Raiders gave CMU 15 additional yards, LeFevour capped off the short drive with a nine-yard touchdown run to extend the lead to 21-7.

MT and CMU alternated punts before CMU had a chance to put more points on the board before halftime. CMU tried to mount a drive but LeFevour was sacked by Erik Walden to end the half with CMU still leading 21-7.

Coach Stockstill saw improvement in the MT defense and knew that the Blue Raiders were still in the football game at halftime.

"We had a hard time slowing them [Central Michigan] down early," Stockstill said. "They came down and had a nice first drive, but we came back and had a nice drive working, but we missed the field goal. Then they came back and scored right after which hurt us, but both the players and coaches made good adjustments, and we played better after those first two drives."

The Blue Raiders began the second half with the football and looked to make a statement that this game was far from over. Marks completed his first four pass attempts on the drive and moved MT into CMU territory.

The Blue Raiders called on Marks to run a play that had been successful earlier in the game, but this time, the play failed as Marks through behind his intended target and right

into the arms of CMU's Doug Kress.

Kress returned the interception for a Motor City Bowl record 56 yards and a touchdown to put the Chippewas ahead 28-7.

"We ran that play a couple of times earlier in the game," Marks said. "I wasn't able to get the ball in front of him, and their defender made a good play."

MT received the ball after the CMU kickoff but was forced to punt after UAW Lineman of the Game winner Daniel Bazuin sacked Marks hard to the ground.

After a CMU punt, MT began their next drive with backup Joe Craddock in at quarterback. This led many to believe Marks may have been injured on the Bazuin sack.

"Our right tackle, Germayle Franklin, hurt his ankle on the first series of the second half and was out for about three series," Stockstill said. "We put Joe [Craddock] in there because we thought he was more elusive. We were having a hard time blocking Daniel Bazuin. It was nothing that Clint was doing. We just wanted to give Franklin time to get his ankle taped and get back in the game."

Craddock's only drive led to a punt. Central Michigan had to punt on the following possession.

Exciting return man Desmond Gee returned the punt down to the CMU 14 yard line.

Marks returned to the game and found McNair on a ten-yard pass to set up first and goal with 12 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

An illegal formation penalty backed the Blue Raiders up to the six-yard line but McNair was able to carry the ball into the end zone on the very next play for a Middle Tennessee touchdown.

The Blue Raiders were in the game down only two touchdowns with 11 minutes and 30

Sun Belt Conference Results

Teams	SBC	Overall
Troy	6-1	8-5
MTSU	6-1	7-6
Arkansas St.	4-3	6-6
Florida Atl.	4-3	5-7
ULL	3-4	6-6
ULM	3-4	4-8
North Texas	2-5	3-9
Florida Int'l	0-7	0-12

seconds remaining in the game.

CMU went on a six minute drive looking to put the game away but CMU kicker Rick Albreski's 33 yard field goal attempt sailed wide left giving the Blue Raiders the ball at their 20 yard line with six minutes remaining in the game.

However, the MT drive stalled when McNair was stopped on a fourth-and-one rush attempt.

CMU sealed the victory when Albreski made a 43-yard field goal on CMU's next possession.

MT's season may have ended with a loss in the Motor City Bowl, but this loss doesn't affect the way Stockstill feels about his team and this season.

"I don't think I could be any closer to this team than I am right now," Stockstill said. "If we went 12-0 or 0-12, it wouldn't affect how I feel about this team. I wanted our players to know from the very first day I arrived at Middle that I cared about them both on and off the field and I was going to do everything I could for them. I feel like I'm close to them and I think they know I care about them and that I'll do anything in the world for them."

The Blue Raiders finish their historic season with a 7-6 record, a conference championship and the first trip to a bowl in their Division one history. ♦

INTRAMURAL SPORTS CHAMPIONS FALL 2006

Ultimate Frisbee

Men's Open Kappa Alpha

Sand Volleyball

Men's Open Effin All-Stars

7 on 7 Soccer

IFC A	PIKE A
IFC B	Sigma Pi*
Men's Open A	Team 1*
Men's Open B	Better Than Sex
Sorority / Women's	A D Pi
Co-Rec A	Hot Pockets
Co-Rec B	Northeast Southcentral Unit'd

Flag Football

Men's A	Dem Whyte Boyz
Men's Open	C-Town Players
Men's B	Prime Time
Co-Rec	Team Drink
Co-Rec	Team Drink

*The 2 mentioned above are Sunday

Sorority / Women's A D Pi

Night League Winners

IFC A	Kappa Alpha
IFC B	Pi Kappa Phi

Indoor Volleyball

Men's	The Effin All-Stars
Co-Rec	TBA
Sorority	Chi Omega
Women's	How Now Brown Cow
IFC A	Sigma Pi
IFC B	Sigma Nu

