

MONDAY
DECEMBER 2, 2002

▼ 34 ▲ 55



Partly Cloudy

Going with the flow
Disabled student discusses life with muscular dystrophy
In Living, 4



Men's basketball picks up first win of '02-03 season

In Sports, 6



This week's poll question at www.mtsusidelines.com
How much money are you going to spend during the holiday season?

An editorially independent newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University
SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

Volume 78 No. 50

MT joins consortium of fair-labor schools

Workers' rights alliance has more than 100 members

By Kristin Hall
Staff Writer

This semester, MTSU raised the standards for factories that produce clothing and apparel with the university's insignia.

In August, the university joined the Workers Rights Consortium, a non-profit alliance of colleges and universities dedicated to improving working conditions of apparel

factories.

Joseph Hugh, director of procurement for MTSU, said he feels the administration took the necessary steps to be aware of the factory conditions under which the school's apparel is made, especially because the apparel comes from several different locations.

"It's a way to protect workers' rights, which we certainly want to do," Hugh said.

Now all licensed MTSU apparel vendors have to abide by a manufacturing code of conduct that covers wages, overtime, maximum hours of work per week, child labor and health and safety concerns.

The campus group Solidarity worked for two years to raise petitions and have general discussions with students and faculty before bringing this issue to the administration.

"We were trying to do this as a way to raise the ethical standards of the university," said senior Solidarity member Ryan Husak.

"President [Sidney] McPhee was very supportive," said Michael Principe, Solidarity faculty adviser. "That's sort of what made it happen."

McPhee said that when Solidarity brought the idea to him, he had no concerns about the organization.

"We discussed the issue at

the cabinet level, with all the vice presidents of the university," McPhee said, "and we felt it was the right thing to do."

However, MTSU's uncomplicated approval of joining the WRC has not been the case for many other universities. In July, Florida State University students engaged in a 114-day demonstration to protest sweatshops and ask that the administration join the WRC. Students camped out on campus in tents until the university officials

agreed to at least meet with WRC representatives.

In 2000, University of Oregon student protesters and the university Senate convinced the president, Dave Frohnmayer, to agree to a one-year contract with the WRC. However, later that year, Nike CEO and University of Oregon alumnus Phil Knight pulled all funding from the university and refused to donate any more.

See **Sweatshop, 2**

Ending with a win

MT decimates Utah State; Hicks breaks 1,000 yards

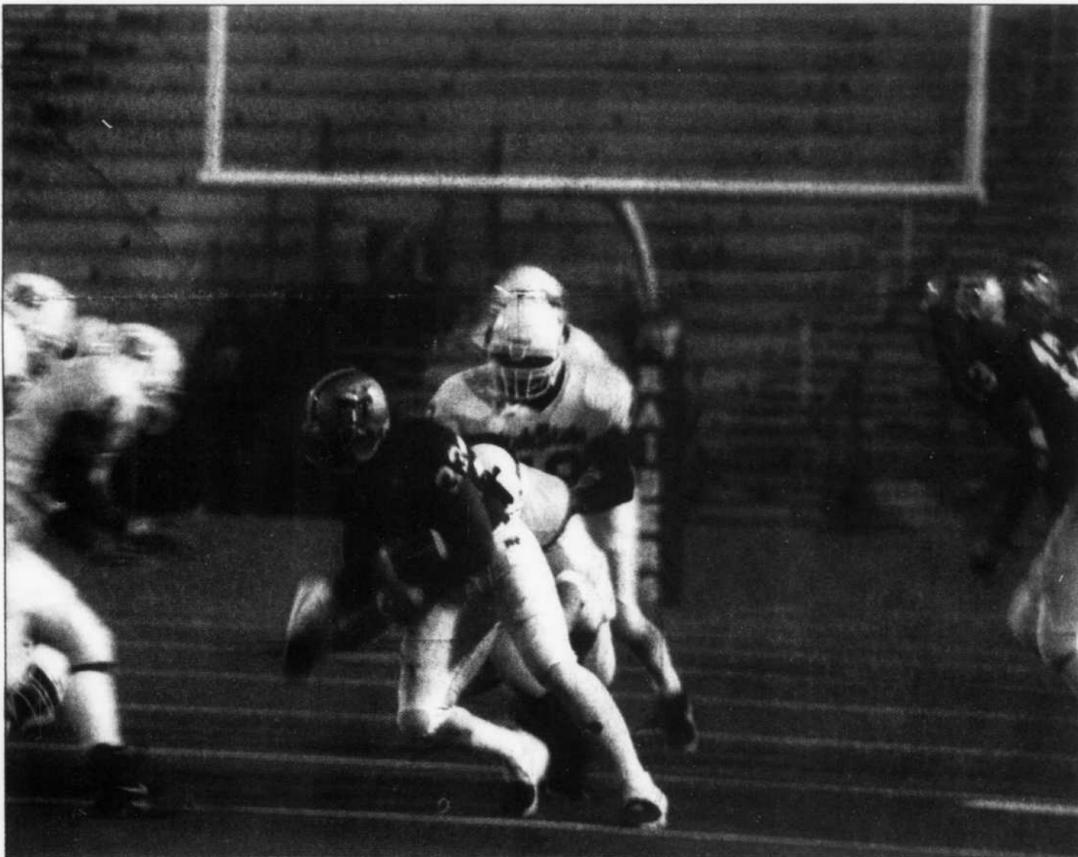


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Blue Raider running back Dwone Hicks scrambles for some of his 169 yards during Saturday's game before mostly empty bleachers. MT won the game, 45-28. The empty stands were the norm throughout Floyd Stadium during Saturday's game. The game's attendance of 3,418 was the lowest total of the season. For the full story, see "Blue Raider football season ends with big win over Utah State," page 6.

SGA proposes 'dead week' for students

By Wendy Caldwell
Staff Writer

Students may have an extra week to prepare for final exams in future semesters.

The Student Government Association has proposed a "dead week" before final exams.

If the "dead week" proposal passes, students would be able to devote the week before finals solely to studying.

Students would still be required to attend classes, but there would be no tests or outside assignments.

Students could also use the time to catch up on missed material, study for finals or work on final projects and papers.

Several steps are required in order for the proposal to pass.

"First, the [SGA] Senate has to pass it," said Amanda Newman, vice president and speaker of the Senate.

At the last meeting, SGA tabled the proposal.

"It actually hasn't passed yet," Newman said, adding that the Senate would look at the proposal this week.

SGA will decide to either vote on the "dead week" proposal or to table the proposal again.

If SGA decides to vote on the proposal and the Senate passes it, the proposal would then move to the Faculty Senate.

A "dead week" has been proposed by SGA three times in the past but has never passed in the Faculty Senate.

Newman said part of the reason why the proposal was tabled was so Senators would have a chance to amend it.

She also said the SGA planned on making a few changes in hopes that the changes would allow the proposal to pass in the Faculty Senate. ♦

Freshmen elect peers as senators to represent class

By Leah Massey
Staff Writer

Although elections were held in October, many freshmen still may not know who their Student Government Association senators are.

Seven new freshmen SGA senators have been elected to office.

The new freshman senators, elected between Oct. 14 and 16, include Dennis Clark, Megan King, Cal Morton, Liz Schwartz, Christy Stonecipher, Mandie Thacker and Megan Webb.

The large number of candidates who ran for the available positions was a much-needed boost, according to freshman Senator Dennis Clark.

"This freshman class gives the university some hope of some form of school spirit," Clark said.

There was a dramatic increase of freshman on the MTSU campus this year — more

than 1,000 more students than last year. Each of the freshman senators represents about 400 freshman students.

