

**FEATURES**



Students get educated on financial aid loans before getting deeper into debt.

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Columnist explores whether the Fort Hood shooting tragedy had clear warning signs.

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Blue Raiders garner postseason bowl eligibility with 48-21 win over FIU on Saturday.

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# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009

VOL. 86, NO. 18

## McPhee postpones deadline

Mass Communication faculty members given more time to submit concerns, proposals

By MEGAN MCSWAIN  
Staff Writer

Faculty and staff members continued discussion of college restructuring at an open meeting Nov. 6, after the deadline to submit a suggestions report to President Sidney McPhee was postponed that day.

Members of the Col-

lege of Mass Communication, the school of music and the department of speech and theatre addressed the possible units that would join the restructured college, how to organize the separate departments or divisions and how the restructuring will affect curricula.

Roy Moore, dean of the

College of Mass Communication, said the new deadline for suggestions has not yet been made, but predicts it will be sometime late next semester.

"[McPhee] said several times—the status quo is not an option," Moore said. "There will be restructuring."

Moore said this is not

carved in stone and there is flexibility, which is why McPhee granted more time.

"The president made it clear that the purpose of the restructure would be to position the university for the future, to make the university stronger academically and to make the university more student-centered."

Moore said so far, no suggestions made by the faculty and staff working group are definite, and the extended deadline gives the group more time to get input and create a suggestions report.

"We now have more information from both the president and the provost that enables us to move

forward," Moore said.

Sonny Rawls, journalism professor, said the faculty and staff meetings have helped, but the extra time given does not affect the fact that there will be restructuring, which he said is long overdue.

RESTRUCTURING, PAGE 2

## Halftime show enforces Raider's US patriotism

By MARIE KEMPH  
Staff Writer

The Raider Republicans will be accepting donations for the "Soldier Box Drive" at MTSU's football game against Louisiana-Lafayette.

Saturday's fundraiser is a part of MT football, "Salute to Armed Services and Veterans" celebration during halftime.

"We would love to have everyone on campus participate," said Chelsea Curtis, junior political science major and president of the Raider Republicans.

Game-day attendees may donate throughout the afternoon.

The organization adopted an army unit stationed in Iraq. Raider Republicans have already sent two boxes full of small non-perishable goods to the soldiers.

"We hope to reach our goal of 20 boxes by the end of the semester," Curtis said. "I hope we can fill up all of the boxes at the football game, especially since the holidays are coming up."

Curtis said anyone wishing to give a monetary donation can also go by any Pinnacle Bank in Murfreesboro, and make a "Soldier Box Drive" deposit into the Raider Republicans' account.

"All of the cash donations we receive will be used to

buy items to fill the boxes," Curtis said.

Curtis said popular items include: playing cards, beef jerky, magazines, footballs, frisbees, soccer balls and eye-drops.

She also said that certain items are prohibited.

"We cannot accept any items that contain or are related to pork," she said. Pornographic material is also prohibited, but tobacco products, such as chewing tobacco, are allowed.

Curtis said soldiers miss the small things that remind them of home, and as long as the item will not melt or expire by the time it reaches Iraq, it is probably OK to donate to the box drive.

Raider Republicans will also be hosting guest speaker Major General David Evans of the U.S. Army Reserve, Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., in Room S106 of the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building.

Evans is running in the Republican primaries for the 6th District of the U.S. House of Representatives, the seat currently held by Democrat Bart Gordon. He served in the Persian Gulf War, Bosnia and Croatia, and has also worked for the Department of Defense. His opponent is Lou Ann Zeleznik, the former chairwoman of the Rutherford County Republican Party.

## Anti-abortion health clinic exposed

Foundation warns students about misleading clinics

**Things To Do:**

- Take a pregnancy test after first missed period
- Check area listings for health clinics and make sure they are unbiased and able to give you the best possible care
- Visit your doctor for a urine pregnancy test or a blood test
- If test is positive:
  - Consult with friends and family about possible options
  - Talk to doctors about options such as motherhood, adoption or abortion

**Tennessee Law**

**Requirements:**

- Must be performed during first trimester with woman's consent
- At least a 48-hour waiting period between M.D. informing woman and her consent
- Unlawful:
  - Attempting to cause miscarriage, abortion or non-Tennessee resident, coercing or compelling an abortion, administering any substance to a pregnant woman to destroy a child, or partial birth abortions, unless to save life of mother

law.findlaw.com/state-laws/abortion/tennessee

By ROZALIND RUTH  
Staff Writer

A pregnancy center in Murfreesboro is under scrutiny by the Feminist Majority Foundation, an advocacy group for women's rights, for allegedly misleading clients about pregnancy options.

The FMF's "Campaign to Expose Fake Clinics" is currently looking at Murfreesboro-based Pregnancy Support Center, located on South Church Street.

According to the campaign's Web site, women's centers that label themselves as "crisis pregnancy centers" or "pregnancy resource centers" may try to coerce or intimidate women into not choosing abortion, or prevent women from receiving medical advice.

Laura Messick, director of the Murfreesboro Pregnancy Support Center, said the center is a anti-abortion and Christian organization, and it is very honest about its stance with people receiving services.

Graphic by Chris Carter, production manager

PREGNANCY, PAGE 2

## Ground breaking prepares new Student Union Building

By JONATHAN SCHLIECHER  
Staff Writer

MTSU administrators officially broke ground for the new Student Union Building last Friday.

"I have been hearing about the need of a new Student Union Building since I have arrived here nine years ago, and certainly that need has been prevalent through my arrival," said President Sidney

McPhee during his ground breaking speech.

McPhee said he expects the new Student Union Building to be completed in about 18 months.

Other speakers during the ceremony included David Gregory, vice chancellor for Administration and Facilities Development; Debra Sells, vice president for Student Affairs; and Brandon McNary, Student Government Association president.

During his speech, McPhee gave the audience a brief history lesson about the university and the 4,257 students who were enrolled at the college in 1967. The recession was another topic, which McPhee commented,

"I don't want to hear about a recession," McPhee said. "We need to educate our students."

After noting the significant difference of the enrollment rate today, McPhee said the

construction of the Student Union Building is a symbol of the present times. McPhee also mentioned plans for a new science building that is estimated to cost around \$126 million.

"Things have changed," Gregory said. "I do have great confidence in our economy. It will rebound, [and] we have got to be ready for it."

McPhee said the student union was necessary even with the recession.

"I think it's important people understand that just because we have a recession, we cannot stick our heads in the sand," McPhee said. "We need this building."

McPhee said all the recession has done in his mind was slow down the university, but it had not stopped progress. "We need to find a way to push forward," McPhee said.

Nikki Patterson, senior public relations major, said

the student union should have been delayed because of budget cuts, the university has suffered.

"I don't think right now would have been a wise choice," Patterson said. "I can understand that they feel like we need it, but I think it would have been better if they would just have waited for a few years."

