

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 4, 2003

▼ 40 ▲ 50

Morning Showers



More coverage online at
www.mtsusidelines.com

News regarding the sexual harassment complaint against university President Sidney McPhee will be available online during the winter break as it is available.

The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper

Intrinsic voted 'Boro's best band'

In [flash], inside



Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

Volume 79 No. 49

Academics face chopping block

Bredesen asks universities to prepare for 5 percent cut

By Kristin Hall
Staff Writer

Due to the recent announcement by Gov. Phil Bredesen for 5 percent cuts across the state, university President Sidney McPhee reported that academic departments on campus would not be spared.

"Last year with the impoundment, we totally held the academic areas harmless," McPhee said in a phone interview yesterday.

"This year we will not be in such a position."

However, the final decision for university cuts is still many months away, said John Cothern, vice president for business and finance.

The Tennessee Board of Regents is meeting on campus this week and will discuss the governor's recommendation, as well as the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's proposal for how the 5 percent should be allocated.

THEC will determine how much each of the two higher education systems, TBR and the University of Tennessee system, will have to cut in order to meet the \$54.4 million goal.

TBR and THEC are currently in disagreement over how the cuts should be allocated, according to Mary Morgan, director of communication for the TBR.

"What we wanted to do is have THEC allocate the 5 percent across the board, that is,

TBR takes five percent, UT takes 5 percent," she explained in a phone interview yesterday.

According to Morgan, the plan that THEC proposed included factoring in tuition and non-formula units. Non-formula units are departments that don't receive funding from state appropriations, such as administrative offices and non-instructional programs.

"By combining the state appropriation and tuition and then taking 5 percent is a disproportionate cut to the universities that have tuition money,"

Morgan explained.

According to Cothern, THEC is suggesting as much as a six percent cut for the Regents system.

"THEC is recommending to the governor that the Board of Regents system pick up a bigger part of the cut than the UT system," Cothern said in a phone interview yesterday. "The UT system includes a lot of activities that are non-revenue inducing."

Despite the fact that TBR is still discussing the plans for its 19 universities and colleges and

26 technological institutions, McPhee has already made a list of priorities for the campus.

"First, obviously we're going to protect the academic areas as much as we can," McPhee said.

The second priority is signature programs within the academic master plan, such as the Honors Program.

Preservation of the general education courses is the third priority considering that MTSU is now the largest undergraduate university in the state.

See Budget, 2

Big Fella goes big time

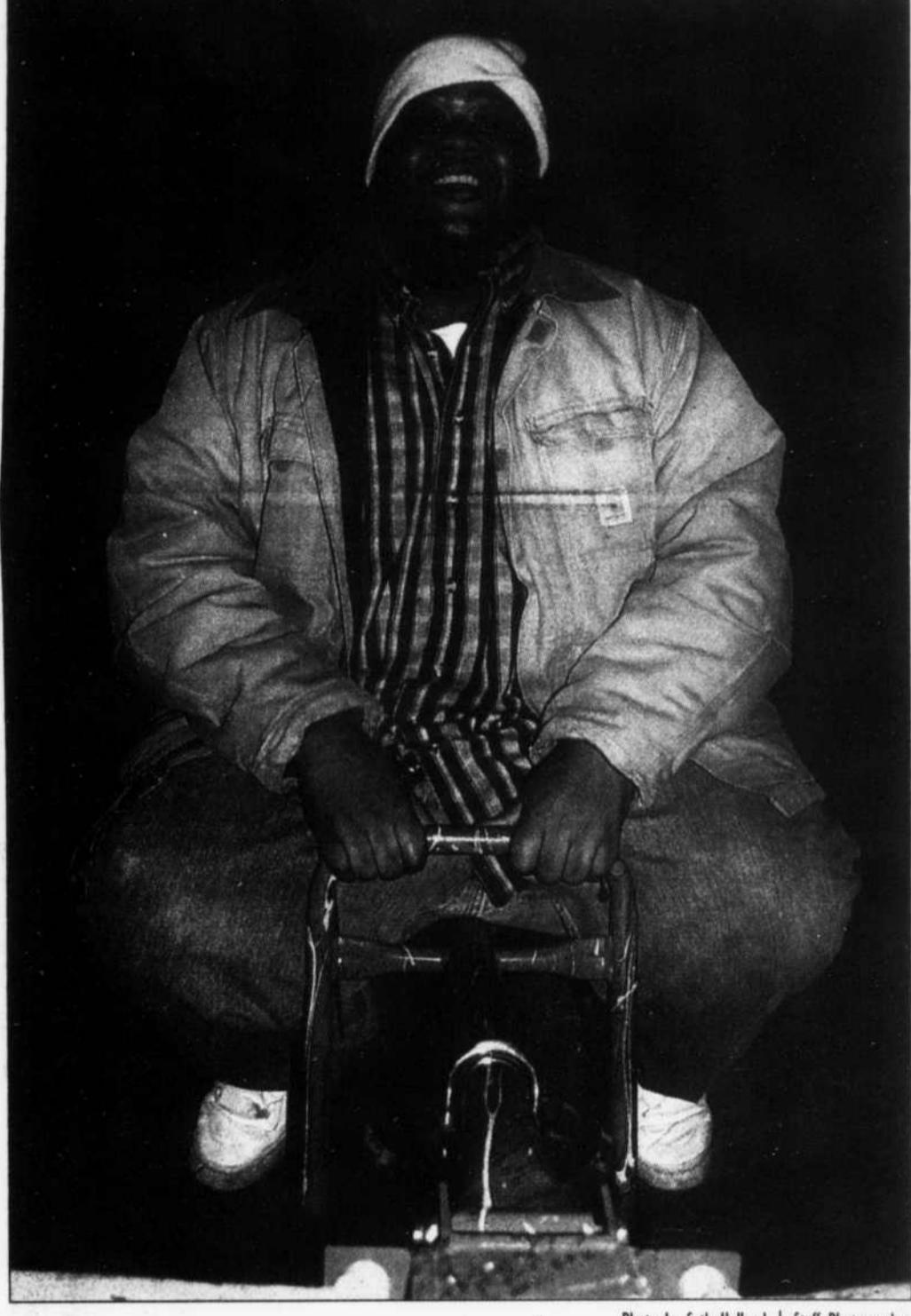


Photo by Seth Holland | Staff Photographer

MTSU student Big Fella, along with Te' Arthur, recently won the Grammy Showcase in Nashville. Part of his prize package includes a full day of studio time at OMNISound Studio and tax and legal advice.

Big Fella wins showcase

By LeAnette Artis
Staff Writer

Big Fella and Te' Arthur of Murfreesboro's C.E.O. Entertainment, won the Nashville Grammy Showcase Nov. 20.

According to the Nashville Chapter of Grammy, Big Fella and Te' Arthur will receive performance slots at the 2004 Grammy Block Party and a 2004 Grammy in the Schools event along with an artist development package.

Ashley Lamb of the Nashville Chapter of Grammy said that the popular rap group, along with 19 other acts, were picked among more than 500 acts that were sent in.

The 20 acts that were picked performed for a live audience of music industry professionals. Out of the 20 acts that performed, seven were nominated for the award, and Big Fella and Te' Arthur won.

Will Sims Jr., more commonly known by his stage name, Big Fella, said that they knew all along that they were going to win.

Big Fella describes himself as "a complex man."

"Nobody understands him, but his mama," he said.

Originally from Detroit, Mich., Big Fella came to MTSU in 1999 after attending Central Michigan University.

Big Fella was looking at Tennessee State University as a possible school to attend next, but on the advice of a co-worker, Big Fella looked at MTSU.

"I checked it out, and I saw the studios," Big Fella said. "I fell in love with Middle Tennessee State University."

Big Fella also said that he loves the administration at MTSU and that university President Sidney McPhee is a nice guy.

"I support Dr. McPhee in all his trials and tribulations," Big Fella said. "Free McPhee."

Big Fella said he is very community driven because "the community has been tricked for so long."

"It's [society] so much against the kids, and there's nobody out there to tell them that they love them anymore, or to tell them that they can be anything that they want to be," he said.

See Fella, 2

Student dies in car accident during holiday

Staff Reports

An MTSU student died Saturday as a result of injuries suffered in a car accident.

Jessica Anne VanSomeren, 18, of Smyrna, Tenn., died at about 1 a.m. Saturday from injuries suffered in an accident on Old Nashville Highway, according to *The Daily News Journal*.

She was an undeclared freshman at MTSU, and would have turned 19 on Dec. 14.

The DNJ reported that charges may be filed against the driver of the car, who is suspected of driving under the influence.

"It's a sad loss for the university that so much potential will go unfulfilled," Vice President for Student Affairs Bob Glenn said. "We grieve for the family because we know that ... there's going to be a giant hole in that family's experience. When someone young passes away, it's always a terrific tragedy, so we

grieve for the family that's having to live with it."

VanSomeren was from Benson, Ariz., and is survived by her father, Floyd VanSomeren of Round Mountain, Nev., and her mother, Dorinda Gipson of Smyrna. She is also survived by brother Gideon VanSomeren of Smyrna, and sisters Ashley Lorenzini, of Tucson, Ariz., and Victoria and Cody VanSomeren, both of Round Mountain, Nev.

Funeral services were held Tuesday. ♦

Professor refuses bribe to adopt company's book

By Amanda Maynard and Nick Fowler
Managing Editor and News Editor

A recent trend has emerged among textbook publishers offering to pay professors to adopt their books.

MTSU history professor Jim Williams almost fell victim to this practice while preparing for the fall semester.

North West Publishing offered Williams \$2,500 to review their history textbook. In addition to reviewing the book, he would also be required to assign the book to his upcoming classes.

Williams initially agreed to review the textbook before concluding the practice was a scam.

Williams in turn respectfully declined their offer.

The professor aired his concerns about the practice on an

H-Teach message board, a Web site designed for higher education history professors.

"The textbook is already printed and finished, so it is unclear to me what purpose the evaluation serves," Williams wrote. "But in my case, I would have received \$2,500 and North West would have received 200-plus students buying their textbook. I saw no benefits to the students, who are being used, so I withdrew from the offer."