According to Clark, most of those who competed for office and won ran because they are proud of MTSU. Each senator wants to make college a positive experience for everyone.

Freshman senators are senators at large, meaning that they do not represent colleges until their sophomore year.

One of the biggest projects this year is finding ways to raise school spirit among the students. The senators hope to make everyone on campus as proud of MTSU as they are, Clark said.

"I think MTSU is one of the most prestigious state universities," Clark said.

Clark also said he hopes that more students will become involved in SGA.

For more information, contact the SGA at 898-2464. ♦

Library extends hours this week to help with finals

Services offered remain unaffected

By Lindsay Palmer
Staff Writer

For students who are concerned about getting in that extra study time for finals, the James E. Walker Library has extended its hours for the last two weeks of the semester.

For Dec. 2-5 and Dec. 8-12, the library will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. On Dec. 6, it will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday the 7, it will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will also be open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 13.

Don Craig, dean of the library, has high hopes for the student reaction to the extension.

"We haven't done it in a long time," Craig said.

According to Craig, this year the administration gave the library some extra operating money. The money has mainly gone toward the upgrading of the library's book collection. Craig noted that the curriculum has been calling for more books and better support.

But the money left over from that has been put into the extension of hours for finals week.

According to Craig, nightly staff will stay a few extra hours and will be paid for over-

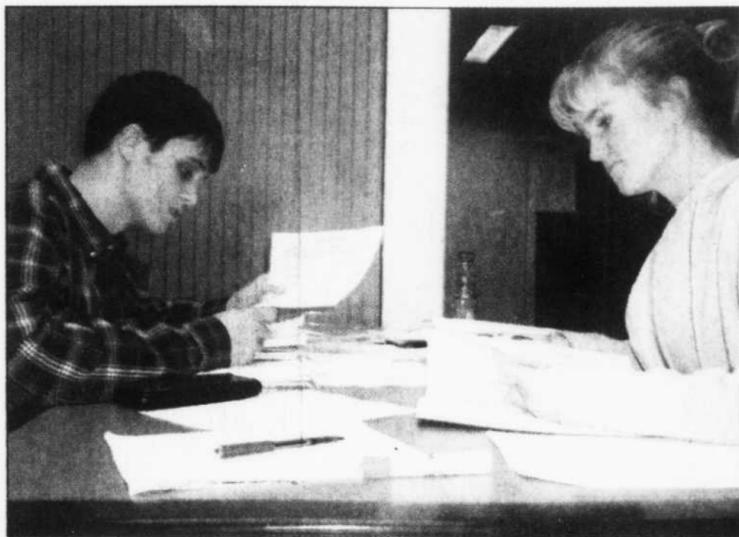


Photo by Kristin Hooper | Photo Editor

Brandon Elmore, a junior biology and chemistry major, and Alicia Hardison, a senior pre-veterinarian major, study yesterday evening in the James E. Walker Library for their biochemistry class.

Junior Christopher Meyer voiced his approval of the library extension hours.

"From a student's point of view, I think it's a good idea," Meyer said. "I can

keep the building open," Craig said.

See **Library, 2**

Tech team represents MT Member places second in recent conference

By Stephanie Hill
Staff Writer

MTSU's Association of Information Technology Professionals traveled to a Region 7 student conference in Marietta, Ga., recently to represent the university with an individual competitor as well as a group.

The competition was held Nov. 8 and 9 at Chattahoochee Technical College and was funded through the Student Government Association.

"AITP is the professional association comprised of career minded individuals who seek to expand their potential employers, employees, managers, programmers and many others by providing avenues for all the members to be teachers as well as students," said Jami Harbin, president of AITP.

"We also make contacts with other members in the IS field in an effort to become more marketable in rapidly changing technological careers," she added.

The association held its first meeting of the year in September, which boosted their membership to 28 members.

In October, they got to tour the MTSU Information Technology Department computer room, conducted by John Schmidt.

Senior Kendall R. Joseph competed in Networking and won second place out of nine teams.

A team composed of junior Anthony Byrd and senior Christopher Milan competed in the Web site design category, but they didn't place.

The members didn't walk away empty handed, however.

Team member Gloria Rodriguez won a palm pilot and Timothy Greer won a web design kit, according to Harbin.

The organization also held a Fall Bash Christmas Party in November.

They meet on the third Tuesday of each month in the Suntrust Room of the Business and Aerospace building.

The 2002 officers are Harbin, president, Scott LeBlanc, vice president and Kelly Shipman, treasurer and Secretary. The faculty advisers are Judy Holmes, Greer and Steve Morris.

For more information check out AITP's Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~AITP or e-mail the officers at AITP@mtsu.edu. ♦

Sweatshop: Committee to oversee reports

Continued from 1

That summer Frohnmayer pulled out the WRC contract.

"It's unfortunate that some universities let their alumni have that kind of authority over the student body," Husak said.

However, Principe sees the conflict in the University of Oregon as a prime example of the effectiveness of the WRC.

"Nike at least sees the WRC as somewhat of an adversary, as far as their pursuit of their profits," Principe said.

When the WRC investigated a Mexican factory that manufactures Nike shoes and found labor standard violations in 2001, Nike hired its own monitoring agency which found similar problems.

"Some of the worst abuses are in the apparel industry," Principe said.

The apparel industry has been under the microscope for years, and has been the focus of high media attention from stories of sweatshops making clothing for major brand names, such as Kathie Lee Gifford's clothing line.

"There's been a lot of pressure this industry even outside the university on companies such as Nike to get rid of their sweatshops," Principe said.

The WRC, which currently has more than 100 affiliated colleges and universities, tracks down factories that produce university clothing and investigates conditions such as wages, overtime, ages of workers and safety precautions.

All WRC reports are free and open to the public. If a school's code of conduct has been violated by a factory, the WRC alerts the university but does not hold any school to rules of conduct when dealing with the problem.

McPhee outlined his general code of action if he received a negative report from a factory connected to MTSU.

"The first thing I would do is investigate the report to verify if it was accurate. I think that's our responsibility as a public institution," McPhee said.

Within MTSU's code of conduct is a special clause that creates a committee of faculty and students, which will oversee the discussions on how to correct the problem.

"It [the decision] will involve consultation across campus. There will be no quick or rash decisions," McPhee said.

"The idea is not to immediately close these factories down," Principe said, "but to put the pressure on them to

improve whatever conditions have become problematic."

Another labor organization, the Fair Labor Association, is indirectly related to the university through MTSU's contact with a licensing business called the Licensing Resource Group.

The LRG deals with vendors that produce products with the MTSU logo and the FLA enforces an industry-wide workplace code of conduct, based on core labor standards of the International Labor Organization.

Hugh said that MTSU elected to join the WRC in addition to having this indirect affiliation with the FLA just as a precaution.

The fee for affiliating with the WRC depends whether the school has a licensing program. For schools that do not, only an annual fee of \$1,000 is required. For schools that have licensing programs, the fee is 1 percent of the school's previous year's gross licensing revenues, with a minimum fee of \$1,000.

Because MTSU's licensing revenues are so low, the university only pays \$1,000 annually to the WRC.

For more information, visit WRC's Web site, www.worker-rights.org. ♦

Library: Student reaction encouraged

Continued from 1

definitely use those hours."

Craig said the idea for the extension was to help out during this particular period and to see how the students react to it.

"We wanted to give them a place to study late at night," Craig said.

Craig said he hopes the extension will abate the problem of students having to leave the library before they are finished with their work. He also

hopes it will help to keep students from being turned away because of closing times.