UNION, PAGE 2

**RESTRUCTURING FROM PAGE 1**

Rawls said the changes should be about what helps students get a better education and better career opportunities.

"Over the course of 20 years, we add this, subtract that, add this, subtract that, not with what is necessarily best for students, but what's best for other entities," Rawls said.

"It will have an impact on students; it will have an impact on faculty; it will have an impact on staff,

and we want to make sure we have the most effective, efficient, best structure in place that will position us for the future," Moore said.

Marc Barr, electronic media communication professor, said he also thinks the restructuring should be focused on what is best for students and the future of the university.

"I think if it's driven by education, then it's a great idea, because education should be evolving," Barr said. "If it's driven by convenience for an unknown entity, I don't see the point."

Moore said he invites any members from other departments who want to join the workgroup to do so and provide more feedback and suggestions.

"It will be good to see the discussions that take place," Moore said. "It's a chance for us, as a university, to really look very carefully at what structures, particularly what college structure, makes the most sense and would be best for the students, for the faculty, but particularly for the students, because it will have an impact on everyone."



Photo by Jonathan Schliecher, staff writer. Students, faculty and staff watch as ground is broken on new the Student Union Building on Friday.

**UNION FROM PAGE 1**

Patterson said it seems like the university has a problem with their priorities.

"Last semester, they were trying to get rid of some majors for budget cuts," Patterson said. "I think they need to do something to help those majors right now."

Allyson Gilbert, business education major, said she thinks the student union will benefit MTSU.

"I think it is really awesome," Gilbert said. "It is something the people and students need. I am fourth-generation around here, but I am a first generation student. I will want my kids to enjoy it as well."

McNary said he remembered when the fee increase the student body voted for was implemented.

"This building is a testament to the willingness to continue to make MTSU the best university in the state of Tennessee and among the top 50 colleges in the country," said McNary.

McNary said without the support of the student body in 2006, the university would clearly not be where it is today.

"While this building was funded by the students for the students, we would undoubtedly not be where we are today without the hard work of our administration," McNary said.

While some students will be lucky enough to experience how great this building truly is before they graduate, there are some students, such as McNary, who will no longer be in school when this building is complete, McNary explained.

"However, this building is just as much part of your

legacy as the new Health Services and Rec. Center renovations were apart of those who came before us," McNary said.

McNary said the students who will not experience the building should look at it as a gift to the university.

"MTSU is our school, our university and our home," McNary said. "Try and leave MTSU better than it was when you got here, and I am sure MTSU will continue to prosper long after we are gone."

Sells said the student body of 2006 was responsible for making the funding and the construction of the student union possible.

"As we thank them, we are also thanking thousands of unnamed students who made it possible for the building we are celebrating today," Sells said.

**PREGNANCY FROM PAGE 1**

"We will treat you with the utmost respect," Messick said. "We respect their rights, and we are here to help."

The center provides counselors who are trained in-house to talk to women about their emotions when deciding on a pregnancy option, though the counselors are not trained medical professionals.

Holly Tomlinson, a public relations intern for FMF and "Ms. Magazine," said the issue is not that Christian or anti-abortion organizations women's centers exist, but rather their advertising can mislead women.

"We believe they should be upfront about their religious affiliations and their pro-life position and not use pressure or misinformation to persuade women against an abortion," Tomlinson said. "Our concern is that women are not deceived."

Tomlinson said that while she thinks it is good that the center states on its Web site that it does not provide abortions, it still appears in the Yellow Pages as an abortion clinic.

FMF's site also notes that some centers under umbrella organizations try to coerce and intimidate women out of considering an abortion or try to prevent women from seeking neutral medical advice.

Messick said the Pregnancy Support Center counselors do not use high-pressure tactics. It does not encourage or provide abortions, but she said the center can provide information on the procedure.



Photo Courtesy of morguefile.com. Pregnant women need unbiased health advice when deciding their best option.

Tomlinson said the FMF found Murfreesboro Pregnancy Support Center through optionline.org, a Website that is a joint venture of Care Net and Heartbeat International organizations to help users find pregnancy resource centers.

Optionline.org states Care Net and Heartbeat International are faith-based organizations that provide accurate information on pregnancy options. The Web site hosts women's centers that focus on anti-abortion.

The Murfreesboro center is not the only option for the MTSU community. Students can go to the women's clinic in Student Health Services, which provides free pregnancy tests.

Lady Hamilton, a nurse practitioner who works in Health Services, said if a woman comes in and has a positive pregnancy test, the clinic can provide her with information on women's health services.

and does not try to persuade a person to one option.

"I think a lot of organizations do have a bias, and that's not really what our patients need—they need information," Hamilton said. "Therefore, they can make an educated decision that's going to best fit their life."

Another service offered by both Planned Parenthood and the Pregnancy Support Center is post-abortion counseling.

Planned Parenthood refers post-abortive women who seek counseling to local and national organizations that are certified and trained for counseling.

Messick said the counselors at Pregnancy Support Center help women make sure that they know what they are doing and understand the permanency of their actions.

"We ask that women give themselves the right to be informed and actually think about down the road how this might affect them," Messick said.

Lydney Godwin, a community health educator from Planned Parenthood, said that the organization provides options such as counseling for pregnant women that will give her information on the three legal options for pregnant women in the U.S.

"Our focus is giving all of the factual information possible," Godwin said. "Our nurse practitioners and medical assistants aren't going to tell a person what they think they should do."

Planned Parenthood said it upholds the medical standards specified by the American Medical Association.

**"I think a lot of organizations do have a bias, and that's not really what our patients need – they need information."**

LADY HAMILTON NURSE PRACTITIONER AT MTSU'S HEALTH SERVICES

The FMF's site says its campus program's goal is to inform feminists about threats to abortion access, women's rights, affirmative action and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights—particularly threats posed by right-wing extremists.

Messick said that once a woman is pregnant, "there really is no easy way out - abortion is not an easy answer."

"Nine times out of 10, I would tell people to go to plannedparenthood.org," Hamilton said.

Pregnancy Support Center and Planned Parenthood are two organizations Student Services refers patients to for more information on all pregnancy options.

Hamilton said she thinks Planned Parenthood does the best job of being non-biased

**CURRENT EVENTS**

**"ROTC/Forrest Hall Issue" Honors Lecture**

Nov. 9, 3 p.m. - 3:55 p.m.  
Location: Paul W Martin Sr. Honors Building, Room 106  
For more information, visit mtsu.edu/honors

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

Nov. 10, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Location: Keathley University Center, Room 322

**Transgender Panel**

Nov. 11, 6 p.m.  
Location: State Farm Lecture Hall, Business and Aerospace Building  
Admission: free

**Bakari Kitwana**

Nov. 12, 5 p.m.  
Location: State Farm Lecture Hall, Business and Aerospace Building  
Admission: free

**"Pedro"**

Nov. 12, 6 p.m.  
Location: Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center, Room 221  
Admission: free

**Frugal Friday: Static Revival**

Nov. 13, 8 p.m.  
Location: The Boro Bar and Grill  
Admission: free

**Bambi: A Life in the Woods**

Nov. 14 and Nov. 21, 2 p.m.  
Location: The Arts Center of Cannon County  
Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 students

**LGBT organizer, Cat Stevens lecture**

Nov. 18, 7 p.m.  
Location: Cason Kennedy Nursing Building, Room 106  
Admission: free

**Events Policy**

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to sloopy@mts.edu or slnews@mts.edu, and include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The events listed are not necessarily associated with Sidelines or MTSU.