North West Publishing's practices came under fire after *The Chronicle of Higher Education* ran a cover story in June about publishing companies bribing professors to adopt their books. CBS picked up the story and ran it in November. Williams was mentioned in both stories.

"I hope by attracting attention to the issue other publishing companies will think twice

about bribing faculty to use their books," Williams said.

Although Williams backed out of the deal, many professors, deans and publishers continue to develop relationships in hopes of making a profit at students' cost.

In the *The Chronicle of Higher Education* article, Thomas Bartlett wrote that what goes on behind students' backs might make them question whether anyone has their interests at heart.

"Interviews with top publishing executives, textbook sales representatives and professors across the country reveal a pattern of ethically questionable financial arrangements between deans and publishers, of kickbacks masquerading as royalties, even of professors' being paid thousands of dollars to adopt a book," Bartlett wrote. ♦

Tax cuts stimulating economy

By Juanita Thouin
Features Editor

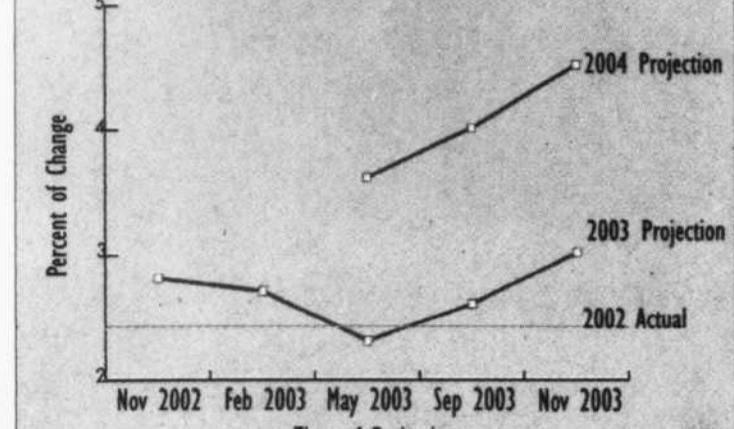
President George W. Bush's tax cuts are stimulating the economy, say members of the National Association of Business Economists.

Results from a recent survey of 28 professional economic forecasters indicated consumers have spent almost half of their reduced payroll-withholding-tax on goods and services.

In fact, the National Retail Federation reports that 71.8 percent of consumers were out shopping on "Black Friday" weekend. The term "Black Friday" refers to the day after Thanksgiving when retailers typically go from being in the red — or in debt — to being "in the black" — or making a profit.

"As expected, consumers

NABE Outlook Projected Real Gross Domestic Product



Source: NABE

were out in full force last weekend," NRF president and CEO Tracy Mullin said on the organization's Web site. "With the economy in better shape and a

little more money in consumers' pockets, we are hopeful the momentum continues

See Economy, 2

Economy: Tennesseans plan to spend an average \$500 this holiday

Continued from I

throughout the holiday season."

A national survey conducted by the NRF found that consumers plan to spend an average of \$670 this year on holiday gifts, decorations, cards, candy and food. Findings from the MT Poll indicated Tennesseans plan to spend on average about \$500.

While it appears Tennesseans don't intend to part with as much of their income as others across the nation, 64 percent say they will spend the same as or more than they spent last year.

"We just had another baby so we're spending more [on Christmas] than we did last year," Murfreesboro resident Lea Bartch said.

Both the NRF and NABE expect holiday sales to increase over those from last year. Predictions range from 3 percent to 5.6 percent.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the current year's consumer price index is up by 2 percent.

The LBS defines the consumer price index as a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban con-

sumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.

According to information posted on their Web site, new methods of measuring economic indicators cause the CPI to more appropriately reflect the cost-of-living index than in years past.

The cost-of-living index points to the amount consumers need to spend to reach a certain "utility level" or "standard of living" as compared to previous years.

Elliot Schwartz, vice president of the Committee for Economic Development said

the reason the cost-of-living index is important is because in order to find real economic gain, one must first deduct for cost-of-living or, in other words, inflation.

Schwartz went on to say all indications are that retailers will indeed see their profits go up.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, increased consumer spending in the third quarter was a major contributor in the rise of real gross domestic product – the output of goods and services produced by labor and property located in the United States – of 8.2 percent in

the third quarter of 2003. In the second quarter, real GDP increased 3.3 percent.

Schwartz said a strong GDP is an indicator of a healthy economy and that college students should certainly benefit from the current economic growth.

"It appears to me that the job market is better for this year's graduate than it was for last year's graduates," Schwartz said.

William Ford, MTSU Weatherford chair of finance, pointed out that a better economy and expected improvement in the job market aren't the only

results of this year's tax cuts.

Ford said an additional effect will be felt when low wage earners, such as students who work part-time, file their tax returns. Ford surmises that these workers will receive bigger refunds because employers are still withholding taxes at the higher rate.

"We're going to have a bunch of happy student workers when they file their taxes," Ford said.

Ford, along with Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at LaSalle Bank Corporation, conducted the analysis for NABE. ♦

Fella:

Continued from I

"It's designed for them to lose off top," Big Fella said. "They want them either in jail or messed up. You have to intervene so they don't end up in that free labor system called the prison industry."

Big Fella is part of a foundation called the Up With Hope Foundation.

Besides his community service projects, Big Fella has some projects of his own.

He has a cooking show on MTTV Channel 10 and is working to get his show aired on MTV.

He is also working on his Web site, www.bigfellainc.com, that should be online in January.

Big Fella said he doesn't have any plans following graduation.

"I don't even plan on graduating to tell you the truth," Big Fella said.

"I am the black Van Wilder," he said jokingly. "I'm trying to get me a golf cart right now."

"I want people to respect my mind," Big Fella. "I want them to know that everything you see, the TV, the music, that's all good and dandy, but there's a bigger plan behind all that stuff. We are working for the upliftment of the kingdom of God because that's all that's going to matter." ♦

Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band rocks out



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

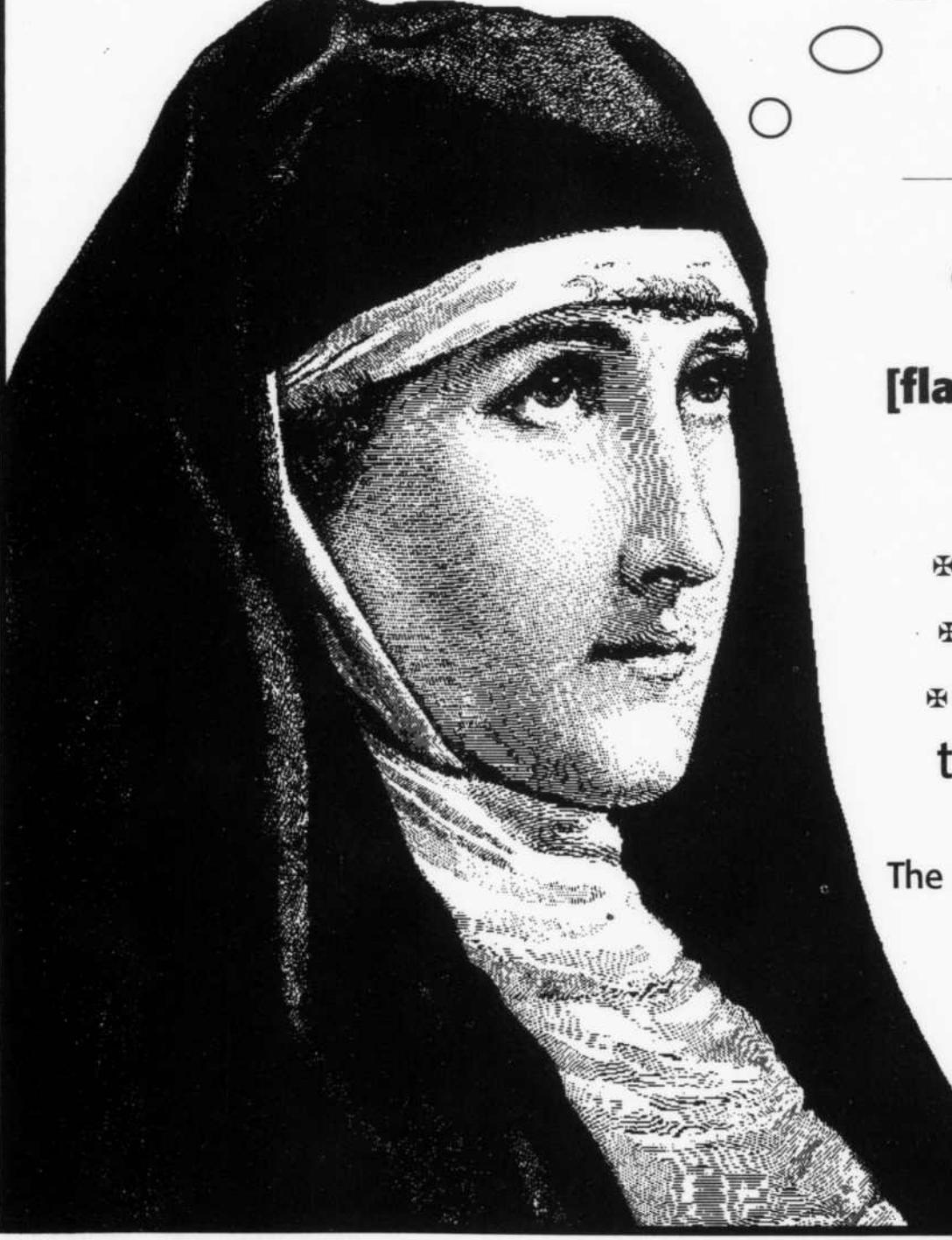
MTSU Fine Arts presented the Grammy Award winning Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band at the Keathley University Center Grill on Wednesday. The Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band is a family group that plays a repertoire of music including classical, Calypso and reggae using oil drums.

*Thank the Lord
for rock 'n' roll.*

don't miss
the final
[flash] showcase
tonight

• Glossary •
• The Loft •
• Don't Trust
the Radio •

The Boro, 9:30 p.m. \$5



Budget: Few capital projects approved

Continued from I

"Once we admit students to the university, we will make every effort within reason to offer courses so that they can graduate on time," McPhee said.