"I know I've wanted to go to the library before and it was too late," Meyer said.

According to Craig, this is not necessarily a permanent trend for each semester's finals preparation.

Whether or not this becomes a tradition will depend on student reaction.

"If the students use it and it fills a need, then we'll definitely

look at taking it again in the spring," Craig said.

If the students do not seem to take advantage of the library hours for other things, and hours will remain the same for finals week in the upcoming semesters, he said.

For more information on the library services during finals week, call the library administration at 898-2772. ♦



One out of every six children in America is living in a state of poverty. And that's one too many American dreams broken. One too many American childhoods at risk, threatened by the daily struggle to secure enough food, enough shelter, enough medicine just to survive. Nearly 12,000,000 precious lives hanging in a brutally uncertain balance. Sixteen percent of all our children — a poverty rate that's higher than any other age group. But who cares to notice?

Loves her kitten Ruby.
Hopes to be a teacher someday.
Sheila Young.
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December 6	7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
December 7	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
December 8	1:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.
December 9-12	7:30 a.m. – 1:00 a.m.
December 13	7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
December 14-15	Closed
December 16-20	8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
December 21-22	Closed
December 23-24	8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
December 25-31	Closed

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

- 1) SAVE MONEY
- 2) LIVE BETTER
- 3) BE HAPPY!
- 4) LOSE WEIGHT
- 5) CALL MOM more...
- 6) CLEAN MY ROOM
- 7) STUDY MORE
- 8)
- 9)

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OPINIONS

3 ◆ SIDELINES

Monday, December 2, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board 'Dead Week' needed to prepare for finals

Finals week is quickly approaching and students are just now beginning to realize the importance of cramming. The Student Government Association has developed a plan to aid students in their vain attempts to stuff around 3 1/2 months' worth of lectures, books, reviews and quizzes into their overused and tired brains.

The SGA has officially proposed a "dead week" before final exams. This proposed "dead week" would allow students to take full advantage of the week before finals.

The "dead week" means that teachers could not assign extra homework, papers or tests during the week before exams. Students could study, catch up on missed material or work on final projects for an entire week before facing the beastly burdens that we so lovingly call exams. Students would still have to attend class, but they can use that time to review materials for the final or grill teachers about test material.

Although this "dead week" idea sounds like a blessing, don't get too excited.

The proposal doesn't have time to go into effect this semester. All students can cross their fingers and hope the proposal passes this semester so that we can take advantage of it in future semesters.

We here at *Sidelines* have always believed that a "dead week" is necessary to defend ourselves from the deadly stress that accompanies finals week.

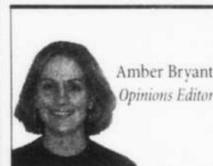
Finals week can be a juggling act in itself. We try valiantly to organize class work, extracurricular activities, employment and what might have been a social life, all while focusing on what is most important – the final grade.

So talk to your SGA representative and let him or her know how useful and important a "dead week" would be and what it should entail.

Also, let your professors and instructors know the benefits of a free week before finals. Not only will it help students, but teachers will have less to worry about before computing final grades.

Let us have an extra week to cram.
We need it. ◆

From the Opinions Editor Consider the animals - think before you adopt



Amber Bryant
Opinions Editor

In the midst of visiting relatives and eating 80 pounds of green bean casserole, I spent the weekend second-guessing myself as a parent and thanking the stars for friends in high places.

Realizing I was in for a somewhat tumultuous ride, I adopted a baby six months ago.

Even as I write, she's pacing across my keyboard, slowing the process down a bit. Occasionally, she rubs her face across mine, tickling my nose with her whiskers and the smell of, well, cat breath.

She'd be the perfect medium-maintenance child, if only she didn't drain my checkbook so much. Last week, she rubbed her head in some spilled liquid potpourri, causing her ears to become red and swollen after an allergic reaction. I left the veterinarian frazzled, worried and \$220 poorer.

Fortunately, I spent two years of college working for the compassionate doctor who treated her, so he agreed to let me make payments

instead of fork over all the money I had been saving for the holidays. If I weren't so lucky, I wouldn't have been able to give my youngster the treatment she needed.

Companion animals can be mentally and emotionally beneficial and add years to a person's life. When I come home from a 20-hour day feeling like I've accomplished nothing, my cat reminds me that life is really all about laying around the house and finding the utmost amusement in items like toilet paper and ponytail holders.

However, as college students, we should realize that a cute little puppy or kitten or ferret is a living being in need of constant attention, care and money most of us don't have. In other words, be responsible – if you know you can't give the baby the best home possible, encourage a better candidate to adopt him or her. If you've already got one and you're not as fortunate as I was this weekend, stick a few bucks in a jar on pay day in case of an unexpected mishap.

Judging by the cost of damages inflicted by something as innocent as potpourri, you'll thank yourself later. ◆

Inexact speech hurts no one



American Bacon
Patrick Chinnery
Assistant
News Editor

John Doe, a high schooler in Michigan, wanted to speak out.

No one knows why, and he's not telling. In any case, Doe (not his real name) found a place where he could vent – Satan's Web page.

He posted a comment labeled "Satan's mission for you this week" in August 2001 that read: "Stab someone for no reason then set them on fire throw them off a cliff, watch them suffer and with their last breath, just before everything goes black, spit on their face."

Maybe the boy has a

problem with someone or something. Maybe he just wanted attention and was trying to do something outrageous. Unfortunately, his school district gave him the wrong kind of attention.

Later that month, the Waterford School District suspended Doe for posting "intimidation and threats" on the Internet. At the boy's hearing, he wasn't allowed to cross-examine witnesses, nor was he allowed to have a lawyer present.

The boy had enough wits about him to contact a lawyer, and together, they filed a lawsuit against the district, citing a limit on the student's free speech and abridging his due process rights.

Friday, U.S. District Judge Patrick Duggan sided with the boy, and rightfully so.

The "threat" the boy made can hardly be considered realistic or a clear and present danger to anyone in particular. For starters, and this seems obvious, Doe mentioned no names in his post, nor any descriptive characteristics of potential victims. It's one thing to say, "Satan wants you to roast the corpse of my 10th grade biology teacher, who can be found in Room 127 during fourth period," and quite another to suggest that Satan wants you to kill someone, somewhere, sometime.

Another reason the post isn't realistic – it's trying to instruct people to throw others off a cliff. There are no mountains near Waterford Township, Mich. Along the shore of Lake Michigan, there are some neat looking sand dunes, but no mountains.

It's not the school's place to try and restrict the things that one of its students can say off of school grounds. If the judge had supported that decision, there's no telling where the line would be drawn. We would see schools disagreeing with the clothes that students wear to the mall.

After all, that's a freedom of expression that schools already exert control over within their walls.

As a high schooler, Doe already understands the concepts of right and wrong, and obviously knows how the world (the legal system, anyway) works.

Although his medium of expression isn't the modus operandi for most of us, it is his way of dealing with things.

While the school district would have rather

seen him channeling his aggression into something constructive (he's a pretty descriptive writer, maybe he'll be the next Stephen King), it should have been extraordinarily pleased that Doe chose to type out nonspecific words instead of writing his *Mein Kampf* and executing his classmates.

If the decision had been that the school had acted correctly, a precedent would have been set that would close off one more nonviolent form of self-expression for students that feel alienated enough already.

Praise to Duggan for understanding what it's like to be an angst-ridden teen. ◆

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

Doorstops wise investment, might prevent student riots



I'm Just a Girl
Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

Every Monday and Wednesday, I have two classes in the Business and Aerospace Building.