**CRIME BRIEFS**

Crime briefs will not be published this week due to the MTSU Campus Police Department's Web site being partially inoperable and also its failure to update the printed crime log. The police department's Web site link to the crime log is currently not working, and paper copies of the crime log available for the public have not been updated since March.

Under the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, federal law requires institutions of higher education in the U.S. to disclose campus security information, including crime statistics, for the campus and surrounding areas. The act clearly states that the department must maintain an updated public log of all crimes reported to that department. It is unlawful not to update these logs. Web site administrators will not be in the office until Monday.



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# FEATURES

DO YOU THINK A NEW STUDENT UNION SHOULD BE BUILT IN THE MIDST OF BUDGET CUTS?

online TELL US ONLINE AT MTSUSIDELINES.COM

## Students need college loan education

By ELIZABETH WARREN  
Staff Writer

Nice cars, apartments, new phones and independence are things most college students want to have, but would taking out a loan be the best way to get those things?

Ghassem Homaifar, professor of economics and finance, says "no." He said unless a student is taking out a loan for tuition and books, it is unnecessary. These other items are considered a luxury, not a necessity, and will add up over time.

"Students should limit their borrowing to the essentials," Homaifar says. "They should do anything and everything not to borrow."

Though the ideal situation is to not borrow money for education, sometimes it is the only solution. Before students or parents sign on the dotted line, there are a few things they should know about loans but usually don't.

According to wisegeek.com, there are three types of loans students can access.

Federal Stafford loans are based on financial need and are handled by the government. There are two kinds of Stafford loans: subsidized and unsubsidized.

The subsidized Stafford loans are long term and need based with low interest rates. Subsidized means that the government will pay the interest of this loan while the student is still in school, if they request a grace period or ask for a deferment.

Unsubsidized loans are long term, non-need based loans with low interest rates. This loan is best for students who don't qualify for other financial aid or who will need additional money.

Federal Plus Loans are taken out by the parents' of



Photo courtesy of morguefile.com

Majors that require longer periods of education, such as law and medicine, often accrue more debt and take more loans than other majors.

students and determined by credit history and tuition cost. This is a low-interest loan where payments begin 60-90 days after the student graduates.

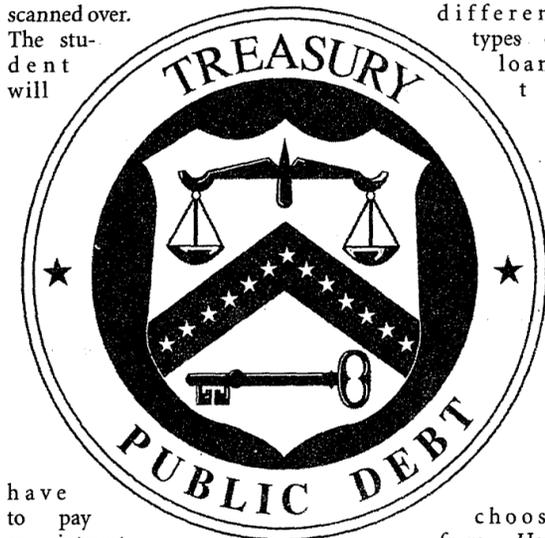
The final type of loan is the Federal Perkins Loan. This is based on the extreme financial need of the student, and the amount of money that can be borrowed is limited. The interest rate of this loan doesn't begin until nine months after a student drops below full-time or graduates.

Homaifar said that the first thing to understand about a loan is whether it's guaranteed. A loan guarantee states that the government will take up the private debt obligation if the borrower defaults on payments.

The next step is to find out the interest rate of the loan that the student may be considering. Interest rates are the extra money a borrower must pay to the lender for borrow-

ing the money. Usually on student loans the interest rate will be lower than normal loans, but that doesn't mean this fact should be scanned over.

The student will



have to pay an interest rate on any loan, so they might as well get the lowest one possible.

The next thing to know about loans are the terms and conditions with which they come.

There are many different types of loans to

choose from. How long you will have to pay back a loan and regulations to obtain a loan

are things students should consider when taking out loans. All information is crucial when deciding on this matter.

The last step is for students to realize what they're getting themselves into. Students should be as knowledgeable as possible about the economics that come with an education.

If they aren't, then taking out a "few" loans can make their lives a lot harder by adding a large financial burden that can take years to correct.

The U.S. Department of Education said that last year, 6.7 percent of students defaulted on their loans, an increase from 5.2 percent the previous year.

That means from 2007 to 2008, a quarter of a million student loan borrowers went into default.

According to [finaid.org](http://finaid.org), there are numerous conse-

quences if a student defaults on his or her loan.

The situation could be turned over to a collection agency, a student could be sued, his or her wages could be garnished, it will hurt his or her credit score and he or she won't be able to apply for more financial aid. Not to mention, if the student defaults then someone has to pay it back, and that will be the American taxpayers.

Shere Ramsey, senior psychology major who has a student loan, said that defaulting has been on her mind since she applied for the loan.

"It's a scary thing to think about," Ramsey says. "It can ruin my future if I don't pay back this loan once I graduate."

Borrowing isn't bad when a student or parent is completely informed and definitely sure that a loan is the best way to pay for education.

David Hutton, director of financial aid and scholarships, says that if a student is responsible with borrowing then there is nothing wrong with loans. The reward of gaining the education is worth the cost if borrowing is the only alternative.

"You have to think about where you would have been without the loan because then you wouldn't have your education," Hutton says.

There are many resources with more information about loans. Students can visit the financial aid office on campus. Go to [finaid.org](http://finaid.org) to see a database of information on loans or search bookstores for books about student loans.

## Metal Gear movie makes video game fans proud

By JOHNATHON SCHLEICHER  
Staff Writer

Who has played one of Konami's "Metal Gear" games and thought it wasn't awesome?

When I found out that there was a "Metal Gear" movie, I nearly flipped. I have been playing the games since 1989, and I am a die-hard fan, so the prospect of a movie really intrigued me. Despite being low budget and fan based, the film will excite any "Metal Gear" fan.

Released on Sept. 27, and running about one hour and 10 minutes long, "Metal Gear Solid: Philanthropy" is a fan-based and driven movie developed by the organization Hive Division and is directly inspired by Hideo Kojima's game series, "Metal Gear Solid." The storyline is not an official part of the "Metal Gear" time line.

