

A look behind the activists protesting budget cuts.
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MON
48°/26°

TUES
57°/47°

WED
62°/32°

Lady Raiders top season scoring record.

Sports, page 7

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2009

VOL. 85 NO. 9



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Chelsia Lymon goes for jump shot during Sunday's Pink Zone game. Lady Raiders won the game making their record 22-4.

Lady Raiders 'think pink'

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The MT women's basketball team sported pink jerseys yesterday in a partnership with the Women's Basketball Coaches Association as part of its "Pink Zone" initiative.

The limited edition jerseys were auctioned off at the end of the matchup against North Texas, in an effort to raise money for breast cancer research.

The WBCA "Pink Zone" initiative is a global group, unified in its intent to raise breast cancer awareness on the court, across campuses, in communities, and beyond.

This year's "Pink Zone" game weeks were originally slated for Feb. 13-22, but were rescheduled due to the death of North Carolina State head coach Kay Yow. Yow, for whom the fund is named, was the inspiration for the cancer fund.

The Lady Raiders raised \$18,000 last season in the auction of the jerseys. The money was split between the WBCA/Kay Yow Cancer Fund and the Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

SPORTS, PAGE 7

Greeks rush into spring

MT Fraternity recruitment comes to an end after an effort to get students involved on campus

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant News Editor

Fraternities hosted their spring recruitment drive last week to gain new members.

"Recruitment is always a lot smaller in the spring," said Executive Vice President and Sigma Nu Alumni Relations Chair Brandon McNary. "But we still had a great turnout to all of the events."

While spring recruitment is less formal than

everybody."

During the recruitment week, potential members had opportunities to attend information nights, as well as visit the fraternity houses to get better acquainted with each organization.

"I really think they enjoyed visiting all the houses the first night," said Josh Saucier, Interfraternity Council president, Sigma Phi vice president and junior business marketing major. "That way, they

"This is the first year we've had such a large increase."

JOSH SAUCIER
INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

fall recruitment, Greek organizations that hosted events so that potential members could get involved before deciding what organization they wanted to join.

"Tuesday night we had a chili cook-off and invited all of the guys out to have a tour of the house," said Austin Penny, president of Sigma Nu and a junior construction management major. "It was a great chance for them to get to know ev-

could determine which fraternity they wanted to get to know better over the next few nights."

McNary said that there was a 100 percent increase for all 12 fraternities in recruitment over last spring's recruitment.

"This is the first year we've had such a large increase," Saucier said. As of right now, there are 40 new members overall, however, that number could increase by the end of this week."

Enrollment numbers rise

Census day report shows an increase in MT's student body

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Community News Editor

MTSU's spring enrollment rose 4 percent since last spring semester, said a recent report released by the Enrollment Management Office.

Enrollment rose a total of 863 students, from spring 2008's 21,648 students to this the current total of 22,511.

There are a couple of reasons for the rise in enrollment, said Deborah Sells, vice provost for Enrollment Services and vice president for Student Affairs.

"I think we are progressively doing a much better job of retaining our students," Sells said. "We are improving academic advising and access to classes."

Sells said she thinks that MTSU is doing a better job of retaining

current students.

"I think that some folks look at the difficulties with the economy and think that going back to school is a really good idea to improve their skills and qualifications for jobs," Sells said.

Sells said that prospective students view an MTSU education as a safe and productive investment that will have long-term benefits and payoffs.

"I think that they are concluding that an MTSU education is a really effective use of their investment dollars," Sells said.

The Office of Enrollment Management continues to track future enrollment totals.

"We track comparison numbers all the time," Sells said. "We are already tracking them for fall and for the summer."

Tucker Theater goes up in 'Smoke'

By DUSTIN EVANS
Staff Writer

The MT Speech and Theatre Department is unveiling its new production of Tennessee Williams' "Summer and Smoke" on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Performances will be held in Tucker Theatre from Feb. 18 through Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m., with a 2:00 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Feb. 22.

"This is a typical Tennessee Williams bitter sweet love story," said John Mauldin, the director of "Summer and Smoke."

"It's about two people who should be in love by all rights, but they can't seem to agree that they are in love with one another at the same time."

"Summer and Smoke" captures the unrequited love story of John Buchanan Jr. and Alma Wine-miller, who are played by Derrick Raley and Brandee Kent respectively.

"Alma is the romantic girl in the play, although she never gets a chance to be romantic," Kent said. "She and John go through life, and she's always in love with him, but it never works out that they can be together; there's never a good time for it."

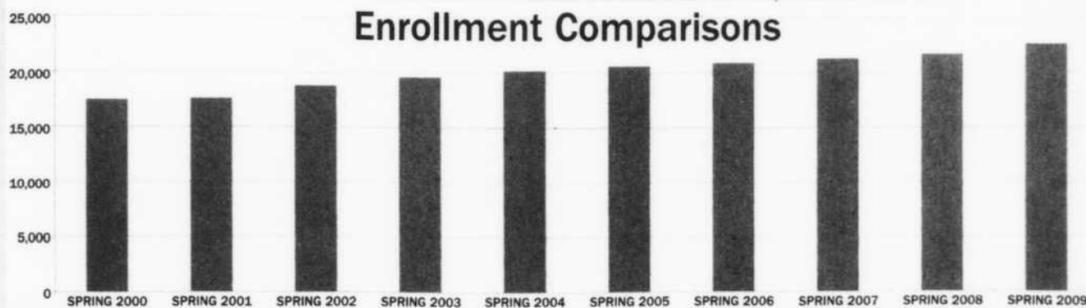
Mauldin said that the story looks at people's roles in society.

John, Jr. follows in his fathers' footsteps as the town doctor.



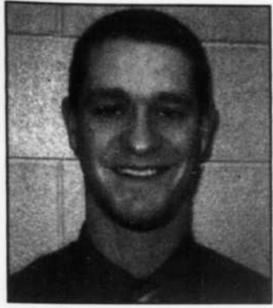
Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Derrick Raley and Brandee Kent in a scene from "Summer and Smoke."