There's an interesting combination: business and aerospace.

The BAS is one of the newer buildings on campus. Aside from the North/South confusion factor, it's really nice. I especially like the big comfortable chairs in each room.

But what's with the Alcatraz security? It's a building full of classrooms, not jewelry stores.

It's so annoying when you get to class early and have to sit around and wait for someone to open the door and let you into the room.

It's the same scenario if you're late. You have to be

let into the room.

So, really, there's only a small fraction of time when you can arrive and go straight to class without having to put your patience to the test, day after day after day.

There is an alternate scenario. There are many classrooms in which the occupants repeatedly mistake the trash cans for doorstops.

How many times has your class been interrupted because someone tripped over the makeshift doorstop and emptied a lovely assortment of trash onto the carpeted floor?

From what my economics teacher tells me, when the building first opened, there were no pencil sharpeners. It took student complaints and surveys to get that done, so it comes as no surprise that we're perpetually locked out of the rooms.

I understand the need for security – we wouldn't want all those students running amok in the unused classrooms. I'm

sure that was a big problem back in the day. Soon-to-be graduates spending their down time in classrooms. Many soon-to-be graduates don't even spend class time in classrooms.

Is it so unfathomable to think that maybe students just like to get places on time and be able to sit down and get their notes or what-have-you together before it's actually time to start class?

Are doorstops really so outrageously overpriced that we can't splurge for a few hundred?

It seems as though that would save money in labor costs, since the trash would no longer be repeatedly dumped on the floor.

It's time that we as students took a stand for something. Give us doorstops or give us death.

Well, I don't really mean the death part. Just give us doorstops. ◆

Wendy Caldwell is a sophomore math major and can be reached via e-mail at VISA717@aol.com.

Letter to the Editor

Inmates less fortunate, deserve help

To the Editor:

I'm writing in response to an editorial against government funding for incarcerated individuals ("Prison inmates don't deserve a free ride," Oct. 3).

I'd like to point out some facts but, before I do, I want to relate my own experience working in a Tennessee criminal justice system health care capacity. I was responsible for triaging inmates to evaluate whether they required medical care in the clinic. After reading hundreds of sick care forms and taking care of these individuals, I discovered that the vast majority of the inmates were writing below the 4th grade level.

Most of the inmates were on a variety of medications for bipolar disorder, seizures and HIV. Many hadn't seen a medical provider for many years and had hypertension and diabetes that hadn't been discovered or treated until they were jailed. The majority had alcohol and drug addictions, some developing these problems secondary to psychiatric disorders as a way of self-medicating. The majority came from very unstable environments and had childhood mental disorders that weren't diagnosed until adolescence.

Only a very tiny percentage of all inmates in America are able to take a freshman college course.

I would suggest that Bryant volunteer in a jail or prison. I believe that universal health coverage, real childhood advocacy and prevention programs, along with excellent public education that starts at a young age and parents that are truly held accountable would cost much less than what we now spend on prisons. As a society, we can either protect, or we can incarcerate.

Sharon Harris

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines'
occasional
watch for
mutton-heads.



In a move that no one noticed, the Backstreet Boys have filed suit against their record label, trying to force the company to give them more attention.

Apparently, the B-Boys missed the memo saying their 15 minutes expired late last year.

The group is upset that the label, Zomba Recording Corp., has been spending too much time trying to promote Nick Carter's (a member of the group) new solo work. The boy (Actually, they're in their twenties. Are they not men?) band claims that by focusing so much attention on Carter's work, they have not been able to release their fourth album and go on a worldwide tour, which would net them tens of millions of dollars.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in Manhattan, goes so far as to say that the label insulted the band by posting a ad for Carter's new album on the band's Web site. The group claims that the ad has received tens of thousands of click-throughs, directing people off of their site, and taking attention away from the band.

Correct us if we're wrong, but those people are going to the band's site first.

Doesn't that mean the band's already getting the attention it desires?

The lawsuit also claims that the ad on the site gives the mistaken impression that the band supports its youngest member's effort.

What jerks. I guess they've all forgotten the lesson where you support your friends in their efforts. Maybe that moral doesn't apply once your bank account reaches 12 digits. These people could live off the interest their portfolios generate for them. What's the need for more money?

Perhaps they should spend their new-found free time to try and scrap their self-respect off of the floors of the hundreds of concert venues they've whored themselves out in, performing dance routines that only manipulated, prepubescent teenyboppers find entertaining.

Hopefully, this lawsuit is an indication that the boys realize their popularity is permanently waning and soon to be extinguished.

After all, they're no New Kids on the Block. ◆

Original story from the Associated Press, via cnn.com.

We're truckin'.
E-mail us at
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*denotes member of editorial board

Going with the flow



Photo by Bill Burgess | Staff Photographer

Recording industry management major Shannon DeVido, who acts and sings despite spinal atrophy, talks with a student at the Keathley University Center. DeVido attributes much of her happiness and success to her parents.

Disabled student discusses life with muscular dystrophy

By Natalie Hall
Contributor

Although muscular dystrophy confines Shannon DeVido to a wheelchair, she chases after life with full force.

She is often described by friends and co-workers as being outgoing and pleasant, and in her own words, doesn't try to be anything she's not.

DeVido was born with a type of muscular dystrophy called spinal atrophy, a genetic disease that deteriorates muscular tissue over time. For DeVido, it has never been difficult to deal with, she said.

"I honestly don't think about it," DeVido said. "It is just there, and I was born with it so I have lived with it my whole life."

DeVido has faced many chal-

lenges in her life, but said, "My hardest challenge was just learning how to live my life."

DeVido is a recording industry major who traveled all the way from Philadelphia to MTSU.

She attended college for a year in Pennsylvania.

"I couldn't deal with the snow in Pennsylvania," DeVido said, "so 200 inches later, I found myself in Murfreesboro, Tennessee."

After discovering who she was and how to live her life at such a young age, she found that the world had nothing that could hold her back.

"Everyone has a hard time in junior high and learning to be who they really are, but it was especially hard for me because people are so critical," DeVido

"Everyone has a hard time in junior high ... learning to be who they really are, but it was especially hard for me because people are so critical."

— Shannon DeVido

Recording industry management major

said.

While growing up in Philadelphia, DeVido began acting and singing at a very young age.

DeVido said acting in a wheelchair has never been difficult for her.

"I just do it and I don't think twice about it," DeVido said.

"I have been doing it since I was in the second grade, so I just go with the flow."

For DeVido, the transition from high school to college was not a hard one with her ability to overcome any challenge.

"The only thing that has really been a challenge for me at MTSU are the automatic doors and elevators that never work," she said.

DeVido is also very involved in several extracurricular activities, including Alpha Psi Omega, is the honors theater fraternity, the concert committee of Student Programming, choir and acting in plays. While maintaining all of her outside activities, she also maintains a grade point average of 4.0.

Her friends could not say enough about how much they loved her drive and personality.

"We serve on the board for Alpha Psi Omega together," said Regina Rizzo, a co-worker.

"She has proven to be a wonderful help in keeping the board together. I feel truly blessed to

have met Shannon, and I count her as one of my dearest friends."

Recently, DeVido performed in *Fiddler on the Roof* as Yente, through the department of speech and theatre at MTSU.

"It was a lot of fun," DeVido said. "I had a blast. It was stressful because we had rehearsals every day for three hours, but it was a great experience."

Her most rewarding accomplishment in her own eyes was getting to perform a concert at the Kennedy Center.