There have been several attempts to make a fan-based "Metal Gear" project, but Hive Division's attempt has been the most professional one so far. What makes it even better is Hive Division is not charging anyone to stream the movie off its Web site.

The movie starts in "Outer Heaven," a commonly occurring theme in the "Metal Gear" series, as a place that is void of politics and the

corruption of governments.

It is a place where soldiers go to be free from being pawns of their government and live their lives as they see fit. Soldiers are looking for someone but only find their dead comrades.

**Director:** Giacomo Talamini

**Starring:** Giacomo Talamini, Nicola Cecconi

**Run Time:** 77 minutes



Watch the movie directly on Hive Division's site at [mgs-philanthropy.net](http://mgs-philanthropy.net)

While trying to find the culprit, they get subdued by the legendary soldier and stealth expert, Solid Snake (Phillip Sacramento).

In the next scene, you see Snake sitting down on a jet talking to an associate. Snake is now a part of an organization called Philanthropy, a group dedicated to fighting nuclear threats, specifically the Metal Gear, a bipedal nuclear toting weapon of mass destruction.

Snake receives his mission: to find and rescue Abraham Bishop, a senator who has strong connec-

tions to a company called Arms Tech.

Arms Tech is a company widely known for producing Metal Gears. Bishop has information that can aid Philanthropy in bringing Arms Tech to justice and to shut down the production of Metal Gears forever.

As the group arrive over their target area, they spot an abnormal storm, but regardless the mission presses on. Snake jumps out of a plane and lands safely in a foreign country and begins to look for his support group to proceed.

Unlike many of the scenarios in the game, Snake is actually armed and the weapons are not procured on site.

This is different from the games because Kojima made the "Metal Gear" series stealth based; the object was to avoid enemy detection. That, and Snake always performed his missions solo in the games, so a support team is new turf that Hive Division decided to try out.

The music makes me feel like I am watching one of the cinematics from the video game series. Hive Division ensured the music matched the games' style. It makes the film completely believable, and although the characters look a little different in the movie, they act as their characters would.

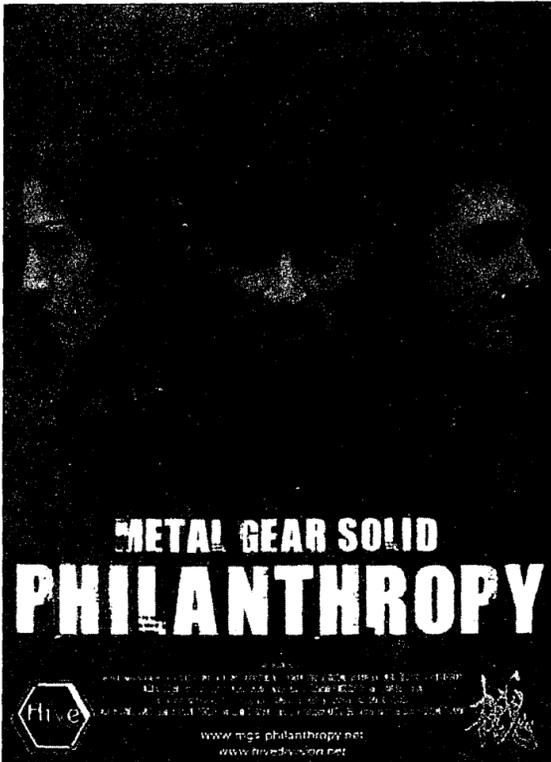


Photo courtesy of Hive Productions

"Metal Gear Solid: Philanthropy" is a fan-made film that can be watched for free online at the production company's Web site.

Though it is strange to see a different face as the main protagonist, Snake is as stoic and hard-core as the "Metal Gear" series portrays. The actors really captured the essence of the games, despite looking kind of amateur in certain scenes. Snake's lectures about the way of the battlefield and his mind-set while on a mis-

sion feel like it came from Kojima himself.

Another good element from the "Metal Gear" series is how Snake is always pitted against nearly supernatural enemies.

The animation is surprisingly fluid, and the story was sound. Some of the cinematics replicated the

game precisely, codec for example. When Snake calls someone on the codec, they used a very similar screen as the one in the video game. In certain scenes, it looked exactly like the video game. I expected to pick up a controller at any minute while watching the film.

The director also used several elements in the movie that are constant themes in the game. Snake's lack of knowledge regarding technology is a perfect example. When Snake finds one of his support members playing a Nintendo DS, he calls into base demanding to know who the man playing a "game box" was.

Another example is when one of his support members says, "You would make a good video game character." Anyone who plays "Metal Gear" will catch on to this humor instantly.

"Metal Gear Solid: Philanthropy" is a good movie with a sound story line to watch even if you are not a fan of the video games, and it is definitely not a disappointment considering it was a non profit fan based movie.

Two sequels of the film have been written, but Hive Division has yet to start on the sequels. All things considered, I give it four stars out of four.

**Letters Policy**

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

# OPINIONS

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

**FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD**

## “Clinics” often biased, falsely advertised

If one goes to a mechanic, one expects automotive advice. If one goes to a real estate agent, one expects housing advice. How about a clinic?

A campaign by the Feminist Majority Foundation seeks to inform women that many “crisis pregnancy centers” are actually run by anti-abortion groups who seek to dissuade women from having abortions.

It’s not a problem that these places exist, but rather how they advertise.

If there are three legal options (abortion, adoption and motherhood), a woman looking for advice may not realize that she’s only hearing about two of those options.

Abortion is a tricky subject. There is virtually no way to talk frankly about it without upsetting someone. These clinics operate in an ethical gray area if they advertise themselves as “crisis pregnancy centers,” but fail to provide referrals or services to women investigating abortion.

A woman feeling alone, scared and in need of advice needs to know if she is hearing a comprehensive picture of her options.

The cause of women’s health deserves honesty.

Listen to the editorial board podcast online at [mtsusidelines.com/opinions](http://mtsusidelines.com/opinions)

# Ft Hood massacre foreseeable

Last Thursday, a tragedy occurred at Ft. Hood, Texas. A soldier is suspected of massacring many of his comrades. He reportedly killed 13 and wounded more than 30 others before being gunned down.

The suspect, Major Nidal Malik Hasan, is a military-trained psychiatrist. Some of his fellow soldiers claimed that he was absolutely dedicated to treating Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other serious mental issues soldiers suffer after returning from Iraq.

At the moment, everyone in the media is asking, what caused this man to go so far off the deep end that he felt the need to kill those whom he was so “dedicated” to helping? It is a fair enough question that I am sure everyone wants to know.

However, I am thinking of a completely different and



### Even odds

Rebecca McGrath more important one. How did the Army miss the signs?

If we start at the beginning, there are very obvious signs that something was wrong. Hasan was having some serious moral issues with being in the military.

