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SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

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Deadline approaching for resident assistant positions

By Zachary Owensby
Staff Writer

Applications are now being accepted for resident assistant positions for next fall.

Generally during the fall and spring semesters, about 25 to 30 RA positions are available for hiring, said David Holtzman, housing area II coordinator.

RAs are required to have an overall Grade Point Average of 2.5 or better and have completed 30 credit hours. Applicants are not accepted if they have a disciplinary record of any kind, Holtzman said.

Every RA is paid \$1600 per semester that is split into five monthly paychecks. After two full semesters, all RAs are eligible for a \$200 pay raise, Holtzman noted.

Resident assistants also have the privilege of their own standard-size room in the traditional residence halls and are allowed to park in housing

staff parking spaces in front of their buildings.

Although they are working for MTSU, RAs do not get free rent. RAs pay the same as all other students living in university housing, said Rod Cason, an RA in Reynolds Hall.

"Being an RA is good if you like to live alone and like to meet a lot of various people on campus," Cason said. "It also looks good on a resume, especially for managerial positions."

"We don't require them to be on duty all the time," Holtzman said, "but it's good to stay available." Every RA is on call once a week from 4:30 p.m. until 8 a.m. the next morning in case of an emergency.

All RAs are required to be on duty three to five weekends a semester, staying on campus for 24 hours on Friday or Saturday. Holtzman said the number of weekends the number of RA in each depends on the number of RAs in each area.

Each RA is also scheduled for a

four-hour block at his or her hall's front desk during the week.

"We can work up to six paid hours over the mandatory four hours at the lobby desk, filling in for other RAs if someone can't come in," Cason said.

RAs are also required to schedule involvement activities for their floors and meet once a week with all the other RAs and housing staff in each area.

"Holidays are covered in a democratic way," Cason said. "We'll see who isn't going to go home, but somebody has to stay here. I have to be here over spring break. It's no big deal really."

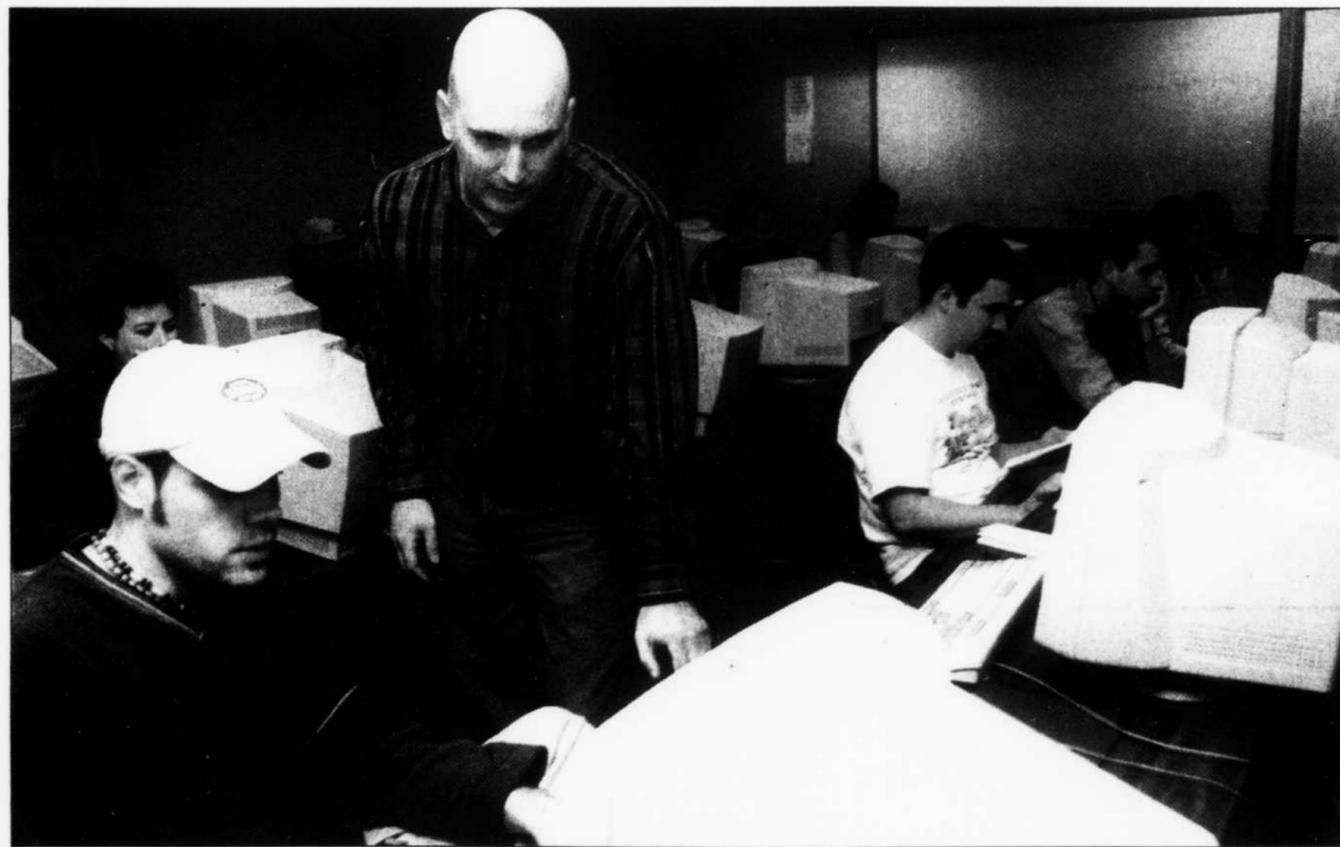
All new RAs are put through "pre-service training" two weeks before students check in. Holtzman also recommends that all RAs take Psychology 410, a course in leadership for college students.

Students interested in being an RA can get an application outside the

See RA, 3



Photo by Rebecca Pickering | Staff
Resident Assistant Misty Cochran, a junior, takes a phone call at the front desk in Lyon Hall while helping senior Julie Graham. All RAs are required to work at the desk four hours per week in addition to some overnight and weekend duties.



Warren Patterson, a computer science instructor, teaches in a lab located in the Kirksey Old Main.

Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Chief Photographer

University recognizes leadership

By Charlene Callier
Staff Writer

MTSU will pay tribute to three undergraduate students honored for their outstanding qualities in leadership, community service, scholarship and superior character at an awards banquet in April.

Applications for the James E. Walker President's Award, the Barbara S. Haskew Provost's Award and the Robert C. Lalance Jr. Achievement Award are available in Keathley University Center, Room 122 and must be returned by Jan. 29. Candidates for these three awards will be required to present letters of recommendation from faculty and write an essay.

The awards were developed three years ago by the Office of Student Development and are named after three individuals who devoted great leadership involvement on campus.