THEATER, PAGE 4



Candidates finalized for SGA elections

Student Body President



Brandon McNary

Why are you running for SGA president?

"The SGA is not putting the students first, and that is something I want to fix. I will continue the traditions that make the students feel appreciated, and I would help build new traditions that make the SGA and the student body of MTSU very proud. It is important for the president of SGA to be very visible on this campus because they represent the student body. I would make it my mission to attend as many student activities as possible and reach out to the students to see what they would like to see changed."

Senior Education and behavioral sciences major

Steven Altum

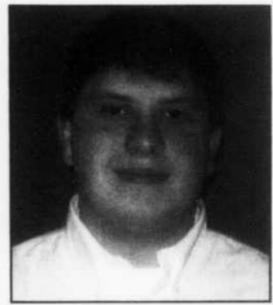
Why are you running for SGA president?

"I am very passionate about my alma mater and for the other students that call our campus home. Coming to MTSU was one of the single most important and most rewarding decisions I will ever make in my lifetime. The students, staff faculty and community have given so much to me. It is time that I paid them back. I cannot give back exactly what was given to me, but I can try and improve this institution and keep the cost of MTSU education down while preserving our academic integrity."



Senior Liberal arts major

Executive Vice President and Speaker of the Senate



Michael Borella

Why are you running for EVP?

"This past year SGA has been one of the best experiences of my college career. I would really like to be more involved in the process of passing legislation that betters the quality of all students, past and future. I feel that I can motivate senators to become more active in finding students with ideas to improve out university. The atmosphere in meetings would make senators feel comfortable enough to present ideas that they deem worthwhile."

Junior Basic and applied sciences major

Heather Rawson

If you were elected to EVP, what would you do to improve the quality of student life at MTSU?

"I feel that one of the main weaknesses of SGA is that we do not have enough student outreach. If I was elected I would like to make SGA, especially senators, more visible. During this past year we did start taking steps in the right direction to reach out to students. I would like to continue what we have started as well as improve on it."



Senior Business major

Vice President of Administration and Public Affairs



Sarah Ayache

Why are you running for VPAPA?

"I'm running for this position because I am passionate about being a Blue Raider. I have a genuine concern for our wonderful university and a true desire to see it thrive. In addition to being a public relations major, I hope that [by] being involved with the SGA, I will be able to increase students' awareness of all the opportunities available to them on campus."

Sophomore Mass communication major

Erin Johnson

If elected to VPAPA, what would you do to improve the quality of student life at MTSU?

"If elected to the position of VPAPA, I would run a full-out public relations campaign to get students involved with SGA. I was fortunate enough to attend the Conference on Student Government Associations last year, and I have some great ideas on how to get a public relations campaign going to get students involved and I look forward to being able to put my plan in action."



Junior Mass communication major

Election Commissioner

How to vote

A link to the ballot will be e-mailed to students MT Web-mail accounts with the running candidates, as well as the parking referendum. Election results will be announced Feb. 27.



Patrick Mertes

Why are you running for election commissioner?

"Serving as a senator for the College of Mass Communication this previous year, I have truly seen the power and influence the SGA has toward the betterment of all aspects of MTSU. I wish to further my involvement and responsibilities with the association by serving on the Executive Board as Election Commissioner."

Junior mass communication major

On the ballot

Students are being asked to vote for more parking, faster campus navigation and greater campus access.

All-Access Campus Improvement Plan at polls

STAFF REPORT

Students will be able to vote Feb. 24-26 for the 2009-2010 executive officers and senate seats in the Student Government Association elections, along with a parking garage fee referendum.

MTSU is proposing incremental increases in the Program Service Fee, beginning at \$5 per semester in the 2009-2010 academic year, then \$15 in 2010-2011, \$20 in 2011-2012, \$40 in 2012-2013, and a capped

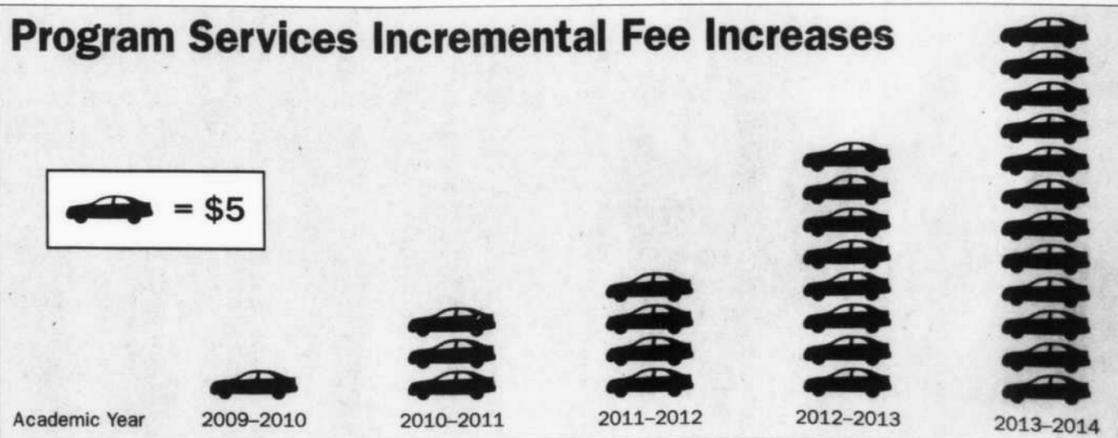
total of \$60 per semester for 2013-2014.

The proposed five-level, 830-space parking garage is part of the All-Access Campus Improvement Plan. The plan is part of the MTSU Campus Master Plan, providing continuous improvements throughout the campus.

The All-Access proposal also includes expansion of the bus system, as well as upgrades and beautifications of MTSU Boulevard.

For more information visit allaccessmtsu.net/index.php.

Program Services Incremental Fee Increases



Graphic by Alicia Wilson, production manager

The graphic above shows the proposed yearly fee increases for the next five years if the parking referendum were to be passed.