Being a Muslim, he outright objected to being sent overseas to the Middle East. Yes, it was his decision to join the Army. There was no one twisting his arm and forcing him into servitude, but I for

one cannot fathom what was going through his mind.

Major Hasan was born and raised in the United States, but he had family, friends and close cultural ties to the Middle East. That, right there, would be a red flag. What did the Army expect? Did they believe he would be jumping for joy to be sent to kill people with whom he could so easily identify?

It was not like he tried to hide his opinion, either. The man went through every possible way he could to stay in the U.S.

Loophole after loophole failed, and he still tried to get out. He even attempted to pay all of his educational debts back to the military in a trade-off to be released from his contract early. It was no use.

Finally, Hasan hired a lawyer and was told that there

was no legal way to get out of the military. He just gave up.

There were plenty of other things that showed he was in a bad state. Being a psychiatrist, he had to listen to horror stories about being out in the field from the soldiers he had to treat.

Can you imagine? Every single person he had to speak with in a day told him of the awful things that they saw, what they had to do and how it messed them up for life. There was not any positivity or light heartedness. Only the pain these soldiers brought back with them was discussed.

Of course he was terrified of being deployed. You would have to be totally numb to any and all emotions to actually want to go!

I am not denying that this is a very serious and sadden-

ing event, nor am I saying that Hasan was in the right for his actions. His alleged behavior took human lives, and he will have to pay the penalty for it in the end.

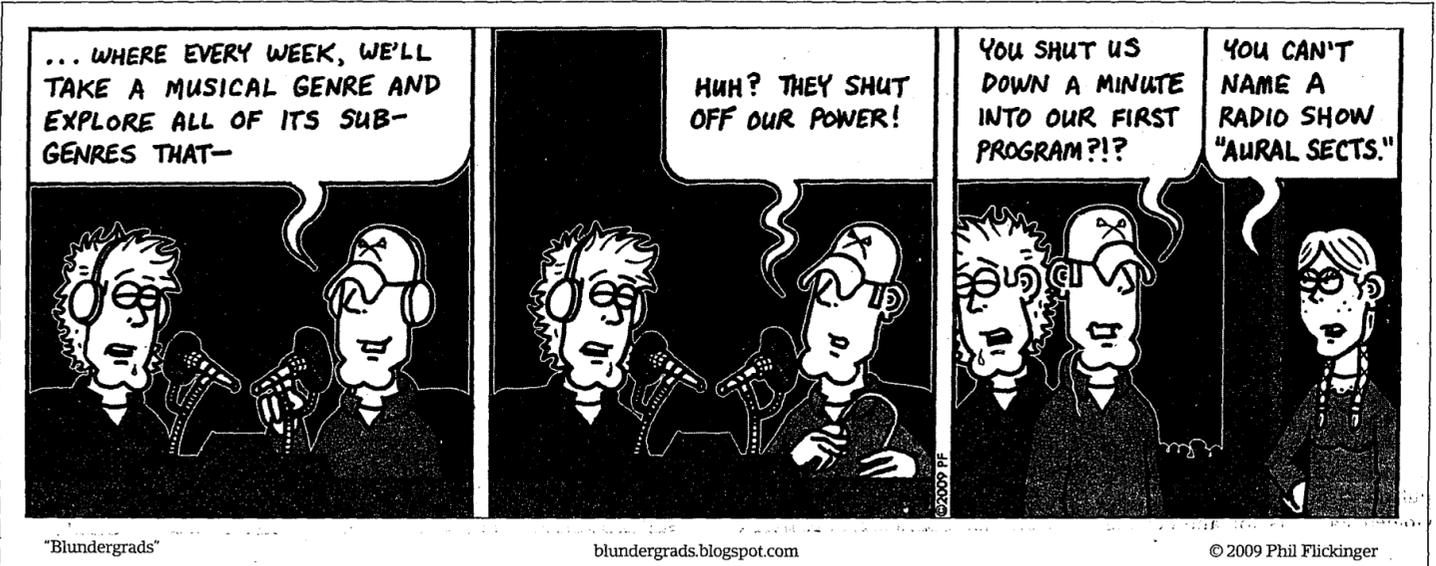
How could the military have missed such obvious signs of disaster?

His state of mind was no secret to his companions. Coworkers even commented on his “giving up” attitude.

Why didn’t anyone say anything or alert someone? A man so down and out that he is trying every possible way out of a situation is not a suitable person to deploy.

One should be of sound mind and soul to be qualified for such a job.

Rebecca McGrath is a junior liberal arts major and can be reached at [rkm2z@mtsu.edu](mailto:rkm2z@mtsu.edu).



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Fraternity cartoon inappropriate, poorly timed  
To the Editor:

Considering the headline of the Thursday edition (“Juvenile reports sexual assault,” Nov 5), the comic run on page five was in extremely poor taste. It’s more than a little uncouth to lead with an article about sexual assault at a frat party, then run a comic that pokes fun at being “violated” at a frat party.

Kelly Hays  
English, staff

Frisby great professor, deserves congratulations  
To the Editor:

I would like to congratulate Derek Frisby on his “Favorite MTSU Professor” Ruthies Award win. He works each day to engage students in his history classes and is the definition of a truly great historian. MTSU is lucky to have him.

Christina Runkel  
Senior, history

Bredesen good public servant, Tennessee advocate  
To the Editor, an open letter to Governor Phil Bredesen:

I am a common sense conservative, not a Democrat, Republican, or Independent. I am not led around by a nose ring because a party tells me how to think. I voted for you, and am glad I did. You made me proud recently when you told Tennesseans the truth about the financial ruin Pelosi’s “Hell Care Bill” would bestow on Tennessee. Bless You!

I ask one more thing before you leave: stand up to the tyranny and publicly tell the federal government that the state of Tennessee will refuse to pay any attention to any mandates, fees, taxes, threats or any attempt to force us to relinquish our rights to determine how our health care system serves Tennesseans; that we are willing to do whatever it takes to keep the rights of Tennesseans controlled by Tennesseans!

“If ever a time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin,” said Samuel Adams. Thank you for your service.

Doug McCormick  
Knoxville, Tenn.

# Why fret the job market?

I was recently asked the question, “Why are you so confident when employment looks so bleak?” My answer: I’m in college.

Yes, I have debt up to my eyeballs. And yes, even with that debt, I have to worry about money. As college students, we are in a great position.. Hopefully, most of us still have our HOPE Scholarships.

Most of us have some kind of support from parents, and undoubtedly most of us have student loans to help sustain us. Transpose yourself figuratively into the lives of Americans who are maybe three or four years older than ourselves. What does it look like? The answer is bleak –very bleak.

As of this week, unemployment hit 10.2 percent. This is the worst unemployment rate since 1983. This jump has come as a surprise to many investors, employers and economists.

As a result, President Barack Obama and company have launched another bill to extend benefits to those who are using the federal government as a crutch until jobs are available. This bill is not part of the recent stimulus package, but is already paid for in full.