"We realized that we didn't have any campus awards for students that put extraordinary effort in academics, leadership and community service," Gina Poff, director of Student Development, said. "This is when we decided upon the student recognition awards."

The James E. Walker President's Award will be awarded to a student who has displayed excellent character, is a leader on campus, has demonstrated service to the university community, has completed at least 90 credit hours and has a minimum 3.0 GPA.

The applications for this award are reviewed by the University Awards Committee.

The Barbara S. Haskew Provost's Award will be awarded to a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement, completed 90 scholarship hours and has a minimum 3.0 GPA.

The applications for this award will be reviewed by a committee selected by each college of the university.

The Robert C. Lalance Jr. Achievement Award will be awarded to a student that has made significant contributions to the community, displayed remarkable determination while pursuing a degree, is in good academic standing with the university and has completed a minimum of 60 credit hours.

The selection process for this award will be reviewed by a student affairs

See Awards, 3

Tech access fee not total answer

By Raymond Hutzler
Managing Editor - Design

Students pay \$225 each year in technology access fees, but the departments reaping the benefits struggle to maintain the labs after initial purchases.

The technology access fee provides equipment for student computer labs, maintenance and networking capability, but the money hardly stretches to cover the final two.

Needs

"It's a Band-Aid," Christie Nuell, art professor, said, "but we have to rely on [the fee] to get items that we need."

These items include software and ink cartridges for printers. One art department printer, the Colorsprint Printmaker Giclee Printer - which was purchased with the tech access fee, prints at an "apparent" 1800 dpi, more than 900 percent better than a standard \$1,000 laser printer on the market today.

The printer not only prints with outstanding resolution but also prints up to 47 inches wide - the length of two open

newspapers.

Students using the printer would spend hundreds of dollars for a single print without it, and the availability is so rare that it might be the only one in the state, according to Nuell.

"Students simply did not have the ability to print before this," Nuell said.

The remarkable quality comes with a cost - the printer's eight individual color cartridges cost more than \$1,000 to replace, and there is no room in the art department's budget to pay for these cartridges.

The art department isn't the only one vying for the money provided by the fee. The Office of Information Technology has to compete for tech access dollars to buy more bandwidth.

OIT has no official relationship with the technology access fee, according to Lucinda Lea, director of the OIT. OIT is like every other department on campus fighting for the \$4 million for cutting-edge technology.

"We can afford the equipment [for the campus network]," Lea said, "but we cannot afford the bandwidth."

"It's a Band-Aid.
But we have
to rely on
[the fee]
to get items
that we need."

Christie Nuell
- art professor

Bandwidth describes the speed at which the school connects to the Internet, creating a faster network for the school.

In recent years, additional T-1 campus lines have been added through use of the technology access fee. OIT is looking to propose more advanced, high-speed data connections through the campus using this fee, making more speed available to users across the cam-

pus, Lea said.

OIT's proposal to the Technology Taskforce, the gatekeepers of one set of funds, is strongly expected to pass this semester.

She stressed that the additional bandwidth is a necessity with all of the dorms going online in the near future.

All levels of campus administration point out the importance of the fund.

"Without the Tech Access Fee we would be financially unable to keep up with technology cost," Bob Jones, associate vice president for academic affairs, said. "State funding is not increasing fast enough."

Both the University of Tennessee school system and the Tennessee Board of Regents now use technology fees to provide a steady source of funding for technology needs.

"The funds need to directly reach and touch the students," Jones said.

Technology and computers are becoming obsolete so quickly that there is a "growing need to replace computer

See Tech, 3

WORLD BRIEFS

Compiled By Pam Hudgens - Assistant News Editor

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Big protests expected at Bush Inauguration

WASHINGTON (AP) - Veteran demonstrators from violent protests in Seattle and Philadelphia are expected to converge on the nation's capital for President-elect Bush's Jan. 20 Inauguration along with thousands of others of these and other groups is leading police to brace for the largest inaugural protests since the marches against the Vietnam War at Richard Nixon's 1973 swearing-in ceremony. "Thousands of people are coming to protest on a host of issues, but they're all interconnected," said Brian Becker, a director with the New York-based International Action Center, which received permits on Tuesday to hold demonstrations at three locations near the inaugural parade route on Pennsylvania Avenue. ♦

Bush searches for new labor secretary choice

WASHINGTON (AP) - President-elect Bush is searching for a labor secretary, saying he was saddened by the withdrawal of Linda Chavez in a controversy over her relationship with an undocumented immigrant. "I absolutely believe she would have been a great Cabinet secretary," Bush said Tuesday night at Andrews Air Force Base after arriving for a three-day visit to the nation's capital. The president-elect scheduled a Pentagon visit Wednesday to meet with outgoing Defense Secretary William Cohen and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. ♦

Arafat meets with Israeli official on Mideast security

JERUSALEM (AP) - Yasser Arafat and an Israeli Cabinet minister met early Wednesday to try to defuse Israeli-Palestinian tensions, as questions were raised about a final mediation effort by President Clinton's Mideast envoy. A senior Palestinian official said the envoy, Dennis Ross, has canceled a Mideast trip that was to begin Thursday. Larry Schwartz, a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, said that as far as he knew, Ross' plans had not changed. Confrontations continued in the West Bank. Israeli troops imposed a curfew on downtown Hebron, confining some 30,000 Palestinians to their homes around the clock, after shots were fired at a Jewish settler compound in the area. ♦

Faith in economy slips as Bush inauguration nears

WASHINGTON (AP) - Just as the Bush administration prepares to take charge, anxiety is on the rise among Americans about the state of their nation's



Students brave the long lines at Phillips Bookstore the first week of school. With spring enrollment up 1.47 percent, there are now 17,549 students in the MTSU community. Photo by Matt Kelly | Staff

economy, an Associated Press poll suggests. Their faith has waned that their own finances will be better in a year's time and that investing large sums in the stock market is a good idea. Just over two in 10 Americans have a lot of confidence in Bush's ability to deal with the economy, the poll indicated, while just over four in 10 have some confidence and almost three in 10 have no real confidence. The AP poll on the economy is based on telephone interviews with 1,020 adults from all states except Alaska and Hawaii. The interviews were conducted Jan. 3-7 by ICR of Media, Pa. ♦

New York Jets search for a new leader

NEW YORK (AP) - The New York Jets not only are searching for a coaching successor to Al Groh, who left earlier this month for the University of Virginia, but also for a chief of football operations after Bill Parcells quit Tuesday. Parcells, who led the New York Giants to two Super Bowl titles — 1986 and 1990 — cited the Jets' unwillingness to make a long-term commitment to a franchise that often floundered near the bottom of the NFL before he took over in 1997. Actually, the 59-year-old Parcells expected to move on last year. One day after an

injury-ravaged 8-8 season, he quit, giving the reins to hand-chosen successor Bill Belichick. One day later, Belichick resigned, winding up coaching in New England, with Groh taking over. ♦

China launches second test flight of spacecraft

BEIJING (AP) - An unmanned Chinese spacecraft rocketed into orbit Wednesday in the second test flight of a vessel intended one day to carry astronauts and make China the third nation capable of manned space travel. A Long March rocket blasted off from the Gobi Desert launch center at 1:00 a.m. and put the Shenzhou II spacecraft into orbit 10 minutes later, state media reported. The spacecraft would return "in a few days" after conducting experiments in physics and astronomy and on space's effects on life forms and materials, the Xinhua News Agency said. ♦

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Tech: Fee doesn't cover recurring cost, one time relief

Continued from I
labs."