"It was the most amazing experience ever," she said. "I also got to sing at the U.S. Open, which was crazy fun."

Shannon's parents have been supportive of everything that Shannon has wanted in life.

"I have the most amazing parents ever," she said.

"With their help, I have learned how to fully live my life and enjoy it and do the things that I love." ♦

A voice for the needs of disabled students



Photo by Steve Cross | Senior Staff Photographer

Student James Goodman spent more than a decade in the U.S. Army before coming to MTSU. A computer information systems major, Goodman has rejuvenated Sigma Delta Sigma, an organization dedicated to increasing awareness about the needs of disabled students.

Student organizes Sigma Delta Sigma to aid disabled students

By Melissa Brownell
Contributor

MTSU may be considered one of the most accessible campuses for the disabled, but if MTSU student James Goodman has his way, the university will turn its current accessibility to the disabled into true usability.

After spending more than a decade in the

U.S. Army, including a tour of duty in the Gulf War, Goodman was discharged with multiple back problems, leaving him physically disabled.

After his years spent in service, Goodman says he lost his job after going through extensive back surgery, leaving him homeless for nine months. Through an Office of Veterans' Affairs program and the shelter at which Goodman resided, Goodman says he was able

to enroll at MTSU, where he is now majoring in computer information systems.

Despite his chronic pain, Goodman went to the leadership and management institute and met with John Harris, director of Disabled Student Services at MTSU, and reactivated the dormant Sigma Delta Sigma, an organization designed to create continuing awareness and education for disabled individuals.

"Students from all across the country come to MTSU for our disabled-friendly campus. Without MTSU, other disabled students, including myself, would not have a chance to go to college," Goodman says.

Through having to overcome his own personal struggles in dealing with his handicap,

See **Veteran**, 5

Veteran: Disabled veteran wants to further campus accessibility for students

Continued from 4

Goodman says he quickly began to realize the structural needs for disabled students to gain facility access on campus.

"There are a lot of disabled students on campus, and getting from point A to point B through the hordes of students is sometimes all that they can do," Goodman says.

"MTSU may have accessibility," he adds, "but I see constant obstacles for disabled students every day with its usability."

Goodman says that just because the campus has ramps and power-activated doors does not always mean that it is in the best interest of the disabled.

"For instance, the push field-door switches are not going to help a quadriplegic or a cerebral palsy victim," Goodman says. "These individuals are not able to physically raise their hands and actually push the button."

Goodman says he feels that MTSU has done a great job catering to the needs of disabled students and that it is one of the best universities in the South for the disabled.

However, he and other members of the Sigma Delta Sigma organization want to take advantage of the campus's open-minded attitude and duplicate more awareness and consideration for methods used when thinking of access for disabilities.

"MTSU may have accessibility, but I see constant obstacles for disabled students every day with its usability."

— James Goodman

Computer information systems major

"Our goal in Sigma Delta Sigma is to work with planning boards and committees on campuses everywhere and help educate builders on what is feasible and useable for disabled students and not just the bare minimum," Goodman says.

"That way students from all over the country will be able to go to the college of their choice and have a better quality of life," he adds.

To help generate education and spread the word about Sigma Delta Sigma, Goodman, along with Tom Burks, director of MTSU's Leaders in Management Institute, has developed a six-week leadership workshop specifically for aiding disabled students.

The program consisted of six one-hour sessions held in the Learning Resources Center and discussed everything from conflict management resolution to the different types of needs for the different disabilities.

"James has the ability to

imagine very creative and innovative possibilities to help others," Burks says. "He will admirably take a positive stand and be a voice for the needs of the disabled students."

The program was so successful that Goodman received the Outstanding Student Contribution and Recognition Award from MTSU for all of his hard work in fighting for the disabled.

Goodman says he hopes that the future for Sigma Delta Sigma will develop a strong foundation to aid disabled students for years to come.

"I don't want to see this organization become unstable and fall apart like a lot of other organizations," Goodman says.

"I want this organization to be a stepping stone to encourage universities and students everywhere to support our message about the needed aid for the disabled." ♦

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Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Men's basketball picks up first win of '02-03 season

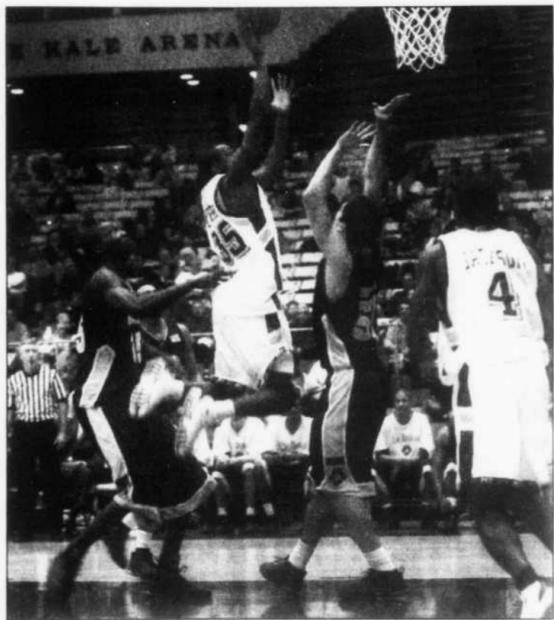


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

MT player John Humphrey gets up over the opposition.

By David Hunter
Staff Reporter

New Middle Tennessee men's basketball coach Kermit Davis picked up his first win Wednesday night when the Blue Raiders defeated the University of Tennessee-Martin, 87-77, at the Murphy Center.

"Any kind of win feels good," MT forward William Pippen said. "It feels great to go out there and get coach Davis his first win on our court."

MT started the game off on the wrong foot. After MT scored the first points of the game to take a 2-0 lead, UTM answered with an 11-0 run in the first four minutes. That run included three-pointers by J.C. Howe and Okechi Egbe. The Blue Raiders slowly began to chip away at the UTM lead.

The big moment of the comeback in the first half was with 10:55 to go. The Blue Raiders were down 19-14,

when MT forward Tommy Gunn dunked over UTM forward Joey Walker to cut the UTM lead to three points.

The Blue Raiders finally got their first lead of the game since their early 2-0 lead. It came on a Napoleon Rhodes basket with 7:48 remaining in the first half to put MT ahead 24-23.

MT increased the lead to 31-25 with 6:04 left in the opening half with a dunk from MT guard John Humphrey.

At the end of the first half, the game turned into a battle between Gunn and UTM's Earl Bullock Jr.

Bullock cut into the MT five-point lead with a three-pointer with 4:21 remaining in the first half. A basket by MT's Keith Conner put MT up, 35-31. Bullock nailed another three-pointer to decrease the Blue Raider lead to one point. Gunn then played his role in the game with a jumper to extend MT's lead 37-34 with 2:17 left.

Bullock tied the game with his third straight shot from downtown with 2:02 to go in the half.

However, Gunn scored the last eight points in the first half, including two three points to give MT a 45-42 lead at the half.

In the beginning of the second half, the Blue Raiders came out red hot with an 8-0 run to increase their lead to 11 points. With 16:23 left on the clock, UTM finally put through a basket by Joey Walker.

This precipitated a 10-4 run that sliced the MT lead to three. During that stretch, Bullock and Gunn added to their hot long-distance shooting with two threes from Bullock and one from Gunn.

Humphrey slammed home another dunk to extend the MT lead 59-54, with 12:32 left in the contest. UTM was able to cut the lead to three points twice, but with 9:40 to go, Marcus Robinson hit a basket to extend the lead, 65-60. The Skyhawks

were not able to get any closer as the Blue Raiders pulled away by going 13-16 at the foul line in the last nine minutes to take the 87-77 victory.