The fourth priority will be a weighted evaluation of departments in regard to cuts.

"Depending on what we look at, there might be some areas where we have to cut much deeper and some areas we might need to eliminate," McPhee said.

The dwindling state appropriations for higher education in Tennessee have left many university administrations with difficult decisions to make.

The state has not provided building and construction funds for universities for several years, and, as a result, universities have to make do with out-

of-date laboratories and older buildings.

"We could use \$150 million to fix everything up around here," Cothern said. "We'll never get that though."

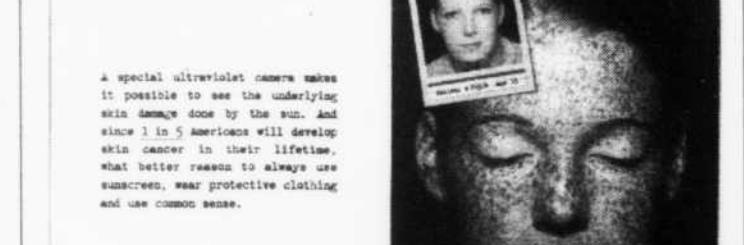
In the past three years, very few higher education capital projects have been approved.

Bredesen encouraged higher education officials to raise money for these capital projects through bonds and private donations.

"Capital is a huge need in the TBR system and that did come up in our budget hearing," Morgan said.

"We would hope that we could get more financial help from any source we can," Cothern said.

However, Cothern admitted "it would take a significant increase in fundraising to take up \$5 million or \$6 million in cuts." ♦



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WORLD BRIEFS

Compiled by Nick Fowler
News Editor

Productivity surges at best rate in 20 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — The productivity of America's workers soared by the largest amount in 20 years last quarter, raising hopes that the economic recovery is taking hold and businesses will soon be stepping up hiring.

The Labor Department reported Wednesday that productivity — the amount an employee produces per hour of work — rocketed at an annual rate of 9.4 percent in the July-to-September quarter, the best showing since the second quarter of 1983.

The figure, revised from a month ago based on more complete data, was even stronger than the government's first estimate of an impressive 8.1 percent productivity growth rate and represented an acceleration from the brisk 7 percent pace in the second quarter.

Bigger copayments cause some to stop taking drugs

A study found that when employers switch to a three-tier prescription drug plan that charges a lot extra for brand-name medications, a disturbing number of people simply stop taking their blood pressure and cholesterol pills, instead of switching to cheaper varieties.

More and more employers have been adopting three-level pricing plans, which are designed to encourage employees to use generics or other less expensive drugs. Those who want to use pricier drugs have to pay the highest out-of-pocket expenses.

In a study of two such plans, as many as half of the employees changed from an expensive drug to a cheaper one when their benefits switched to three tiers. But many others quit getting their prescriptions for chronic conditions.

The study was conducted by researchers at Harvard Medical School and Medco and was reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Briton charged with terrorist conspiracy

LONDON (AP) — A 24-year-old British man was charged Wednesday with conspiring in an explosives plot with Richard Reid, the al-Qaida "shoe bomber" who tried to blow up a U.S. airliner.

Sajid Badat, one of more than 20 people arrested since last week in a series of anti-terrorism raids, was charged with two additional explosives offenses, London's Metropolitan Police said.

London police commissioner Sir John Stevens said Wednesday the force is on a heightened state of terrorist alert.

Details of the accusations against Badat were not released, but explosive material was found at his home in Gloucester, southwestern England, where he was arrested Nov. 27.

Before his name was released, Home Secretary David Blunkett said the security services and police believed the suspect had al-Qaida connections.

Saudis arrest suspect in latest terror bombing

With U.S. and British diplomats warning of possible new terror attacks in Saudi Arabia, police said Wednesday they arrested a suspect in a recent suicide car bombing and seized an arsenal — AK-47 assault rifles, explosives, grenade launchers and a surface-to-air missile.

The arrest was the first in the bombing of the Muhaya housing compound in the capital Riyadh on Nov. 8, which killed 17 people and wounded more

than 120. American and Saudi officials blamed the attack the al-Qaida terrorist network of Osama bin Laden, a Saudi exile.

The Saudi Interior Ministry, in charge of the kingdom's police, issued a statement saying the suspected Islamic militant was found hiding with the cache of weapons and "pamphlets inciting terrorist acts." It said the man was arrested a week ago but that his identity would not be revealed to protect the investigation.

The cache seized with the suspect included a SAM-7 surface-to-air missile capable of downing a plane at low altitude; 20 high explosive hand grenades; 89 electrical detonators; blocks of explosives; six booby-trapped mobile phones; three computers; and Saudi currency worth \$354,000.

U.S. Arab population surging, report finds

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Arab population in the United States has nearly doubled in the past two decades, according to the Census Bureau's first report on the group.

Experts cited liberalized U.S. immigration laws and unrest in the Middle East that led many people to come to America.

The bureau counted nearly 1.2 million Arabs in the United States in 2000, compared with 860,000 in 1990 and 610,000 in 1980. About 60 percent trace their ancestry to three countries: Lebanon, Syria and Egypt.

While earlier Arab immigrants came from countries with large Christian populations, newer arrivals come from heavily Muslim countries such as Iraq and Yemen.

Struggle with police cause of man's death

CINCINNATI (AP) — The death of a 350-pound black man who was clubbed by police

in a videotaped beating was caused primarily by the struggle that ensued after the suspect lunged and swung at the officers, the coroner said Wednesday in a case that has heightened racial tensions.

Hamilton County Coroner Carl Parrott said Nathaniel Jones, 41, suffered from an enlarged heart, obesity and had intoxicating levels of cocaine, PCP and methanol in his blood.

He said the death will be ruled a homicide, but added that such a decision does not mean police used "excessive force." The coroner said he had to rule the death a homicide because it did not fall under the other categories: accident, suicide or natural.

Jones' death certificate will list a cause of death as an irregular heart beat because of a stress reaction from the violent struggle, Parrott said.

Black activists say Jones' death was another example of police brutality against blacks in a city that was rocked by race riots two years ago. That unrest was sparked after a white police officer shot and killed an unarmed fleeing black suspect.

But city officials have said the officers in the current case were properly defending themselves against a violent suspect. The officers — five whites and one black — were placed on administrative leave, which is standard procedure.

European space officials show off pictures of Mars

DARMSTADT, Germany (AP) — European space officials on Wednesday showed off the first pictures of Mars sent back by the Mars Express spacecraft as it heads for a Christmas rendezvous with the Red Planet.

The blurry pictures, taken from 3.36 million miles away, show little more than part of a polar ice cap — but officials weren't looking for high-quality

details. Instead, the images prove the spacecraft's German-made high-resolution camera is in working order before it begins orbiting Mars and snapping pictures close up.

The camera test, performed Monday, was one of many checks and rehearsals ahead of a sequence of intricate navigational maneuvers starting Dec. 19. That's when Mars Express will turn loose its British-built Beagle 2 lander toward the Martian surface on a mission to probe for signs of extraterrestrial life.

Invesco and Invesco CEO charged in scandal

NEW YORK (AP) — Regulators charged Invesco Funds Group and its chief executive with civil fraud Tuesday in the rapidly expanding mutual fund trading scandal.

In separate filings, New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and the Securities and Exchange Commission accused Raymond Cunningham and his Denver-based company of defrauding shareholders by allowing certain big clients to engage in market timing — frequent, short-term trading that skimmed profits from long-term shareholders.

Invesco Funds denied any wrongdoing and said it would vigorously contest any charges against the company or its employees. A call to Cunningham's lawyer was not immediately returned.

Regulators are expected to seek the return of more than \$160 million in fees they say Invesco collected from investors, as well as unspecified civil penalties.

Record label drops 'Murder' from name

NEW YORK (AP) — Rapper Ja Rule's record label was cleared of "Murder."

The company behind the multiplatinum rapper and singer Ashanti announced Wednesday it had changed its name to The Inc., moving away from its previous incarnation as Murder Inc.

"Over the course of the years, it seems as though no one is really looking at the talent ... more so than that damn word 'murder,'" label founder Irv Gotti told a Manhattan news conference.

The label's name, according to Gotti, came to him as he watched a television documentary on the original crew of mob hit men. He liked the title's double-meaning, referring to both the mob and making hits for the radio.

Gotti billed Murder Inc. as "the world's most dangerous record company" when it was founded in 1997.

The label's first release under its new name was already in stores: Ashanti's "Christmas Album."

U.S. doping issues under IOC scrutiny

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The United States will be under scrutiny at the IOC's year-end meeting because of several drug-related issues.