Cracking the Piggy Bank

Originally the technology access fee was set at \$15 per semester. This part of the fee is considered Pool 1 funds. Today, \$30 of the \$225 that students pay in a year in tech access fees goes into the first pool.

The Academic Computing Committee solicits proposals for Pool 1. Pool 1 has slightly more than \$300,000. Only two proposals from each academic department or administrative unit will be accepted, and neither may exceed \$25,000.

"In the past, the committee has only approved individual items of proposals during situations when the fund is nearly empty," Jay Sanders, chairman of the Academic Computing Committee, said.

Departments must rank their top two priorities for the committee. The committee does not approve "dollars" to give to different departments. It approves line items, which means that each individual purchase must be approved. If the price of the item fluctuates, then money saved will go toward other projects.

Pool 1's funds will be dispersed by March 15.

When the fee increased, a substantial amount of money entered the fund, forcing a new committee to be formed. The Technology Taskforce oversees the second pool of money.

In Pool 2, more than \$3.5 million is available. Deans may rank their top four projects, which cannot exceed \$100,000 combined.

The Technology Taskforce established a floor of \$10,000 for any proposals. There are four steps for process of allocation.

First, the fee covers previous expenses from past years and recurring expenditures. Second, the five academic deans recommend funding for their top four projects. However, a dean may recommend as few as one project, so long as it does not exceed \$100,000. Third, the Taskforce approves or requires changes in the proposal as needed. Finally, the Taskforce reviews the remainder of the proposals and selects programs to finish distribution of the funds among the various academic departments and administrative units.

The Taskforce will make recommendations to the Tennessee Board of Regents for final approval by June.

The Academic Computing Committee and the

Technology Taskforce decide which proposals will be funded and make recommendations to Provost Barbara Haskew. The Executive Computing Committee handles the business aspect of the distribution of funds.

Serving the Committees

"There's no way to keep pace [with technological advances] without the tech access fee," Deryl Leaming, dean of the College of Mass Communication, said. "It has made a critical difference in terms of what we are able to offer students."

The effects of the fee have been beneficial to the university and the student population.

"Other schools from around the country marvel that we are able to do what we do," Leaming said.

Leaming serves on both the Academic Computing Committee and the Technology Taskforce. He explained that he is a voice representing the College of Mass Communications to the greater campus community.

"I am here to understand what the college's needs are," Leaming said. "I fight the idea that we are an over-equipped department and are not in need of additional funding."

The major goal of the committees is to try to resolve the equitable distribution of funds on campus.

Leaming also pointed out that there are many technologically dependent departments, such as the radio/television department, that will be forced to change to digital equipment in compliance with Federal Communication Commission regulations.

"Without technology access fee money there is no way that we can do all that we do in the digital imaging field," Leaming said. "We would not have even considered starting the new media major without this funding."

Elite Company

These two small committees hold the key to \$4 million that can make or break a department's technological needs for years to come. The money may seem adequate, but in an ever-changing society it barely covers the basic needs of the campus.

In the future, the state and schools will need to find even more money to keep the students provided with quality equipment. The question remains whether this money will continue to come directly from the students. ♦

Awards: Leaders'

Continued from I

subcommittee, which includes faculty, student affairs professionals and students.

Last year, Chaney Mosley received the James E. Walker President's Award, the Barbara S. Haskew Provost's Award was given to Matthew Carter and Judith McIntosh received the Robert C. Lalace Jr. Achievement Award.

Nominations for individuals who have demonstrated excellence in school and outstanding community service are also encouraged from the MTSU community.

For more information, call 898-2454. ♦

RA: Vacancy

Continued from I

Housing and Residential Life Office in Keathley University Center, Room 303 or from their area coordinator.

"Two references are needed for the applications," said Holtzman. "We recommend that you have one reference from the Student Affairs section of MTSU."

An area coordinator interviews all applicants before being hired. Applications should be turned in to the housing office before March 8. ♦



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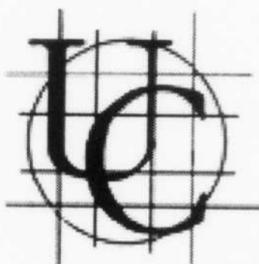
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CAMPUS LIFE

◆ SIDELINES

Thursday, January 18, 2001

Murfreesboro, TN

Raiders take to the air



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Chief Photographer

Members of MTSU Flying Raiders practice at the Murfreesboro Airport. The flight team competes in flight events against other teams.

"It's where the top gun comes out in all of us."

-Brad Baxter
Team Captain

By Tracy Ratzlaff
Contributing Writer

What exactly are the Flying Raiders? Most MTSU students can't guess.

"Is it a football team or something?" replies John Brown, a Radio/TV major. "I just don't know."

Give up? The Flying Raiders are a team that practices and competes like any other MTSU team; only they do it in the air.

A "flight team" is the preferred term, and the team members practice and compete in single-engine Cessnas — the little planes seen buzzing around the sky above Murfreesboro.

But it's not all air for these aviators. "There's ground events and then there's flight events," says Coach Jerry Hill. Events are designed to test what the student pilots have learned.

The aerospace department supports the team. Right now everyone on the team is an aerospace major, but students outside the department are also welcome to join.

"I would actually love to have some

people who aren't aerospace [majors] come out," says Brad Baxter, team captain. "Just to give them an idea of what it's all about."

Most of the events the team is judged on are technical terms: power-on landings, power-off landings, E6B computer, etc.

One of the more difficult events is Navigation. The pilot has to plan and fly a route based only on given longitude and latitude checkpoints. Points are deducted if the pilot misses his checkpoint by the projected time.

First Officer Rebecca Carter says that most team members get excited about the landing events.

"That's the thing [where] you have team members standing and watching and cheering you on," she explains.

"That's where you get to show off your skills," adds Baxter. "It's where the top gun comes out in all of us."

The last flight event, the Message Drop, is kind of a fun one, according to Hill. "Or you might hear some of the students refer to it as the 'bomb drop,'" he chuckles.