Students 'jazzed' about guest artist

By **BRYCE HARMON**
Contributing Writer

Composer, pianist and UT Knoxville professor Donald Brown performed at MTSU Thursday along with MTSU's student jazz ensemble and faculty as part of the university's 2008-2009 Jazz Artist Series.

The concert took place in Wright Music Building and was co-sponsored by the Black History Month Committee, which supports a variety of events throughout February, as well as the university's School of Music.

"Mr. Brown sent music to the students over this past Christmas break, and they've been practicing since," said Director Don Aliquo, a saxophonist for the faculty ensemble and a professor of music. "It's perfect for them to experience what it's like to be a professional on a high level, and [Brown] gave us a lot of his free time."

The student ensemble consists of around 20 people. The number of musicians varied from song to song.

Patrick Taylor, a freshman music major, said he attended the concert to support the music, as well as educational reasons.

"It was pretty incredible," Taylor said. "I really enjoyed the big-band part."

Performing faculty included Jamey Simmons on the trumpet, Aliquo on the saxophone, along with Jim Ferguson on bass and Tom Giampietro on the drums.

Giampietro played a drum solo during the song entitled "Gazelle."

"Gazelle" was definitely the most difficult to play but the most fun," Aliquo said. "We knew it would be great."

More jazz events will be performed in Wright Music Building this semester. The MTSU Jazz Ensemble will perform on Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m., followed by the MTSU Jazz Combos on March 19 at 7:30 p.m.

The complete list of upcoming music performances can be viewed at frank.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Pianist Donald Brown plays his new song dedicated to his wife during last Thursday's jazz concert in the Wright Music Building.

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THEATER
FROM PAGE 1

He also rebels against that role, while Alma is being molded into a lady, a role she does not want to play.

"In the script, the first quote is, 'Who, if I cried out, would hear me among the angels' hierarchies?,' by Rainer Marie Rilke," Mauldin said. "[He was] a German poet, who in the first years of his life, his mother wanted a daughter, so she dressed him as a girl."

"I think that is a hint of people being prescribed a status in society, and sometimes that works for some people and sometimes that doesn't," Mauldin said.

Raley said that the show centers around a role reversal; the characters are tested in conflict and come out in opposition of themselves.

"It is an interesting show; you have to watch the story itself unfold," Raley said. "The language more than anything tells the story, listening to the nuances-the way that Alma speaks and how her character changes-it really speaks words."

Mauldin said that the show will give the audience a chance to define themselves and find their own identity.

Kent said that the show will impact the audience with a very powerful message.

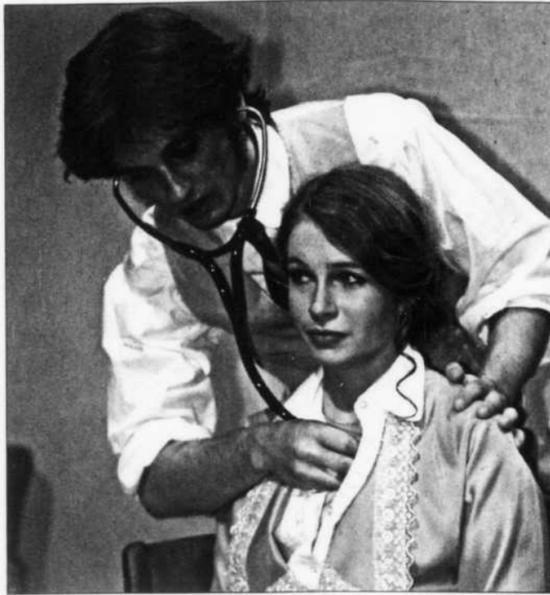


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Derrick Raley and Brandee Kent rehearse a scene from a new play showing in Tucker Theater Feb. 18-22.

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Solidarity against budget cuts

MT's chapter of Solidarity brings support to socialism

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant News Editor

Middle Tennessee's chapter of Solidarity began the semester by protesting budget cuts and aims to recruit new members over spring.

Formed in 1986, Solidarity is a democratic, revolutionary, socialist, feminist and anti-racist organization that is dedicated to forming a broad regrouping of the U.S. left.

"Solidarity is a nonsectarian group," said Eric Field, a senior philosophy and psychology major. "We are a socialist group, but we don't endorse any particular ideas or models of socialism."

The MTSU chapter of Solidarity has actively

been running campaigns on campus, including one against Aramark.

"Aramark made the decision that their employees in the cafeterias on campus were no longer allowed to sit at the registers," said Michael Principe, a philosophy professor and faculty advisor of Solidarity. "We brought a campaign against them, succeeded and gave the employees back their chairs."

Principe said that besides working on campaigns, Solidarity also sponsors lectures and brings speakers from out of state.

This Thursday, the group is having Bill Howell of Tennesseans for Fair Taxation to speak about prob-

lems with Tennessee's tax system and possibilities for remedying them.

"People often question how Tennessee got into such a financial mess," said Howell. "TFT is a coalition working to create a more fair and progressive tax system in the state."

According to the Solidarity Web site, the organization fosters cultural diversity, flexible practice and straightforward socialist politics.

To read more, visit us online.



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Letters Policy

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

Strong SGA leadership needed in tough times

We need a leader for times such as these. President Barack Obama ran a campaign riding on the wings of change. Change is something that a lot of voters craved, hence the landslide election and the new president. Here at MTSU, we are in desperate need of a leader who will stand up for change, doing everything in his or her power to make it happen. Academic programs and Student Affairs could possibly be eliminated or restructured, and having a Student Government Association that is willing to compromise and listen to students is crucial. We need a leader that is willing to participate in forums to answer students' questions. If you can't do that, then who are you helping? The student body or just your resumé?

Sadly, we don't have a lot of options when choosing our next leader. Not to say that the current candidates aren't qualified, but why aren't there more people willing to run for this office? Why is it that there are so few people willing to step up and take on the responsibility for being the voice of the MTSU student body? Granted it's a scary job, but why not get involved in something that could make a difference on campus? That being said, it's a position that needs to be filled by the right candidate, who can accurately and articulately express the views of the student body, especially during these tough times. Students are in an uphill battle, dealing with looming budget cuts and tuition increases as well as credit hour caps. Students need a leader who is well-versed in dealing with the administration. We, the students, don't need a leader who's going to be a slave to the administration; rather, we need a conscience that will remind the administration of its purpose and where its loyalty should lie.