"Obviously, it feels good to get our first win of this year," Davis said. "It was a good win. It was good for our team. Tonight we beat a quality opponent."

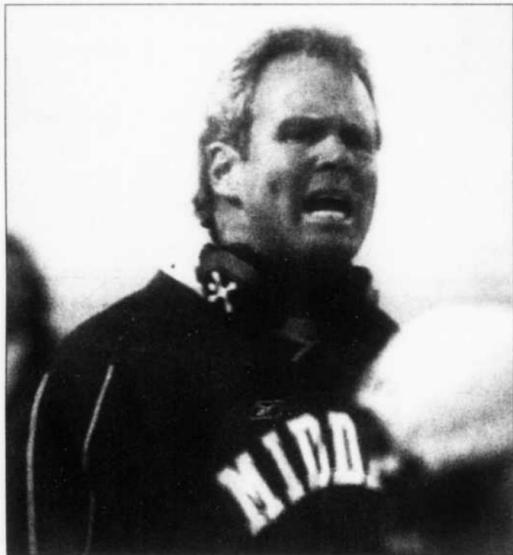
In the game, Gunn scored a career high 29 points, including 5-of-6 from behind the arc. Pippen added 15 points for MT, Humphrey had 13 points and Marcus Robinson had 10.

"He was fantastic," Davis said of Gunn. "His motor ran all game. When the offense broke down, he made plays on his own. He put the offense on his back."

Earl Bullock led UTM with 26 points.

The win left the Blue Raiders with a 1-2 record. The next home game is Wednesday against Tennessee Technological University at 7 p.m. ◆

Football season ends with big win over Utah State



By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

Dwone Hicks grabbed a little piece of history Saturday while helping lead Middle Tennessee to a 45-28 victory over Utah State on Senior Day at Floyd Stadium.

Coming into the game needing 158 yards to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark, Hicks gained 169 on 27 carries and two touchdowns. With his effort, Hicks joined Mike Moore as the second Blue Raider running back to gain 1,000 yards in three consecutive seasons.

The Blue Raiders made things happen early, jumping out to a 14-0 lead less than halfway through the first quarter.

On Utah State's first play from scrimmage, Muhammad Rashada intercepted Aggie quarterback Jose Fuentes' pass at the MT 42. Eleven plays later, Hicks punched it in for a 7-0 Blue Raider lead.

On the ensuing drive, USU backed the Blue Raiders up to their own 7-yard line on a 67-yard punt by Steve Mullins, but Hicks burst off right tackle for 13 yards to give the Blue Raiders



Photos by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Dwone Hicks, above, broke the 1,000-yard rushing mark in Saturday's game against Utah State University. Head coach Andy McCollum, left, ended the season on a win to make the record 4-8.

some breathing room. Two plays later, Don Calloway ran up the middle 63 yards for the score, the longest of Calloway's career, staked MT to a 14-0 lead.

After stopping Utah State tailback James Samuel for a 3-yard loss on fourth and two, the Blue Raiders let an opportunity to turn the game into a blowout slip away.

On third and one from the Aggie 42, MT faked a dive play and tried to slip tight end Quan Domineck over the middle. Domineck fell down, and Andrico Hines' pass was intercepted at the Aggie 25.

Utah State needed 14 plays, but on fourth and goal at the MT 1, tailback James Samuel slipped across the goal line to cut the Blue Raider lead in half.

It was Utah State's best drive of the game against a Blue Raider defense that held the Aggies to only 11 rushing yards. USU quarterback Jose Fuentes did finish with 426 yards passing, but most of those came while the game was no longer in doubt.

"They're a really good offense," said MT defensive lineman Curtis Daniely. "They don't run the ball that much, so the first

thing we wanted to do was make sure we shut down the run and make them win the pass."

MT would add a 20-yard Kelly field goal, and USU tacked on a 3-yard touchdown pass from Fuentes to Kevin Curtis to cap off the first half for a score of 17-14 at halftime.

The rest of the half as MT as the Blue Raiders on three of their first four drives to extend a three-point halftime lead to 24 early in the fourth quarter.

"They did a good job in the second half," Utah State linebacker Jesse Busta said. "You have to give it to them, they made some big plays."

After trading punts on each team's first possession, MT took over on its own 45. Three plays later, Hines rolled right and found Chris Henry down the right sideline for a 44 yard score, the first of Henry's career. Hines would finish the day 11-20 for 176 yards and a touchdown.

Another Mullins punt gave the ball back to the Blue Raiders at the MT 21, and after Hicks and Hines teamed up for a

See **Utah State, 7**

MT basketball teams lose to ranked opponents over break

25th-ranked Cincinnati dominates at Ohio in Middle Tennessee's first loss of season, 79-59

Staff Reports

The Lady Raiders had a rough time Saturday as Cincinnati (2-1) showed Middle Tennessee (1-1) why they are ranked 25th in the nation, by beating them 79-59 at Ohio.

MT started the scoring with a jumper by Mia Parvianen that put MT up, 2-0. MT would never MT up, 2-0. MT would

Carolyn Alexander got a layup followed by a three-pointer from Valerie King, put UC up. MT struggled hard against UC in the first half, even tying the score at 25 right before half time. Unfortunately for MT, the tying layup by Jennifer Bue would be followed by a five minute drought where UC pulled ahead by 10 points.

UC continued to dominate in the second half shooting 51.9

percent with a 75 percent three-point percentage. MT only shot 43.8 percent with a 33.3 three point percentage.

"They made a run on us in the middle of the second half and we couldn't answer," head coach Stephany Smith said. "What was really disappointing is that we kind of quit, and that is not usually the character of this team."

MT did lead in turnovers, committing 18 as compared to the UC nine.

They also led in rebounds,

pulling in 31 as compared to UC's 25. King led the Lady Bearcats in scoring with 22, followed by Debbie Merrill's 19 and K.B. Sharp's 15.

Only two members of the Lady Raiders scored in the double figures, Patrice Holmes with 18 and Eboni Kirby with 12.

Kirby and Holmes also led the Lady Raiders with seven rebounds each.

The Lady Raiders play at home today against East Tennessee State University at 6 p.m. in the Murphy Center. ◆

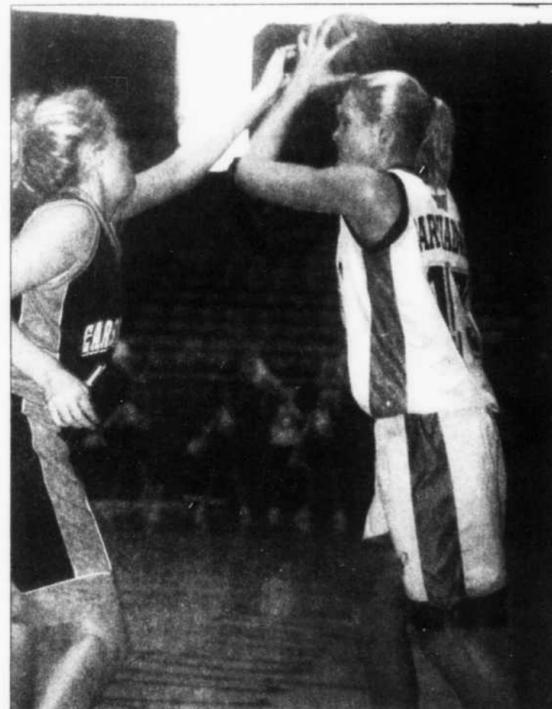


Photo by Kevin Jones | Staff Photographer

Mia Parvianen gave MT its only lead in the match.

