

THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 15, 2001

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Sunny



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ONLINE

Do you think the charges against SGA President John Marshall are serious enough to warrant a hearing?

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MURFREESBORO,  
TENNESSEE

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INSIDE: Football team needs our support now more than ever

Middle Tennessee State University

# SIDELINES

An editorially  
independent  
newspaper

Volume 76 No. 100

## Student Orientation Assistants needed for summer

By Roshon Lewis  
Contributor

For many incoming freshmen, getting acquainted with the university can be an intimidating task.

Student Orientation Assistants help freshmen and transfer students during CUSTOMS MTSU's orientation program — find their way around campus and learn about their future learning environment.

The Office of Student Development currently is accepting applications for SOAs for summer 2002.

"We recommend that most of our SOAs have a reasonable amount of knowledge about MTSU so that each tour will be

informative and effective," said Gina Poff, director of Student Development. "The more knowledgeable students are of MTSU's facilities, the more productive the SOAs will be in capturing incoming student's interest."

Poff explained that there are some crucial qualifications necessary for becoming an SOA.

"We primarily look for students who appear to be energetic," Poff said. "We also prefer that students hoping to become SOAs are involved in some sort of school activities. The students also need to be people oriented," Poff said.

The process typically consists of an in-depth tour of all major buildings on campus.

"We try to cover all of the

major academic buildings that incoming students might encounter their first semester here," Poff said. There is also a flip-chart presentation available to help familiarize incoming students with the facilities.

The SOA program is a good way for present students to make some extra money.

"All of our staff are paid for their services," Poff said. "Although we do have some volunteers, we find that if students are paid for the job they do, the program proves to be more effective."

Former SOA Ilene Hale explained how today's SOA program still has the same impact.

"I believe the entire program is a wonderful opportunity for students — both present and

incoming," Hale said.

"I especially like how the SOAs are trained in a leadership class to help them thoroughly explain the many different aspects of the school. The overall process is quite simple," she added.

"Students simply fill out an application and then they are interviewed by a panel of nine administrators," Hale said. "I believe programs such as the SOA program should be implemented in colleges worldwide."

Poff had her own opinion about the program as well.

"I believe that this program is the greatest attachment for incoming freshmen simply because it helps develop an instant bond."

The deadline for submitting



File Photo

Student Orientation Assistant Amanda Newman talks to her group of incoming students at last year's CUSTOMS.

Student Orientation Assistant Keathley University Center, Applications for the summer is Room 122. ♦ tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. in

## SGA votes to investigate Marshall

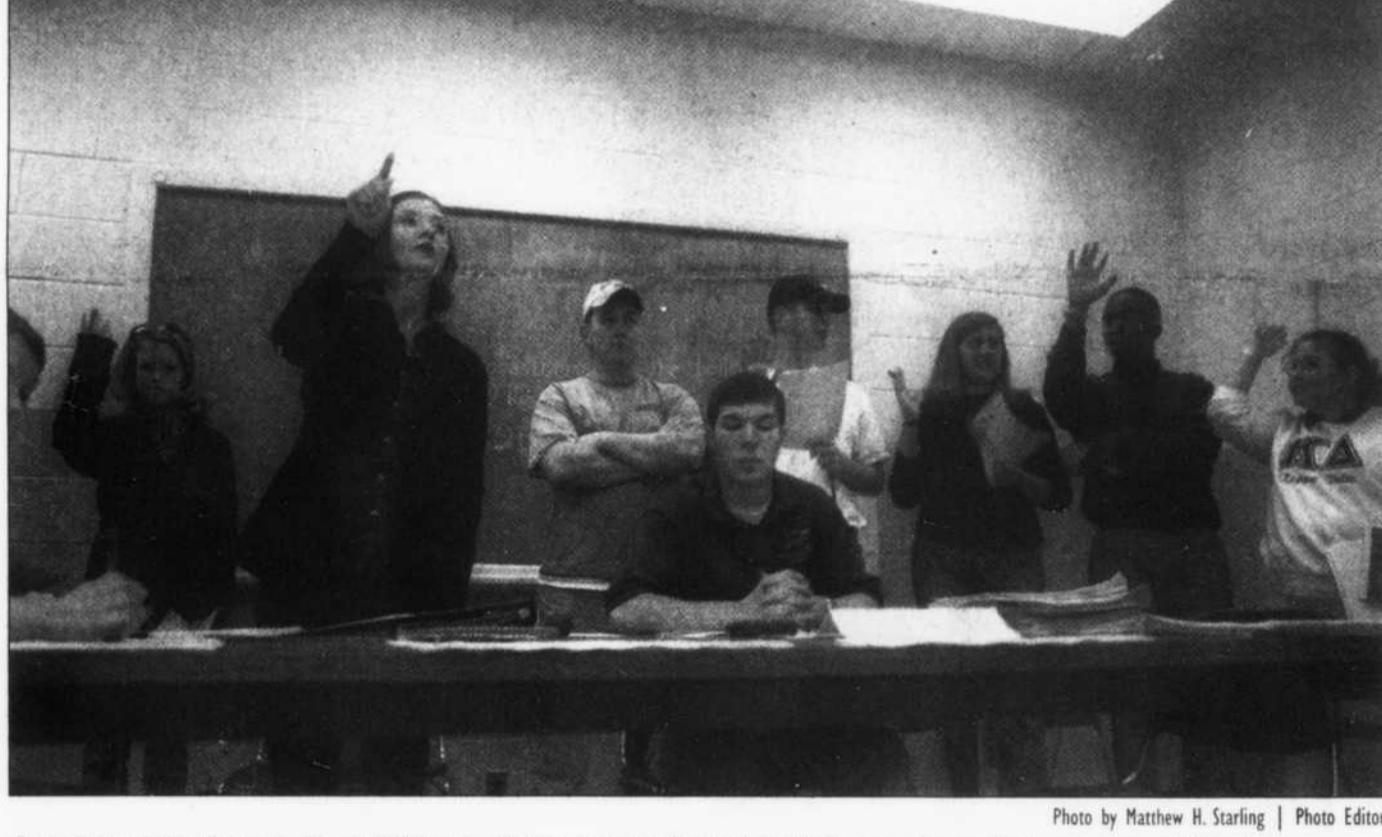


Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

Speaker of the Senate Susan Wilson takes a count of senators in favor of appointing a committee to investigate charges against President John Marshall yesterday afternoon.

### Committee of five senators will review evidence, make recommendation

By Lindsey Turner and Jason Cox  
News Editor and Assistant News Editor

The Student Government Association Senate voted yesterday to appoint a committee to investigate alleged wrongdoings by President John Marshall.

SGA Bill No. 7-01-F, calling for "the investigation into reasons for impeachment,"

resolved that a committee of five senators — Sen. Chris Montague, graduate studies; Sen. Jason Stoneback, College of Basic and Applied Sciences; Sen. Josh Graham, College of Liberal Arts; Sen. Ben Thompson, College of Education; and Sen. Jenny Rowan, undeclared — would investigate the claims against Marshall and make a recommendation to the Senate soon after Thanksgiving.

During discussion of the bill, Sen. Erin Bumbalough expressed concern that no representatives from the College of Mass Communication were on the

committee. Because the college is so large, she argued, the committee would not be representative of the student body without a mass comm delegate.

Wilson then appointed Sen. Colin Fly, College of Mass Communication, to the committee, evoking a point of order from Speaker Pro Tempore Jason Searles.

Searles said the committee was unconstitutional because it had gained a sixth member.

Thompson agreed to step down and allow Fly to take his place.

Searles then made a motion to amend the resolution and replace the appointed committee with five members of SGA's Internal Affairs Committee to investigate the charges against Marshall. The motion was voted down 14-13.

The Senate decided by voice vote to not employ secret ballots. The bill passed by a hand count, 17-11.

Searles then requested that a roll call vote be taken. On

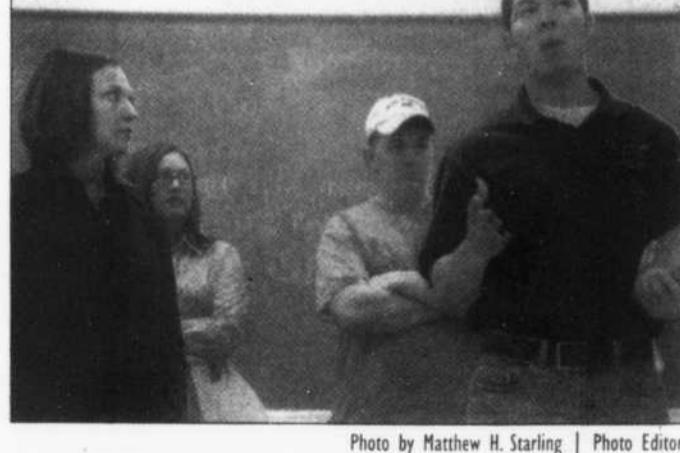


Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor  
Speaker Pro Tempore Jason Searles explains why he thinks the Student Government Association's Internal Affairs Committee should investigate Marshall instead of an appointed committee.

the roll call vote, the bill passed 21-9.

Searles then said Sen. Eddy Linville, graduate studies, was never sworn in as a senator and that Linville's name should be removed as a sponsor of the bill and his vote should be disallowed. This changed the vote total to 20-9.

"I feel that we've experienced [a] travesty," Searles said after the meeting. "The Internal Affairs Committee should preside over this."

Searles also questioned the impartiality of Graham. "Josh Graham ... was quoted

See SGA, 2

## Professor to address role of poetry in world

By Lisa Thomason  
Staff Writer

Attendees to Monday's honors lecture can expect to experience the natural world from a vantage point outside of the human self through the lens of poetry.

Presenting the lecture will be Tom Strawman of the English department.

Strawman's lecture, titled "Contemporary American Nature Poetry: Seeing Beyond the Human," will present the poetry of four modern writers who try to open and expand the realm of nature for their readers.

Strawman said he selected the poetry of William Stafford, John Haines, Mary Oliver and James Wright because of his interest in the themes of romanticism which their writings embody.

"The theoretical concern of those poets revolves around trying to project imaginatively outside of the self," he explained. "The habitual self, or ego, is a limitation. Their project is to develop an imaginative existence to take part in the

world around us."

Strawman also added that the writers provide a contemporary outlook on the same themes addressed by British Romantics like Percy Shelley and John Keats.

According to Strawman, mankind is often trapped by what he calls an "anthropocentric ego," a mindset that is "limited by rationality and cultural development."

He further explained that our current sources of information, such as radio, television and movies, provide audiences with only second-hand accounts of the world around them.

"Poetry lets us participate in the natural world by primary means," he said.

"It gives voices to things that don't have a human voice. It gives us the delights, beauties and joys of imaginative participation in the world around us."

Strawman said he wants his listeners to come away with a larger respect for the world around them, a recognition that "it is fragile and can be

See Lecture, 2

## Foreign aid workers held by Taliban freed

By George Gedda  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eight foreign aid workers held by the Taliban militia since August for preaching Christianity in Afghanistan were freed yesterday and were headed to Pakistan, a U.S. official said. Two of the eight are Americans.

A second U.S. official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said they were freed as a result of military action, but would give no details.

The disclosure came after the son of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi said he was confident the eight would be released soon.

Seif el-Islam Gadhafi, chairman of the Gadhafi Foundation for Charitable Organizations, told The Associated Press that his nongovernmental organiza-

tion has been in touch with the Taliban for about two months in efforts to win their freedom.

"I believe that the Taliban will release these people in the near future," he said in a statement to the AP made through Libya's consulate in Vienna.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said he hopes the reports are true but could not confirm them. He said U.S. officials had received no word from the Taliban as to the whereabouts of the Americans or on whether they will be released.

Although the United States accuses Libya of sponsoring terrorism, and recently extended sanctions against foreign companies suspected of doing business with the North African nation, Washington suspended

See Released, 2

## Lecture: Professor says nature essential to peace

Continued from I

ecological breakdowns," he said. "We must learn to live in peace with nature if we are to last into the future."

"That is much more urgent than what often passes for

urgency."

Strawman's lecture will be Monday at 3 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 109A. The lecture is free and open to the public. ♦

The Stults Memorial Scholarship Committee is now taking applications for the

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- Have some media experience (on or off campus work applies, in any print or broadcast medium)

#### To Apply:

- Submit an application
- Write a 1,000 - 2,000 word essay on:  
**"What is the value and longevity of virtual reality television?"**
- Submit a copy of your transcript
- Submit three to five samples of your work, six copies of each (short tapes of broadcasts are accepted. Clips must be professionally presented.)

Applications will be available in the JUB Room 306. Three finalists will be selected from the field of applicants and will

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## Wild Geese

by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.  
You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles through the desert,  
repenting.  
You only have to let the soft animal of your  
body love what it loves.  
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell  
you mine.  
Meanwhile the world goes on.  
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of  
the rain

are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.  
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean  
blue air,  
are heading home again.  
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and  
exciting —  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.

## SGA: Committee to investigate Marshall

Continued from I

the previous speaker of the house, said that it is "a shame that [the SGA has not] done anything more significant" than initiate the impeachment process.

Walker described the situation as "a conflict of personalities" and that the evidence supporting Marshall's impeachment "is not substantial."

Sen. Amanda Newman, undeclared, said some senators "may be partial based on personal relationships with John, not [based] on representing their college."

"I'm proud that the Senate will recognize the fact that they

should investigate any claim," said Daryn Thornbury, election commissioner and a co-sponsor of the bill.

Thornbury said the Senate would run more efficiently if Marshall is impeached.

"I don't know exactly what I've been accused of except for what articles are being brought against me and what is hearsay," Marshall said. "I'm still interested, like most senators, to know what is actually evidence."