We need a president that knows how the SGA budget works, and how it might be affected by the \$19 million budget cuts. We aren't saying that any of the potential candidates on the list aren't capable of doing this; we'd just like to see more options. Unfortunately, it is too late this year for anyone else to throw his or her hat into the ring, but there's always next year ... if the university hasn't been restructured altogether.

RNC welds base with Steele



Hurtt Pride

Matt Hurtt his family prompted him to retire early. In recent weeks another prominent black American has made a name for himself by becoming the first black Chairman of the Republican National Committee. Michael Steele, former Lieutenant Governor of Maryland and champion of conservatism, unseated former RNC Chairman Robert M. Duncan. Steele campaigned on a now very familiar mantra: change. He promised to revitalize the GOP, emphasizing the use of technology to spread the Republican message. Steele has already held several technol-

ogy summits in order to accomplish his goal.

Like Revels, Watts and others, Steele represents a very important thread in the fabric of black history in America. As black Republicans, they are oftentimes at odds – some would say – with their own race. Overwhelming public opinion seems to suggest that most black Americans tend to associate themselves with the Democratic Party. This proves highly ironic, given the Democratic Party's tenuous history with black Americans.

A recent Gallup poll recorded the positions of black Americans on several social issues and juxtaposed

crats overwhelmingly sided with Republicans on most social issues.

On the issue of homosexual relations, 31 percent of black Democrats responded that it was "morally acceptable," while 61 percent of nonblack Democrats felt the issue morally acceptable. Just 30 percent of Republicans responded that homosexual relations were morally acceptable.

On the issue of giving birth out of wedlock, 38 percent of black Democrats and 39 percent of Republicans found it morally acceptable, while 64 percent of nonblack Democrats felt giving birth out of wedlock was morally acceptable.

“ Like Revels, Watts and others, Steele represents a very important thread in the fabric of black history in America.”

them with the positions of “nonblack Democrats” and Republicans. The results revealed that black Demo-

On the issue of sex between an unmarried male and female, only

46 percent of both black Democrats and Republicans found the situation morally acceptable, while

68 percent of nonblack Democrats found the issue morally acceptable.

Maybe the answer can be found in church attendance, where – according to the poll – 76 percent of black Democrats responded that they attended church services regularly, as compared to 67 percent of Republicans and only 50 percent of non-black Democrats. If black Democrats most resemble Republican voters on many moral issues, why then does that not translate into more black voters selecting Republican candidates at the ballot box?

Perchance the election of Steele to the GOP top spot will allow Republicans to repackage their message and move away from the party of “old, rich white men” and open themselves up to a more diverse electorate. They need to if they want to survive.

Matthew Hurtt is a senior history/political science major and can be reached at Matt.Hurtt@gmail.com.

Octuplets' mom delivers bad parenting

On Jan. 26, Nadya Suleman welcomed eight healthy newborns into the world. The rest of the nation celebrated with her at first, viewing the births as a rare miracle.

As the story of the new mother began to unfold, however, many Americans began to see that this story had many unusual twists that weren't worth celebrating.

Suleman conceived all of her 14 children by a procedure called in-vitro fertilization. When Suleman sought her most recent treatment, she already had six children at home under the age of seven, three of whom were disabled.

Suleman had been supporting herself with disability payments from an injury on her job and food stamps. Her three disabled children were also receiving disability payments, which they needed and deserved.

This was the situation of this 33-year-old mother when she went to the doctor yet again to be implanted with new embryos. Suleman paid for the expensive in-vitro procedure with



Straight Talk

Lauren Collins

the workers' compensation payments she had been receiving for years.

Most clear-thinking, responsible adults would examine their financial state and their ability to care for more children before undergoing a procedure that is known for producing multiple births.

Suleman apparently wasn't thinking at all, and she decided to plow ahead with the procedure despite being spouseless, unemployed and in debt to the tune of \$50,000.

When Suleman was asked how she will care for 14 children alone, she replied that she would use student loans to support her family while she is earning her master's degree in counseling.

This woman needs her head examined. What

makes her think that she is going to have time to study and go to school with 14 screaming children in the background? Mothers who have one child in college have a hard time finishing their degree without significant help.

Suleman's hospital bills are exorbitant as well, and she has no means to pay for those either. The modest estimates coming forth so far are upward of \$850,000 by the time the babies are discharged in 7-12 weeks; this doesn't include the delivery. The hospital has asked to be reimbursed by Medicaid.

Suleman insists that she is not looking for a public handout, but what choice

will she have? She conceded that she will be relying on food stamps for her children for a few years, and what about formula and diapers for all of those new babies?

Suleman has created a new Web site where people are able to donate to her family, but with all of the public scrutiny, she will likely have to turn to welfare.

The welfare and disability payments given to a family of Suleman's size will easily be thousands of dollars a month.

This wouldn't be a story if Suleman hadn't spent \$100,000 on fertility treatments to bring all of her children into the world and

then asked the taxpayers to pay millions to support them.

Suleman is an irresponsible adult who only thinks about what she wants and does not consider the consequences. Of course we are all grateful for the lives of her eight newborns, but the behavior of their mother is, quite frankly, disturbing.

To read more, visit us online.



Lauren Collins is a junior recording industry major and can be reached at lhc2c@mtsu.edu.