University of Alabama rolls over another Blue Raider team this fall in an 80-65 romp

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

Foul trouble and turnovers did in an already out-manned Middle Tennessee team at Alabama Monday night as the Blue Raiders fell to the No. 6 ranked Crimson Tide, 80-65.

Alabama's Erwin Dudley scored a game high 17 points and pulled down a game high 10 rebounds to lead the Crimson Tide (3-0).

For MT, senior forward Steven Jackson scored a career-high 15 points against a relentless Alabama defense, which held the Blue Raiders to 38 percent shooting on the night.

"We thought Steven Jackson could take advantage of some things inside out of our high-low offense," MT coach Kermit Davis said. "We thought if we could get him faced up at 15 to 17 feet he could do some things off the dribble, which he did. He finished some nice balls inside. [Alabama's] so big

inside it's tough to just score in the post, so Steven really helped us out tonight."

The Blue Raiders got out to an early 5-4 lead on John Humphrey's three pointer early in the game, but that was the only lead for MT on the evening.

Back-to-back three pointers by reserve guard Emmett Thomas extended the Alabama lead to 10 with eight minutes, 43 seconds remaining in the first half. The

See **Alabama, 7**

NWA Wrestling Insider

By David Lawrence
Staff Columnist

The first National Wrestling Alliance match of Wednesday night started off with a bang as the Briscoe brothers (Jay and Mark) fought Divine Storm (Quiet Storm and Chris Devine), who were accompanied to the ring by their valet Trinity.

High-flying barely begins to describe this match, as both teams were pulling out all the stops. Trinity did an almost perfect rana which got a nice "Trinity" chant by the fans. Quiet Storm pinned Jay Briscoe after several hectic minutes.

Then, Vince Russo himself came out. You know folks, I recall when he was brought into WCW around '99 or so and everyone said how he was going to bring the company to new-found heights and completely destroy the WWE at the same time. And little more than a year later, WCW declares bankruptcy. This is not a man you want running things.

Crude language and insulting the people who paid money to see you - I guess Russo really is the smartest man in wrestling. But the fun doesn't stop there, as Russo goes on to say that Total Nonstop Action sucks, World Wrestling Entertainment sucks, in fact any promotion

that doesn't have him totally in charge sucks.

After that, America's Most Wanted took on Hot Shots. The match was decent, but James Mitchell and Belladonna walked out which caused Harris and Storm to chase after them. The Hot Shots won after a count-out.

In the NWA World Tag Team title match, B.G. James and his partner Curt Hennig (the former Mr. Perfect in the WWE) challenged Brian Lee and Slash for their titles. Rather slow when compared to the previous matches, and it ended in a disqualification when America's Most Wanted ran down and attacked everyone.

Next, the fans were treated to E.Z. Money vs. Alex Winters. A total squash as Money dominated almost the entire match before pinning Winters.

After that, Goldy had an interview with Miss TNA himself, Bruce. Bruce has an important announcement to make: what Lenny said last week was true - he's not gay. So from now on, his name will not be Bruce, but Allen Funk. He gives the title of Miss TNA to April.

And while we are still reeling from that surprise, the Crimson Dragon came out to fight Sonny Siaki. A fast-paced match, one that shows us everything that NWA: TNA is doing right.

Sonny wins using his finisher, the Siakopolis.

In the main event, Ron Killings faced Jeff Jarrett for the World Heavyweight title.

It was a fast-paced match until Russo rushed out from the back. He tossed a guitar to Jarrett, and when it looked like he was going to bring it down on Killings's head, he smashed it to pieces over in the corner. The rest of the match continued without incident until Jarrett managed to pin Killings cleanly to retain his title.

Russo looked upset and rushed into the ring. Jarrett left with the belt, leaving Russo at the hands of one irate former champion. ♦

Utah State: Burke picks up USU fumble

Continued from 6

69-yard play down the USU 6, Hicks walked into the end zone on the next play from scrimmage for a 17 point lead.

Needing 54 yards for the millennium mark, on the third play of the final period, Hicks ripped off a 55-yard run to the USU 5-yard line to get himself over the 1,000-yard mark.

"It's just a great feeling to accomplish something like that," Hicks said after the game. "I was on the sidelines and

someone told me that I was around 50 yards short, and I joked that I was going to break a 50-yard run, but I just figured I had to grind it out. I had a feeling that long run in the fourth quarter did it, though."

"It's like watching Michael Jordan - he's so hard to stop," senior receiver Tyrone Calico said of Hicks.

"He's my roommate and I want to see him do well but especially after the season he's had and we've had. It's great to see him go out with 1,000 yards."

Two plays later, Hines went in from 4 yards out and the Blue Raiders were cruising, 38-14.

A 79-yard touchdown from Jose Fuentes to Kevin Curtis made Blue Raider faithful nervous for a brief moment, but on the Aggies next drive, freshman linebacker Dennis Burke picked up a Kevin Curtis fumble and zig-zagged his way to a 61-yard touchdown, the first of his career. ♦

Alabama: Turnovers destroy MT's chances

Continued from 6

Crimson Tide were able to extend the lead to 17 by half-time on strong three-point shooting.

"Emmett played well. He's

doing a lot of things," Alabama coach Mark Gottfried said. "He rebounded well, shot it well, and he passed well."

The Blue Raiders were able to cut the lead to 13 on three occasions but three of the

team's 21 turnovers prevented MT from getting any closer.

"The strength of our team is on the perimeter," Davis said. "For us to out-rebound Alabama on the road and try to match their physicalness." ♦

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dentcity.com! Are you interested in earning your PhD? Would you like to have your own personal research mentor? Would you like to receive funding to conduct research? Are you interested in preparation for graduate level studies? If you answered yes to the above questions, please contact the MTSU McNair Scholars Program. We are located in Midgett 101 (back of KOM). Our staff would like to tell you more about our honorable program. Information may also be found at www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair/

150 Apt. for rent
Duplex for rent. 2 bedrooms, washer and dryer. \$290/month + utilities. Call 485-6570. Smoker OK. Room for rent. Male preferred. 1 bedroom with private bathroom in a 2 bedroom apartment. Move in anytime after exams. \$425 includes, furniture, appliances, school service to shuttle Ground floor at Sterling Apartments. Call Nick at 423-503-6187 with any questions. Hurry! Hurry! One bedroom for rent in a two bedroom apt. Rent before Dec. and pay only \$385, includes everything - water, phone, cable, and bedroom items. Lease ends July 31st. Call 308-9700. Looking 4 someone 2 take over lease on a 3/bedroom, 3/bath @ Sterling University Gables. Rent is \$420 a month. Includes all utilities and the apartment is fully furnished and has a washer and dryer. You would share the apartment w/my two current roommates.

155 House for rent
Large 2-story house 3 miles from campus. 5 spacious rooms for students. Female students preferred. \$250 a month + utilities. Discounts available. \$50 off 1st month rent for the first lease. \$300 security deposit. Fully furnished, washer & dryer, dish washer, microwave, central H/A and Culligan drinking water. Call 898-2005. Looking for a 2/3 bedroom house, cheap, near campus. Will take over lease/sign lease. Must allow pets. Call 539-1149. Leave message.