Bill 5-01-F, co-authored by Wilson, Thornbury and Jamie Burns, vice president for administration and public affairs, was killed before the reading could be completed during last week's Senate meet-

ing. Both bills allege Marshall failed to submit a budget in accordance with the SGA Constitution, failed to follow university purchasing policy and abused his oath of office.

Bill 7-01-F was sponsored by Sen. Ginny Boyett, College of Liberal Arts; Sen. Rashawn Crayton, College of Liberal Arts; Sen. Jennifer Kuchtä, at-large; Sen. Allison Lunsford, College of Education and Behavioral Science; Sen. Aaron Tannenbaum, College of Mass Communications; Wilson, Linville, Burns and Newman. ♦

Patrick Chinnery and J.R. Lind contributed to this article.

## Released: Former prisoners Pakistan-bound

Continued from I

sanctions against Libya itself in 1999.

The suspension came after Libya handed over two officials for trial on charges of planting the bomb that downed Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. The attack killed 270 people, including 179 Americans. are employees of the Germany-based Christian organization Shelter Now International. They have been held since Aug. 3 on charges of trying to convert Muslims, a serious offense in Islamic Afghanistan.

Taliban Supreme Court judges had indefinitely postponed their trial, saying they feared anger at the United States over the airstrikes could hamper their ability to make a fair ruling in the case.

On Tuesday, the eight were moved from their cells in a detention center in the Afghan capital, Kabul, and were taken to the south by retreating Taliban forces.

Jimmy Seibert, senior pastor at the Texas church attended by the two Americans, Heather

Mercer and Dayna Curry, said he had not received word on when the women would be released.

"Our hope is that they will be released in the next couple of days," Seibert said Wednesday at a news conference at Antioch Community Church in Waco, Texas.

In Nashville, Tenn., Curry's stepmother, Sue Fuller, told a reporter she had not heard officially of her stepdaughter's impending release.

"I'm so excited that we're going to see her soon and that she's safe," Fuller said. "I just think you know she trusted that God would take care of her and get her out of there safely, and it's happened."

Gadhafi's son said his foundation made contact with the Taliban with the aim of finding a solution for these people through third-party mediation," and that the effort was bearing fruit "because of the good standing the foundation enjoys in this area."

He said his group was working "to try to visit these people in order to convey letters and messages from them to their

families," adding: "As far as I know, they are all in good health."

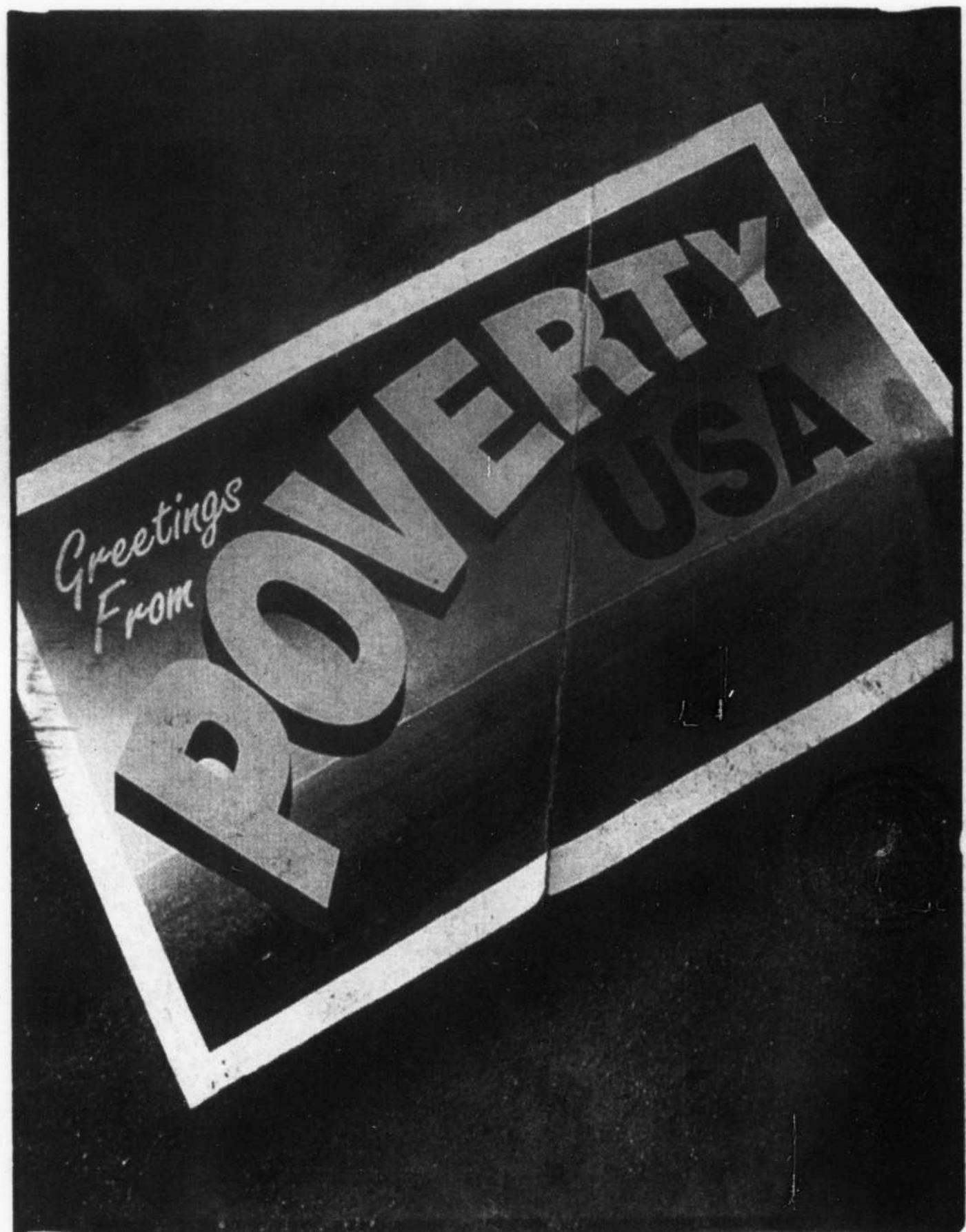
Joachim Jaeger, co-chairman of Shelter Now, told the AP on Wednesday that the organization had not yet been contacted by Gadhafi's son or his foundation.

But Jaeger said he welcomed any nonviolent assistance in winning the freedom of the eight. "We are thankful for everything that helps, of course, as long as it's peaceful," he said.

Germany's foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, played down a German newspaper report Wednesday suggesting his government had information from foreign intelligence agencies indicating the eight were already on their way back to Kabul.

"I have no new information to report on the status of the jailed Shelter Now workers," Fischer told reporters.

Libya is anxious to improve its standing with the West, and last year, it was involved in freeing all but one of 21 Western tourists and Asian workers kidnapped by rebels in the Philippines. ♦



# OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Thursday, November 15, 2001

SIDELINES ◆ 3

## Editorial

### Football team needs our support more than ever

New Division I-A standards could have the Middle Tennessee football team taking a step backward instead of seeking Sun Belt championships in the future.

The NCAA has set new standards for schools that participate in Division I-A football. The NCAA Division I Management Council is currently considering proposals by the Membership Subcommittee and the Football Oversight Committee that would enact five major changes for Division I-A football membership.

The two biggest obstacles MT football is facing now are annually participating in five regular-season home games against I-A opponents and demonstrating an average actual attendance of 15,000.

The more the football team wins, the more teams are going to be willing to play at Floyd Stadium. However, winning games isn't everything in getting teams to play in your stadium. This takes fans as well. If a team cannot guarantee people in the seats, other teams don't want to come because they won't make any money.

Attendance is the biggest factor in the future of the MT football program right now. MT has averaged 19,067 fans in four contests, but it is unclear whether these numbers actually reflect people in the seats or tickets sold. From the pressbox, it appears these numbers reflect tickets sold and not people in the seats.

People walk around this campus talking about Tennessee football or some other school's football team. They like these teams because they're part of big-time programs. MT can never become a major program without student support.

Students must be willing to give the team a chance. Go to a game. It's free for Pete's sake. You might actually enjoy the game and be impressed with the team. Maybe you'll walk around talking about Dwone Hicks, Wes Counts and Kendall Newson instead of people from other teams.

MT can go nowhere without the support of the student body. The team can make the regulations this season if students will show up for the Connecticut game Saturday. Don't fool yourself into thinking 2004 is far away. It will be here before you know it, and MT will either take a step back or continue forward — perhaps beyond the Sun Belt Conference. ♦

## SIDELINES

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### Secularism in public schools has run amuck

#### The Right World View

Matthew C. Martin  
Staff Columnist



cannot be their failing.

What else is there? After deep thought, the idea came to me. I have never had any formal instruction on the subject (i.e. school).

The question would arise, why is this so? In this nation of freedom of speech and freedom to choose one's faith, what would be so disconcerting about teaching relevant topics of history?

The answer is: because when the Boy Scouts of America are not allowed access to public school rooms due to their oath (which mentions a vague sense of God), something is off.

Now, most of this nation's faithful are among the middle ground, with deeply held beliefs, but with a tolerance of other people's ideas of the subject of God.

I blame the nuts who want to remove the word God from our currency or want the professors of geology to offer up the idea that the world is 6,000 years old.

Too long in this coun-

try, soon after it was judged that students could not be made to pray in school (a just and admirable holding), the wacko left has tried to stigmatize anything to do with religion whatsoever.

It is correct that teachers are paid to "teach, not preach" as the liberal mantra goes, but this has gone too far.

When the Boy Scouts of America are not allowed access to public school rooms due to their oath (which mentions a vague sense of God), something is off.

Or when a teacher is fearful of being censured or fired for having an open and frank discussion or the roots of modern faith and their effect on history, something is wrong. Why do these leftist groups do such things?

The storefront reasons these groups give is that of maintaining a biases-free environment for educa-

tion.

But the real reason is that nothing brings out dollars from the far left quicker than the idea of stomping out the evangelizing in public schools.

Then with these ill-gotten gains, they can go about doing whatever far-left groups do.

The Christian right is also to blame for this quagmire. I'm sure there is not one biology teacher in this nation that has not been confronted by a parent demanding to know why little Johnny was taught that he descended from apes.

Like most "dogmatists," the Christian right wants their story told and nothing else. The reasons behind this are evident.

The more who become "informed" of their belief, the more members they have. The more members, the more power and money.

Now, we have two

groups that have a symbiotic relationship in keeping God in or out of the classroom. Put in laymen's terms, they need each other to keep the hysterical argument over God's place in society continuing.

What is lost in this melee is the students' understanding of the historical significance of the world's religions.

So, these students who have been fed propaganda by those sides go out into the world dispensing their half-truths and inflicting a new generation with the useless controversy.

What needs to happen in this country to break this vicious cycle is simply a week of "religious training" in eighth grade world civilization.

There would be no pro and con debate, just facts and historical perspective. Then maybe we can rise above rhetoric and gain a better understanding of the world around us. ♦

### 'Fag bomb' should be viewed as a reflection of war

By Katherine Mulvany  
*The Daily University Star*  
(U-Wire)

FAGS" in a childish hand-writing on the casing of the bomb.

Soon after the picture was distributed by the Associated Press. Gay and lesbian advocacy group GLAAD protested, and the AP withdrew the picture from circulation.

Jack Stokes, a spokesman for AP, apologized for what he called "a journalistic error," explaining "the picture never should have gotten through, and nobody should have seen it."

I think the decision to suppress this photo was wrong, and it reflects, in a small but significant way,

our refusal to face squarely some of the difficult truths about the war we have begun to fight.

The photo contained a lot of lessons about the war, and to suppress the photo was to suppress these insights.

First of all, the unenlightened sailor's graffiti tells us something about who will be doing the actual fighting in this war. These are young kids, many or most of them without a college education, so inarticulate they should have seen it.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Taxation issue should be viewed from all sides

To the Editor:

Fowler's eagerness to point out the fallacies in Chinnery's argument are understandable, but now allow me to identify just a few within yours. I know that he, a fair and open-minded individual, is quite eager to absorb my thoughts on this matter.

Fowler states that "citizens give up a certain amount, if not all, of their rights for the security government provides." While this may be true, it does not address the morality of the issue. Perhaps he would be willing to explain his advocacy in his statement of a communarian ideology for government in terms of its morality, juxtaposed of course to that of Chinnery's libertarian one.

Fowler also opined that "we have a democratic government [in which] we can choose to exchange our right to spend our money as we please for an income tax" that will fund government. Unfortunately for me, I had no such choice when I wrote my check to the U.S. Treasury for a fourth of everything I had earned in a year in which I was not even old enough to vote. That seems unfair in the majoritarian democracy he seems to think exists in this country.

I was sad to hear that arguments about violations of our fundamental rights are no longer "relevant in today's society." If we left it to the national government to determine what it "feels" violates those rights, the latter would not exist. On an aside, it might be interesting to note that the federal government was forced to amend our Constitution in order to violate these rights, which they promised, of course, would be promptly restored pending the end of the war (World War I).

Finally, Fowler's assertion that Chinnery argues "against all taxes" is simply false. He wrote specifically against the income tax because levying such a tax causes the property of millions of individuals to be forcibly taken from them. Any tax on the use of goods or services, such as the sales tax, can be paid or not paid by choice, albeit a hard choice to not pay. I believe that is the point Chinnery was trying to make.

Kelsey Francis

### MTSU fraternity apologizes for Auburn chapter

To the Editor:

Being a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, I would like to express that the reprehensible acts of our Auburn chapter are not condoned by any member of the Epsilon Theta chapter of MTSU. In Shawn Whitsell's article about racism the other day, he mentioned that members of the Beta chapter there had worn racist Halloween costumes to a party. It is an unfortunate event, and we are all trying to understand what would make somebody do something like that.