This is where the bombardier drops a piece of balsa wood with the score card inside from the airplane. The idea is for the "message," which only weighs about 21/2 oz., to fall as close to the target (two barrels) as possible.

Team member Rachel Hunter set a new record this year in the message drop, jokes Hill. "I forget what they

Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana.

Ed Miller placed second in the region for a landing event, Thomas Johnson placed in two events, and Baxter received the Scot Perry Award. This award is given to one person in the region each year. Each team gets to nominate a person they feel has done the most for their team and for the National Intercollegiate Flight Association.

Baxter says he was surprised when he won the award.

"I had no idea," he says. "I was sitting at the awards banquet, and about passed out when they called my name."

But there was no national competition for the Flying Raiders this year. They weren't one of the top three in the region, therefore, unable to compete nationally.

The last time the team won the region was in the late 1980s, when they went three times.

Hill's eyes gleam when he tells about the first time the team won the Region 8 championship. It was in 1973, about three years after the team was created.

"It was an experience that, to this

day, none of us have forgotten," confides Hill. "Boy, we were a rag-bag outfit, too."

The team is far from "rag-bag" now. Team membership has been up for two consecutive years. They also just acquired their first airplane, which Hill said will help the team. Most of the planes the Flying Raiders use belong to MTSU.

Next year's competition will be held in Murfreesboro for the first time since 1995.

"We're starting to come around and get a little bit bigger and stronger," Hill tells me. "It's hard to compete with Southern Illinois [University], University of Illinois, and Purdue University. Their schools provide them with quite a bit of assistance."

Some of the money the Flying Raiders earn for flight time is through the team members' hard work.

"We wash [MTSU's] airplanes to pay for flying their airplanes," Carter replies.

The team also does a number of things in the community. Each spring, the members help 10-15 Boy Scouts earn aviation merit badges by taking them up in airplanes and demonstrating how a wind tunnel works.

Despite the Flying Raiders being relatively unknown to many students, it's obvious they have a strong sense of competition and do much for the community. ◆



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Chief Photographer

Brad Baxter, flight team leader, works in the cockpit of a Cessna airplane.

had written down, it was like 12,765,785 feet and 6 inches from the target."

"We won't talk about that," Hunter says, smiling. "Unfortunately they announced it at the awards ceremony with all the schools in Tennessee,

Serving up raw hip-hop

"Commercial radio and TV just don't play that true hip-hop..."

By Brian Spencer
Staff Writer

If you like your hip-hop served raw with a strong taste of the underground, 88.3 WMTS serves up a five-star meal every Monday night from 8-10 p.m., courtesy of the DJ duo JAZ and Hypothetikal.

JAZ and Hypothetikal co-host "For True Heads," a two-hour journey into the raw essence of true hip-hop music. These two talented DJ's split the show in half and take one hour each, every week, to showcase his latest mix.

"I really enjoy doing this with Hypothetikal because we both have different styles when it comes to spinning records," comments JAZ. "This way people get to hear two different interpretations of hip-hop."

Jeremy Zavik, a.k.a. JAZ, is a senior in the recording industry program and originally hails from Richmond, Va. He is currently the two-time defending cham-

pion of the 'DJ Battle Vinyl Combat Series' held in Nashville. JAZ exhibited his vast creativity in the most recent battle by mixing the Pearl Jam album *Ten* into his hip-hop routine. Hypothetikal was the champion the year before JAZ won.

JAZ has been with WMTS since 1997. He names Gang Starr, Defari, Jeru the Damaja, Black Star, and the Roots as his five favorite artists or groups in the hip-hop scene.

"I do this show because I like to bring this underground hip-hop to the people, almost force feed it to them," says JAZ. "Commercial radio and TV just don't play that true hip-hop, and by force feeding people with this music I've realized that I'm not the only one that wants to hear it."

JAZ is tentatively scheduled to perform alongside turntablist Mr. Dibbs of the renowned DJ crew 1200 Hobos on Friday, Feb. 9, at Club Voodoo in Nashville. ◆

On Campus

The Placement and Student Employment Center is holding a Summer Jobs/Internship Fair on Wednesday, Jan. 24, from noon to 3 p.m. in the James Union Building. Employers hiring various majors for summer jobs and internships will be there. A Roster of participating employers can be viewed at www.mtsu.edu/~career/summerfair.htm.

The Student Publications Committee will meet Friday, Jan. 26, at 2 p.m. in room 210 of Keathley University Center. For more info call 898-5812 or e-mail oplaisan@mtsu.edu

The June Anderson Women's Center is sponsoring a Free Legal Clinic on Thursday, Jan. 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. The clinic is available to all MTSU students, faculty and staff. Appointments to speak with an attorney can be made by calling the June Anderson Women's Center at 898-2193. Space is limited.

The Ayn Rand Club is showing a video lecture entitled, "Who is Ayn Rand" at 7 p.m. in KUC Room 313. The showing will be free and open to the public. For more information call 893-9531.

From the staff New courtyard only breaking the hearts of art, science folks

The new "heart of the campus" being constructed inside the quad area of the library, Mass Comm and the Business and Aerospace Building seems to be more like a heartbreaker.

After finding out that the much-needed renovation and construction projects for the art and science departments are being delayed due to lack of funds, this \$1.4 million courtyard seems like a kick in the teeth to those two deserving departments.

Don't get us wrong, our staff is all for beautifying the campus and developing the newer section of campus, but necessity should always come first.

As students who pay to receive quality education here, we could definitely get more use out of \$1.4 million devoted to new, up-to-date art building with actual rooms (not a barn) big enough to accommodate students and their easels.

The plan allots one year of construction for the new courtyard. Isn't this one year we could use to at least make the Todd building more feasible for use as classrooms for art and science?

And if this courtyard project is going to take a year to complete, shouldn't the crews be working every day to ensure that they meet the deadline? Yesterday was wet and misty, so no one was on the site working - all day.

Wasn't there anything else they could have been doing if it really was too wet to dig? One day of no work is just one day longer to endure the hassle this project is causing.

Sure, the noise and the fencing is annoying to most, but we can live with the disturbances if it means people are actually working to finish on time.

Now that the project is in effect, we can only hope that it's worth all the waiting in the end. And waiting is all the art and science departments have learned to do.

Bush teaches decision making 101

Now that much of the controversy surrounding the presidential election itself has died down, it's time for that routin-tootin Texan George W. Bush to move on and begin what many political pundits call "the healing process." It's time for Bush to bring stability to the White House and try to set our country at ease.

Many predicted that Bush would successfully do this because of his past success in working with republicans and democrats alike.

So the first task that must be completed by President Bush (whew, it still makes me cringe when I say that) is to select his cabinet members. And wouldn't ya know it, he has made a highly questionable decision right off the bat by selecting republican John Ashcroft of Missouri as our nation's attorney general. Described as a "longtime hero to the Christian right," he will be the most powerful law enforcement official in the United States.