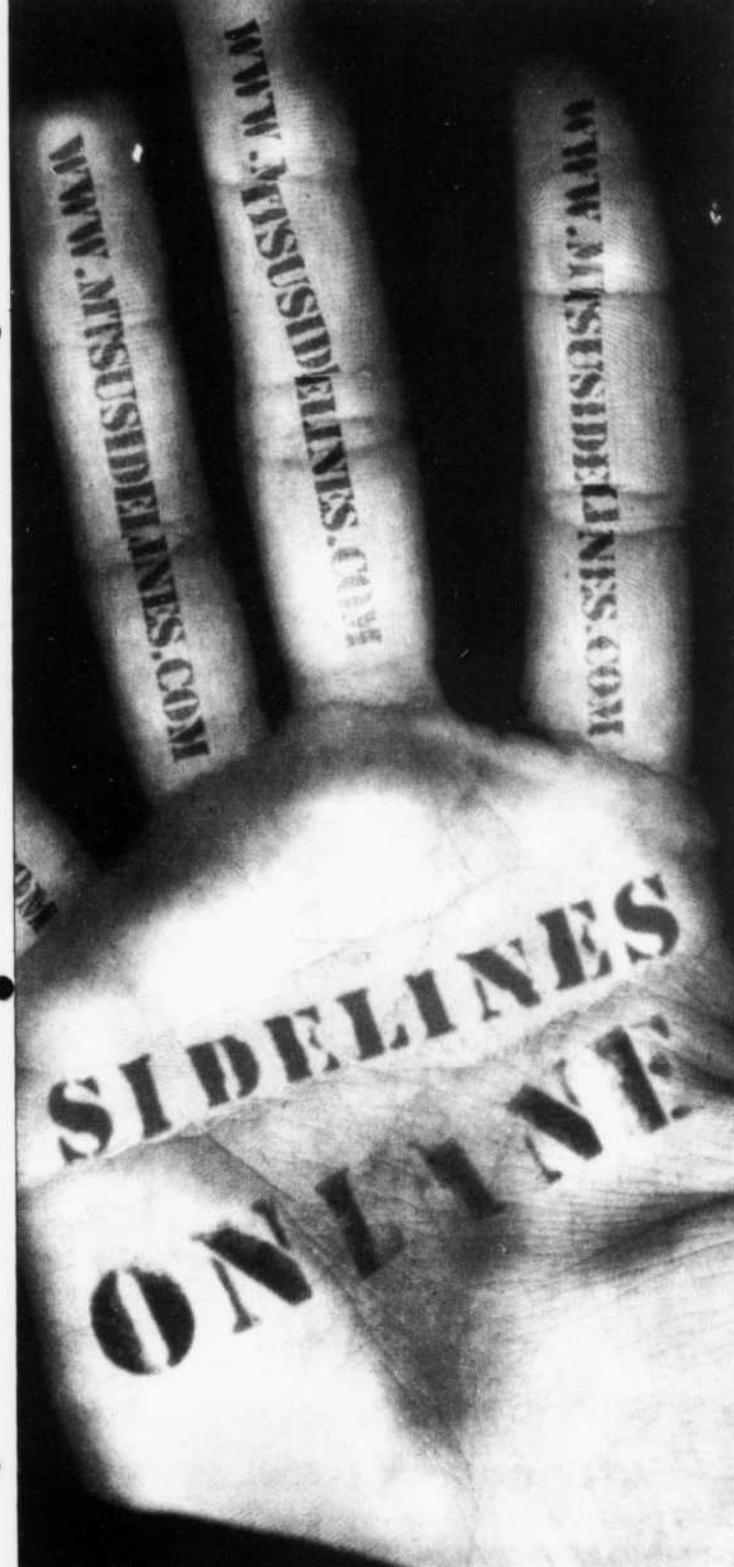
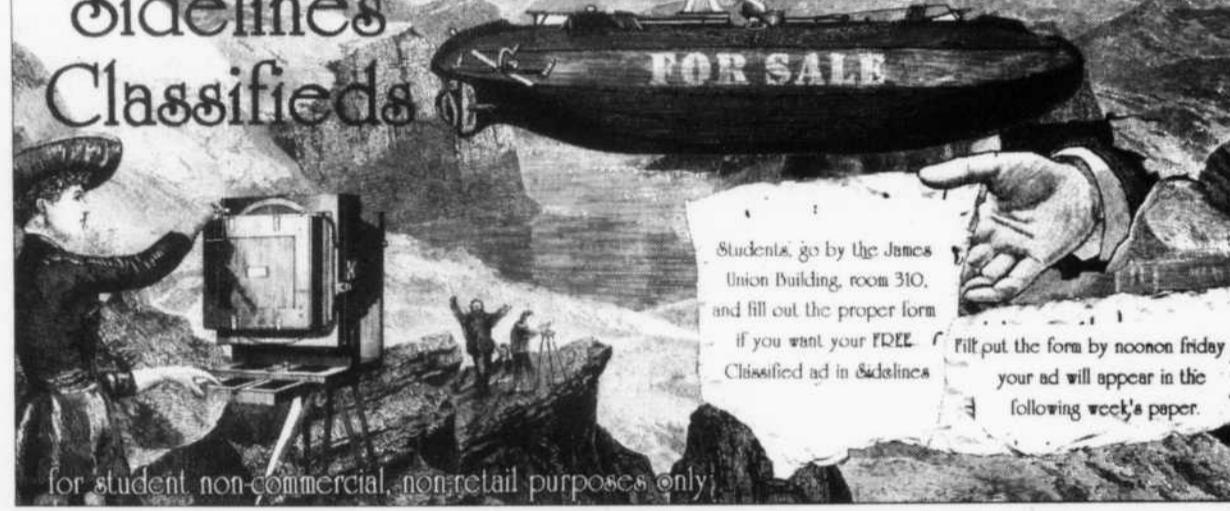
The scandal over the steroid THG, the impasse in Jerome Young's case and questions concerning government dues to the World Anti-Doping Agency will be addressed by the executive board Thursday and Friday.

Young, the reigning world 400-meter champion, tested positive for steroids in 1999 but was cleared on appeal by U.S. track officials.

Young won a gold medal with the U.S. 1,600-meter relay team at the Sydney Olympics. The IOC opened proceedings in September to determine if the team should be stripped of the medal. ♦

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OPINIONS

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, December 4, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board Dear Santa McPhee

It's that time of year again: Christmas bells are ringing, final exams are driving students and professors up the wall and Santa will soon be bringing gifts to all the good little boys and girls. In the spirit of the holidays, we're presenting our annual wish list to Santa McPhee in the hopes that some of our Christmas wishes will come true.

More pay for professors. Coupled with the draconian cuts to virtually every department, some of our best educators have already opted to go elsewhere. We realize education isn't a profitable endeavor, but something has to be done to retain the best and brightest faculty who would be welcomed elsewhere.

While we're on money, a new science building is desperately needed. A new university center would be nice, but science is suffering at MTSU as professors struggle to deal with low funds and outdated facilities. A state-of-the-art building would be a worthwhile investment.

Fix the steps leading to the James Union Building once and for all. With five percent budget cuts coming up, should the university really be paying to have the steps paved, then acid-stripped and refinished within eight months?

While on the subject of repairs, Santa McPhee, why don't you get our cable fixed? We've called, really, but Comcast won't call us back.

And Christmas wouldn't be Christmas if we didn't gripe about Parking Services. We have a couple of suggestions for our friends over there this season.

Stop giving tickets to students who park in Housing spots by Rutledge Hall. Whether Housing and Residential Life paid for them is really irrelevant; the simple fact that Rutledge Hall has not housed students for more than a year is reason enough to leave those spots alone. It's a way for the school to profit off students who are already feeling the financial squeeze.

If you can't manage that, open up white spaces at 4:30 p.m. It's dangerous for students to have to trudge across campus at all hours of the night to get to their parking spaces. MTSU should think about the safety of its hard-working students and get this done.

This one will be hard, Santa McPhee, but could you possibly conjure up 7,500 copies of the Aug. 28 *Sidelines* that were never recovered? You might start by checking the east side of campus.

We'd also love to come to one of the out-of-state pre-football game receptions and have a few drinks with your executive staff.

And lastly, Santa, we want full disclosure.

We hope this isn't too much to ask for, but as the visions of sugar plums dance in our heads, we'll be dreaming of wishes come true when we come back for spring.♦

SIDELINES

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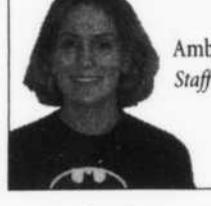
Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. 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.

Nostalgia becomes graduating MTSU senior

Said My Muse to Me



Amber Bryant
Staff Columnist

materials now that my source has dried up. I'm happy that ramen noodles will no longer be on the menu, but I think I'll want some now and then, just to relive my pre-working world days.

I take Prozac with my morning coffee these days. That's the only way to head off the inevitable resume rejection coming my way. After spending hours upon hours preparing them and their blasted cover letters, hand-addressing big puke-colored envelopes and trucking it down to the post office to wait in line for eighty hours, rejection only seems fair.

Graduation is coming, and my mind is torn between undergraduate nostalgia, excitement of potential upcoming wealth, stressing over loose ends and where I'm going to get my, um, recreational

material now that my source has dried up. I'm happy that ramen noodles will no longer be on the menu, but I think I'll want some now and then, just to relive my pre-working world days.

We're going to go with nostalgia today, kids, because I won't be appearing in this college publication ever again as a staff member. Ooh, that stings. The only thing I have to offer is what I would've done differently, and what were nearly perfect decisions. Read it and weep with me.

First, there are a lot of mean, ignorant people, even in a place where great ideas and education are supposed to govern. Most of these people don't even know they're mean or ignorant, because they hide under some predetermined bologna a few ancient jerks came up with as an excuse to hatefully

decree themselves better than others (Southern-fried Christianity, I'm looking at you).

Do anything but let them taint your spirit, even if it means picking at your nails until they bleed — a hobby that became my personal preference in high school. Unfortunately for my pain threshold, it took me years to realize why I was doing it, right before I dropped rigorous religion for agnosticism, which fits me much better. Listen to your body the first time it speaks up. If something's off, you'll know, although it may take you some time to figure out what it is.

Speaking of Christ, for the love of him, read everything you can, unless it makes concrete above said ignorance. The most profound wisdom comes from the classics (and Stephen King, if you want to include some deserving

popular culture).

Not only has my degree prepared me to get a decent job, it has also planted a constant sense of new knowledge and made my psyche complete.

As you seek a degree, your cumulative grades should reflect your brain-power. Cliché as it sounds, I wish I'd studied and milked my professors' brains more than I did, which was probably an average amount to begin with.

If you can fiscally, mentally and physically afford it, get a cat. Or dog. Or ferret. Loving and taking care of another living thing is an excellent exercise in selflessness, or, in my case, mind-boggling motherhood.

The animal will always be a slight to accurate reflection of you. If your pet is a moron, you probably are, too. My cat happens to be neurotic. I'm

fine with that.

Sidelines has been the love of my life as of yet. If I could, I'd marry it and have a hundred little student newspaper babies, but thanks to the crappy laws of physics, that's impossible until I find a way to thwart the powers that be with a little help from my good friend fire.

We should always feel that way about everything we do (the love part, that is), lest the world be filled with miserable nine-to-fivers who find solace in television and treadmills.

Last of all, things are clearest in the early morning light, even if you're a night owl like me. Come next Saturday morning at 10 a.m., I hope my future is clear.♦

Amber Bryant is a senior English major and can be reached via e-mail at alb2x@mtsu.edu.