I have not seen the pictures that were originally released (as they have been pulled from circulation), but I have heard that some of the pictures had some of the men wearing letters to a national black fraternity. If that is the case, then I would like to offer a sincere apology to that fraternity. Anyone who is in the Greek system can tell you that chapters are different at every school. Though we share some common bonds, we do not see eye to eye on everything. I can assure you that coming from a multi-racial chapter of Beta Theta Pi, nothing like that would ever happen on this campus. As a strong testament of where the national fraternity stands on the issue, the general fraternity office in Oxford, Ohio, has closed the chapter indefinitely. I would hope that in the future the members of the Auburn chapter will regret what they have done and think twice about doing something of that magnitude again.

Once again, on behalf of the Epsilon Theta chapter, I would like to express our utter disdain for the acts and encourage people to look past the actions of others and see us as an organization that opens its arms to all.

Michael Schulz

### Professor weighs in on referendum

To the Editor:

I was most interested in the Student Government Association's election results the other day. I know *Sidelines* is just reporting the results of the referendum, but thought I'd add my two cents on these issues.

First, in my limited experience with the plus and minus grades, I find students come out much better with this system. As a former director of student teaching, I had many students who had a hard time maintaining the 2.5 GPA required to be admitted to teacher education or to student teach. Many of these students would probably have gotten B+ or C+ grades that would have enabled them to have a higher GPA. Of course, it is true that some might have had lower grades, too. The main reason I support this system is that I resent giving a student who has an 88 or 89 the same grade as a student who has an 83 or 84. Sure, it's only a couple of points, but over the course of the semester, students have worked hard for those couple of points and they need to get more credit than those who have not. A B+ over a B- grade makes a difference here and is a real distinction for the effort and achievement involved. My only complaint with the system is that it ought to have an A- built into it too.

On the second part of the referendum, I am not willing to stop taking roll in my classes and will continue to make it part of my course requirement. I allow a reasonable amount of absences, but I encourage students to come not just to hear what I have to say but to listen to other students and to be part of the learning process. Besides, I enjoy talking to students and seeing how they progress in class.

Second, and no less important, MTSU students pay only about 30 percent of their tuition. I think the taxpayers of Tennessee and the parents who pay the bulk of the tuition deserve to have someone look after their investment and make sure their tax and tuition money is spent wisely. Choosing not to come to class is not the best use of this money.

Despite what many students think, they don't do as well when they miss class. I have had only a handful of students who had the smarts, experience or drive to find out what they needed to do on their own. I have had many more students who wanted to do "extra credit" or "whatever I need to do" to pull up their grade at the end of the semester. Had these students attended class and kept up with assignments, this would not have been a problem. This is not meant to diminish the intelligence of any student, but to remind them that course content is not generally available as "life experience" outside classrooms. Students who want to pursue degrees or courses without attending class might consider online or correspondence classes.

Having said these things, I understand student concerns about these issues. I know students have had teachers with unreasonable attendance or grading policies. My advice to them is to seek out those teachers who are reasonable and concerned about their academic progress. There are many of these teachers at MTSU. Unfortunately, too many are named Staff and thus the picking becomes much more difficult.

Joel Hausler, professor

# FEATURES

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## One MTSU art student adds new dimension to diversity

By Autumn Spence

Staff Writer

For art major Hiawatha Walker, art is an expression of diversity.

Walker is an African American with Native American roots and an appetite for ancient African art.

"I tend to gravitate toward African-American themes," Walker said, referring to his paintings. "But I don't stay there. The thing is ... we're all here."

Everyone, the 23-year-old from Murfreesboro said, has different sides, and everyone should try to portray them. He describes his art as somewhere between realism and abstraction. Mostly though, he wants it to evoke emotions and make people more inquisitive.

"I give people room to imagine and see what they see," he said. For this reason, each painting is an attempt to avoid becoming a narrative.

Walker recently volunteered for an MTSU program titled, "The Ups and Downs of Diversity." It was a three-part

series on diversity that was telecast live by faculty and students of the social work department to local schools.

Dean of social work Charles Frost and John Sanborn, a social work instructor, have telecast other social-work-related programs, most recently one on anger management. They chose the diversity project, though, upon the schools' requests.

"Diversity inspires creativity," Sanborn said. To demonstrate this to high school students, he asked Tanya Tooole, an art instructor, for one of her most promising student's help.

Walker began painting at MTSU three years ago, but he said his interest in art began at age 2 or 3, when he started sketching.

Since he doesn't like to do anything halfway, he said he has finished 14 paintings he is "comfortable with." An emotion usually spurs the lengthy process of designing each piece, with his favorite taking him eight months to complete.

"At my agency," Deborah Sumruld, a graduating social work student, said during the

telecast "I'm always looking for ways to help people work through their emotions. How do you encourage others to dig deeper and get it on paper?"

"Be honest with yourself," Walker said. "And it's kind of hard to get there. It leaves you vulnerable."

As for negative criticism, he has learned to accept that everyone doesn't like everything. To sort out other peoples' advice, his tip for upcoming artists is to look at as many artists in the area of interest as possible.

"So the diversity," Sanborn said, "of seeing different people and different things gives you better ideas."

Walker said an artist has to have an equal balance, never too much of one thing. Sometimes this search for variety has led him to find artistic tools in interesting places - like the bottom of a box.

"It's like you don't want to throw anything away," he said. In his favorite painting, he glued pieces of an old domino set found in his mother's storage to form his trademark number seven, which represents

God's presence.

God, he said, is his biggest influence. While most of his paintings include the number seven, many of his newer pieces reflect his experimentation with ancient Christian styles, such as the use of halos and golden leaves found in countries like Ethiopia.

"Do they have art in Africa?" a high school student said over the broadcast.

"The whole foundation of the modern movement of art is in Africa," Walker said. "Even Picasso's abstracts depicted African masks and cubism."

The essence of African art, he said, is different from America's because it serves a purpose within society. Walker uses paint as a medium to reflect traditional family values, particularly respect for women and family, which are common in African art.

Everything in American media about women today, he said, is "hard-edged." In music videos, for example, people have the image of a man surrounded by five or six scantily clothed women.



Photo provided

**Hiawatha Walker's painting of Charles Mingas is called "But One Element of the Jazz Machine."**

their caring and tenderness.

"I don't want them looked at

See Diversity, 5

## Meteor watching party

By Jessie Miraldi

Staff Writer

This Sunday, MTSU's physics and astronomy department, along with the city of Murfreesboro, will be hosting a meteor watching party.

The party will take place at the Barfield-Crescent Park in Murfreesboro beginning at 3 a.m. and will last until around 5 a.m. These are the hours of peak meteor activity this year.

Astronomers from the department will be available to answer any questions that anyone attending might have about the shower.

One of the most common questions asked of the astronomers is why this happens every year.

The shower is originated from the Tempel-Tuttle comet.

"The comet has left behind clouds of debris, and the gravitational pull of planets and solar pressure cause it to move into our path," said Eric Klumpe, one of the astronomers that will be attending the party. The cloud of dust the Earth will pass through this year was created in 1767, and the one that will be seen in East Asia, Australia and the Western Pacific was created in 1699.

The debris from this comet will enter the Earth's atmosphere, causing a meteor shower called the Leonids. Klumpe said the meteors are given this name



Photo provided

**Astronomers predict 1,000 to 2,000 Leonids will be visible Sunday. The meteor shower shown above is similar to the one that will be seen at the party.**

and the absence of clouds cannot be guaranteed, but weather permitting, the meteors should be very clear, he added.

"Although the party will take place between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m., during the most intense periods, Leonid debris will continue to hit the earth for days," Klumpe said.

The Middle Tennessee Astronomical Society will be participating in the party along with Nashville's Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society. The general public is strongly encouraged to attend.

"You can see the meteors from home, but we want to offer the camaraderie and a dark fun place to come and see it with a group," Klumpe said.

Barfield-Crescent Park is located at 697 Barfield-Crescent Road, near U.S. 231 South, which is also known as Shelbyville Highway and South Church Street. Park rangers will be in attendance, and restroom facilities will be available to the public.

Anyone attending the party is encouraged to bring lounge chairs that can recline to make for more comfortable viewing of the sky. It will also be very cold, so heavy jackets, blankets, sleeping bags and other warm materials are suggested. Although refreshments will not be available at the park, people are welcome to bring plenty of hot drinks and snacks. ♦

because they can be seen the best in the constellation Leo.

Although the Leonid meteor showers occur every November, this year will be special. Most years the shower produces about 20 meteors per hour. However, every 33 years, the Earth passes through a more dense cloud of debris, and this year it has been predicted that the Earth will pass through two clouds of dust. This could produce 1,000 to 2,000 meteors per hour.

"Another of the most common questions asked at this type of thing is are we in danger

from the meteors," Klumpe said.

He explained that the meteors are only about the size of a grain of sand. We can see them because, as they enter the Earth's atmosphere, they become very hot and the atmosphere begins to glow around them.

"There will be a new moon this year, which will make the sky very dark and the meteors easier to see," Klumpe said. "Next year at this time will be a full moon and that will wipe out all of the dim meteors."

Weather is unpredictable,

## Risque Renee..... Red light, green light

Hi everyone. This is Risqué Renee dropping sex, love and relationship issues on you as soft or as hard as you like it. Jamilla Brack helped me write this issue. Jamilla called one night and said, "Risque Renee, I need your help." Jamilla explained that she had to write a paper comparing two opposite things while showing that they're actually alike. Well to me, I felt that love is like a traffic light - something everybody has to go through at some point of time in his or her life. Whether you're the driver or simply a passenger, you will experience the rules of the light. I continued by telling Jamilla that a traffic light moves you just like love. You have to go, stop, yield and sometimes use a traffic cop when all the lights go out.

Jamilla quickly took notes and then began to say, "when the light is green our love flows smoothly and free." I agreed with her 100 percent, but in reality, we don't always get the green light on the streets, and especially not in love. Love is like going through traffic lights in a downtown area. You wonder if you'll ever get to your destination.

Jamilla quickly said, "Oh yeah! That damn yellow light!" She says, "light compares to love in the sense of indecisiveness, warning you of the danger your heart may face and to take caution." Unfortunately, too many of us run the yellow light and don't take advantage of them. Many tragic accidents could have been prevented if people didn't run the yellow light or just slowed down. It's vice versa with love. You probably wouldn't have gone through as many bad relationships had you taken precautions.

However, this does not mean sit on your love, because there is a thing called too much precaution. Just keep a steady pace and be alert. You need to know when to go and when to stop. Jamilla said, "the red light gives you time to think," but she also said, "you should question whether or not you're thinking clearly, or you're blindsided by the love you yearn to embrace." Risqué Renee

hates red lights. (That's probably why I don't have a man.) I think sometimes these red lights last too long. I feel we run into more red lights than green lights. Many times, we even cheat ourselves from getting a green light because we turn right on a red light.

Just like love, we hate not being able to move at our own pace. Then, to top it off, someone we love puts us on hold, which turns out to be a big heartbreak, for we were on cruise control.

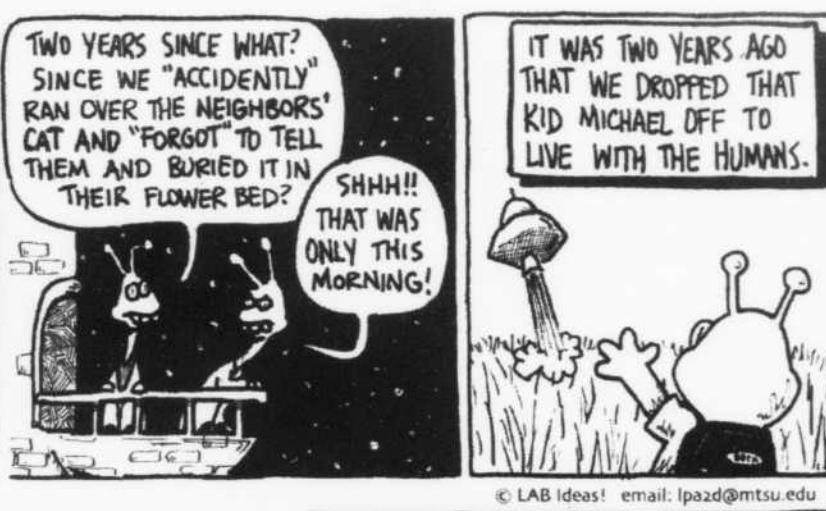
Normally, we wait as long as we can and then we turn hoping for a better path for the heart. Sometimes it's better, and sometimes the detour we take is the longer way to our destination of love.

I had to ask Jamilla how she feels when a traffic light goes out. Seriously, she stated, "when the power is out, your love is out. That is when you begin to listen to friends - you should do this and you should do that. As if they were traffic cops, pointing you in the right direction."

You can say that again. If you never remember anything Risqué Renee tells you, at least remember that you can't tell your friends all your business. Sometimes your business needs to stay between you and the master because even friends hate.

They may hate because their traffic light power is out and they're hanging in the air. They see other lights working around them and they start hating. So love your friends but love to watch them.

Well, this is a little comparison that was fun to do, and I want to thank Jamilla for calling me. In closing, remember that if you ever get confused about love, sex or a relationship, try to compare it to something simple and see if your big complex problem cannot be broken down to something minor. Jamilla would also like you to remember that you may have mixed feelings about love, but just like a traffic light, not all of the colors can flash at the same time. Deep down in your heart, you know what to do. Just listen and take your foot off the accelerator. ♦



# 'Jazz 89' goes to cyberspace

By Jessica Hall  
Contributor

MTSU-based WMOT, also known as "Jazz 89" to its supporters and fan base, has extended its listenership to cyberspace.

For more than three decades, WMOT/89.5 FM has been a part of Middle Tennessee radio, but as of Oct. 1, the station began streaming its programming on the Internet. John High, director of the jazz-formatted station, said the move online has been a story unfolding, although he is still unsure how the transition will affect the station.