Dodgeball Tournament

Women's	Kappa Delta
Men's	The Effin All-Stars
IFC	SAE (1)
Co-Rec	The Incredibles

3 on 3 Basketball

Men's Tha Show

Table Tennis

Kokou Houngo

For more information about joining an Intermural team please contact the Campus Rec at 898-2104

SPRING 2007 INTRAMURAL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Event	Entries Due	Play Begins
5 on 5 Basketball	1 / 23 / 2007	1 / 29 / 2007
Indoor Soccer League	1 / 30 / 2007	2 / 5 / 2007
Wiffleball League	2 / 21 / 2007	2 / 26 / 2007
Softball Tourney	3 / 13 / 2007	3 / 19 / 2007
Arena Football	3 / 20 / 2007	3 / 26 / 2007
Dodgeball League	3 / 27 / 2007	4 / 2 / 2007
Racquetball	3 / 27 / 2007	4 / 2 / 2007
Sports Trivia Contest	3 / 29 / 2007	4 / 2 / 2007
Table Tennis	4 / 5 / 2007	4 / 10 / 2007
Kickball Tourney	4 / 11 / 2007	4 / 16 / 2007

For more information please call the Campus Rec office at 615-898-2104

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Room 106 Honors College

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Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Junior Katie Mielke bunts the ball in order to move another player on base.

Blue Raider softball team gears up for 2007 season

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

With a new season right around the corner the Blue Raider softball team is getting ready for the start of their 2007 schedule. Middle Tennessee will be playing in four tournaments and face off against NCAA Champion Arizona.

After spending half the year away from home because of renovations to the softball field, the Blue Raiders are looking forward to playing their first home game when they host the second annual MT Breast Cancer Strikeout Classic on Feb. 23-25.

They will play against Morehead State (Feb. 23), Tennessee State (Feb. 23), Belmont (Feb. 24), Ball State (Feb. 24) and UT Martin.

Afterwards, the Raiders open their season on the road in the Easton Tiger Classic hosted by LSU in Baton Rouge, La (Feb. 9-11).

Then traveling to Tucson, Ariz. to face NCAA Champion Arizona in the Worth Wildcat Tournament (Feb. 16-18).

Middle Tennessee's final tournament of the season is the Georgia Tech Buzz Classic in Woodstock, Ga. where the Raiders will be playing against Wright State (March 2), Winthrop (March 2), San Jose State (March 3), Purdue (March 3) and Georgia Tech (Feb. 4).

MT opens Sun Belt Conference play at Louisiana-Lafayette for a three game series March 7-8. The Blue Raiders will be starting their season earlier with the addition of

three new teams being added to the Sun Belt Conference.

Middle Tennessee will be on the road to face Louisiana-Monroe (March 31-April 1), Florida International (April 14-15), and Western Kentucky (May 5-6). They will host Troy (March 10-11), South Alabama (March 24-25), North Texas (April 7-8) and newcomer Florida Atlantic (April 28-29).

Middle Tennessee non-conference home games are Jacksonville State (March 14), Bradley (March 21), Memphis (April 4), Southern Illinois (April 11) and Louisville (April 18). The Raiders also will be looking for in-state bragging rights as they travel to Austin Peay (April 19), TSU (April 25), and Lipscomb (April 26).

MT will host the Sun Belt Tournament in Murfreesboro, Tennessee this year, which will also be the SBC's first eight-team tournament.

While Candioto was at Central Michigan, she tossed 14.1 innings in sophomore year in 2006. She went 2-3 in 35.2 innings pitched in 11 games as a freshman.

Candioto will be a bonus for an already strong Blue Raider pitching staff that includes Samantha Floyd, Ashley Katinas, and Lindsey Vander Lugt.

Seniors Shelby Stiner, Melissa Weiland, and Muriel Ledbetter return to the diamond this season and continue their quest for a NCAA Tournament crown.

Stiner is the reigning Sun Belt Conference Newcomer of the Year and was named First Team All-Conference. Stiner who lead the SBC, with a .339 batting avg.

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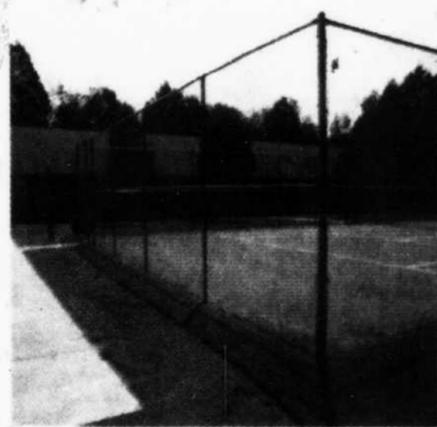
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