Love your neighbor, don't trample her at Wal-Mart

Wit and Wonder



Callie Elizabeth Butler
Staff Columnist

The Lion & Lamb Project, a public interest group for child advocacy, released its annual list of toys that shouldn't be purchased for children this holiday season. This list is devised by the group based on content of toys, video games,

lyrics and messages that are violent in nature. The toys on the banned list were primarily action figures and video games associated with popular movies, such as *The Hulk* and *2 Fast 2 Furious*.

Reasons behind individual warnings attached to various toys, video games and movie selections included promotion of a vigilante code, a focus on ninjas, prison themes, depictions of violence and so on. The reasons are obvious in a society centered around violent entertainment, from the plastic action figure to the latest Digital Video Disc release.

While each of these toys depicts different themes and possesses its own distinct look, one link between all the products remains: All the products on this list are mainly aimed at male consumers and their Christmas gift-buying parents. Sure, some women and girls rank *The Matrix* films in their personal top ten lists, and many females enjoy spending an afternoon playing video games. However, if it isn't a video game featuring Barbie and her friends, it's not marketed towards the fairer sex.

This marketing strategy indicates that we're selling violence to boys.

We still live in a society where little girls are taught to cuddle and change their dolls while their brothers remain glued to their new *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* video game. It's not difficult to see that we live in a society that instills messages of violence and aggression in our young boys at an age level that continues to decline. This is easily seen on the shelves of local toy stores.

While it is ridiculous to say that toys, musical lyrics and movies contribute directly to violence in boys and men, it is logical to say that the presence of these products reflects the overall message that we as a nation are sending to our children.

So, don't blame it on the your local video store when teenagers grow violent. If we didn't live in a society that promoted such ideas on a mainstream level, the music wouldn't sell and its producers wouldn't grow richer.

If our society were as infatuated with education as we remain with violence, our purchases would reflect that: *School House Rock!* would be a high grossing film while *X-Men* remained a comic book and a 30-minute Saturday morning program. Mothers would fight in aisles over the latest LeapFrog educational toy offering with the same savagery that exists over a new action figure for boys today. If we placed greater value in encouraging boys to be nurturing and cooperative, we wouldn't find Casey Jones packing plastic ammo in our toy stores. Boys would find dolls that taught them how to care for baby, too, and not find toys in such great numbers that teach nothing more than what an AK-47 looks like.

Instead of proclaiming that responsible parents shouldn't buy a list of 20 toys, perhaps it should take the time to examine why the products make it to the shelves in the first place and what that reflects about our society. The fact that these toys are marketable is a message to Americans, and it isn't terribly difficult to decipher.♦

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a senior mass communications major and can be reached via e-mail at ceb2k@mtsu.edu.

Thursdays



Wesley Jackson
Staff Columnist

bing here in Murfreesboro at the Wal-Mart on Old Fort Parkway and Thompson Lane the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Last weekend I saw the bad-attitude-shopper mindset at Stones River Mall and Target as I did a little Christmas shopping with my sister, who happens to be on crutches with a broken foot at the moment.

As my sister and I walked out of Target, she was nearly knocked over by another customer pushing his way in front of her to get out the door first.

People shove the handicapped out of the way and trample other innocent customers just to get their stuff and have their way. It's becoming the holiday norm.

No doubt there are some folks out there blaming Wal-Mart for lack of security and crowd control for the VanLester incident.

There are others who are probably blaming commercialism and are prophesying doom and gloom for future holidays.

And then there's the handful of liberals who blame VanLester's trample tragedy, like every other tragedy, world crisis or personal inconvenience, on President Bush himself.

I can hear them now, "If Al Gore were president, none of this would have happened."

I really think the problem is simpler than all that. It's not profound, but it's something we all need to be reminded of. We forget that each of us has a personal responsibility to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Some might respond to that with an, "Oh, come on. How obvious. How trite and Sunday-Schoolish."

I remember last year there was a reported stab-

ous.

I've found that such personal responsibility is not something that we take on naturally, and it's not all that obvious to everyone. We're self-centered creatures that have to be taught how to be civilized. It's not something we evolve into.

Those people who tell us that we all basically know what good morals are should have gone down to Orange City to face the mob, because good moral behavior didn't seem so commonsensical to those folks — even if it is the holidays.

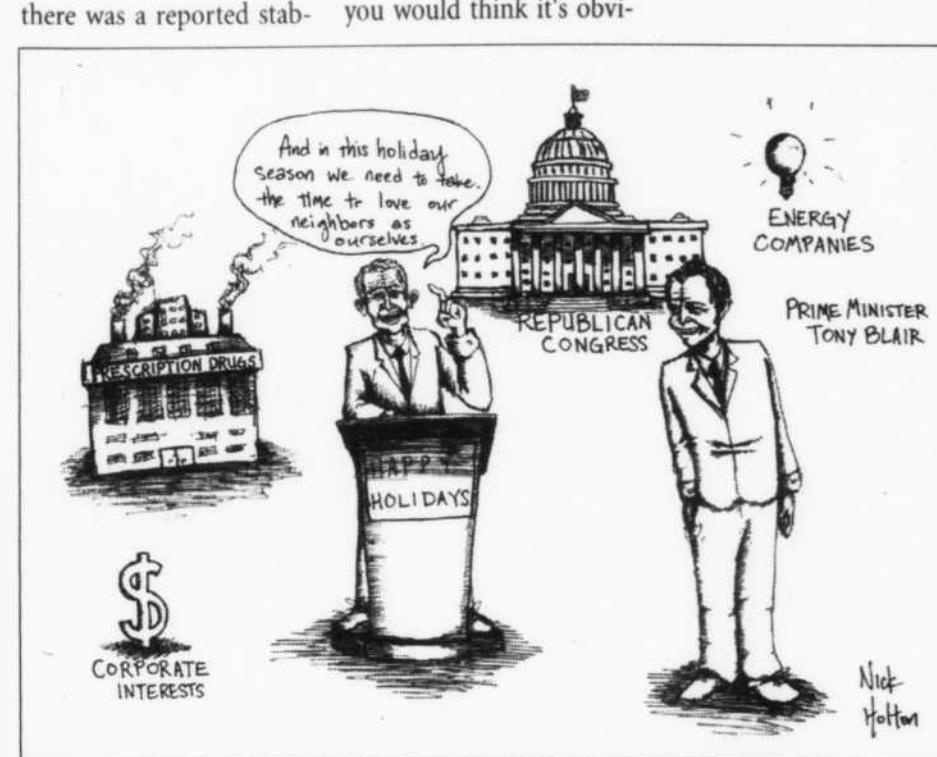
The problem is really not Wal-Mart's lack of security and crowd control. It's really not that holiday commercialism is inherently evil. It's not Bush. And the problem is certainly not that shopper trampling is the latest sign of the coming of the Antichrist from Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins' *Left Behind* book series.

The problem is far simpler. It's that as humans we tend to forget what our responsibilities are, or we're too lazy or greedy to fulfill our responsibilities to our neighbors, and even our fellow shoppers. We need to be reminded of what civilized behavior looks like.

And it always looks like treating the people around us as we would want to be treated. It means we put others first.

It means we really act like other people are more important than us — even more important than our post-Thanksgiving, clearance-sale-rack "stuff."♦

Wesley Jackson is a junior English major and can be reached via e-mail at wjt2b@mtsu.edu.



Good luck on finals.
Hope you don't flunk out ...

slopinio@mtsu.edu

POLITICAL UPHEAVAL

Nukes threaten human existence



Jeremy Majors
Staff Columnist

The United States should take a serious look at the elimination of nuclear weapons. We have long since passed the era where nuclear weapons served their purpose, if they ever had one. Nuclear weapons are dangerous, expensive and wrong.

They are dangerous because they have the potential to eliminate countless innocent lives and the ability to de-stabilize the international system. These weapons are expensive to develop and maintain. This money could be used in other ways that are more appropriate to our time period. Nuclear weapons are wrong because they do not distinguish between combatants and civilians in their use.

True, there is the argument that nuclear weapons are a deterrent from being attacked by other countries. The theory is that if two countries who possess nuclear weapons are facing a military confrontation, they will not attack each other based on the concept of "mutually assured destruction," or M.A.D.

During the Cold War, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were engaged in a continuous race to possess more nuclear weapons than the other. This policy was designed to keep a balance of power in a bipolar international system. Although we never did have a nuclear exchange between our countries, we came extremely close on occasion.

Today, many nations around the world are actively seeking nuclear weapons, and terrorist organizations are actively seeking them as well. By keeping nuclear weapons and their technologies, the United States is really its own worst enemy.

According to cdi.org, a nuclear weapons information site, America currently possesses 10,045 nuclear weapons, 7,800 of which are active. We have the most nukes in the world. How can we tell other countries they are not allowed to develop them?

I, like almost all Americans, do not want countries such as North Korea or Iran to possess weapons of mass destruction, but it is foolish for us to adopt such a double standard.

Unfortunately for us, and the world, the number of nuclear-capable countries is growing. Currently, according to cdi.org, Pakistan, India, Israel, the United Kingdom, France, China, Russia and the United States have nukes, listed in order of those who possess the least amount to greatest. You can almost definitely add North Korea to the list, and who knows who else.

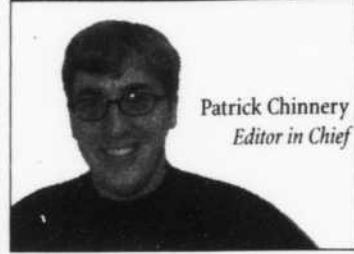
Another issue that is relevant in today's international system is terrorism. Terrorists seek WMDs because they have the potential to do the most harm in a single strike. Although terrorists do not currently possess any nuclear weapons, that could change one day.

Our nuclear program costs us around \$26.7 billion per year. In the span of ten years, that adds up to \$267 billion. If a nuclear strike ever were to occur on U.S. soil, just imagine the cost in lives and infrastructure damage. The benefit of having these weapons today does not outweigh the dangers they present.