"We've had feedback from former listeners who have been e-mailing us hoping we'd go online," he said. "They were area listeners who moved away or some who travel into the Nashville area and listen to us while they're here."

But, he added, "It's still too early in the game to know for sure how much impact this extension of WMOT and MTSU will have on us."

High said he thinks the move will also benefit MTSU by providing a forum to give the university a worldwide presence.

"Our broadcasts open the door to thousands of listeners, many of whom have no other contact with MTSU were it not for radio," High said. "[But] now we have the opportunity to do that via the Web."

Not only is he enthusiastic about bringing recognition to MTSU, High also said he looks forward to the jazz and award-winning news programming [that gives] university students and faculty a chance to become involved as well.

"Finally," he said, "there is the exciting possibility of partnering with the students and faculty working on 'new media' projects involving the convergence of sight, sound and motion."

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## Diversity: Jazz takes artist to new creative plateau

Continued from 4

in a lustful way," he said.

Degas, a figurative painter whose work depicted women elegantly, rather than erotically, has most influenced him.

Influences of our culture, Sanborn said, come from different places. American jazz came out of African influences.

"(Jazz), that's so everything," Walker said. "I'm a jazz fanatic. I play a song and try to paint it."

"Whatever you're feeling at the time," he said to a high school student, "if you go outside and see something, and it affects you ... paint it."

Although most of Walker's paintings are hanging in his

mother's living room, some will be displayed in the Art Barn next semester. In addition, he plans to have them at McFadden Elementary for African American History Month in February.

Excerpts from the telecast may be used in a campuswide cultural diversity social work initiative headed by Sharon

Shaw-McEwen, a social work instructor.

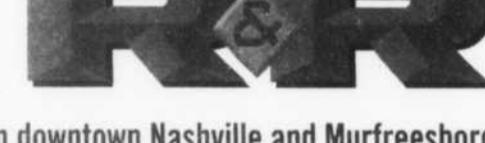
"We (Americans) get in that mode," Walker said, "and forget about the rest of the world. That's the thing I really dig about other cultures — we (Americans) have everything and we don't see it."



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This is the watch Stephen Hollingshead, Jr. was wearing when he encountered a drunk driver.  
Time of death 6:55pm.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



Photo by Michael Mazzoni





SIDELINES ♦ 6

# SPORTS



Thursday, November 15, 2001

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

**View from the top**

Michael Edwards  
Staff Writer

## Success starts with students

Last week, Louisiana State mauled the Blue Raiders in the first half, and sat on the ball in the second, winning by 16, but MT never quit. They fought until the end. The school's greatest running back, Dwone Hicks, played until the final buzzer sounded. His legs churned for every yard until it was all over.

I don't feel like I am repaying something I owe by walking the entire width of the campus to see this team play football on Saturdays. I don't feel like I have to attend. I am tired of seeing in this newspaper and on different Web sites people being highly critical of this student body, because the attendance by said group is, in a word, meager.

I see it as a choice that I get to make on my own, not because anyone is going to look down on me if I choose to watch Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman (is that still on?) instead. My graduation is rolling down the hill, and I can say I have put my heart into this place.

My intentions are not to browbeat people who don't attend, but to express the fact that this is a program in which we students can take pride. Our mass communication facilities and faculty are another part of this university that are flag bearers, just like the Department of Aerospace. We need more.

Dewon Brazelton helped bring some national recognition by being shown in *Sports Illustrated*, now it's Dwone Hicks, and then it'll be Reshard Lee. I am proud of my future alma mater, when I see alumni like Jonathan Quinn playing in the NFL, or alumni like Holly Thompson on television. I know in a few years, I'll see an alum on major network news or creating a major film. It's a matter of time. We can be great.

You don't see Middle Tennessee football players on television getting sued for beating a guy senseless, like you do at Vanderbilt. We have players like Scotty Brown who give fans rides after football games when their car gets towed inadvertently. It happened. You don't see allegations of academic fraud against MTSU like you do at the "University of" Tennessee.

We have the chance to be the students who started something great. In 20 years, with the great direction like we have been getting, this university can be the flagship school of this state, but it starts with you, and it starts me. After reading the plans of this university for physical expansion in this newspaper last week, I am excited about the near future. Let's start Saturday. For us, being great is a choice.♦

*View from the Top* appears every Thursday. You can reach Michael Edwards at [slsports@mtsu.edu](mailto:slsports@mtsu.edu) or 898-2816.

## Deckard is Freshman of the Year

### Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee volleyball player Shakeitha Deckard was named Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year Tuesday night.

Deckard finished the regular season with 448 kills and an average of 4 kills per game. She currently ranks fifth in the Lady Raider record books for kills in a season. She needs 3 kills to take over fourth place and 12 for third.

The Lady Raiders began Sun Belt Conference Tournament play last night.♦

## Blue Raiders face off with UConn at home

**By Shane Marquardt**  
Staff Writer

Regardless if the fallen warriors receive the heroes' welcome this Saturday in Floyd Stadium, the Middle Tennessee football program will be looking to battle the Connecticut Huskies in the final Blue Raider game of the season.

Both MT and UConn will enter Floyd Stadium following a loss last weekend, but a win in the season finale can erase some painful memories.

The Blue Raiders will be content with finishing the season with an 8-3 record while their hopes lie with the Idaho Vandals, who tangle with Sun Belt Conference leader North Texas.

Connecticut is looking to leave Murfreesboro with one more win added to a 2-7 record but must overcome the 10-game winning streak at Floyd Stadium and a MT senior class determined to go out a winner.

"I think the last time that Middle Tennessee won eight

games was in 1994 and is a great compliment to this senior class and this football team to have an opportunity to win eight games," MT head coach Andy McCollum said.

"It is also a big compliment to have a championship in only our third year."

The outcome of the Connecticut game will not affect Sun Belt Conference standings, but the Blue Raiders won't let their potent offense lay down. MT knows the offense is always needed.

The Blue Raiders come home with plenty of yards on a thick offensive resume but not a lot of points to show for it in a loss to Louisiana State

University. The Blue Raiders totaled 373 total yards while putting 14 points on the board.

The score was the lowest by the Blue Raiders this season, but the score will most likely bolster on the Floyd Stadium turf where MT averages 54 points a game.

The Huskies have some weapons, too. And though they sport a dismal 2-7 record, their offense is not to be toyed with. They threw 21 points on the board in a failed fourth quarter comeback against Utah State and have the offensive capabilities to play with any team in the nation, even the vaunted Blue Raider offense.

"Offensively, they are throw-

ing it around," McCollum said. "They have thrown over 100 passes in the last two games, so defensively we have a big challenge this week."

"They have a good passing game and like to spread the ball around from the shotgun with one back, a lot like our offense," linebacker Scotty Brown said. "We have to get pressure on the quarterback and contain and get some sacks."

Pressure is the key to the Blue Raider defense. When they allow quarterbacks a good look down field, the first down chains are likely to follow. LSU put 318 passing yards on the MT defense, but encouraging signs were seen in the second half when the Blue Raiders held the mighty Tigers to a mere field goal.

"I think we've improved on defense," McCollum said.

"When you talk about passing there is more to it than the secondary," he said. "We have to get to get pressure up front and collisions on the receivers. (We)

have to get pressure on the

quarterback and hit the quarterback and make plays and break on the ball."

The Huskies know plenty about pressure. They collected seven sacks last weekend.

The outcome of football games are usually determined by the players on the field, and by the senior leadership shown in all facets of the game. But anyone associated with football will speak of the need for the Twelfth Man – the fan.

MT has the opportunity to implement the Twelfth Man advantage when they enter Floyd Stadium for the final time this season.

Attendance has been sparse, but McCollum has been complimented for his recruiting prowess.

"We have a great senior class that will be playing its last game here and we hope to have a great crowd because these kids deserve it."

Kickoff is 2 p.m. at Floyd Stadium.♦

## Raiders tip off regular season

**By Dale Martin**  
Staff Writer

It is about that time here at Middle Tennessee, time to step out onto the hardwood.

Coach Randy Weil is returning for another season of Blue Raider basketball. The 20-year veteran coach will kick off the season Nov. 17 against Bryan College. Weil and the Raiders, coming off a 5-22 injury-plagued season, look to returning injured players, veterans from last season and several new comers to rebound from last season. Lee Nosse, a senior center, will step out onto the court for the first time since the fourth game of last season when he suffered a season-ending broken femur.

"We had to take it slow with Nosse when he returned to practice. An injury that serious takes time to heal," Weil said.

Nosse fills not only a leadership role on the team, but also is one of the main offensive and rebounding threat.

"Lee is a big part of this team. Every team in the Sun Belt Conference has a 7-footer, and Lee will play a big role in defending them as well as rebounding," added senior point guard D'marius Wilkes.

The Blue Raiders will look to several different people to make a difference on the court. Senior point guard D'marius Wilkes, who led the team in assists last season, will return to give the team an experienced guard who will be able to distribute the ball. Wilkes also has exceptional speed giving him the ability to penetrate to the basket for the lay up or kick it out for a good look at the three.

Wilkes is also a great defender and plays the leading role on the team.

Tommy Gunn, a sophomore, who got some valuable playing time last season, will also step up bringing with him an arsenal

of threats. Gunn will be one of the team's most valuable offensive weapons.

"Tommy is the type of player you often find yourself just watching him to see what he is going to do instead of helping him out," William Pippen said. "Tommy is probably playing better than anyone on the team right now and is our go-to guy," added Wilkes.

Gunn was also named to the Preseason All-Conference team and he too will be looked upon as a leader both on and off the court for the younger players.

One of the most valuable additions to the team during the off-season was William Pippen. Pippen is a transfer student from Connors Junior College in Oklahoma. He will not only add height to the line up but also a jump shot with range.

"I chose MTSU because I wanted to go a school that wasn't very well known and wanted to take on the challenge to try and make that team better, and of all the schools that were recruiting me I felt like this is where I could fit into that role best," Pippen said.

William also has an uncle named Scottie, maybe you have heard of him. Other players on the team that are expected to step up and play a big role on the team are John Humphrey, Eric Parham and Charlie Anderson, the only true freshman on the team.

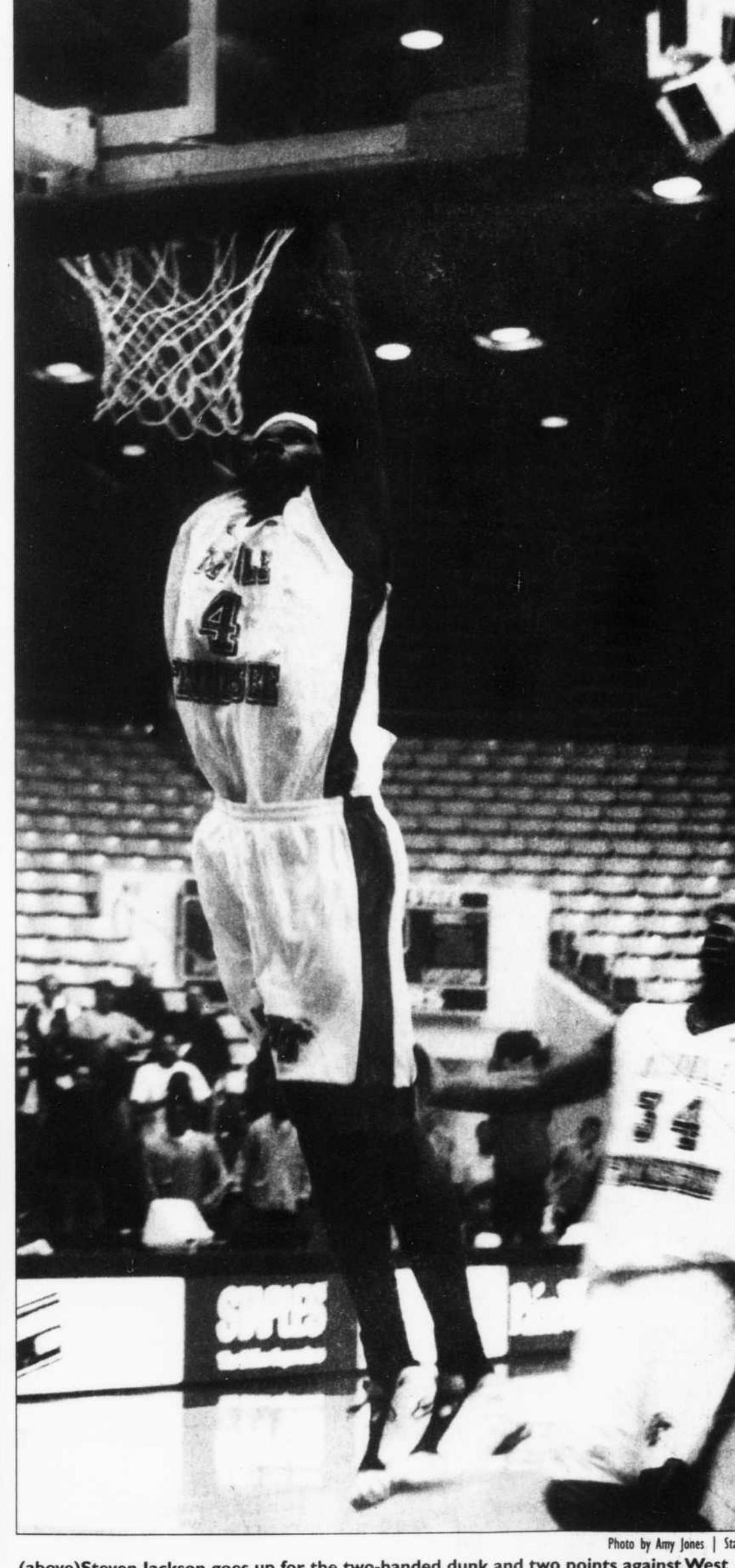
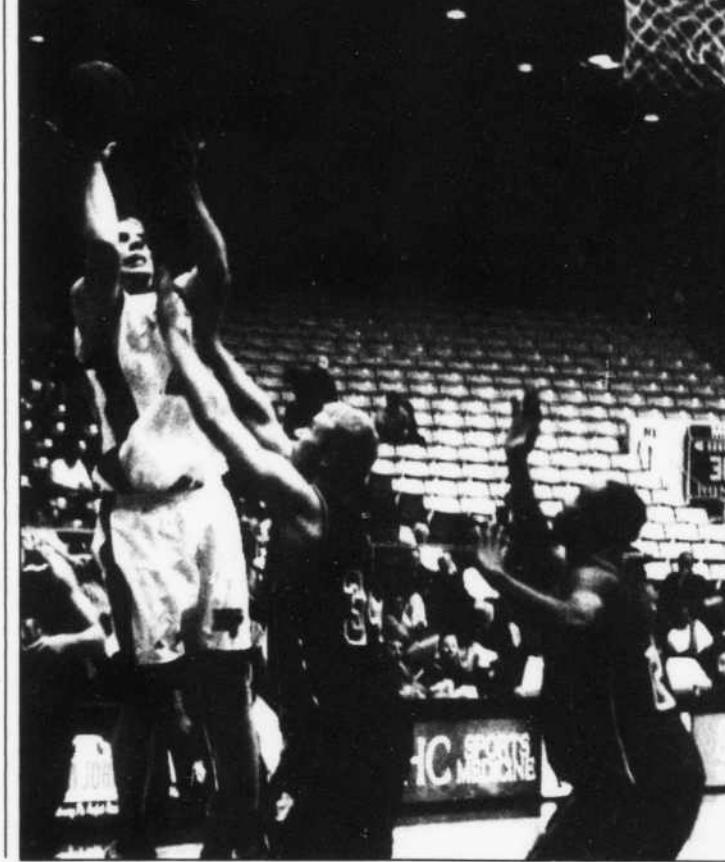
"I think that everyone on this team will have to come out and contribute to the team this season," Pippen said.