CORRECTIONS

In the article entitled “Town Hall Meeting spurs debate” in Thursday's *Sidelines*, Jacob Whittenburg was quoted as saying, “With all these budget cuts, would [McPhee] be willing to take a pay cut in an effort to keep some organizations around.” Whittenburg was also said

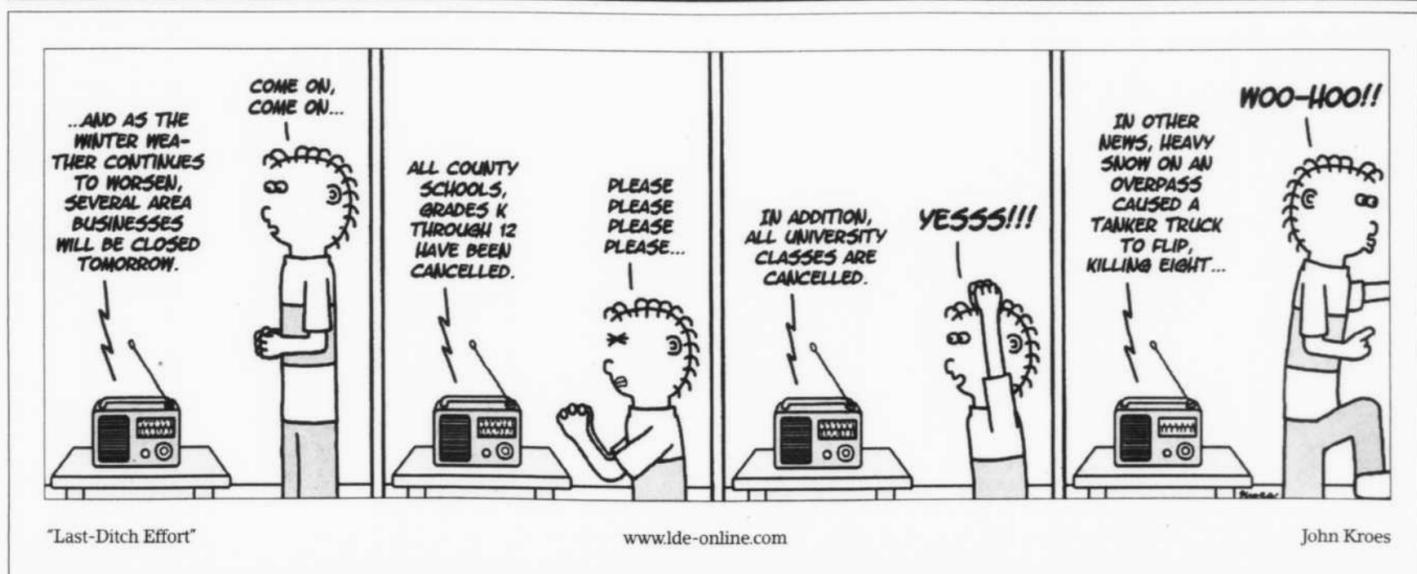
to be a psychology major. Whittenburg, a philosophy major, actually said “Due respect, sir, but I know some university presidents have been taking pay cuts,” adding the action would be a nice gesture.

In the article entitled “Students mourn ‘death’

of higher education” in Thursday's edition of *Sidelines*, Michael Cannon was said to be the president of the Coalition to Save Our Schools. Cannon is a member of the organization, not the president.

Sidelines regrets these errors.

COMICS



"Last-Ditch Effort"

www.lde-online.com

John Kroes

WILL YOU VOTE IN THE SGA ELECTION?

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FEATURES



DID MCPHEE'S FORUM ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS?

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

Students aim to 'Save Our Schools'

Behind-the-scenes look at students protesting budget cuts

By SPENCER MOHEAD
Staff Writer

Who are these dynamos of activism who are defending the value of a Tennessee university degree's value?

Find out as I intend to find this as I drive into the mountains, passing from soggy spring to frigid winter and back again.

Sitting next to me is a cyclone of planning and organization sculpted into a redhead

with Tina Fey glasses. She's tethered to



a statewide network of invaluable contacts and motivated members of the education community by her ever-active cell phone.

Meet Ashley Renner, an MTSU senior who makes time between the 18 hours of classes she needs for her double philosophy and international relations majors to organize protest campaigns.

Renner and I are on our way to a demonstration, or "demo" as Renner and other organizers call it, against the budget reduction methods the University of Tennessee system is threatening to take. She's going to support the protest and compare notes with the planners.

As we progress through Tennessee, Renner phones other organizers and stays updated through Twitter and Facebook. Along the route, she simultaneously sets up a meeting and exposes my ignorance of certain local injustices.

I ask if she knows where the time zone changed, and the landmark she immediately gives is the coal processing plant where an Exxon Valdez-sized spill occurred in December, three days before Christmas.

When she tells me about a trip back from Knoxville where the icy roads had stranded her, I give a hollow chuckle and eye the roadside snow distrustfully.

Renner's a founding member of and one of the key organizers of the MTSU-based Coalition to Save Our Schools.

The group is one of sev-

eral which formed in response to the recent budget-cut measures in Tennessee higher education.

"I tried to become as educated as I could be about how [the budget cuts] are implemented and the possibility of reversing them." Renner says, describing the evolution of the CSOS. "I soon found a group organizing around this issue and we formed the CSOS."

Some of the CSOS's goals include increased faculty and staff involvement and a clear, honest dialogue between the administration of Tennessee higher education and the students.

Renner also lists the reversal of the 12-credit-hour cap as one of CSOS's goals. The 12-credit-hour cap creates a situation where student cannot graduate in the usual eight semesters unless they pay a new fee for additional credit hours. This creates an increase in tuition students refer to as "hidden fees."

The CSOS shares the tuition-cap concern with UT's Progressive Student Alliance. The PSA and the United Campus Workers of the Communications Workers of America, a labor union, participated in and organized Wednesday's demo.

More than 300 students, faculty, staff and other supporters rallied at UT's College of Law to protest the budget cuts the University of Tennessee system is planning, in a parallel to the TBR.

UT President John Petersen has said that there are 700 plus jobs in jeopardy. Several academic programs deemed unproductive are in danger of being cut, including speech pathology, religious studies and psychology, UT sophomore Doug Johnson says.

The organizer of the protest is Tom Anderson, president of the UCW-CWA. The seven-year UT employee is exuberant in the chill mountain air as he lines protestors along White Avenue to supportive honks and hoots.