Aside from his strong anti-abortion and pro-death penalty views, there is one thing about Ashcroft that really bothers me that I have not heard brought up at all...he was defeated in the November election for Missouri governor BY A DEAD GUY!! His opponent, Mel Carnahan, passed away weeks before the election, but was kept on the ballot nevertheless. And so, with all due respect to Ashcroft and his family, Ashcroft was defeated by a CORPSE!! The people of Missouri voted to have Carnahan's widow

Brian Spencer
Staff Columnist



Mind Manifestations

be the governor rather than Ashcroft! And this guy is going to be the attorney general.

So, based on Bush's decision to nominate someone who failed to defeat a corpse in the November election, here's a few of my predictions for some of Bush's other final cabinet decisions:

- Secretary of Transportation- Clark Griswold
- President Bush announces Clark Griswold as his head of transportation. He cites the fact that Griswold has traveled to places such as Wally World and Las Vegas and that he is a great role model to fathers everywhere because of his family values. When told that Griswold is a fictional character, Bush laughs and tells the reporter, "I guess you've never seen Mr. Griswold's documentaries, have you son?"
- Secretary of Labor- Philip H. Knight, Founder and CEO of Nike, Inc.
- President Bush names Philip Knight

secretary of labor, citing his impeccable record of handling his work force in the Nike factories within the U.S. A reporter brings to Bush's attention that 99 percent of Nike shoes sold out of that year were made in Asia. He also points out of that 99 percent, 36 percent of those are made in Indonesia, which is notoriously known for human rights abuses and poor working conditions, such as \$2 a day wages and forcing children to work 50+ hours a week. Bush replies, "Oh, sure, I bet the next thing you'll tell me is that you found out about some huge donation that Mr. Knight made to my campaign and...oh, uh, I retract that."

• Treasury Secretary- Jimmy Swaggert, Christian Evangelist

- Amidst a flurry of controversy, Bush names evangelist and ex-convict Jimmy Swaggert treasury secretary. Bush cites his strong Christian beliefs as his defining strength for the position and dismisses any questions about Swaggert's past trouble with money scams.

• Secretary of Defense- Oliver North, American

- In what Bush calls his strongest nomination, Oliver North is put in charge of our country's defense. Says Bush, "After talking with this gentleman several times, I've determined that there cannot be another person out there who could protect us better from those countries in the Middle East than Mr. North."♦

Ashcroft nod sets tone for Bush's term

John Ashcroft, the conservative Bush nominee for Attorney General, is well on his way to being confirmed by the evenly-divided Senate. It's predicted that every republican senator will support him, as well as many democrats. Because he only needs a simple majority, it's safe to say he's already had the business cards made.

However, not since Clarence Thomas has a presidential pick ever been so vehemently opposed. And there's good reason why - Ashcroft is an extremist in a moderate nation.

Ashcroft isn't alone in facing opposition of - Tommy Thompson, nominee for the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, faces the same fate in front of the Senate later this week. Then there's Linda Chavez, former Labor Secretary nomination, who dropped out of the race. The conservatives can't blame us heart-bleeders for Chavez's demise - she dropped out after being caught in a lie about hiring an illegal immigrant as her housekeeper. As Colbert I. King, a *Washington Post* columnist, put it, "Linda Chavez brought down Linda Chavez."

But Chavez and even Tommy aren't the issue at the moment. The issue is putting a man like Ashcroft, who has never been shy about proclaiming his extremist views against women and minority rights, into one of the most powerful positions in the country.

The Attorney General of the United States is entrusted with a great deal of responsibility. The Attorney General supervises the FBI, the INS, the DEA and the U.S. Marshals. The Attorney General assists in the selection of federal judges, including those appointed to the Supreme Court. The Attorney General decides how many cases will be prosecuted under federal statutes like the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act of 1994, and what penalties will be sought under these prosecutions.

During her tenure as Attorney General, Janet Reno has strongly enforced the Freedom of Access Act. She also formed a task force dedicated to preventing clinic violence. She's done a great deal more that makes conservatives cringe as well. She's made this country a better place for those who support freedom, and I for one am going to miss her.

Ashcroft has sworn up and down that if



Online Editor

Atypical Woman

Angela White

confirmed, he will uphold the law and not his own personal beliefs. He told the Senate yesterday that he will not attempt to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in any way while Attorney General, saying, "The Supreme Court very clearly doesn't want to deal with that issue again." Nice excuse -wrong, but nice nonetheless.

Many leaders of civil rights organizations are skeptical of Ashcroft's claim, doubtful of his ability to enforce federal laws that he has frequently and publicly criticized. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vermont and the chair of the Judiciary Committee until Bush's inauguration Saturday, wonders "if somebody who has been that unyielding in a policy outlook can unite all Americans."

Senator Charles Schumer, D-New York, believes that even if Ashcroft is being truthful about following the law, "it may be that his philosophical and ideological beliefs are so deep that even if he believes he is enforcing the law, he isn't."

Summing it up, the American Civil Liberties Union released a report concerning Ashcroft Monday entitled, "Not Moderate, Not Compassionate, Not Conservative."

Ashcroft has made no attempt to compromise his views. Last year, the Christian Coalition gave him a perfect rating for his tenure as senator; both the League of Conservation Voters and NOW gave him a 0. So why should anyone believe him when he claims he can set aside his extremist views for any reason, much less to perform the duties of such a powerful and influential position?

The most controversial issues that Ashcroft and liberals butt heads over are the rights of women, minorities and homosexuals. Ashcroft has made it clear that he only supports abortion in the case of saving the mother's life, and not for cases of rape or incest, making him even more conservative than the conservatives. He pushed for the

Human Life Amendment, which would have defunded life as beginning at fertilization and would not have only outlawed abortion but certain types of birth control as well, including the pill and IUDs.

He's not above twisting his beliefs to suit his purpose, either. In 1999 he supported an unsuccessful attempt to relax antitrust laws. But in 1978 he sued NOW for protesting those states, including his Missouri, that did not ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The base of his lawsuit - the ERA allegedly violated antitrust laws.

The issue of race has been most prominently displayed in Ashcroft's opposition of Ronnie White to the federal district court. Ashcroft claims he did it because of White's alleged anti-death-penalty stance, but many believe that race may have been involved in the action, as well as the fact that White, while a state legislator, killed an abortion ban backed by Ashcroft.

Ashcroft has also actively fought affirmative action and has battled public school desegregation court orders, calling the orders an example of "appalling activism."

He also opposed a voter-registration campaign in St. Louis that would have most benefited minority Democrats. And some are upset by the fact that he accepted an honorary degree from Bob Jones University, a school made famous by its ban on interracial dating.