"It is going to take a collective effort and hard work from everyone on the team this year. We play in a strong conference and we will have to take one game at a time. The team hasn't played together enough to develop chemistry yet, but I feel that we will roll into the season. We have more depth this year.

and we are more physical. I see vast improvement over last season," Weil said. "One of the big problems facing our team this season is stepping out of the

shadows of last season's team. We need to play as one cohesive unit, and that can not develop until we get more playing time together," added Pippen.

The Blue Raiders squad has some new faces and some old ones, but everyone will be looked upon to contribute.♦



(above) Steven Jackson goes up for the two-handed dunk and two points against West Florida. (left) Lori Tennenren jumps above the outstretched hands of the oncoming defenders and takes the jump shot for two against West Florida.

Photo by Amy Jones | Staff

# MT wrestling club results from second match

The Middle Tennessee wrestling club improved its record to 2-0 this weekend.

#7 MTSU 33  
#8 Auburn University

Chris Bean (MT) Pin Williams (AU)  
Angelo Giansante (MT) Pin Wilson (AU)  
Kenneth Hammonds (MT) Dec Sheffield (AU) 9-6

MT 27 UT-Knoxville 3  
Chris Bean (MT) Pin McCarthy (UTK)  
Angelo Giansante (MT) Pin Shull (UTK)

McCleary (UTK) Dec Jason Hughes (MT) 8-3  
Joey Petrone (MT) Dec Justin Schott (UTK) 10-6  
Kenneth Hammonds (MT) Pin Panasuk (UTK) 1:20

**Alternate Matches:**  
Angelo Giansante (MT) Pin McCleary (UTK)  
Rienhardt (UTK) Pin Mike Harvey (MT)

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Please contact Kate Sullivan at 898-5207 if you are interested in joining the Lady Raider Women's Basketball fan club. The Lady Raider Rascals is a fan club for kids ages 5-13

## Employment

Perfect job for a reliable, loving person. Professional sitter needed for the Spring Semester. Kep 6 month old in my home Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-5pm. Must have experience with infants and references. Call 217-1062. Interviewing now for next semester.

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## Roommate

Male roommate wanted: to share 1330 sq.ft. 2 br, 2 bath apt. 3 min. from MTSU. Completely furnished. Must be neat, quiet, and non-smoker. Christian preferred. \$400/mo. Includes all utilities. No deposit or Application fee. Move in immediately! Call Jesse at 615-867-9332, please leave message.

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# Seniors play last game at Floyd

UConn game marks the end for 16 Blue Raider senior players

**Commentary by David Hunter**  
Staff Writer

This Saturday's game will be the last time the 16 seniors will enter Floyd Stadium as Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders.

Most people think this game doesn't mean much. OK, so Connecticut is 2-7 and the Sun Belt outright championship depends on the Idaho-North Texas game Saturday night. At the same time, these seniors don't want to lose their final home game. For quarterback Wes Counts, it will be his 52nd and final home game in Murfreesboro, including his games with Central Middle and Oakland High School.

These seniors will leave MT with a lot of legacy from joining Division I-A to joining the Sun

Belt Conference and becoming co-champions in its first year and playing in big name stadiums against top teams.

"It will feel kind of weird, felt like I got here yesterday, a feeling I won't forget," said wide receiver Hansford Johnson.

Playing against Sun Belt teams at home produced memorable moments. The first conference game against IU where four different records for scoring in one game with an MT 70-58 victory. The comeback against New Mexico State saw MT score 28 points in the fourth quarter for a 39-35 victory.

"We will remember being the first team to win the Sun Belt, but we want an outright Sun Belt championship," Johnson said.

During his career, Johnson

has done it all on offense. He has thrown for three touchdowns, ran for one and caught seven touchdown passes. He is also fifth in MT history on punt returns and yardage on punt returns. This weekend he wants to do something he has never done. "I want to return a punt for a touchdown and win to go 8-3," Johnson said.

This weekend is the final chance to see a group of players who wrote new chapters in the MT history books. The book will close at Floyd Stadium Saturday. The game is at 2 p.m. It will be shown locally on WSMV Channel 4. ♦



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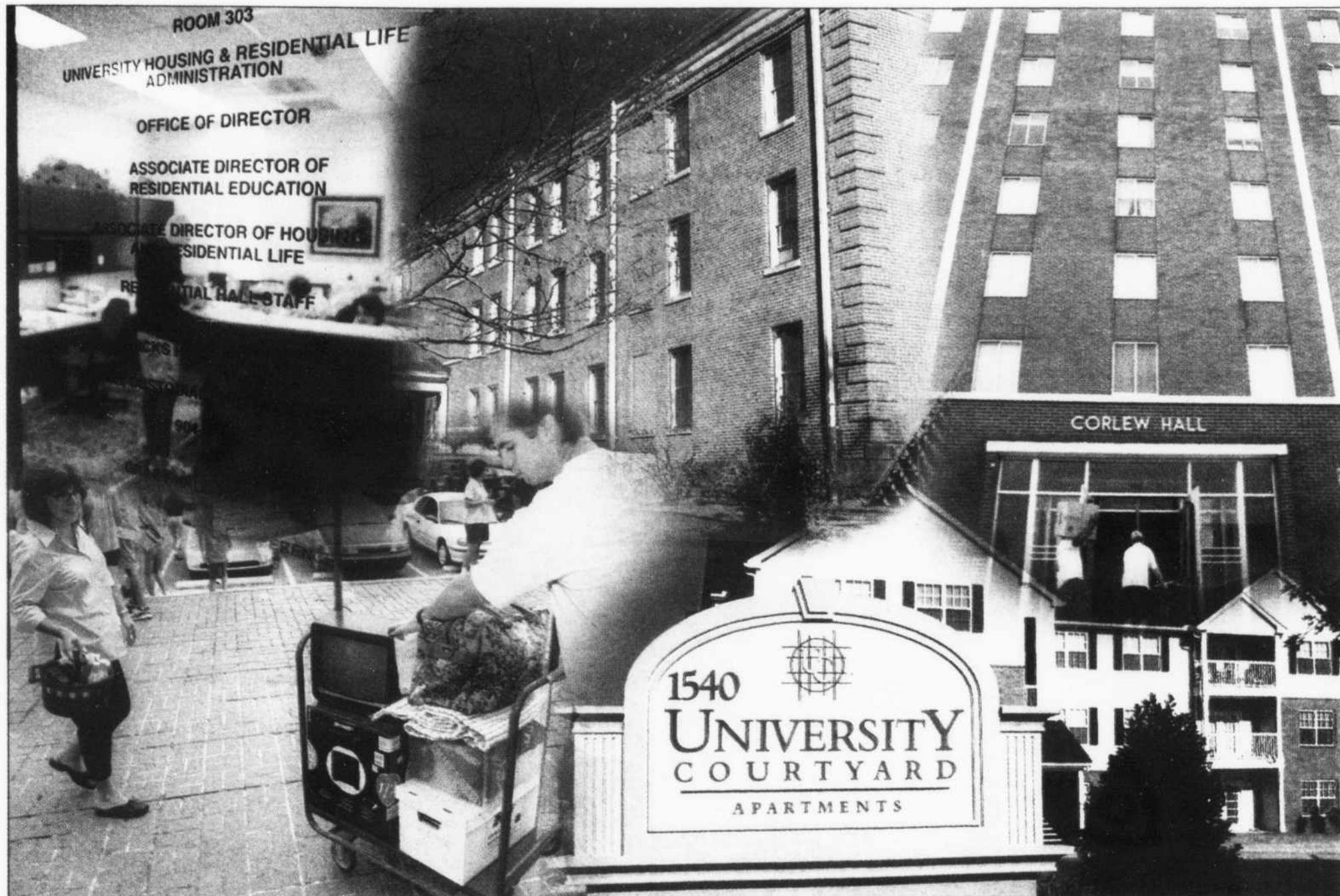
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Thursday, November 15, 2001

# SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

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— 2001  
**Housing Guide**

# Sidelines 2001 Housing Guide

A person's living situation can determine her or his happiness, success and contentment. That's why choosing a residence is such a major decision for college students.

Many opt for dorm life, which has its advantages (you never have to clean the bathroom, you're two seconds away from your classes) and its disadvantages (snoring roommates, no privacy). Many people simply choose dorm life for the "experience" of it, to find that either they love it enough to apply for a Resident Assistant position or they hate it enough to work for *Sidelines* and write columns about their semester in with a roommate from hell.

Many just wish there had been a dorm survival guide available before they signed that housing contract.

Most people tend to filter off campus after their first year or two in a dorm, renting apartments with their lovers or friends, to find that they had been in dire need of some advice about shacking up, evil landlords and feng shui. And some people still can't escape those roommates from hell.

Because choosing a residence is such a major part of the college experience, *Sidelines* offers this housing guide to the innocently curious, the hopelessly clueless and everyone else who's ever wondered, "I wonder what it would be like if I lived ..."

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# Roommate from hell

By Terri Hutzler  
Staff Writer

Move-in day was going great for Josh. He had gotten there early so he could get a good parking space and gets his things unloaded before the crowd arrived. His parents had helped him unload his things, wished him good luck and left for home.

Josh sat in his room scanning the materials housing had left in order to familiarize himself with hours for the computer labs. He then walked through the halls finding the laundry room and ice machine.

Next, Josh began unpacking his things. To make more room for his things, he picked one side of the closet and one set of drawers and put his clothes away. Josh then began to put his Duke Ellington and Miles Davis posters up. As he began to make his bed, a very loud and obnoxious guy suddenly entered the room.

Josh looked at the stranger who would now be his roommate. The guy was dressed in ripped jeans, an Ozzy T-shirt, combat boots and a black leather jacket, never mind the fact that it was mid-August. Josh felt somewhat strange opening up a conversation with him. As he looked down at himself, he saw that he was wearing a green polo shirt with khaki pants.

Josh walked over to his new roommate, stuck out his hand and said, "Hi, I'm Josh."

The stranger looked up at him and his outstretched arm and said, "I'm Joe." He then left the room to bring in some more of his things.

The two talked very little while they unpacked. Josh worked to hook up his computer while Joe set up his stereo system and popped in a Rage Against the Machine album.

As that day came to a close, Josh lay on his bed with plain white sheets reading the latest Stephen King thriller as Joe lay on his bed covered in black sheets listening to his headphones and reading his newest guitar magazine.

Josh was optimistic about becoming friends with Joe. He asked him if he wanted to go to the barbecue that was being held for their dorm the next evening. Joe



shrugged and said, "Maybe."

The next day, Josh decided to familiarize himself with the campus so he went for a walk to find where each of his classes would be. He asked Joe to come along, but Joe just laughed and said he would find his classes Monday when he went to them.

When Josh came back, Joe had finished his unpacking. There were Nirvana, Rob Zombie, Dead Kennedy's and a whole assortment of metal posters on the wall. Actually, Joe's whole side of the room was covered while Josh's was left very sparse.

As the year continued, Josh remained optimistic. However, things quickly changed. Josh was taking 18 hours while Joe was taking the minimum of 12 hours to be a full-time student.

Half of Josh's classes were honors classes that needed extra study time devoted to them. Joe was taking simple classes like University 1010. From the start of the semester Josh knew he had three research papers to write on top of all the writing he would be doing for his English class. Joe merely had the usual writings for English.

After the first few weeks of school, Josh knew it was going to be a long year. He always kept his side of the room neat. Joe, on the other hand, had his stuff thrown everywhere. Josh made it a point to do laundry once a week while Joe let his clothes pile up in the corner. Joe also let his dirty dishes pile up for days before he went to wash them. After a while, their

room began to get bugs.