165 Roommates
Room for Rent - LaVerne. Bedroom, bath, walk-in closet. Nonsmoker, no pets. Please call, \$350/month and 1/2 utilities. Call Lori at 793-4001. 3 roommates needed to share large 4 bed-

room house close to campus. Lots of room, screened in porch, big yard. \$250 month cable and phone included, split water & electric. Call 217-6722 as for "Brad". Roommate wanted. Female to share 2 BR apt. \$280/month +elec. Close to MTSU. soundbite@yahoo.com

170 Subleasing
Roommate needed for 3 bedroom apt. at SUH. Available at the end of fall semester \$420/month includes washer/dryer, all bills (including cable) I will pay you \$100 on move-in. Call 898-3588 or email jwh2q@mtsu.edu. Roommate wanted to share 3 BR, 2 BA apartment 1/2 block from MTSU. Available Nov 15. \$200 month plus 1/3 utilities. \$370 a month. \$100 deposit. 895-9062. Roommate wanted: \$100 deposit, \$385 includes all utilities, washer & dryer, fully furnished. Call 615-907-3962 or 931-216-2879. Room for rent. Female needed. One bedroom in 3 bedroom house. All appliances included. Close to campus. \$285 + 1/3 utilities. Available now! Call 494-3877. Room for Rent, Female needed. 2 1/2 bedrooms from MTSU. Fully furnished room. Includes everything. Washer and Dryer, Towels, Linens, all you need is your clothes, toiletries and food. \$350 a month, no deposit, no lease, month to month. Call Glnna 896-0123. 432 S. Tennessee Blvd. 2 female roommates wanted to share new 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, 5 minutes from MTSU. Fully furnished. \$325 per person. Call 494-0077 ask for Amber. 21 yr. old male looking for a roommate to

move into his 1100sq. ft., 2 bedroom/1 1/2 bath town house, (male or female accepted). Rent is \$295 per month & 1/2 of Electric Bill. Please call Erle at (615)473-1228 for more details.

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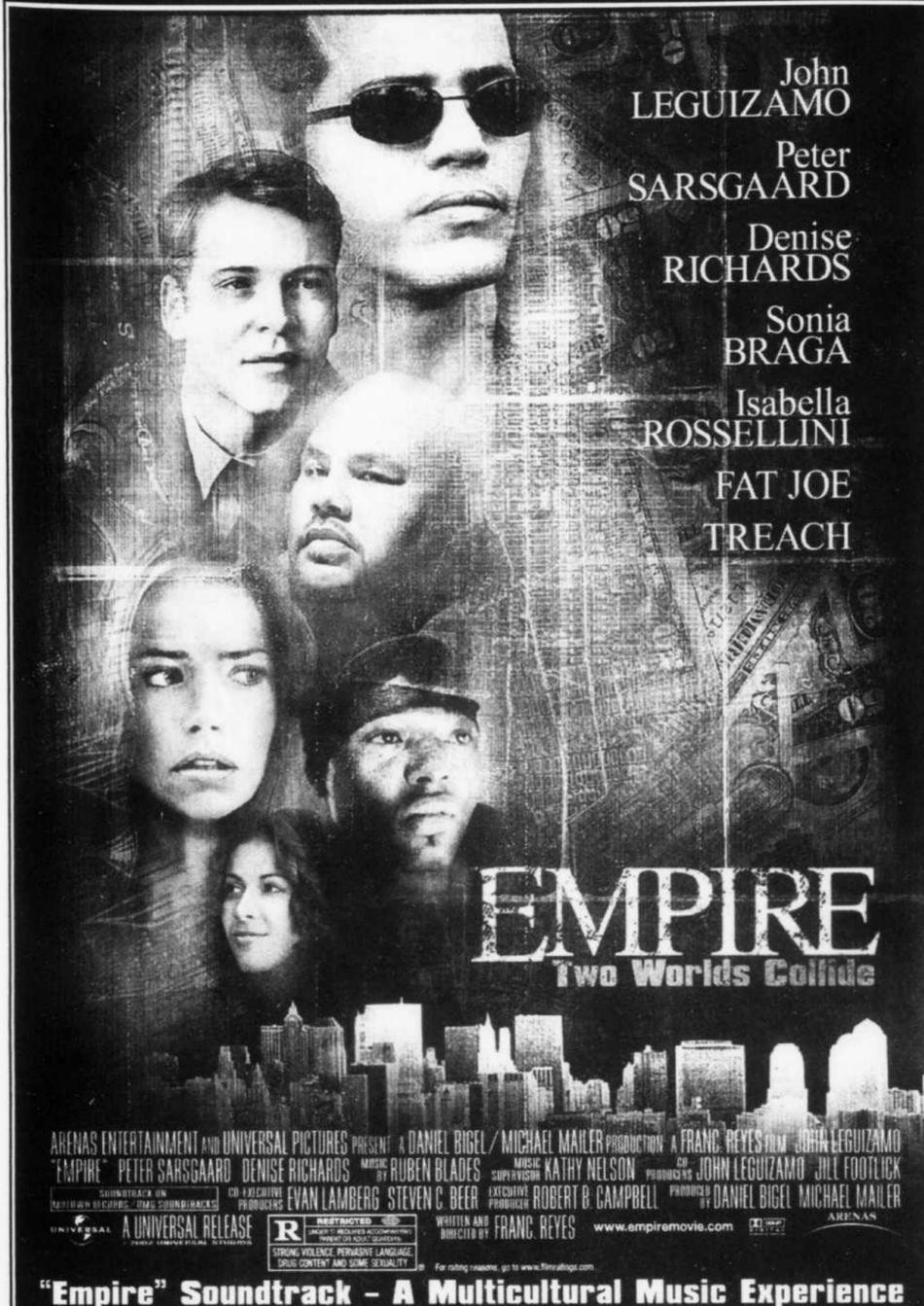
Nottingham Apt. Across from campus 2 bedroom 2 bath. email chrisptaul@yahoo.com.

190 Services
Stressed? Need to relax? Treat yourself and some friends to a complimentary spa retreat. Your house or mine. 494-3408, sparetreat@hotmail.com. Schedule yours today!
Need make-up? Call Jaclyn @898-4069 for any Mary Kay products.
BJ's Pet Sitting Service. In-home pet care for M'Boro. We will come to your home, feed/walk your pets, put in newspapers/mail, etc. Call Becky at 542-1927 to check availability.

205 Other
Bass Player wanted for punk/rock n roll band. Prior band experience, road worthy equipment, permanent location in Nashville / Murfreesboro area. No substance abuse problems. Info @ 896-9290
Hard Working Housecleaning. Experienced and affordable. Call me asap for details. Jessica 848-0194 or email int2b@mtsu.edu. Professional couple wishes to adopt your newborn-offers loving, secure home. Legal fees paid. Please help us live our dream of having a family. Call (931)648-9400. A Free Guitar Lesson! Call now 615-631-2296. Would you like to play the music that you love? Go for it!

Classifieds are free for students.

COMPLIMENTARY MOVIE PASSES



SIDELINES

Invites you to stop by
JUB 310

to pick up your
complimentary movie pass

Advance screening will be
Tuesday, December 3
at Hollywood 27
7:30 p.m.
(Next to 100 Oaks Mall)

Limited supplies. First
come, first served. Pass
does not guarantee
admission and seating is
limited.

No purchase necessary.
One pass per person.

IN THEATERS FRIDAY, December 6th

end of the semester
wed, Dec 4th

Foam Party

\$3.00 cover til 9:00

Penny Beer 7to11

lets get naked & dance

inferno bar

Dance Club & Disco Kitchen

SUPER T

Thursday, Dec 5th

ytone Smith Revue

The Best Disco Party Band In America

527 W. main st. m'boro ★ 217★1212 ★ www.inferno.com