Finally, Ashcroft has opposed several actions that would have prevented discrimination based on sexual orientation, including extending hate-crimes protection to homosexuals and legislation that would have prohibited workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.

There's no doubt that this man will become the next Attorney General of the United States, which is truly a shame. But then again, many things that have happened in this country in the past few months have been a shame. But the bright side is perhaps now people will take a stand for their rights, since for the first time in quite awhile they are truly threatened.

As Patricia Ireland, head of NOW, put it, this "could mean a rude awakening in their next elections for senators who vote 'yes.'"

So while Ashcroft's confirmation could in fact set the tone of this country for the next four years, it most likely will not set it for the next eight.♦

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Letters to the Editor

Insane to compare animals, kids

Angela White disgusts me! How can this person still be writing for Sidelines???

The fact that she compares the breeding of animals with the number of children needing adoptions is just insane. Yes its selfish for one to want their own genes in a child, but its natural. I agree that rather than taking drastic measures to conceive a couple should first look into adopting for a child that might need them.

Angela White seriously needs to have her head examined!!!! I think she may have been dropped on it when she was a child. The whole way she phrases things in her articles and the way that she words them makes her seem to be a heartless bitch. Hell that is what she is I guess, no use hiding the fact, eh?

J. Younce

Don't walk blind to a RIM class

On the bitter morning of January 9 a unique moral obligation was bestowed on me. While walking to class I noticed a blind boy making a struggle of the daily duties we take for granted... cars, curbs and new buildings. Concerned for the individual I approached him and asked if he was lost. With a Braille machine attached to his chest, a sock hat covering his entire face and a walking stick he told me that he was looking for the AMG building. Being a fairly new student, I recognized his agony for search-

ing for unknown locations. It happened to be that the AMG building was exactly where I was heading and I told him that I had no problem helping him to the building. The pace that we initially set off with was a little slow and the cold was starting to numb the hand that carried his walking stick. He explained to me that his hands were hurting and that we could complete the mission a lot quicker if I could simply guide him by arm the remaining way. Of course, I agreed.

By the time we settled ourselves in the building, I realized that it was 9:40. The class time set for me was 9:30. As I entered the classroom, I was told by the professor, "Sorry man, just gave your seat away." I explained to him that I had been helping a blind kid into the building and he just stared at me as if to say, "Sorry, bud." I was in total shock and walked out of the room. The RIM program has a zero-tolerance policy for the first day of classes. There are lots of students in the program, and not a lot of classes, so the competition is very tough. If you are enrolled in a RIM class that is full, and you miss (or are even late in this case) the first day, they will drop you from the class and give your seat to eager students who just show up in hopes of open seats and last minute drops. I understand competition, but I also understand humanity. A place for higher education can turn into a business machine when the stakes are set so high as they are in the RIM program. No one should lose a seat in class because they helped a disabled person, and everyone knows that, but when it comes to numbers and how many can fit in a classroom, there is no exception to the zero-tolerance rule in the area of helping someone out.

Jay McGinnis

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

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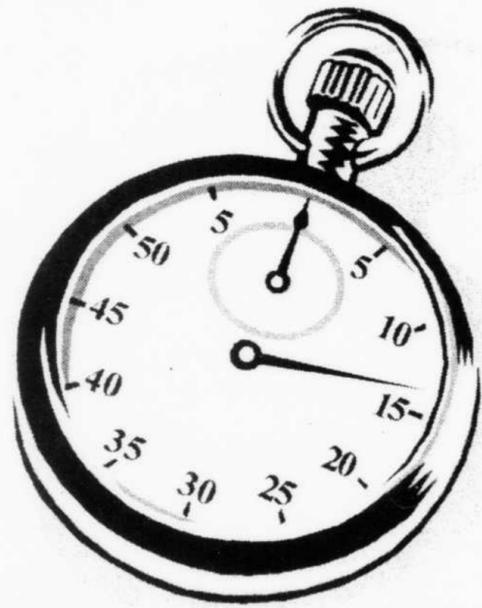
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SPORTS

Raiders hang tough with SEC

Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee's track team ran in the Rod McCravy Memorial Track and Field Meet Saturday in Lexington, Ky.

The event, hosted by the University of Kentucky, brought teams from around the south-east, including Vanderbilt, Auburn and Georgia Tech.

In the men's high jump, freshman Chris Koger finished second with a mark of 2.04 meters.

Michael Long, another MT freshman, placed second in the long jump with a leap of 7.17 meters. Long also finished second in the triple jump with a mark of 14.45 meters.

The women's triple jump showcased several Lady Raiders, as Kim Freeman, Stephany Reid, Letitia Eady and Jameka Collins finished second, third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

Middle Tennessee stole the spotlight in the men's 60-meter hurdles as Jasper Demps and Haneef Sharif finished first and second. Demps finished with a time of 8.00 flat.

In the women's 60-meter dash, Willisa Heintz blasted to the finish line in first place with a time of 7.48 seconds. Heintz also took first in the women's 200-meter dash with a time 23.99.

In the men's 400-meter dash

Blue Raider Godfrey Herring finished in second with a time of 47.56.

The Lady Raiders also fared well in the women's 400-meter dash with Naomi Anshah coming away with a third place finish with a time of 56.89.

In the men's 200-meter dash Tanko Braimah finished in second place with a time of 21.65.

Both teams also excelled in the 4 by 400 meter relay. The

Lady Raiders finished in first, edging the Auburn Lady Tigers by .76 seconds and the Blue Raiders finished second, falling to Auburn's men by 2.63 seconds.

The Men's and Women's teams will compete again this Saturday, hosting the Blue Raider Invitational. The meet is slated to begin at 11 a.m. in the Murphy Center. ♦

Oxford class sweeps MT

Staff Reports

Two days after sweeping UT-Martin, the women's tennis team felt the harsh sting of reality against 19th ranked Mississippi, losing 7-0 in Oxford, Miss.

The Lady Raiders battled Ole Miss early during doubles play losing the three matches by a combined seven games. Leading 1-0, Ole Miss quickly took control of the match in singles winning five of the six matches in straight sets.

Mid-term signee Inge Weirich was the only Lady

Raider to force a third set losing at the No. 3 position to Alesya Ignatieva 6-0, 4-6, 6-2.

The Lady Raiders (1-1) lost their fourth straight to the SEC power and will return to action on Thursday when they face Vanderbilt in Nashville at 2:30 p.m.

The Lady Raiders opened their 2001 campaign with a win despite the fact that freshman Manon Kruse, the team's top player did not play.

UT-Martin proved little match for their former conference foe, as MT swept all of the matches to win 7-0.

The Lady Raiders dropped only one set in the day's action.