Josh tried to be in bed by 11 p.m. because he had early classes. Joe stayed up all hours of the night because he only had afternoon classes. While Josh was trying to sleep, Joe was watching television, listening to the stereo or having friends in and out of the room.

Josh began to get mad as his first test approached. His friend Kyle had called to see if he wanted to get together and study, but Joe didn't give him the message. Then, when he actually tried to study for the test, Joe decided it was time to play his guitar.

Joe never gave Josh any peace. He made fun of him for the way he dressed and the music he listened to. He cracked jokes about him being a bookworm and not having a life.

The semester dragged on and on for Josh. He began leaving his room every time he needed to study and complained to his resident assistant about Joe, but nothing worked. Their personalities were just too different.

As the semester drew to a close, Josh realized that it was time for a roommate change. He could not take living with Joe for another semester so he requested a room change.

All of Josh's friends and many of the guys on the floor hated Joe's inconsiderateness for others. By the time students left for Christmas break, Joe had become known as the roommate from hell.

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Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

**Students stand outside Cummings Hall with some of the essentials needed for dorm survival – computers, stereos, televisions and video games. These items give students entertainment while staying on campus.**



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

**Amy Lauren King works on putting paper in a drawer of her new dorm room on move in day 2001. She, like other freshmen, were busy unpacking and moving in.**

# Tips to survive dorm life

**By Leslie Fike**  
Features Co-Editor

Anyone who has lived in the dorm can say there are advantages and disadvantages to living on campus. Sometimes, there are more disadvantages. It can be difficult to adjust from living in the parental home, which has luxuries such as carpeted floors, at least one good meal a day and your own bedroom, to a one room "house" with a stranger for a roommate, a community bathroom and one kitchen for 100 or more students. The sudden adjustment can be overwhelming and depressing for students if they don't know how to make the most of their new living quarters and enjoy the time they will be spending there. To help future dorm residents and returning residents enjoy their college dorm experience, here are a few pieces of advice:

First, buy a pair of flip-flops for the shower. A cheap pair can be purchased at Target, Wal-Mart or K-Mart for under \$5. Never take a shower without them on. This will help prevent any bacterial infections that could be caused by sharing a bathroom with 30 other students.

Also, to avoid other unknown bacteria, buy a can of Lysol or Clorox disinfectant cleaning spray to clean your room with. This way, there will be no question of whether you should put your clean clothes or boxes of food on the shelves.

To get an early jump on any odor problems that may occur in the near future, stock up on Glade air fresheners, preferably the odor-absorbing kind. Always keep at least one in the room, and put it in a high enough place where it can circulate well through the entire room.

If the idea of having a sink in the room, with only one other person to share it - the roommate, sounds appealing, ask for a room in Lyon Hall or Rutledge Hall when filling out the dorm application. This will prevent any participation in the morning race to claim a sink to use to get ready

for class.

For students who dread rushing to the bathroom in the morning to just wash their faces and brush their hair and teeth, Lyon is the place to be. Unfortunately for the guys, Lyon is a girls dorm. Sorry guys.

Cold floors are another disadvantage to dorm life. For students who grew up with cold hard wood floors, this will be no problem; but those who didn't may want to consider buying an area rug to throw in the middle of the floor. If waking in the morning and touching cold linoleum floor sounds uninviting, think about buying two rugs. Area rugs can be found at thrift stores, Wal-Mart, Target, K-Mart and the Old Time Pottery. The prices usually range \$20 and over, unless they are on sale.

To give the room a warmer or "homey" feel, decorate it with pictures of friends, family and favorite music artists or actors. If posters of U2, Freddy Prinze Jr. or a supermodel doesn't sound appealing, try a colorful painting by Van Gogh or a black and white photography shot by Scott Mutter. String up lights, hang curtains or put some flowers in a vase. If your room consists of light colors, try a black light. Turn off the lights and watch your room glow for a party or cozy room-for-two effect. A black light is \$25 at most stores. For the same effect, but at a cheaper price, just hang Christmas lights around the top of the walls with push pins.

The room should reflect the person who lives there. Adding a few touches to make it feel like home will make the stay more enjoyable.

Students go to college to receive a higher degree of education, but to study well, they also need nourishment. Sometimes, however, living on campus does not give students access to food at the moment they crave it. To prepare for late night study sessions, stock up on your favorite midnight treats from the grocery store to make it through the early morning hours, and try to avoid becoming friends

with the pizza delivery man. Snacks such as hot pockets, sour worms, Little Debbies, cool ranch Doritos, Coke and many other sugar or caffeine substances are popular among college students.

If getting out of bed earlier to grab breakfast before class or going back out in the cold (during the fall and winter) to get dinner doesn't sound appealing, stock up on canned soups, frozen dinners, hot tea or chocolate, sodas and perishables – bread, milk, peanut butter, carrots, apples, etc. – to keep the belly full, if not satisfied.

And last but not least, to make the semester easier on your stress level and more enjoyable overall, try to maintain respect and friendship, if possible, with the roommate. An obvious way to do this is to set room rules that both roommates must follow. Make it clear that personal property is personal property! When roommates borrow each other's CDs, video games and/or clothes, make sure they know there is a mandatory return policy. It should be agreed upon from day one that anything broken or lost is to be replaced or compensated for. Responsibility and respect for others' property is part of being an adult.

Also, compare class and work schedules, even party habits, so visitors and making noise in the room at 3 a.m. doesn't come as a surprise or make them disgruntled from being woken up. If an unexpected visitor or event comes up that would affect the roommate's schedule or just piss them off, leave a message on the phone or in the room so an attempt to inform them has been made. And most importantly, keep the groceries separate. This way neither person complains about the other eating their favorite chips or drinking all the milk.

All these tips are not going to make dorm living a great experience with no problems, but it may bring a bit more joy to each day and prevent more stress; because let's face it, students have enough stress trying to pass their classes. ♦

# The Woods at Greenland

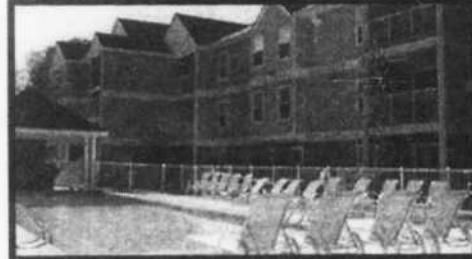
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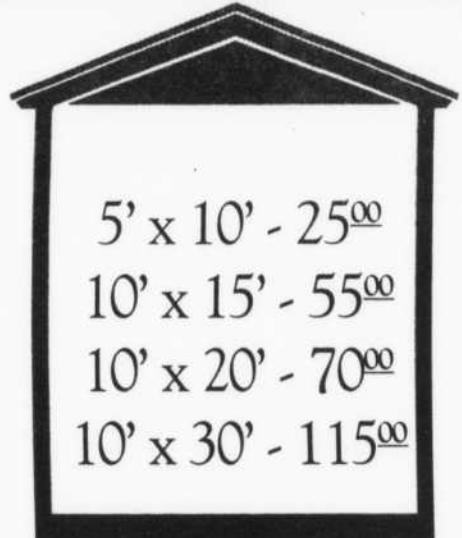
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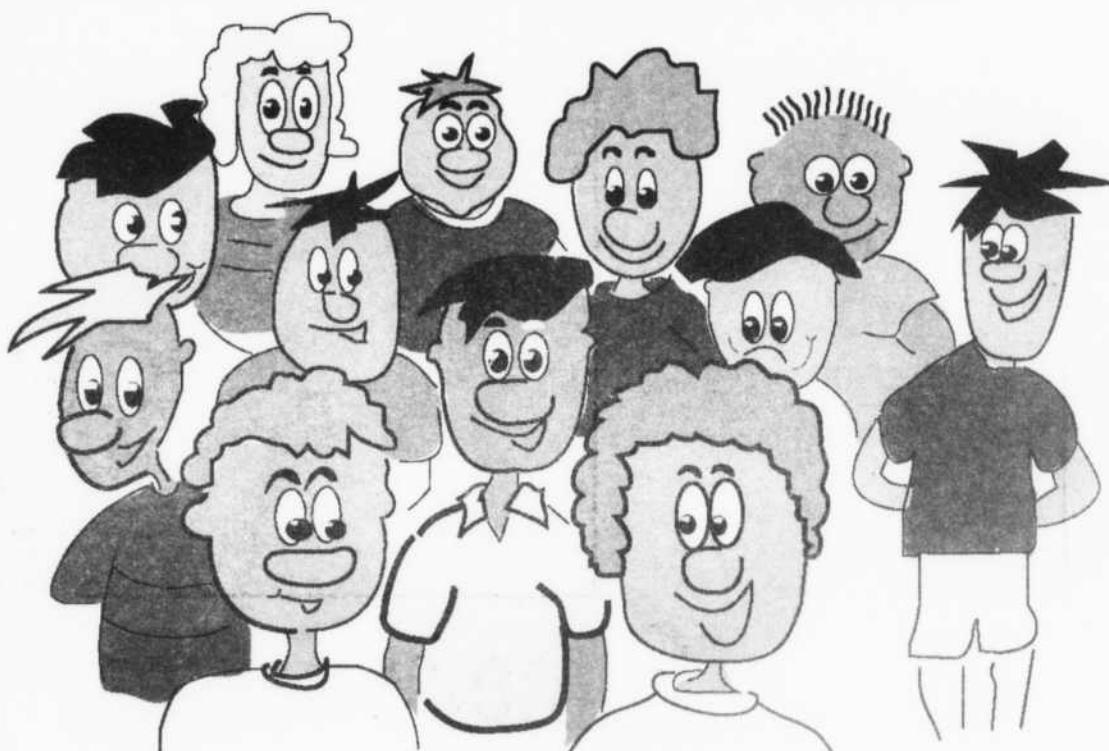
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# Tenants should know rights before signing agreement



By Amanda Maynard  
Staff Writer

Moving off campus can be a tedious task and choosing the right living arrangement is seldom an easy job.

Many college students get bogged down with the fine print and clauses they have to deal with when renting an apartment. Fine print and clauses can trap a potential tenant into a yearlong battle with her or his landlord.

The best thing to do when renting an apartment for the first time is read the fine print very carefully, according to Nashville attorney Michael J. Mills.

No matter how long it takes, read everything on the lease agreement, he advises. No one wants to be the one left owing thousands of dollars in rent after moving out.

Apartment complexes such as University Courtyard, Sterling Gables and The Woods at Greenland charge the balance of the rent if the resident chooses to move out before the lease agreement is up. Even if tenants choose to move out because of inadequate living conditions, a landlord can charge you the balance of the rent.

Tenants may also sublease their apartment if they choose to move out. At Sterling Gables and University Courtyard, tenants are

allowed to sublease, but if they cannot sublease before their next rent is due, they are left owing the costs.

If a tenant refuses to pay rent, he or she is then turned over to a claims department and will be hounded for the rest of his or her life or even sent to jail.

Tenants do have their rights, though. What college students don't know is that they can appeal the unjust clauses and fine print by taking a landlord to court.

Tenants have the right to challenge any penalty or clause they feel is unjust or uncalled for.

Mills suggests tenants read their lease carefully and, if a problem does arise after they sign the lease, take legal action.

Most college students don't have the financial means to haul a landlord into court. A tenant will usually pay out \$300 to \$450 in court costs just to fight more than \$1,000 in rent.

Other means may be taken to persecute a landlord without spending a lot of dough. A tenant may report a landlord to the codes department if he or she feels their living conditions are unsatisfactory.

In doing so, a tenant must have a legitimate claim and the codes department would then inspect the apartment complex. A land-

lord's worst nightmare is an inspection by the codes department.

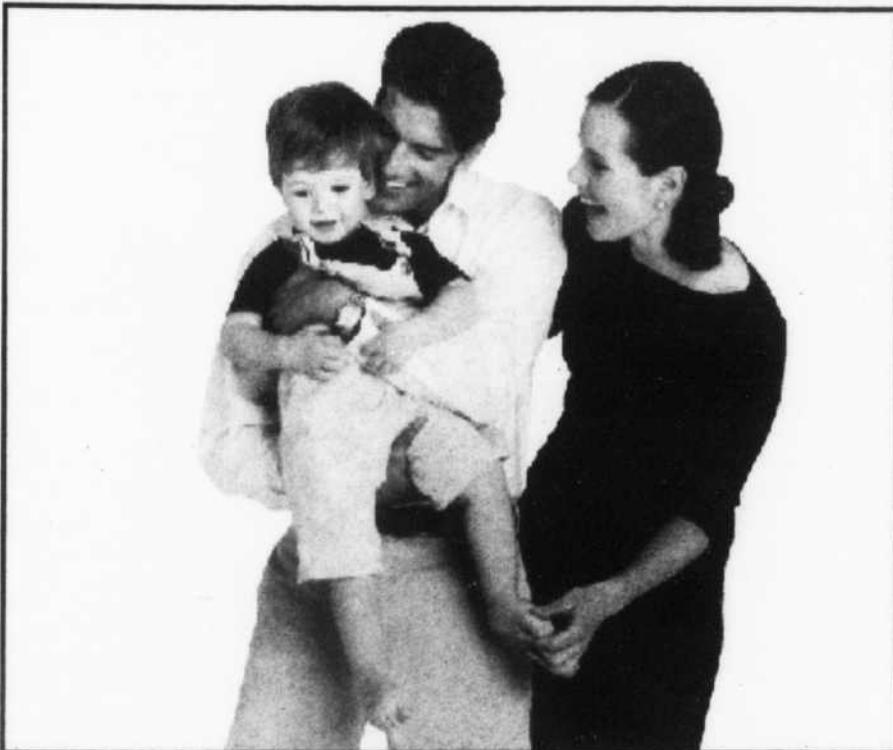
For example, if a tenant moves into his/her apartment and has no hot water, he or she can call the codes department and have them inspect the entire apartment for faulty wiring or installation of appliances.