The United Nations and our allies exist as an extensive network of stable nations who can work together for world peace. We owe it to ourselves and the innocent people who have been killed in past wars to take a second look at our policies toward nuclear weapons. ♦

Jeremy Majors is a senior international relations major and can be reached via e-mail at jmm2@mtsu.edu.

No nukes is bad news for U.S.



Patrick Chinnery
Editor in Chief

A new era in international relations dawned in August 1945.

Deploying Fat Man and Little Boy over the industrial centers of Japan not only ended World War II, but also sent a clear message to Russia that there would be dire consequences for new military aggression against our interests.

Four years later, the Soviets returned the message with a test of their own. Thus, an era of deterrence theory was born.

On balance, the theory's worked pretty well.

Zbigniew Brzezinski is quoted in the *Weekly Standard* as saying, "... it worked with such murderous, dangerous tyrants as Stalin, as Mao Zedong. It worked during the Cuban missile crisis."

Though the Cuban crisis of 1962 was an extraordinarily close call, it eventually ended for the best: The Communists took away their nukes, and the United States removed some Jupiter missiles from Turkey.

There's no reason to eliminate nuclear weapons at this point in our country's history. While the Soviet Union has gone the way of the Romanov dynasty, America still faces threats from ideologically dangerous countries, i.e. North Korea and Iran.

Maintaining our current arsenal of more than 7,300 strategic nuclear weapons is an expensive proposition, and a perfectly rational suggestion would be to reduce the number of strategic and tactical nuclear weapons to a manageable level.

There's no real need, after

all, to possess enough fire power to obliterate the earth 27 times – once is enough to deter.

Granted, the world today is a different place than it was 50 years ago. In addition to traditional enemies like rogue states and psychotic dictators, we must now deal with stateless terrorists, who aren't as easily deterred with conventional and nuclear weapons.

The key to reducing terrorism is a systematic removal of individual threats, so potential aggressors know their brand of violence would have minimal results.

Setting aside the issue of terrorism then, it's a foolhardy motion to eliminate the U.S. nuclear arsenal at this critical juncture in history. The traditional nuclear powers are no longer alone – India, Pakistan, North Korea and, probably, Iran all possess strategic nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. To think that these nations would give up their all-powerful weapons simply because the United States abandoned its program is extremely naive and expresses a dangerously simplistic view of foreign affairs.

When the big kid on the playground, whom you hate and despise (and, let's be honest, the rest of the world hates and despises America), drops his guard, you do your best to take him out and hope he doesn't get back up.

Because the rest of the world is armed to the teeth and angry at America, eliminating the nuclear weapons program might be a show of good faith, but it'd be a death sentence to our nation's hegemony and, much more importantly, our citizens. ♦

Patrick Chinnery is a senior political science major and can be reached via e-mail at pwc2c@mtsu.edu.

Letter to the Editor Cutting Logic nonsensical

To the Editor:

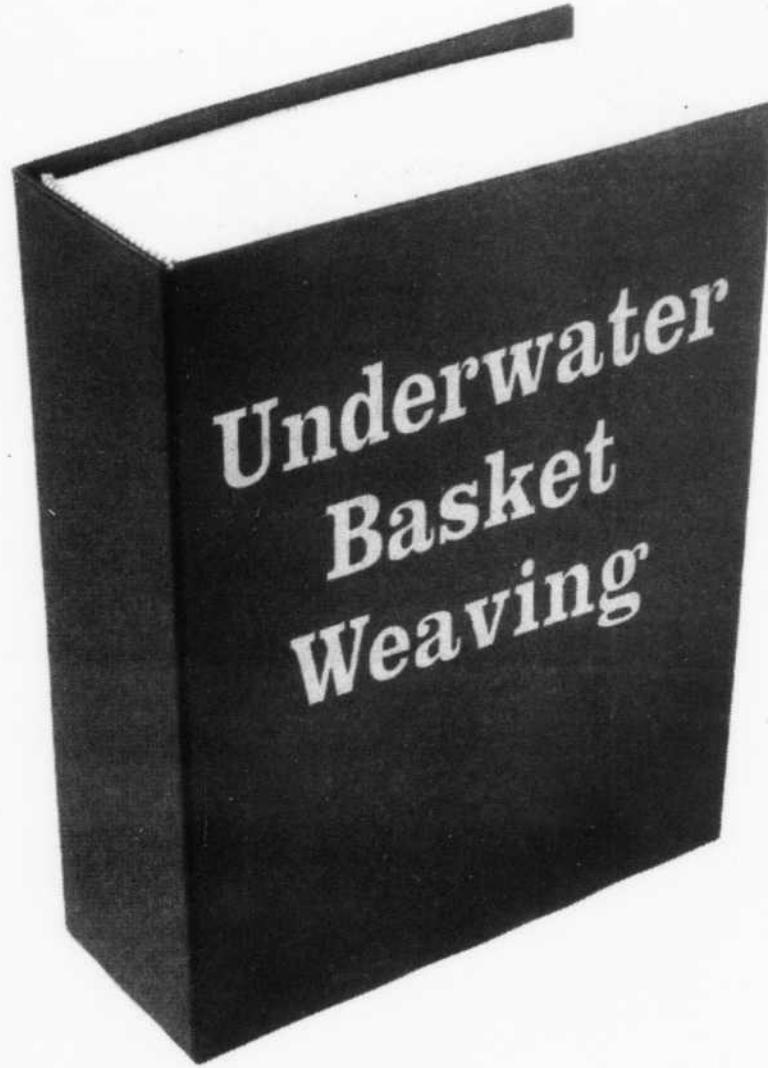
While I am a faithful and appreciative reader of *Sidelines'* editorial page, I have been reluctant as a faculty member to address directly the opinions and letters printed in a publication devoted to giving our students a voice. I am compelled to write today, however, because of a sentence in the letter printed in last Wednesday's edition.

The sentence reads as follows: "I would think that in attending an institution of higher education, he would have been required to take a class or two in logic" ("Anti-war does not equal pro-Saddam," Nov. 26, 2003).

From what I gather, very few students are aware that, under the proposed General Education revisions, PHIL 2110, "Logic and Critical Thinking," will no longer be a general education option for MTSU students.

My colleagues and I are utterly perplexed by this decision – a perplexity shared by the few students who are cognizant of this turn of events. (Indeed, the standard response to this bit of news has been, "But, that's just irrational!") After all, we Americans pride ourselves on using reasoned debate rather than force to resolve our domestic disputes. What could be more essential to this endeavor than the ability to understand and evaluate arguments?

Mary Magada-Ward
Associate Professor
Philosophy



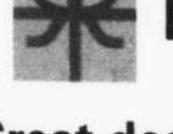
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SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, December 4, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Wright, Westbrook receive All Sun Belt honors

By Colby Sledge
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee senior offensive tackle Brandon Westbrook and junior wide receiver Kerry Wright were named to the 2003 All-Sun Belt Conference Football first team Tuesday.

Westbrook was named to the first team for the third consecutive year.

This is the first time a Blue Raider has been named to the all-conference first team for three straight seasons

since place-kicker Garth Petrilli made the all-Ohio Valley Conference team from 1991-1994.

Westbrook was widely considered the best offensive lineman in the Sun Belt this season and was named the preseasont offensive star for MT by www.collegefootballnews.com.

Wright set several records for MT this season, including becoming the first Blue Raider to amass 1,000 yards receiving in a single season.

Wright finished the year with 1,280 yards receiving, an SBC record, and a

106.7 yards per game average that currently ranks fifth in the nation.

Wright scored nine touchdowns this season, which set a single-season touchdown mark for MT wideouts.

MT defensive linemen Demetrios Walker, safety Michael Woods and place-kicker Brian Kelly were named to the all-SBC second team.

University of North Texas defensive tackle Brandon Kennedy was named SBC Player of the Year for the second consecutive season after finishing the regular season with 66 total tackles and

six sacks.

Kennedy was also a unanimous first team selection for the third straight year.

UNT won its third consecutive SBC championship this season and dominated the first team roster, placing nine players on the 26-man team.

Running back Patrick Cobbs was named Offensive Player of the Year, linebacker Chris Hurd was named Defensive Player of the Year and head coach Darrell Dickey claimed his third straight SBC Coach of the Year honor

for the Mean Green.

New Mexico State junior defensive lineman Aubrey Dorisme was named the conference's Newcomer of the Year and University of Louisiana-Monroe running back Kevin Payne was Freshman of the Year.

SBC football finishes its season when UNT takes on the University of Memphis in the New Orleans Bowl on Dec. 16.

Westbrook played his last game for the Blue Raiders on Nov. 20 against Arkansas State.♦

New Orleans Bowl offers both old, new



Photo by James Harris | Staff Photographer

North Texas quarterback Scott Hall prepares to move the Mean Green up the field Oct. 25. North Texas swept the Sun Belt Conference 7-0.

By Chris Glasser
Staff Writer

There will be some familiar faces and some new ones come Dec. 16 in the third annual New Orleans Bowl.

Three-time Sun Belt Conference champion North Texas will make its third straight appearance while the Memphis Tigers, who finished with an 8-4 record, good for third place in Conference USA, will be making their first bowl game appearance in 32 years.

The Mean Green swept the SBC this year behind the running of NCAA leading rusher Patrick Cobbs. Cobbs rushed for an SBC record 1,570 yards and 17 touchdowns while averaging an NCAA

best 157 yards per game. He was also named SBC Offensive Player of the Year.

North Texas also boasts the SBC's top defense, which had six starters named to the SBC All-Conference First Team, including Player of the Year defensive lineman Brandon Kennedy and Defensive Player of the Year linebacker Chris Hurd.

Kennedy led all SBC linemen with 5.5 tackles per game and recorded six sacks while Hurd led the Mean Green defense with 111 tackles, including 62 solo tackles.

While the Mean Green have become a bowl game regular, Memphis is stepping into unfamiliar ground. The Tigers will be playing their first postseason game

since 1971, when they beat San Jose State 28-9 in the Pasadena Bowl.

"I can't say enough about these players and my coaches," said Memphis head coach Tommy West. "We set post season play as one of our goals for this year and we have now achieved that goal."