With his energetic presence and bright eyes, he



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer

Students from MTSU and other Tennessee Board of Regents' universities protest at the Tennessee State Capitol to "mourn the death of higher education" on Feb. 11. The protest coincided with Gov. Phil Bredesen's "State of the State" address.

seems more like a bird than a union leader. After sufficient time for the protesters to chant a number of creative slogans, he summons them to the steps of the law building for a rally.

"Use the crosswalk," he exclaims.

With the crowd gathered, Anderson introduces two student speakers, Tom Savady and Susie Beck, and two UCW-CWA members, Janet Miles and Les Essif. Miles succinctly states the rally's message:

"If cutting our education

"I've never seen the TBR and students sit at a table."

JACQUES "GIONNI" CARR
TBR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

is the answer, they're asking the wrong damn question," she says.

After the rally, Anderson tells me that UT still hasn't recovered from the now relatively small job cuts it made in the '90s. He has a better idea of where some job cuts are needed.

"There's definitely some bloating at the top," Anderson says. "The top administrators of the UT have grown faster than the student body. There have been [approximately] 20 added in five years."

"Finding out that there was a group in MTSU doing the same thing, it's a real morale boost," he says of CSOS.

The CSOS and UCW-CWA are by no means alone. They are just two groups in a state full of motivated members of the education community.

Anderson is synchronizing rallies in Nashville comprised of students and faculty of UT Knoxville, the University of Tennessee at Martin, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

According to Renner, representatives of the University of Memphis, Austin Peay State University, East

Tennessee State University, Nashville State Community College and Tennessee Technological University attended the CSOS rally on Jan. 13.

At Tennessee Tech, Andy Smith, an MTSU alumnus, CSOS member and English professor, recently screened a film, which detailed the corporatization of higher education.

Perhaps most significant to the TBR schools is the activism of Jacques "Gionni" Carr. Since his appointment to the executive board of the TBR by the Gov. Phil Bredesen in July 2008, the University of Memphis graduate student has represented student in-

terests.

Carr has worked with the CSOS numerous times, most recently during the Jan. 13 rally.

"Gionni Carr has been a leader and a powerful student voice, the only one we have on the TBR," Renner says.

The most recent special meeting of the TBR on Jan. 26 was brief and drenched in bureaucratic language which decorated the same agenda that TBR students have heard and dreaded before.

Carr attempted to reconsider a previous motion to lower the tuition cap, but he was mired by the committee process. The motion was not on the table. Carr's motion that the tuition cap be tabled until sufficient research and student dialogue occur was not seconded.

"We should not be a top-down organization," Carr says animatedly with his palms held a small table's length apart. "I've never seen the TBR and students sit at a table."

Carr has been traveling across the state on his own budget to meet face-to-face with the people he represents. In one week alone, he drove from Memphis to Cookeville, Knoxville, Gallatin, Nashville and Murfreesboro.

"Either we get off our butts, fight and win, or we take what's given to us,"

Carr says.

At the same meeting Carr's motion was ignored, Chancellor Charles Manning exhibited a view of higher education in Tennessee which values universities and their programs by how many degrees they produce, a valid way to view a business.

Manning isn't quite the flint-nosed hatchet man I had imagined. In fact, he bears a disconcerting resemblance to my dad when he speaks with his fingers steeped in front of his chest.

"There aren't miracle cures," Manning advises. He states that the goal of the "reductions" is "balancing what is central to the mission to what isn't."

I ask him if he thinks increased reliance on adjunct teachers, lecturers and online courses will negatively affect the quality of education. For an instant, rather than stepping his fingers, he wrings his hands.

"They could be effective if managed correctly," he finally says.

Days later, I find myself eating dinner after the UT rally in a restaurant that caters to vegans. Members of the PSA, UCW-CWA, CSOS and others casually kick ideas around amidst regular college banter.

I feel like I'm in the real place, albeit without real meat.

CALENDAR

movies, music, nightlife and more

MUSIC

- Feb. 16**
Anna Foster w/ Boroughs, Shapiro, David Armstrong @ Club 527 - 7 p.m.
- Natalie Prass w/ Will Knox, Dana Alexander @ The Basement - 8 p.m.
- The Country Music w/ Octagon @ The Basement - 9 p.m.
- Young Coyotes w/ Tele-

- communicators and modoc @ Exit/In - 9 p.m. - \$7
- Feb. 17**
New Faces Nite @ The Basement - 8 p.m. - free
- Organic Mechanic w/ Infinitus and Josh Lacount @ The End - \$5
- Stoney LaRue w/ Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights @ Exit/In - 8 p.m. - \$12
- Feb. 18**
Nashville AllStar Band @ The Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.
- Wilco A.M. by Mike Mayeux @ The Basement - 9 p.m. - \$5
- Kissing Robots w/ Justin

- Kalk Orchestra @ The End - \$5
- ToubaB Krewe w/ THB @ Exit/In - 9 p.m. - \$12
- Feb. 19**
The Great Barrier Reefs w/ Tony @ The Boro - 8 p.m.
- Mr. Satisfaction @ The Graffiti Bar - 9 p.m.
- Battle of the Bands @ Club 527 - 7 p.m.
- The Lonely Hearts w/ Luke Doucet, Red, White and Blue and Melissa McLellan @ The Basement - 8:30 p.m. - \$5
- Shoot the Mountain w/ And the Relatives and The Group Hug @ The End - \$5

- Feb. 20**
Bellfield w/ The Woodbox Gang @ Wall Street - 9 p.m.
- Skullkin @ The Boro - 8 p.m.
- Pluto's Revenge @ The Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.
- Incredible Heat Machine w/ Sky Hi @ Club 527 - 9 p.m.
- The Deep Vibration w/ Brighton MA @ The Basement - 11 p.m. - \$7
- Dash Rip Rock @ The End - \$6
- Dave Barnes @ Exit/In - 9 p.m. - \$18

- Feb. 21**
T.H.B. @ Wall Street - 9 p.m.
- Lavamen w/ Cuttlefish @ The Boro - 8 p.m.
- Barefoot Renegades @ Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.
- Halo Stereo w/ November, Atomic Blonde and Swaggar @ Club 527 - 9 p.m.
- Marah w/ Molly Thomas @ The Basement - 9 p.m. - \$7
- Gunslinger w/ Jenny Wood, This is Art, and C.I.A. @ The End
- Griffin House and Matthew Perryman Jones @ Exit/In - 9 p.m. - \$15