Leading the way for the Lady Raiders was sophomore Tanja Buchheim who defeated Martha Montaro 6-0, 6-1. Buchheim later teamed with senior Niger Kaur in doubles action for an 8-1 win.

Junior Michaela Gridling, playing as the second seed, cruised to a 6-3, 6-2 win, while freshman Carien Venter and sophomore Stacy Varnell also recorded straight-set victories.

Middle Tennessee is currently ranked 65th in the country. ♦

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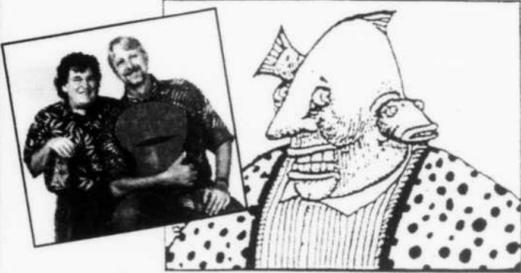
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January 25th
5 -7 pm

Dining Room C, James Union Building
Refreshments will be served.

If you would like to place a classified ad, call 898-2815.

*** Discount rates available for students ***

The Two Minute Drill

R. Colin Fly



Sports Editor

Jump Shots

The Lady Raiders saw their 12 game home winning streak end Saturday night with a loss to South Alabama. The Lady Raiders previous home loss was against Austin Peay in the 1999-2000 campaign.

The Lady Raiders are now 28-4 in their last 32 games at the Murphy Center.

Junior Jamie Thomatis kept her streak of consecutive double figure point effort alive Saturday by hitting two late free throws to give her 11 points. She holds the fifth longest streak in MT history with 29 consecutive games of 10 points or more.

Senior Kelly Chastain leaped over Jolenda Block into third place for most career blocks by Lady Raider. She will likely finish her career in third place, needing to average at least 5.8 blocks per game to catch Holly Hoover, who is second on the list.

Five Lady Raiders finished in double figures in the losing effort. Thomatis, Chastain, junior Joanne Aluka, sophomore Paula Penttila and Mia Parviainen combined for 61 points.

The Lady Raiders are 1-7 when their opening scores the first points of the game.

In the Sun Belt Conference, the Lady Raiders have been the top scoring and shooting team for most of the year. However, they rank last in field goal percentage defense. They allowed USA to score 22 points above their season average.

Speaking of the Sun Belt Conference play won't get any easier. The Lady Raiders must play against Western Division favorite Denver in Colorado and come back to play next week before returning home to face a perennial top 10 opponent in Louisiana Tech at 9:30 p.m. on Jan. 25. The game will be carried by College Sports Southeast (which is available by satellite providers).

The Blue Raiders dropped another game this week in Mobile, Ala. However, senior Fernando Ortiz led the way in scoring for the third straight game, chipping in 16. Ortiz has averaged 19.7 points over the last three games.

Junior point guard D'Marius Wilkes started for the first time since becoming a Blue Raider. He split time at the position. However, Whitworth had made every start prior to the game. Wilkes finished with seven points and two rebounds.

The Blue Raiders extended their streak of consecutive games with a 3-point goal to 145 and their streak of consecutive games with a blocked shot to 88.

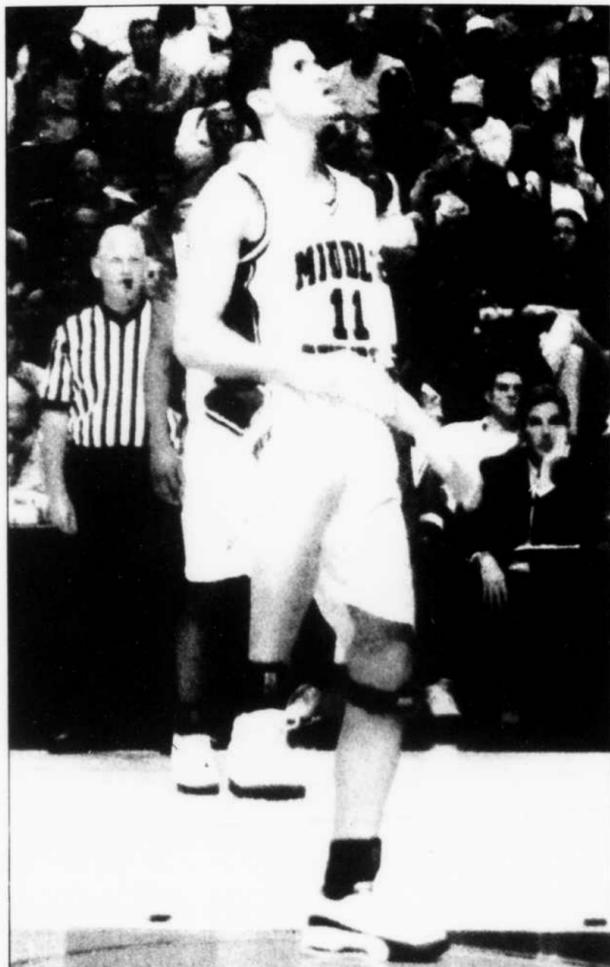
The Blue Raiders' play in the Mitchell Center on the USA campus gave them a chance to play on the court which will host the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

The tournament will begin on March 1. For the first time in Sun Belt history, the men's and women's tournaments will be held concurrently in the same building. Ironically, it will also be the first time that the Lady Raiders and Blue Raiders will get a chance to see each other play since conference play began.

The Sun Belt games each school to play another school on the same night, but at a different location. Therefore, whenever the men are at home, the women play on the road and vice versa. This Thursday, the men will play Denver at the Murphy Center, while the women will play in Colorado.

Randy Wiel's weekly radio show airs each Monday at 7 p.m. from Toot's Restaurant.

Ortiz ends career



By R. Colin Fly & J.P. Plant
Sports Editor & Assistant Sports Editor

Senior Fernando Ortiz, the Blue Raiders leading scorer on the season, will not return for the rest of the season.

Head coach Randy Wiel announced the key loss today to the Blue Raiders men's basketball program.

Ortiz, 23, made the decision after a history of knee problems. After undergoing two surgeries to his left knee prior to the beginning of the season, Ortiz appeared in every game for the Blue Raiders, averaging 13.0 points per game.

"The doctors gave me some artificial cartilage shots and flushed and drained the knee," Ortiz said. "I need to rest it for the next three or four months."

Ortiz will not need another surgery to correct the knee.

"We knew he was having problems with his knee, he had gone back and forth from the doctor all season long," Nosse said. "I think this is the best thing for him."

Basketball trainer Kevin Parker said that Ortiz had undergone a series of treatments in an effort to keep him playing, but in the end it wasn't enough to keep the soreness and the swelling down in the year.

Ortiz plans to graduate in the

spring and return to his native Puerto Rico this summer.