Memphis will rely on quarterback Danny Wimprine and running back DeAngelo Williams for a balanced offensive attack, while boasting the top defense in C-USA.

Wimprine, a New Orleans native, passed for 2920 yards and 21 touchdowns while Williams, a sophomore, averaged a C-USA best 1430 yards and 10 touchdowns.

The Tigers defense also played big this

year, ranking first in total defense giving up just 297 total yards per game, and also led the league in first downs allowed.

The Mean Green lost the inaugural 2001 New Orleans bowl 45-20 to Colorado State but bounced back last year to win their first bowl game since 1946 by beating the University of Cincinnati 24-19.

North Texas won eight in a row to close out their regular season while Memphis had won five straight before losing their season finale to South Florida 21-16.

The game will kickoff at 6 p.m. and will be televised on ESPN2.♦

LSU win could put Tigers top in BCS

By Chris Glasser
Staff Columnist

The Louisiana State University Tigers may have fallen victim to the controversial BCS system.

LSU (11-1) won the SEC West division and earned a trip to the SEC championship game against Georgia after destroying Arkansas last week 55-24. In doing so, they also cut the cap between them and No. 2 Trojans to 1.53 points in the BCS standings. However, that may be as close as they can get.

If the Tigers beat Georgia this weekend, they may actually hurt their chances at getting to the National Championship game. You could call this a lose-lose situation for the Tigers.

This is because LSU currently has a 0.4-point incentive for beating Georgia earlier this season. Another loss by the Bulldogs would probably knock them out of the top 10, thereby eliminating those 0.4 points.

The only way for the Tigers to pass University of Southern California if both teams won would be for LSU to blow out Georgia and USC to edge out Oregon State. This situation could affect a few of the computer rankings.

Oklahoma (12-0) has all but ensured itself of a spot in the Sugar Bowl. Even with a loss this weekend to Kansas State in the Big 12 championship game, it is unlikely the Sooners would drop any lower than second in the BCS rankings.

Unless both USC and LSU lose this weekend, Michigan will be headed to the Rose Bowl and will probably face Texas, who is the second highest ranked at-large team in the BCS at No. 6.

The Miami Hurricanes, once thought to be extinct from any BCS action, will probably stay at home and play in the FedEx Orange Bowl after beating Pittsburgh last week to win the Big East.

Expect a rematch of last year's national title game because the highest ranked at-large team in

See LSU, 7

Fall sports gives MT faithful mixed feelings on results

By Jon Leffew
Staff Columnist

The Middle Tennessee football, volleyball, soccer and cross-country teams recently concluded their fall seasons, each experiencing mixed results.

This year's football team was perhaps the biggest disappointment of the fall. After starting their season at 0-5, the football team finished with a record of 4-8, 4-3 in the Sun Belt Conference.

To begin the season, the Blue Raiders lost to Florida Atlantic 20-19, after a defensive breakdown led to a last second touchdown. The team then lost four games to Georgia, Clemson, Missouri and Temple.

The team rebounded the following week with a homecoming win against New Mexico State, then a key SBC win over Idaho.

North Texas once again defeated the Blue Raiders, followed by a disappointing loss at Utah State.

The Blue Raiders followed that

loss with a win against Troy State then lost another game against Louisiana-Lafayette.

The team did close out the season with a win over Arkansas State in Jonesboro, Ark.

Despite the team's disappointment, five Blue Raiders were named All-Conference.

Brian Kelly, Demetrios Walker, Brandon Westbrook, Michael Woods and Kerry Wright were named All-SBC by the leagues coaches, media relations directors and media members.

"The season did not go the way we had hoped but we still had some big moments and these five guys were a big reason for that success," head coach Andy McCollum stated.

MT's volleyball team also finished the season under .500, at 14-19 and 5-9 in the SBC.

The team began the season by winning the College of Charleston Invitational Tournament and finished the season by winning six out of their final 12 games.

KeKe Deckard, an outside hitter

for the Lady Raiders, was named second-team All Conference and broke the MT career kills record.

Western Kentucky defeated the Lady Raiders in the first round of the SBC tournament to end the season.

The MT soccer team was by far the most successful team of the fall, achieving many benchmarks for the program this season.

Finishing with a 12-7-2 overall record and a loss in the semifinals of the SBC tournament, the team enjoyed success in the conference (5-1-2) behind the performances of five All-Conference players.

Emily Carter, Jessica Northcutt, Laura Miguez, Rebecca Rodriguez and Claire Ward were all named All-Conference, while their head coach, Aston Rhoden, was named the SBC coach of the year.

Rhoden's Raiders won their first conference opener and recorded their first Sun Belt shutout in the first SBC match of the year in a



MT midfielder Emily Carter clears the ball against Birmingham Southern Sept. 21. The Blue Raiders finished the season 12-7-2 overall.

See Fall, 7

LSU: controlling own destiny

Continued from 6

the BCS is Ohio State at No. 5, and Orange Bowl officials are drooling over the opportunity to feature this game, especially after last year's somewhat controversial ending.

The Tostitos Fiesta Bowl will most likely feature Florida State, who won the ACC and the winner of the LSU-Georgia game.

Probably the only way Texas and Ohio State won't earn at-large berths is if Oklahoma lost this weekend. Kansas State's win would earn them a BCS bowl berth and most likely give Oklahoma one of the at-large berths to play in the National Championship game against Pac-10 champion USC.

Sports e-mail
s1sports@mtsu.edu

While almost nobody expects Oklahoma to lose this weekend, or even this season.

It was Kansas State that was in this position back in 1998. All they had to do was beat Texas A&M in the Big 12 Championship, and they would be on their way to the National Championship game to meet Tennessee.

Instead, they lost and gave UCLA a chance to earn a trip to the national title game. They also lost in the last week of the season, and Florida State ended up going.

So don't be surprised if there are any surprises this weekend. Then again, don't expect any either. ♦

Fall: Getting ready for 2004

Continued from 6

"hard-fought" match against Florida International that included a brawl near midfield.

The soccer season ended in the semifinals of the SBC tournament.

The MT cross-country teams concluded their seasons at the SBC tournament, where the men finished eighth and the

women finished tenth.

Two freshmen, David Hughes and Kim Alsobrook, led the way for their teams all fall.

All in all, several individuals performed well in their respective sports this fall, but the teams' lack of success makes winter sports a pleasant addition to Murfreesboro. ♦

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Business opportunity: Independent Representatives needed to market local phone service, a \$400 billion dollar industry, set your own hours, decide how much you want to make, be your own boss. Call Justin @ 904-2498.

Bartender trainees needed. \$250 a day potential. Local positions. 1-800-293-3985 ext. 305

Looking for Full-part time night job. Super 8 in LaVergne, I-24 Exit 64 25 mins. from MTSU is now hiring for front desk associate. Hours are 11pm - 7 am. Great pay and excellent benefits. Please apply in person!! Now hiring

immediately!!

Help Wanted

Need extra cash or Christmas money?? Daily pay, Co. vehicle. \$75-\$150 per day. Start ASAP! 355-4003..

Law Office needs part-time help. Send resume to: jeff2f@mtsu.edu

Opportunities

LOCAL BANDS Murfreesboro Official Music Website is seeking jazz bands. All other bands are welcome to post their calendars for free advertisement of shows. Contact: Shane Leach. Email boronightlife@bellsouth.net Http://clik.to/bnl

Finish your holiday gift shopping! Mary Kay Clearance sale. Nov. 19, 20, 21. Call 319-3072

Fraternities-Sororities-Clubs-Student groups. Earn \$1000-\$2000 this semester with a proven CampusFundraiser 3 hour fundraising event. **Our free programs make fundraising easy with no risks.** Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so get with the program! It works. Contact Campus Fundraiser at (888) 923-3238, or visit www.campusfundraiser.com

Business Opportunity: Independent Representatives needed to market local phone service, a \$400 billion dollar industry, set your own hours, decide how much you want to make, be your own boss. Call Justine @ 904-2498

For more info. call 898-4684. Want that dream vacation, dream car, dream house or dream bank account? You can have it! Visit www.globalsuccess2000.com/financialset to get you on the right path.

Need to lose weight? Gain weight? Have more energy? 1-800-595-9240.

Pets

Need 2 Roomates. \$325 by house, 4 BR. 907-0767.

ROOMS FOR RENT! Three 14 x14 bedrooms in a 2600 sq. ft. house, 1 mile from campus. Needs good occupants. Month to month based lease. \$325 deposit (refundable) Please call 308-9735 for details.

ROOMATES WANTED in a large house 1 mile from campus. \$325 rent & 1/4 utilities. Month to month contract. No lawn maintenance involved. More info call 308-9735.

Need 2 female roommates to share 4 bedroom home 5 miles from Sam's. Non-smokers \$350/mo., call 849-8277.

Roomates wanted. Total house rent is \$900. Four bedroom. Must reply before December 1st. Great House! Call 907-0767.

Female nursing student seeks quiet, female roommate ASAP for affordable 2 BA, 1 BA duplex with spacious living room and kitchen. Nice neighborhood. Yard work is involved during the spring and summer months (mowing and hedge trimming) so

women finished tenth.

Two freshmen, David Hughes and Kim Alsobrook, led the way for their teams all fall.

All in all, several individuals performed well in their respective sports this fall, but the teams' lack of success makes winter sports a pleasant addition to Murfreesboro. ♦

\$100 was taken off the total monthly rent. Rent is \$175 plus part of the utilities. If interested in this great opportunity, call Amanda 542-9028. Please leave a message.

One BR available in 2 BR 1 1/2 BA townhouse on Bell St. Utilities and rent is \$360. Lots of space, clean, W/D included. Christian female wanted. Need by 12/1/03! Please call Jessica 615-668-8598.

I female roommate needed, non-smoker preferred, to share 4 BR 2 BA spacious house across from Murphy center. Available ASAP! \$0 deposit, \$225/month includes electricity and water. If interested, call maritza @ 390-8693.

Roomate needed by end of October for large brick 2 BR house. Central heat/air, close to MTSU, only one neighbor-musicians welcome. \$325/mo. \$325 deposit+ 1/2 utilities. Call Jacob 849-3219.