If the tenant decides to take his or her landlord to court, the outcome can be unknown. If a judgment is made on the landlord or the tenant, that case will then be on the tenant's permanent record. This could hinder the tenant from leasing another apartment in the future.

Tenants need not get discouraged. College students moving off campus need to know that they do have rights and can take action against their landlords. Do not be afraid to confront a landlord with a problem or the threat of legal action or – even worse – the codes department.

MTSU students should beware of sneaky landlords out there who only are concerned about money. To be safe, read the lease agreement very carefully, twice if needed, and be aware of your rights.

If you do have trouble with your leaser or landlord, you may contact Mills at 777-1110. ♦



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# Home away from home

Campus living offers students advantages and convenience that off-campus living can't

By Charlene Callier  
Features Co-Editor

Home-cooked meals. A private bathroom.

These are only a few of the luxuries that will be missed after moving away from home.

The transition of moving away from home onto campus is a very important step in exploring the college experience.

Living on campus is the one time that most students will enjoy the comforts of living in residential housing and being accessible to the academic and recreational activities.

The housing facilities on campus allow students to be in walking distance to the library, cafeterias, the recreation center and social activities.

Each living area is unique by offering a different community

that supports academic excellence at the university along with activities.

MTSU's Housing and Residential Life office provides a package for parents of freshman that discusses the housing rules, basic questions to discuss with their children before attending college and a list of expectations of the students from the university.

Included in the package, the housing office lists three advantages of living on campus, which are the academic, financial and social advantages.

The academic advantage is that freshman residents living in Corlew and Cummings Hall have tutors available to them on every floor and academic advisers with offices in the building.

Studies have shown that students living on campus are associated with greater persistence to

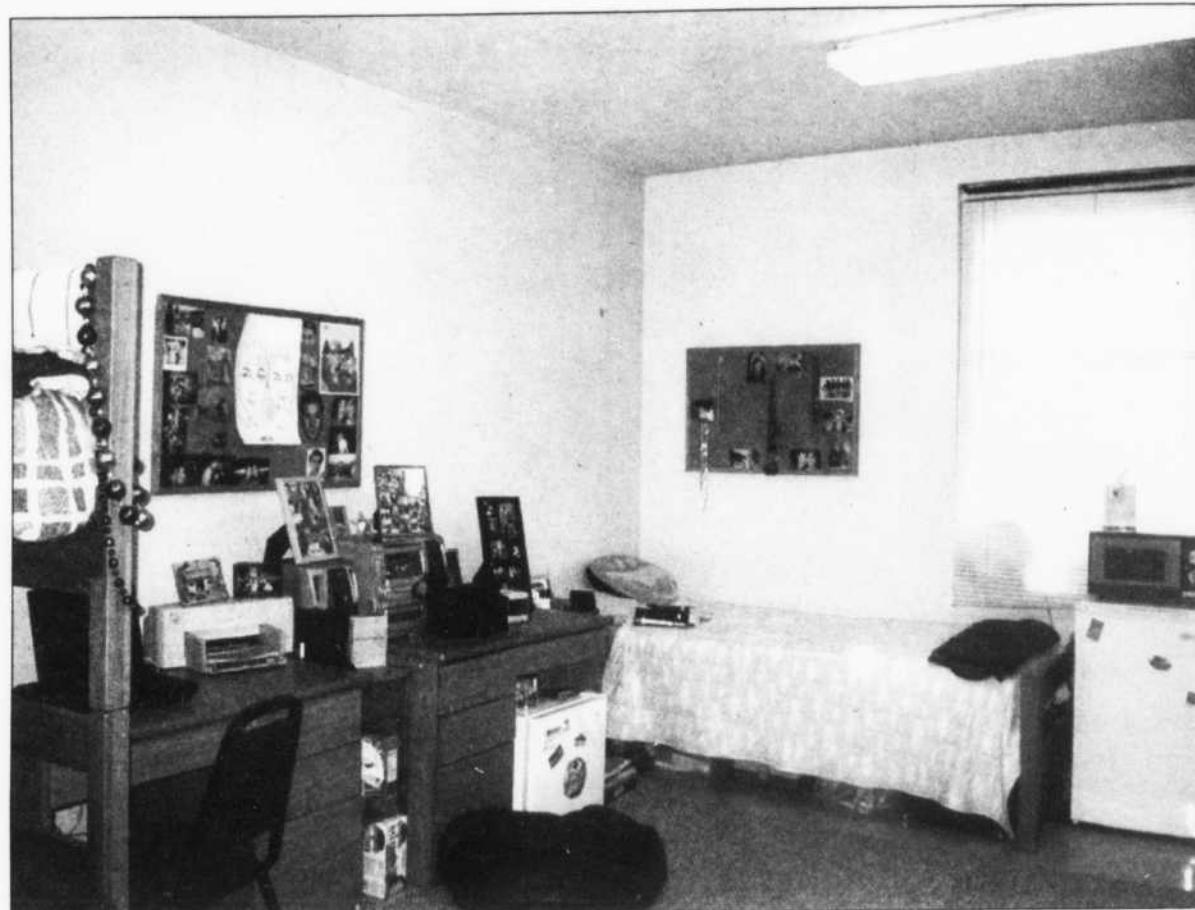


Photo by Charlene Callier | Staff

Three-person dorm rooms, like the one shown above and below, offer more living space to residents. Corlew, Cummings and Monohan are a few of the dorms that offer these rooms.

graduation, a greater attachment to the university and demonstrate school spirit.

The financial advantage of living on campus is that it is cheaper than living off campus.

Laundry facilities, internet connection, local phone service, cable, utilities and a front desk staffed 24 hours a day are some of the services that are provided to on-campus residents.

The students are offered a variety of housing plans and meal plans that make it convenient for them to choose from.

The social advantage of living on campus is that students are provided the opportunities to make lasting friendships by meeting new people.

Each housing facility offers students the chance to participate in on-site activities, which promote healthy student interaction.

"I lived on campus when I attended college, and I think it's part of the college experience," said Laurie Witherow, associate dean for residential education. "You learn a lot from living on



campus because you learn about yourself and living with people."

"You have plenty of time to rent an apartment or a house later on," Witherow said.

"I think that everybody needs that experience just once," said Kristie Williams, a junior majoring

in industrial psychology.

"Staying on campus is more convenient because you don't have to search for a parking space and everything is accessible to you."

For more information contact, Housing and Residential Life at 898-2971. ♦

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# WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF A ROOMMATE FROM HELL?



*"Someone who listens to Emo."*

Jeff Myers, freshman,  
Brentwood, Tenn.



*"Someone who doesn't clean up after themselves or eats all my food."*

Matt Melner, freshman,  
Brentwood, Tenn.



*"When they use their roommate's stuff without asking or break their property."*

Rod Cason, junior, Memphis,  
Tenn.



*"If she doesn't take care of herself or smokes in the room."*

Sommer Bullion,  
sophomore, Paris, Tenn.

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# Finding peace with a small living space

## Feng shui not just for homeowners

By Lindsey Turner  
News Editor

Though feng shui is a design trend gaining popularity throughout American suburbia, its techniques can be applied in dorm rooms and apartments to conduct positive energy flow for the student mind and body.

Feng shui was developed in China in the fourth century B.C. along with an invention central to feng shui's existence – the compass. During the following century, the Chinese began using the compass, and subsequently feng shui, to aid in the proper placement of grave and home sites.

Ensuring health, harmony and prosperity relied on finding the optimum final resting place for ancestors because the Chinese believed all humans were connected by cosmic, universal energy called "chi."

Today there many forms of feng shui – the three main "schools" being Form School, Compass School and Black Sect Tantric Tibetan School.

Form School began in southern China and is based on looking at and evaluating land forms, waterways and geography.

Compass School is the traditional, classical feng shui practice which uses either a Chinese (luo pan) or Western-style compass to determine the eight compass directions in a room, office or home. Because those directions govern various aspects of one's life, corresponding colors, animal symbols, numbers and elements are placed in the areas that one wishes to activate.

In the Black Sect Tantric Tibetan School compass directions are discarded. Instead, one stands at the entrance of the room, house or office as the main reference point. Then objects and other enhancements are placed according to what one aspires and wishes to accomplish.

Regardless of the school one chooses, feng shui is based on three fundamental concepts: flow of energy, balance of yin and yang and interaction of the five elements – fire, earth, metal, water and wood.

According to feng shui expert Angi Ma Wong, all schools of feng shui are based on this principle: "Put the right objects in the right place to be in harmony and balance with yourself, nature and the universe. As you do so, you will also activate the areas of your life that you wish to improve: harmony, health, love, romance, marriage, children, business, career, creativity, self-development, wealth, fame, fortune and aspirations."

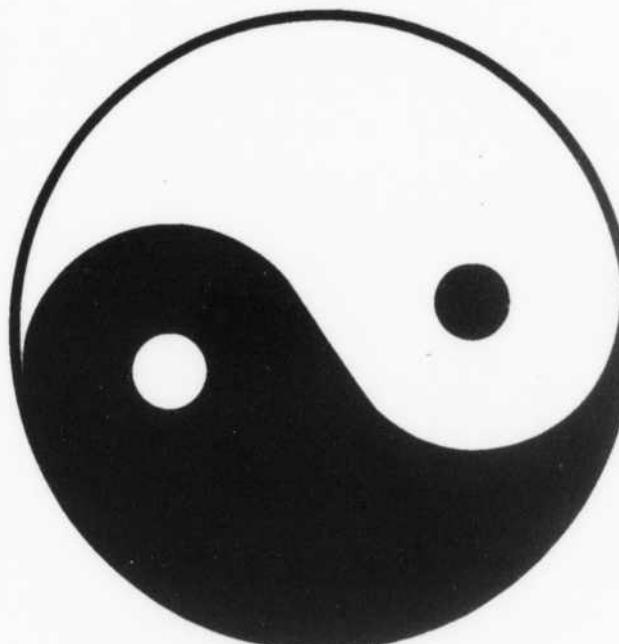
### For dorms

Though the bulk of feng shui concepts revolves around structural placement and architecture of the home, feng shui can be practiced in spaces as small as an apartment patio, a cubicle or even half of a dorm room.

The key to positive energy flow is to minimize clutter and to use an octagon shape to place everything properly – even

posters on the walls.

Using a camping compass, determine the directions within the room. By properly matching the right colors and elements to their corresponding compass directions, one can enjoy harmony and balance in a small area.



- North: water and black
- Northeast: earth and turquoise
- East: wood and green/blue/black
- Southeast: wood and green/purple
- South: fire and red/purple
- Southwest: earth and yellow/red
- West: metal and white
- Northwest: metal and gray.

With the above information, creativity, ingenuity and imagination can outfit a room so it conducts chi. Consider the dominant theme or colors of chosen artwork or posters and place them accordingly.

Pictures of family, friends and pets belong in specific spaces in one's room. Whole family pictures belong in the east; brothers and sisters in the west; one's mother alone or with the father in the southwest; one's father alone, friends or pets in the northwest.

Plants go best in the wood areas of east or southeast, and books and school supplies work well in the northeast – the area of knowledge and scholarly success.

Sleep can be affected by the position of the bed in a room. Bunk beds create negative energy during sleep due to the closeness either to the ceiling or bottom of the top bunk. Mirrors reflecting one's bed can disturb sleep, also. If the

room can't be arranged to avoid bed reflections, try covering the mirror up at night with a towel. Always sleep with the closet doors closed.

The most important step in reaching positive energy flow is keeping the room neat. Because the bed is the largest piece of furniture in the room, making it every morning or just smoothing the blanket or comforter over the pillow will help move the chi in a positive way within the room.

For apartments and other small living spaces

The same general compass principles govern apartment feng shui that govern dorm feng shui.

Unlike a dorm room, there is more flexibility involved with an apartment. Spiritually uplifting art pieces and other miscellaneous items one loves help conduct positive energy. However, overdoing it – setting out all the pieces one loves at once – can be counterproductive. It's far better to set out a few treasured pieces than to place everything on display. Favorites occasionally should be rotated.

In a smaller space, feng shui can be achieved by employing simplicity and minimalism and by creating light, air and open spaces. Decorating with a lot of trinkets can decrease positive energy flow, as can copious furnishings or a slew of art covering the walls.

To facilitate good energy flow, less is more. Using smaller-scale furniture (love seats and armchairs instead of long couches) and lighter-colored woods and fabrics can harbor positive energy. Smaller wallpaper patterns help as well.

Choosing an apartment using feng shui principles

Kartar Diamond, a senior Feng Shui consultant for the American Feng Shui Institute, suggests choosing apartments with bright, open entrances – not those where the entrance is in the building's interior hallway. They also suggest avoiding apartments in which the kitchen is the first room that comes into vision when entering, and kitchens with exterior windows help produce positive energy.

Diamond also say it's best not to choose apartments near the complex's garage or parking-lot exit, or the garbage dumpster.