"Hopefully I can play professionally somewhere, that's my goal," Ortiz said. "I want to see if Coach Wiel can get me on a team overseas, but I'll definitely play for the Puerto Rican teams."

Dr. Michael Jordan performed a lateral meniscotomy in October on Ortiz's knee. That surgery limited his minutes in the first three games of the season.

Ortiz averaged 14.5 points per game in 42 appearances in his career. Ortiz had stepped up his play in the last three games, averaging almost 20 points a contest.

Ortiz's departure comes after 6-11 center Lee Nosse due to a stress fracture was cut short due to a stress fracture in the top part of his femur near the hip. Nosse is pursuing a medical red-shirt from the NCAA.

MT will expect senior Freddie Martinez, sophomore Bryant Mitchell and freshman Tommy Seniors to fill the void left by the two seniors.

The Blue Raiders next play the Denver Pioneers on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Murphy Center. ♦



Ortiz

Photo by R. Colin Fly | Staff

Ortiz looks for a rebound during the Tennessee game in December.

Home court winning streak ends

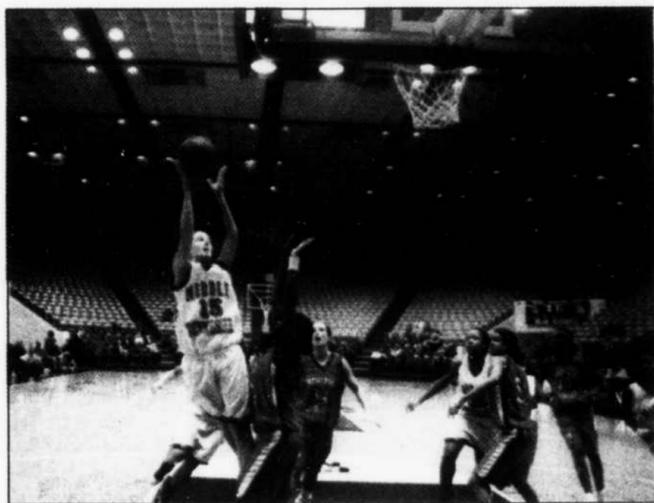


Photo by Kristy Dalrymple | Staff

Kelly Chastain scores one of her 11 points against South Alabama.

Staff Reports

The Lady Raiders saw their 12 game home winning streak come to an end Saturday night. The Lady Raiders were led in scoring by sophomore Paula Penttila and junior Joanne Aluka each with 14, while sophomores Mia Parviainen, senior Kelly Chastain and junior Jamie Thomatis added 11.

After playing their first five conference games in ten days winning only one, the Lady Raiders face another tough stretch. Road games at the western division favorite Denver Pioneers and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans precede a regionally televised home game against nationally-ranked Louisiana Tech who has won 41 consecutive conference games. ♦

While the offense has prospered, the defense has foundered allowing the league's worst scoring team to post 22 points above its season's average.

Although leading most of the first half, USA scored the first basket posing as a bad omen for the Lady Raiders. MT is 1-7 when their opponent scores first. Conversely the Lady Raiders are 7-

1 when they strike first.

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Mean Machine finishes third in 'Big Easy'

By J.P. Plant
Assistant Sports Editor

The success of Blue Raider football has apparently trickled down to the intramural fields.

MTSU's Mean Machine flag football team traveled to New Orleans late last month to participate in the national tournament and placed third out of 120 teams.

The team is sponsored by the Blue Raider Bookstore. And although it is of club status, they are made up of MTSU students, graduate assistants and alumni.

The Mean Machine won the open league held here on campus, and then proceeded to place 11th in a regional tournament in Pensacola, Florida.

Receiver Chris Gravlee said they wouldn't have gone to New Orleans if they hadn't done as well as they did in Pensacola.

The Mean Machine swept their pool with wins of 40-8 and 20-0 that sent them to the playoff. The Machine continued to steam-roll towards a national championship with a win in the first round over Akron University and a Sweet 16 thumping of South Florida.

A defense that only allowed 11.3 points per game in the tournament started in their quarterfinal game against Baylor, winning 35-8.

This dominating performance gave the Machine a semi-final match-up against last year's champion out of Los Angeles.

"I knew if we could get past this team we could win it all," said wide receiver Roger Hardiman.

The Machine almost pulled off the upset even without their starting quarterback Chris Hughes due to an ejection.

"They weren't giving us any respect, so Chris mouthed off and the refs

threw him out of the game," said Hardiman.

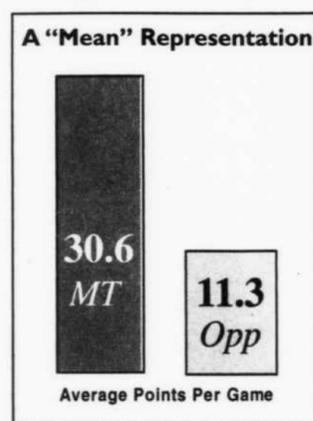
The Machine had the ball with a minute-and-a-half left in the game and trailing only by six points when backup quarterback Kyle Weatherly threw an interception that sealed it for the Nunez club from LA, 20-14.

Nunez went on to repeat as champions defeating the University of Houston in the finals, 46-20.

Receiving the All-American honors were wide receivers Kyle Weatherly, Roger Hardiman and Shawn Dunn.

The rest of the Mean Machine consists of: Quarterback - Chris Hughes; Center - Mark Owens; Receivers - Chris Gravlee, Jeremy Harwell, Nathan Orange, Travis Clevenger, and George Ward; and Coach - Warren Isenhour.

The MTSU Intramural Department also had two officials representing the university. Jarod Fletcher and Richard Montgomery were among the top 30



Graphic by Carey Coker | Staff

out of the 100 participating from around the nation. ♦

THURSDAY

■ **Men's Basketball**
Blue Raiders vs. Denver
Murfreesboro, Tenn., 7 p.m.

■ **Women's Tennis**
Lady Raiders at Vanderbilt
Nashville, Tenn., 2:30 p.m.

■ **Women's Basketball**
Lady Raiders at Denver
Denver, Co., 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

■ **Men's Tennis**
Middle Tennessee
Winter Invitational
Murfreesboro, Tenn.,
TBA

SATURDAY

■ **Indoor Track**
Middle Tennessee
Invitational
Murfreesboro, Tenn., 11 a.m.

■ **Men's Basketball**
Blue Raiders vs. UALR
Murfreesboro, Tenn., 2 p.m.

■ **Men's Tennis**
Middle Tennessee Winter
Invitational
Murfreesboro, Tenn., TBA

■ **Women's Tennis**
Lady Raiders vs.
South Alabama
Nashville, Tenn., TBA

■ **Women's Basketball**
Lady Raiders at UALR
Little Rock, Ark., TBA