Room for rent in Murfreesboro. \$330/month + 1/3 utilities. Available 11/1/03. Call 653-3982.

1 Female Roomate needed for a 4-bedroom house. Currently there are 3 girls. Close to campus. \$275/month + 1/4 utilities. \$300 security deposit. Call Amy (423) 504-4090, alw2w@mtsu.edu.

Roomate needed to share 2 bedroom apt. on Ewing Blvd., within walking distance to campus. Rent is \$350 + utilities. W/D, dishwasher, personal bathroom included in apt. Roommate needed soon so call today. Call Rick at (615) 896-7321.

First month rent free! Female Subleaser needed for a 4 BR 2 BA apt. at University Courtyard. One great roomate. Rent is \$345/month, includes utilities. I will pay your 1st month's rent. Call Cassandra at 708-1190.

Furnished apartment at Sterling Gables. **\$500 Cash** to take over 9 month lease.

\$425/month-including **all** utilities paid. Female only. Located close to MTSU. Free internet-shuttle-other amenities.

Available immediately. Call 931-212-0987 or 615-653-3133.

3 Roomates needed to take lease over at Sterling Gables. \$335/month. Pool view! Call 497-0968.

Three people wanted to sublease 4 BR/2BA apartment.

Only \$330 a month, utilities included. Sterling Gables, located across from the new Walmart. 24/7 workout room, computer lab and hot tub.

Free tanning booth and shuttle bus to and from MTSU. CALL 931-260-7076.

3 Roomates needed to take lease over at Sterling Gables. \$335/month. Pool view! Call 497-0968.

Female needed to take over lease in Sterling University Gables.

ASAP! 4br/2ba \$330/mo. Utilities included. Great clean roomates - no deposit! call (865) 384-5030 for more info.

Pre-Leasing now for Fall 2004 4 bedrooms starting at \$300.00 month per person All-inclusive utilities!! University Courtyard Apartments 1540 New Lascassas Hwy. 615-907-0600

Brand new zero lot line for rent

3br 2bt \$800mo. \$500 dep. 120-B Fairfax (near VA hosp.) call 335-2869 & lv msg.

Available today 3 BR 2 BA, Brand new house, for rent. \$875 monthly, deposit same. Fenced back yard, outdoor pets welcome. Please call 238-4045.

December Rent FREE 4BR Apartment starting at \$300 month per person All utilities included! Roommate matching

University Courtyard Apartments 1540 New Lascassas Hwy. (615) 907-0600

2 BR 1.5 BA duplex. Near I-24. All appl., vaulted ceilings, garage, lawn care, garden tub, laundry room. Pets okay. \$880/month. Call 907-8060, 423-6272.

1 BR apt. for rent, \$450 per month, \$450 deposit. Call Jim 202-3050.

3 BD 1BA for rent; washer/dryer hookup. \$700 per month, \$700 deposit. 745 E. Vine Street. Call Jim 202-3050.

First month rent free! Female Subleaser needed for a 4 BR 2 BA apt. at University Courtyard. One great roomate. Rent is \$345/month, includes utilities. I will

Lady Raiders prepare for winter break

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee women's basketball team (3-1) will play one game today, one next week and nine over winter break.

Today the Lady Raiders will play Xavier University (2-1) in Cincinnati, Ohio. MT has already taken one road trip to the Florida Atlantic tournament. The team fell to Manhattan College and won against Norfolk State University.

Xavier has a sophomore by the name of Tara Boothe. She was the 2003 Atlantic 10 Conference Rookie of the Year. The league's coaches and media also appointed her to the 2003-04 Preseason All-Conference First Team.

Boothe, a 6-foot-1-inch forward, set Xavier freshman records for points with 479 and rebounds with 242 last year.

"Boothe is a solid player, she can shoot the three well and is also a very profound athlete," MT head coach

Stephany Smith said.

"Xavier is a hard team," she added. "They have returning players coming back that can contribute to their team."

On Dec. 13, the Lady Raiders will move on to the University of Georgia (3-1). The Lady Bulldogs have four players with point per game averages in double figures.

Kara Braxton, a 6-foot-6-inch junior, averages 15.7 points and 12 rebounds per game.

Another high scoring Lady Bulldog is Christi Thomas, a 6-foot-5-inch senior who averages 12.7 ppg. Sherill Baker, a 5-foot-8-inch sophomore, plays the guard position and averages 12 ppg.

Georgia's power quad is complete with Jessica Pierce, a 6-foot-2-inch center. She brings her 11.3 points to give the Lady Bulldogs a team average of 82.7 ppg.

The Lady Raiders will hopefully play a less threatening team when they take on Tennessee State University (0-2).

Kisha Stewart, a 5-foot-7-inch senior guard, helps the Lady Tigers offensively. She averages 11 ppg and is also the leader in assists.

Kelly Odessa is also a senior who averages 11 ppg. She averages 7.5 rebounds per game and has the most offensive put backs on the team.

For the most part, MT will head on to Chicago State University (3-1) Dec. 17 at home. The Lady Cougars have 6-foot-1-inch senior Kafayat Davies, who leads CSU in points with 17.3 per game.

Renada Blackburn also averages double figures with 15.3 ppg. Blackburn is a 6-foot-2-inch sophomore who averages 11 rebounds a game, leading the Lady Cougars.

Two other point producing players are Loretta Ellul and Tina Hill. Ellul averages 11.8 ppg and Hill adds 10.5 ppg to the Lady Cougars offense.

MT will play the Lady Cougars in Murfreesboro.

"We would rather play in the Murphy Center for each

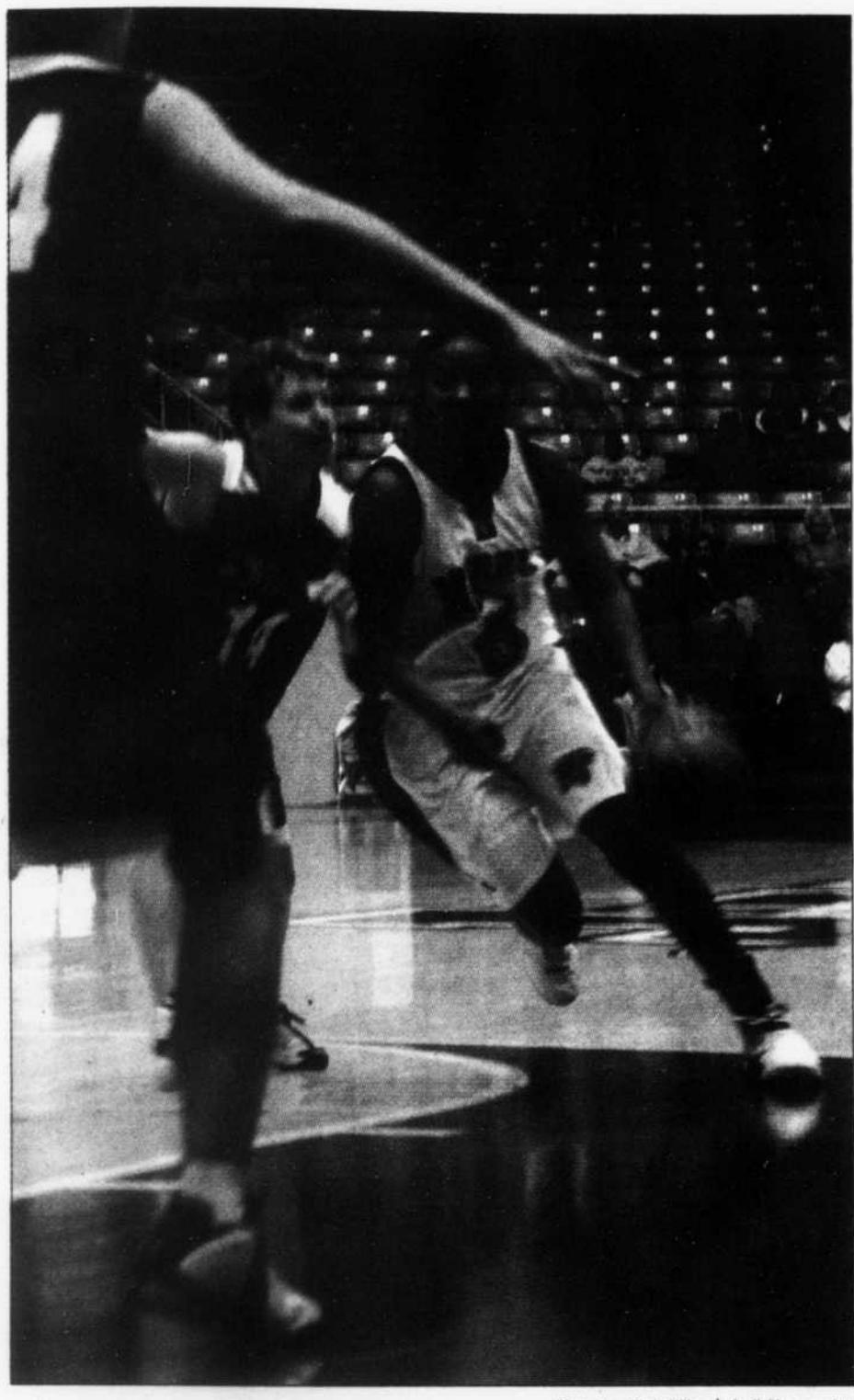


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

MT guard Keisha McClinic drives the ball through the lane against Southern Illinois University Saluki defender Dana Pinkston Nov. 24.

game, with supporting fans surrounding us," Smith said. "That gives the team strong confidence."

The Lady Raiders will have to get back on the road to cross Austin Peay University (2-2) Dec. 20. Gerlonda Hardin, a 6-foot-1-inch senior, leads the Lady Govs offense with 17 ppg.

On Dec. 22 the Lady Raiders will head back to the Murphy Center with South Carolina State University (2-2). MT will also take on Lipscomb University (2-2) Dec. 30, Houston University (7-0) Jan. 5, 2004 and Alabama University (3-2) Jan. 8, 2004. ♦

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Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

MT guard Ciara Gray shoots for a 3-pointer
against SIU. Gray finished with 12 points.

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