The bill is aimed to have an immediate impact on about 700,000 to 800,000 Americans. Supposedly it will eventually help an additional million after that.

Christina Romer, chair of the President’s Council of Economic Advisors, has a somewhat hopeful and very practical approach to what this large rise means.



### Dogood’s post

Brett Johnson

She says, “Having the unemployment rate reach double-digits is a stark reminder of how much work remains to be done before American families see the job gains and reduced unemployment that they need and deserve.” As unemployment rises, so does the government’s reaction as again it floods the market with more money.

Great idea, but let’s look at this thing in “big picture” style. Officially, around 17 million Americans are out of jobs. Compare this to the possible neighborhood of two million who look to be affected by the newest stimulus, and the effect is somewhat comparable to dropping a rock in a pond, a really big pond.

Still, it is help, and all the help we can get is worth taking. But, even with the help of the original multi-billion dollar juggernaut stimulus package and the help of this new stimulus, our employment continues to drop.

In a recent article from CNN.com (“Landing a job like getting into Harvard,” Nov. 6), “Since the beginning of the recession in December 2007, job openings declined from 4.4 million to 2.4 million and the number of officially unemployed persons grew from 7.5 million to 15.7 million, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.”

Clearly, there is much work to be done as anticipation and struggle continue to haunt our economy.

Yet, there is hope around the corner—maybe. According to Standard & Poor’s, this recent large drop in unemployment is largely due to people who have described themselves as self-employed and teenagers who have lost jobs.

What’s the good news? According to David Wyss, an economist of S & P’s, “The only good news is the number of layoffs are dropping off, but those who are laid off still aren’t finding jobs.” So, while things look bad, they are ever-so-slightly getting better.

If I could answer my friends’ question now, I think I would follow suit with many economists and politicians in saying, “I don’t know.” Will things get better? Yes.

What do we do in the meantime? Prepare to enter a job market that is not prepared for you. Do whatever you can to make it through.

Brett Johnson is a sophomore English major and can be reached at [baj3a@mtsu.edu](mailto:baj3a@mtsu.edu).



“Mental illness awareness crucial” by Sam Ashby in OPINIONS [mtsusidelines.com](http://mtsusidelines.com)

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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# SPORTS

## FIU defeat scores MT bowl eligibility

By STEPHEN CURLEY  
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders running game continued to gain momentum as it rushed for nearly 400 yards and four touchdowns Saturday at Floyd Stadium as MT pounded Florida International University 48-21.

"I thought it was a great win for us tonight," head coach Rick Stockstill said. "I thought it was a great win for our players and our team and couldn't be more proud of them."

Junior quarterback Dwight Dasher set the school record for career rushing yards by a quarterback with a 178-yard, three-touchdown performance, including two more touchdowns through the air.

MT opened the game with 34 unanswered points before the Golden Panthers finally got on the board with 24 seconds left in the first half.

The first score came at the 11:35 mark of the first quarter, when Dasher gashed the FIU defense for 70 yards and the score. After a quick three-and-out for the Golden Panthers, MT was able to partially block the punt, setting the offense up at the FIU 44-yard line. Several plays later Dasher hit Sancho McDonald for 27 yards that resulted in a touchdown at the 10:03 mark.

"We wanted to start fast on both sides of the ball and I thought we did that," Stockstill said.

A field goal from Alan Gendrau after a stalled drive gave the Blue Raiders a 17-0 lead to end the first quarter.

Early in the second quarter, Dasher's running ability was again put on display as he torched the Golden Panthers for another big touchdown run, after a lateral throw by running back Desmond Gee, going 67 yards to give MT a commanding 24-0 lead.

MT poured it on for the rest of the half, adding another field goal at the 3:21 mark and a nine-yard Dasher touchdown pass to Patrick

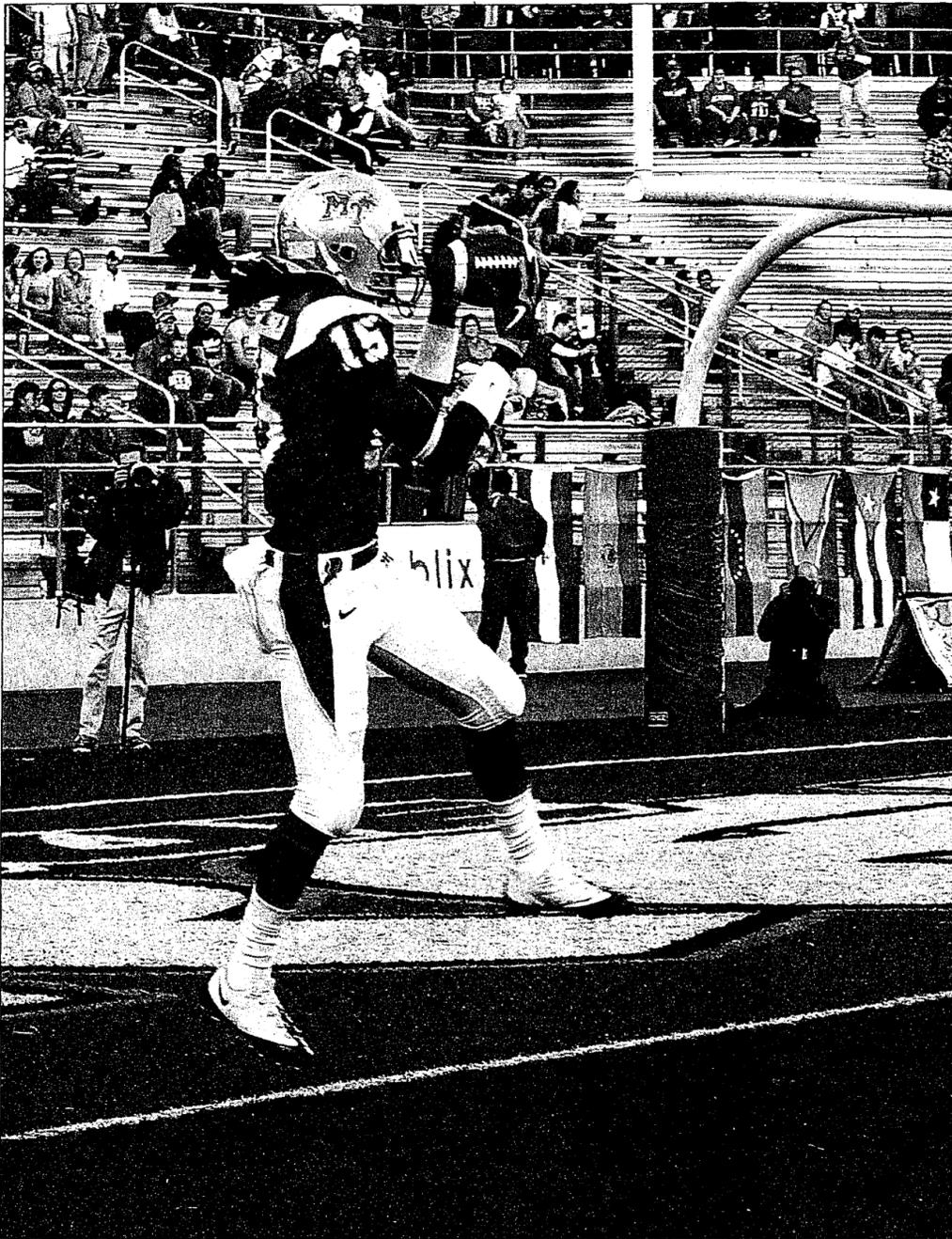


Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photographer

Sophomore WR Sancho McDonald jumps for the Dasher pass on the MT 1-yard line. McDonald would score on the reception.