- Feb. 22**
PacAKracRs @ Graffiti Bar - 9 p.m.
- Those Darlins @ The Basement
- OTHER**
- Feb. 16**
Joker's Poker @ The Graffiti Bar - 8 pm
- Feb. 17**
Karaoke Contest @ The Graffiti Bar - 9 pm
- Feb. 18**
Live Trivia @ Wall Street - 8 pm

SPORTS

Women's basketball team turns 'Pink Zone' into point zone

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

It's been 32 years since the MT women's basketball team has showered the goals with such a sheer amount of points. But 32 years meant nothing to the pink-clad fans of the Lady Raiders yesterday in the Murphy Center as they rounded up 113 points against the North Texas Mean Green.

With all 10 players coming off of the bench not just for play but for goals as well, every member of the team had a hand in giving the "Pink Zone" game a near record-shattering performance. In addition to the second-highest scoring performance by the Lady Raiders, it was also the most points ever allowed by North Texas.

"It didn't surprise me the way they practiced the last couple of days that we got to 100 points," said head coach Rick Insell. "North Texas is a lot better basketball team than they showed today."

"Once we get in a rhythm and once we get to feeling good, we're pretty dangerous."

The Lady Raiders extended their winning streak, still the fourth longest in the nation, while managing to snap the Mean Green's two-game winning streak.

"We showed on offense

we can shoot the ball pretty good," Insell said. "We had six kids in double figures, and [Emily] Queen is our primary shooter and she only had two."

"I'm proud of them. They came out and took care of business, and it was a good day to take care of business."

Queen was only allowed 15 minutes of play due to an ankle injury sustained in the game.

MT started the game with six points in the first minute of play. The scoring was immediately an-

“Once we get in a rhythm and once we get to feeling good, we're pretty dangerous.”

RICK INSELL
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

swered by North Texas.

The Mean Green continued to grind down the Blue Raider defense. North Texas senior Amber Jackson scored a two-point jumper at 15:57 to lead the team forward.

But the Lady Raiders wound up their offense and maintained a perfect scoring drive of 26-0 for the next seven minutes, bringing the total score to a 36-11 Lady Raider lead with eight minutes left in the half.

North Texas only topped 12 points after a free-throw shot by North Texas senior guard Tricia Lee.

MT continued to dominate on the court with a storm of 3 point field goals

to lead into the half. The first 20 minutes concluded with the Lady Raiders having scored eight 3-pointers. The Mean Green went into the locker room with a 62-29 deficit. North Texas only had 10 points in the paint, compared to MT's 26.

North Texas led the way for the first portion of the second half, scoring five points within the first minute. The Mean Green was within 28 points of tying with the Raiders.

But MT would not let the Mean Green get any closer to a win. Sophomore guard Anne Marie Lanning helped the team with a pair of 3-pointers.

Junior forward Alysha Clark helped the lead reach

50 on a foul with 8:00 remaining.

Junior forward Shytorria Davis then capped the game with MT's final two baskets, with less than a minute to play. Davis ended the game with her final layup, giving MT the 113-58 decision.

Clark was once again the team's leading scorer. She tallied 30 points and shot 12-of-14 from the field, with a 6-of-8 total for fouls. She also had nine rebounds, three steals and two blocks.

Other Raiders finishing with double-digits included Lanning (17), junior forward Brandi Brown



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Sophomore guard Anne Marie Lanning guards the ball from a North Texas defender yesterday during the "Pink Zone" game to raise money for breast cancer research.

(18), junior guard Chelsia Lymon (14), junior guard Jackie Pickel (11) and junior guard Dana Garrett (11).

The team as a whole feels that it was a group effort. "We get along so well,"

Lanning said. "Our chemistry is so good, and I think this year we have more contributors."

"It was fun last year, but it makes it a whole lot more fun because everybody is

getting involved."

The Lady Raiders will play again Wednesday against Sun Belt rivals South Alabama. Tipoff is 7 p.m. in the Murphy Center.

Men's basketball team falls in Murphy Center

Blue Raiders first-half failure too much to overcome in Sun Belt Conference match-up

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

Poor shooting and an invisible defense were the culprits behind the MT men's basketball team's 78-89 loss at home to North Texas Saturday.

The Blue Raiders fell behind early in the contest, and they were never able to close the 24-43 halftime gap, despite a solid second-half performance. MT

never led or tied the game despite their comeback attempts.

"We fell behind, but we made some pushes to catch up," junior forward Desmond Yates said. "We just couldn't get those shots to fall when we needed them to."

From the start, the Blue Raiders experienced trouble on both sides of the court as the Mean Green shot 63 percent in the first half, compared to MT's 25

percent. MT couldn't stop anything from downtown as North Texas shot 64 percent from behind the 3-point arc in the first half.

Three North Texas players ended up in double-figures, including guard Josh White who recorded a game-high 26 with 4-of-5 shooting from behind the 3-point line.

"We didn't guard them good enough," senior guard Kevin Kanaskie said. "We

were mad at the score, and we just didn't pull it together to end it the right way."

MT was led in scoring by Yates who had 19 points on 7-of-11 shooting from the floor. Behind him, Kanaskie put up 15 points on 4-of-10 shooting, and junior forward Montarrio Haddock supplied 12 points.

Both teams were heavily penalized in the very physical match-up, but the referee's whistle hit MT the

hardest. With six minutes left in the game, both Yates and Haddock fouled-out on consecutive plays, denying the Blue Raiders two of their better scorers for a last-minute comeback attempt.

"We were not being smart physically," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "We didn't defend well. Typically, this team improves in the month of February, but we are not seeing that right now."

The Blue Raiders struggled in other areas as they collected 13 offensive rebounds, but were only able to score 10 second-chance points. The boys in blue only created four assists and made three 3-pointers for the game.