Higher-level apartments can also improve energy flow, as they seem larger and usually receive more light ♦

**To learn more about feng shui, visit the following links:**

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

[www.wind-water.com](http://www.wind-water.com)

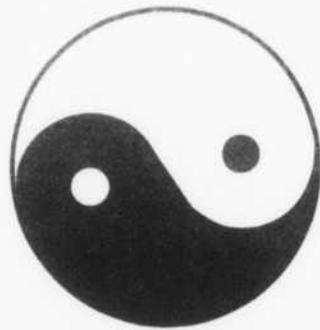
[home.wanadoo.nl/louisa.vanbolhuis/](http://home.wanadoo.nl/louisa.vanbolhuis/)

<http://www.qi-whiz.com/index.html>

<http://www.fengshuidirectory.com/>

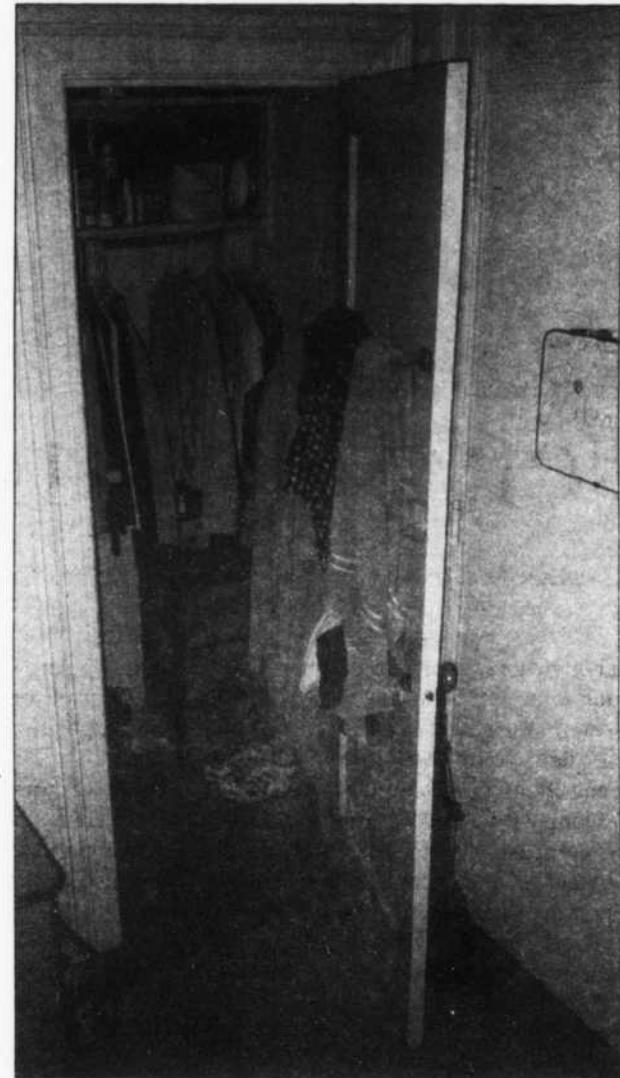
# Slowing down the chi

**Several things can stop positive energy flow**



Photos by Amy Jones | Staff

(Above) Bunk beds can promote negative energy called 'sha' by placing the sleeper either too close to the ceiling or to the bottom of the upper bunk.  
 (Right) Leaving closet doors open while sleeping is another way to slow down positive energy called 'chi.'



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# Shackin' up is harder than it seems

## Out of Leftist Field



Lindsey Turner  
Staff Columnist

Being naïve, I dreamed about living with my boyfriend for months before we actually decided to do it.

In my whimsical daydreams, we would stroll up and down grocery store aisles, placing gourmet foods and spices in the cart alongside the jar of pickles and 12-pack of Cokes. We would wash each other's clothes and giggle when we folded the underwear. We would sleep, silently embracing each other. We would cook for each other and wash dishes together with wide, sparkly smiles plastered on our sweet little faces.

But, of course, reality set in about the second week we lived

together in a cramped, three-and-a-half room apartment when we realized doing the dishes sucks and not having our own washer and dryer was a good reason to commit suicide.

While I'm reluctant to offer unsolicited advice (I wasn't eager to take anyone else's regarding my living situation), I'm going to for the sake of any youngsters considering making that socially unacceptable leap — moving in with your significant other.

I have compiled the most common complaints, misconceptions and warnings from several of my co-workers and friends to share with the masses, much like I did earlier in the semester for first-time dorm residents.

Ready? Here we go.

- Grocery shopping together, after the second or third time, is not always an enjoyable experience. When you're low on money, energy and patience, deciding between Coke or Pepsi, Doritos or Fritos, white or wheat is often frustrating — especially if your culinary tastes differ. And, unless you're incredibly lucky, your dating life will practically be confined to the

walls and parking lot of Food Lion.

- Sleeping together is not glamorous. In the movies, couples spend entire nights entwined in each other's arms. Until you try to do it, you have no idea how painful it is. Limbs go numb, blankets get tangled, morning breath stinks up the cozy nook between your faces. Within a few weeks, you will be fighting for your side of the bed, guaranteed.

- Laundry sucks no matter who you do it with. Washing other people's laundry sucks even more, especially if they're not there to help. So make your girlfriend/boyfriend help you do laundry. You could get a hernia if they don't.

- After the first week or so together, your stove and oven will collect dust and become lonely and unused. Fast food wrappers and bags and styrofoam cups will litter your kitchen. It doesn't matter how much cheaper cooking for each other is; fast food will always seem like a better option at the last minute.

- You will fight about two things: cleaning and money.

Someone's not keeping the place clean enough. Someone's not spending money wisely. And on and on. It's a constant, rigorous battle with no winner — Especially if you have pets to clean up after.

Now, before you start thinking A) these people must have really bad relationships, or B) there is no way lovers can live together and make it work, consider the perks of shacking up.

- You can party all night long together (insert your personal definition of 'party' here) and then fall asleep together on your bed and actually know who you'll be waking up beside.

- A one-bedroom apartment is much cheaper than a two-bedroom one, as are other bills you should definitely split.

- You get to really, and I mean, really, know your significant other. You will witness sickness, health, poverty, wealth and some crazy-ass mood swings. If you can love her or him through all that, you've got it made.

- Arguments can't be ignored or walked away from. Being stuck in the same living space prompts you to hash out things that need to be

hashed out. When you're pissed at someone, the easiest thing to do is walk away. Sure, you can leave, but you'll eventually have to come back. So why not have the cat fight sooner than later? Making up rocks.

- At the end of a bad day, coming home to someone who can hug you is nice.

- You have a chance to grow together, both in life and in your relationship. Cheesy as it sounds, it's true. If you're mature and serious about your relationship, you will make living together work in a way that nurtures love. But it's not easy; it takes more work than many people are willing to do.

I would argue that living together without a marriage license is much harder than actually being married. Many couples use their legal bond to each other as an excuse to stay together, even in unhappiness.

But when couples live together without all the red tape of marriage, they truly have to be in love to do all that work to stay together. ♦

## Anything is better than the horrors of living on campus

### Bathroom Stall Graffiti



Nick Fowler  
Staff Columnist

College housing is a trial you must pass in order to transition to the real world. It is as much a psychological test as it is a physical test.

You will learn to move your bowels in a public restroom and enjoy it. The community bathrooms in the campus dormitories are generally rather repulsive. Sometimes new species evolve in a pool of filth in the corner. You see strange things living in campus housing.

Reynolds Hall has floor tiles leading into the wall so as to mark a path. The spot on the wall is all patched up as if to conceal a hall or a door. No one knows what is on the other side. Some say a kid died

in that room. His parents built a shrine to him in the room and have been paying rent on it for 23 years. Some say he is in the room, or should I say tomb.

Never go to the basement. Your building may have a basement. It may not. Whatever you do, do not try to find the way to the basement. What goes on in the basement is none of your business. The basements hold mysteries housing residents will never solve. Some say the dorms go another five stories underground. Some say they never end.

Don't bother about the mystery man who lives on your floor. Yes, he is a bit old. We're not sure whether he came back to school when he was 45, or if he ever left. Sure it's a bit uncomfortable when his children come visit on the weekends, but his "wife" bakes great brownies and will buy you beer if you watch the kids. He may be a drug dealer.

The custodian hates you. He hates all of you. You slovenly unclean kids are the source of all of his troubles. If you would just put the trash in the can and flush

the toilet. He hates mopping the floor you dirty every time he cleans it. He hates cleaning up the fire retardant foam all down the hall. He is frightening. He has tattoos you wouldn't allow your mother to see. You fear him. You should.

Soon you won't leave campus for weeks at a time. When you finally decide to venture off into the 'Boro, you'll have forgotten you parked your car behind a brick building in a so called "secret lot." It will take you three days of searching every lot on campus until you find your car.

There will be at least a 10-degree difference in the preferred room temperature of roommates. He that controls the thermostat controls the room. Roommate matching should be completely dependent upon preferred room temperature and cleanliness. He will likely listen to horrible music. Music preference is inversely proportional to temperature preference. Take your pick.

Don't get used to being alone. Your roommate will never leave. Just be thankful he isn't that old

guy up the hall. "Private Time" won't ever be yours again.

You'll want to get off campus eventually. I suggest you get a house in the ghetto. The Murfreesboro ghetto has the cheapest rent of anywhere I know. Don't worry about the high crime rate. You shouldn't have anything worth stealing anyway. Sure, you have that nice CD collection and you don't want it stolen. Wake up kid. People who live in the ghetto don't listen to indie rock.

The ghetto is too far from campus to walk, so you will have to drive or get a bicycle. If you get a bike, it will get stolen. I told you about having nice things. So you'll have to drive to campus.

Your house in the ghetto is probably built on an old graveyard. That's why it sits so close to that cemetery.

You'll soon learn to like the urban lifestyle. You can call the cops to have the bum who keeps falling asleep on your front porch arrested. The inner city is very in lately. You can write all sorts of stories about living in the ghetto. White kids who listen to Will

Smith will think you are keeping it real.

In the opium den next door live eight junkies. They only leave the house to get more drugs. Sometimes they come to your door asking for a lighter. You've started buying lighters to keep on hand. Eventually the junkies will steal your CD collection because people on drugs made half of the music you listen to for other people on drugs.

So all you have is a house in the ghetto, without a stereo, three country music CDs and \$2,000 in textbooks, which you could leave out in the road and nobody would steal. Don't worry. You are here for the cheap rent and the urban experience.

You'll be happy enough there in the ghetto. You will have almost nothing to your name. You'll be afraid to go outside. You will trip over a bum as you step out your door, and junkies will accost you on the way to the car. But, yes, you will be happy.

Even this wretched life in the ghetto is better than living on campus. ♦





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## WEEKDAY FEATURES

**MORNING BEAT (6-9AM)**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS**

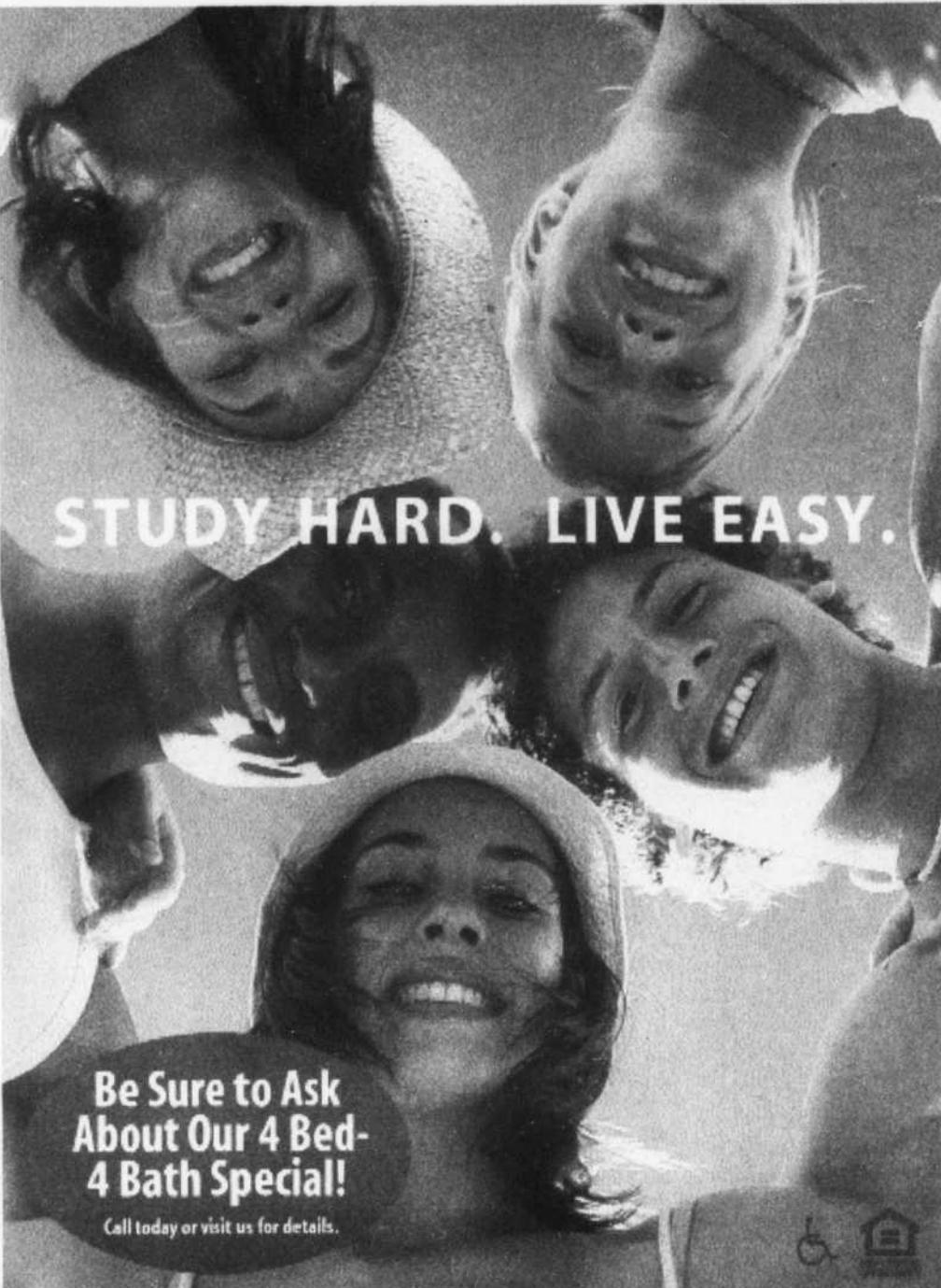
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