Honeycutt to give the Blue Raiders a 24-0 lead.

A good return on the ensuing kickoff set up the Golden Panthers at their own 49-yard line. A 47-

yard pass from quarterback Wayne Younger to Jason Frierson set up a 2-yard touchdown run from running back Kendall Berry to finally

get on the FIU board.

Mistakes by Dasher early in the third quarter allowed FIU to make the game competitive, giving the 17,808 fans in attendance a brief scare. Kent Henderson intercepted a Dasher pass on the Blue Raiders' first possession of the half, and Berry rushed the rest of the eight yards needed to score, making it a 34-14 game.

MT was moving the ball well on their next possession before Malik Jones intercepted a pass from Dasher. The defense would hold and force FIU to punt.

Berry would again take over on FIU's next possession, breaking a 38-yard run deep into MT territory, before punching it in from four yards out to cut the lead to 13.

The Blue Raiders would not allow it to go any further than that, however, and controlled play in the fourth quarter by scoring another 14 unanswered points of their own to seal the win.

D.D. Kyles had another big game in his new starting role, running for 110 yards on 22 carries.

Defensively, the Blue Raiders had an effective pass rush throughout the game, with senior defensive end Chris McCoy leading the team with two sacks to go with his seven tackles. Senior linebacker Cam Robinson had a sack of his own to go with eight tackles. Junior defensive back Rod Issac led the team in total tackles with ten.

The win makes the Blue Raiders bowl eligible for the first time since 2006, though likely needing a seventh win to guarantee an invitation.

"We want to go to a bowl game," Stockstill said. "but we're not stopping here. We're going to enjoy this one tonight and then get ready for Lafayette on Monday. But, to be bowl eligible after the first week of November is a tremendous compliment to this football team."

The Blue Raiders' home stand continues next Saturday as MT hosts the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Senior Ashley Waugh looks to set up a teammate to spike. Waugh tallied 12 digs in her effort against Florida International on Saturday.

## Florida International ends winning streak

STAFF REPORT

The MT volleyball team's 11-match winning streak was snapped on Saturday night, thanks to the 3-1 loss to the Golden Panthers of Florida International University.

The Blue Raiders stayed close to FIU throughout the three-set match, but could not pull out the win in the end, bringing their Sun Belt conference record to 13-2.

Senior hitter Ashley Mead led by example, garnering a .424 hitting percentage with 19 kills.

Sophomore Stacy Oladinni and junior Izabela Kozon put up 14 kills each, while Oladinni recorded a .600 hitting percentage.

The defense was led by senior Janay Yancey, who aided the team with seven block assists and one solo block.

Three other athletes took up blocking for the night. Kozon, senior Ashley Mead and junior Alyssa Wistrick all had hands in the defense on the night.

The Blue Raiders stayed tight through the first set, but eventually fell 24-26 after an attack error by Wistrick was tallied.

MT would take the first score in the second set, and would lead for the first half. But after the Golden Panthers tied the score at 10-10, they drove on until they took the win at 22-25.

MT stayed alive through the third set, taking the eventual 22-25 win.

FIU led for the entire fourth set, and capped the set at 24-26, enough to take the match.

MT heads to Alabama to finish out the regular season, facing South Alabama in Mobile on Friday before heading to Troy on Sunday.

## MT men's team gears up for wins

By RICHARD LOWE  
Assistant Sports Editor

At the beginning of last season, the Blue Raiders were picked as the team to beat in the Sun Belt Conference. Injuries to key players limited the men's team as they ended their season 18-14 with a 88-79 loss to North Texas in the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

This season, the Blue Raiders are poised to make a run for the Sun Belt Conference title and a berth into the NCAA Tournament with a mix of seasoned players and a few newcomers.

Desmond Yates is back for his senior season. He has been named to the all-Sun Belt First Team for the second year in a row and is the lone representative for the Blue Raiders on the preseason teams.

The bigger story may end up being the return of Theryn Hudson. The 6'10" center from La Vergne, TN was injured for the majority of last season, which forced Yates to change positions, limiting the Blue Raiders on offense and defense.

With Yates back his natural position and Hudson back in the lineup, the firepower the team lacked last year should return.

One name coaches think you will be hearing plenty of this year is James Wash-

ington. The junior point guard is a transfer from Indian Hills Community College where we averaged almost 8 points a game with 5 assists while helping his team finish 30-3 on the year.

Indian Hills was ranked No. 1 at one point last year.

Also transferring into the Blue Raider fold is junior Rod Emmanuel.

Coming from Santa Fe Community College, Emmanuel averaged 17 points per game while hitting 42% of his 3-pointers attempted.

Last year's top newcomer was Montarrío Haddock and he is looking for another impact year for MT.

Fans of the Blue Raiders may remember that one of the bright spots of last year's loss to North Texas in the conference tournament included a career-high performance from Haddock in which he came off the bench to score 26 points.

The Blue Raiders open their season at home against King College on Friday at 7 PM.

They will take on the University of Tennessee on Dec. 11 in Nashville at the Sommet Centre. MT will also be on national TV at least once this season.

They will be taking on Western Kentucky on Jan. 23 at noon on ESPN2.

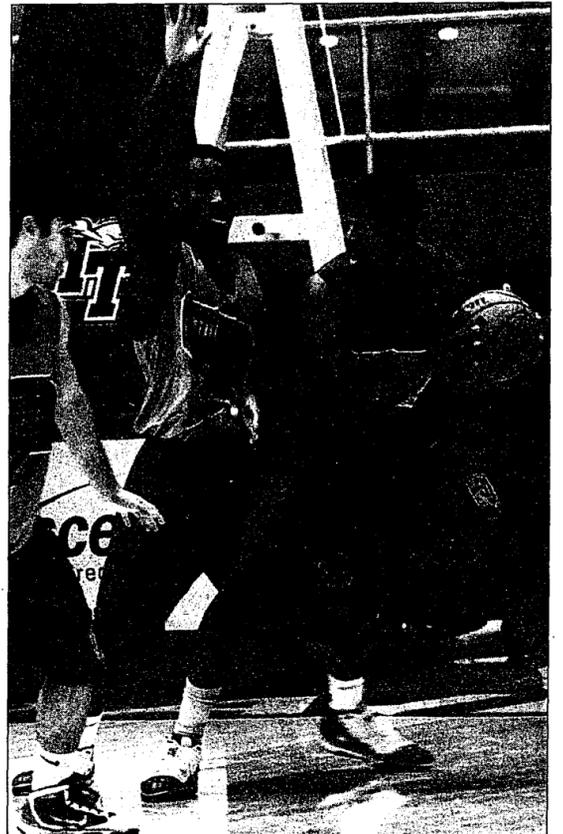


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Senior forward Desmond Yates guards the ball from sophomore forward KC Anuna in the open practice session on Oct. 16.