The loss marks the third straight Sun Belt Conference defeat for the Blue Raiders as they fall to 8-6 in the conference.

BASKETBALL, PAGE 8

Blue Raider track ends season with swift finishes

By RYLEE PATRICK
Contributing Writer

The Blue Raiders track teams concluded the regular season with a strong finish at the MT Valentine's Invitational in the Murphy Center Saturday.

The men's and women's teams combined to garner 15 first-place finishes led by junior Sarah Nambawa as she broke a 15-year-old MT indoor record in the long jump by nearly two feet. She earned the NCAA automatic qualifying marks in both the long and triple jump.

With Saturday's performance, Nambawa has gained her second NCAA automatic qualifier of the

season and the third of her collegiate career. In addition to breaking Middle Tennessee's previous record in the long jump with a 20-10.00 leap, Nambawa also tied her own school record in the triple jump and placed third in the women's 800-meters with a time of 2 minutes, 19.8 seconds.

Blue Raider sophomore Kortney Thurman followed behind Nambawa to claim second place in the women's long jump.

School records continued to fall as sophomore Festus Chemaoui finished the men's 800-meters in 1:51.64, breaking MT's previous record that had been in place since 1977. Chemaoui then proceeded to place second

in the men's 3,000-meter run behind fellow Middle Tennessee teammate William Songock.

For the women, Junior Zamzam Sangau finished first in the 3,000-meter run with an impressive time of 10:36.15. Senior Ashley Comstock claimed first place in the women's mile with a time of 5:07.27.

MT continued its winning success with the men's mile as the Blue Raiders secured both first and second place with David Emery's 4:20.02 and Isaac Biwott's 4:20.84, respectively.

The Blue Raiders put several names on the board during the dashes.

TRACK, PAGE 8



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

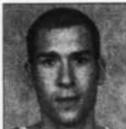
Nyeisha Wright (right) leads her heat in the 55-meter dash Saturday at the Valentine's Invitational.



Top Performers



F Desmond Yates #31 r-Jr.
19 points



G Kevin Kanaskie #5 r-Jr.
15 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists

Graphic by Alicia Wilson, production manager

BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 7

MT now holds onto a tie for fourth place with the North Texas Mean Green. With only four games left to go in the season, the Blue Raiders find themselves three-and-a-half games behind division-leading Western Kentucky.

The Blue Raiders started the game slow as they fell behind 13-22 by the 11-minute mark. MT employed a full-court press, but they still couldn't stop the Mean Green guards from scoring on many of the long shots they took.

North Texas capitalized on an early three fouls on Yates and pulled away with a seven-minute 13-3 run near the end of the first half. The Mean Green closed the half with a pick and roll maneuver that flattened the MT defense to extend their halftime lead, 43-24.

In the second half, MT's

shooting improved, but every time the boys in blue scored the guys in green answered right back. North Texas used their perimeter speed to catch MT off-guard following every basket.

MT tried to slow North Texas down with fouls, but they continued to extend their lead whenever the Blue Raiders sent them to the line. The Mean Green hit 19-of-22 free throws in the second half to keep a degree of separation between the teams.

The Blue Raiders never made it within 11 points the entire second half.

"If the season were to end right now, we wouldn't be good enough to make it to the NCAA tournament," Davis said. "We have some time left to improve and if we don't, we aren't going anywhere."

The Blue Raiders will return to Sun Belt Conference action against South Alabama on Thursday inside the Murphy Center.

TRACK FROM PAGE 7

For the women's 55-meter dash, Nyeisha Wright placed first with 7.08 and Kiara Henry followed to take second with her time of 7.22.

For the men's 55-meter, sophomore Stanley Gbagbe claimed second place with

6.45, while Malcolm Beyah, also a freshman wide receiver for the football team, secured third with his time of 6.46.

After the 55-meter race, Gbagbe placed first in the men's 200-meter dash in 22.18, while Wright continued her dashing success with a first place finish in the women's 200-meter with a time of 24.47.

"Nyeisha hasn't competed in almost two years, and she is doing a great job coming back," track team head coach Dean Hayes said.

MT also won the women's weight throw behind the power of junior Brittany Cox and her score of 17.70 meters. Cox also finished second in the women's shot put.

"I think we had a pretty

good meet," track team head coach Dean Hayes said. "Right now, it's all about getting some confidence."

After Saturday's array of impressive performances, the Blue Raider track teams will take the next weekend off as they train and prepare for the Sun Belt Conference Indoor Championships to be held in Jonesboro, Ark.



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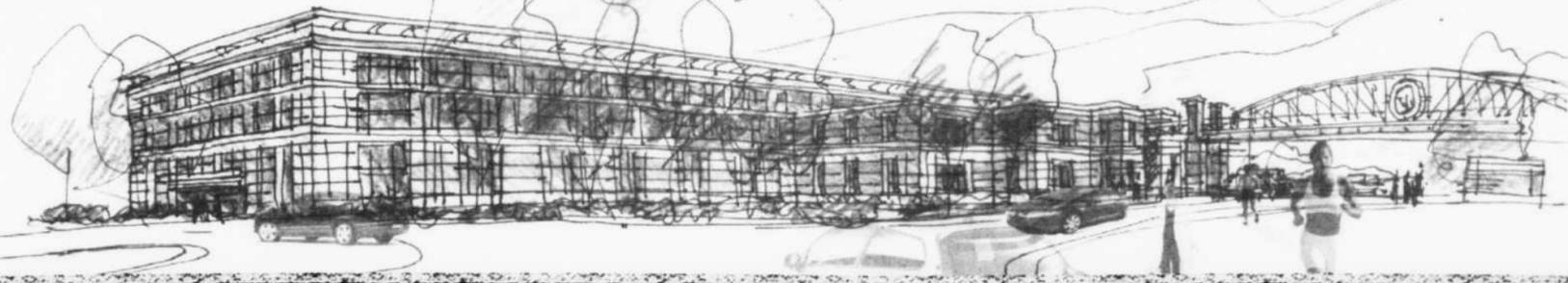
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