UPCOMING GAMES		
Nov. 9 North Alabama 8 p.m.	Dec. 8 Belmont 7 p.m.	Jan. 14 Florida-International 7 p.m.
Nov. 13 King College 7 p.m.	Dec. 13 SIU-Edwardsville 4 p.m.	Jan. 16 Florida-Atlantic 7 p.m.
Nov. 19 Lamar University 7 p.m.	Dec. 22 Howard 7 p.m.	Jan. 18 Western Kentucky 7 p.m.
Nov. 27 Cumberland TBA	Jan. 2 Louisiana-Lafayette 7 p.m.	Jan. 28 New Orleans 7 p.m.

# Lady Raiders take shot at successful year

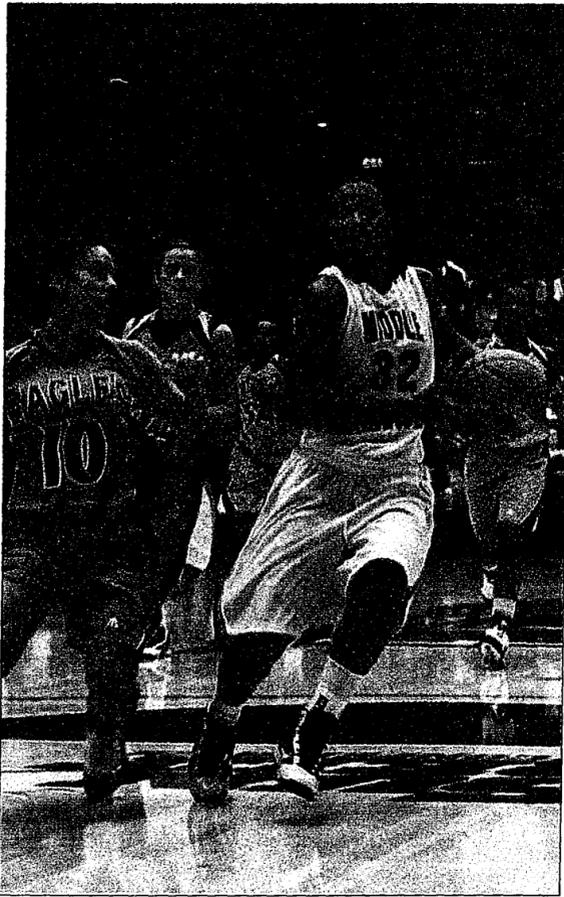


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor  
Senior guard Dana Garrett gears up for a jumpshot late in the first period in the exhibition match against Carson Newman last Monday.

## After last year's tournament loss, MT trains to win this year's NCAA

By RICHARD LOWE  
Assistant Sports Editor

Frustration had to be the keyword for the end of the Lady Raiders' season last year. Picked as the eighth seed in the NCAA Tournament, the women had to travel to East Lansing, MI to take on the ninth-seeded Michigan State Spartans.

Instead of sulking, the Lady Raiders practiced as if it were a first-round tournament game even though it was obvious that it was a road game in which the higher seed had to play on the lower seed's home court.

The Spartans won the game by one point with MT having possession of the ball giving them an opportunity to put up the final shot. It never left their hands.

This season, the word being used to describe the Lady Raiders' season is "believe." You can use the word "opportunity" as well because there hasn't been such a favorable opportunity for the Lady Raiders since Rick In-

sell has been the head coach.

The Lady Raiders will begin the season ranked 24th in the nation by the Associated Press. They return every player from last year's team that went 28-6 and won the Sun Belt Conference East division and tournament championship.

They also return the nation's leading scorer in Alysha Clark. Last year, Clark averaged just over 27 points per game. She has already been named a preseason All-American by the Associated Press and a nominee for the Lowe's CLASS award. Brandi Brown, along with Clark, was named to the preseason all-Sun Belt First Team during the conference Media Days earlier this fall.

Last year, Chelsia Lymon was named as the conference Defensive Player of the Year. This past fall she was named to the all-Sun Belt Second Team, her second time receiving that honor.

During those same conference Media Days, the Lady Raiders were selected by the conference coaches to repeat as East division champs with 11 and a half first place votes.

The Lady Raiders begin their season Sunday against the University of Central Florida. That game will start at 5:30 p.m. and will take place at the Murphy Center.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor  
Senior guard Jackie Pickel goes up against Dominique Jackson and looks for the pass. Pickel scored 20 total points in the game.

## UPCOMING GAMES

<b>Nov. 9</b> Lincoln Memorial 5:30 p.m.	<b>Dec. 28</b> Kentucky 7 p.m.	<b>Jan. 30</b> North Texas 2 p.m.
<b>Nov. 15</b> UCF 2 p.m.	<b>Jan. 3</b> Louisiana 2 p.m.	<b>Feb. 3</b> Troy 7 p.m.
<b>Nov. 25</b> Tennessee 7 p.m.	<b>Jan. 13</b> FIU 7 p.m.	<b>Feb. 10</b> Denver 7 p.m.
<b>Nov. 28</b> Tennessee Tech 7:30 p.m.	<b>Jan. 16</b> Florida Atlantic 2 p.m.	<b>Feb. 21</b> South Alabama 2 p.m.
<b>Dec. 20</b> WKU 2 p.m.	<b>Jan. 27</b> New Orleans 7 p.m.	



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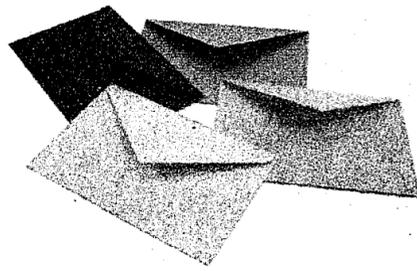
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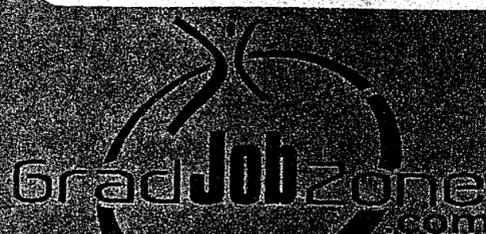
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