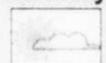


Friday

HI: 41°  
LO: 27°

Saturday

HI: 49°  
LO: 31°'Phantom operator'  
leads IT crew

page 6

Chrissy Givens: Senior  
career scorer

page 7

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

# SIDELINES

Vol. 82 No. 35

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Thursday, Nov. 30, 2006

Editorially independent

## Greek Row vandalism raises call for security

By Christin Pepple

Staff Writer

Several weeks ago fencing around areas of Greek Row on the MTSU campus were ripped down in what students and police believe to be an act of vandalism from surrounding apartment complexes.

"We have had issues in the past with non-Greek students and students who live in Campus Crossings [and] come and vandalize sections of the Greek Row property. A few weeks ago, newly-placed boards that fenced in the dumpsters were torn down as soon as we put them up," said Gentry McCreary, director of Greek Life.

A report was filed with the campus police force in an attempt to prevent future vandalism from occurring around the houses.

"We called the chief of the MTSU police because several of the members of the fraternities were concerned that security was too lax around the property and as a result, vandalism was going unchecked," said McCreary.

Buddy Peaster, the chief of Police at MTSU responded to the report by sending more patrols to Greek Row than had been going before.

"As law enforcement on campus we are many things. We are advocates for every-

one on this campus whether it may be a helping hand, guidance, advice or aid in any kind of situation, we want to be ready for any situation that arises such as the vandal acts at Greek Row," Peaster said.

Peaster attended a meeting of the fraternity presidents to discuss the problem of not having enough security around the area.

"The officers have been notified that they are responsible for making periodic checks around the Greek Row area to ensure no more vandalism occurs," Peaster said.

The police force is working on implementing a program with some of the fra-

ternities as well as residence halls called "Adopt-A-Cop," which is a program which entails cops being assigned to certain areas of university supported residence areas to protect and prevent problems that might arise.

Peaster recognized the fact that it is much harder to get security down to Greek Row and that several of the members of the houses were concerned with it. McCreary responded in an understanding matter saying that he knew that the police force does an excellent job considering their staff deficiencies.

"We are going to work out the details and we will hopefully implement 'Adopt-

A-Cop' as soon as we are able," Peaster said.

"We want to make sure that we offer the same protection to the residents of Greek Row that everyone else on campus gets because they are an important part of campus," Peaster said. "They have no staff to assist them with problems or issues if they are not sure what to do in certain situations. Hopefully we can fill that void for them."

"We are very happy with the response of Chief Peaster and the force," McCreary said. "They have always been more than helpful and responsive to any of our needs."

## Organization

Not in  
the bag

By Josh Daughtery

Staff Writer

A recent survey reported that nearly half of incoming college students are unorganized and unprepared by their high school careers.

"I had to teach myself to be organized," said Briana Lamb, sophomore electronic media production major. "If they're a messy person they are going to carry that into college."

The survey by FileMaker, Inc. reported 47 percent of college students do not receive their high school taught them the organizational skill required for college. FileMaker, a subsidiary of Apple Computer, Inc., produces database software, and conducted the survey with Greenfield online, an online data collection service.

Lamb said students do not listen regarding organization because it is a lifestyle. "You can teach them all the organization you want, but it depends on how they live at home," Lamb said.

How the student is parented is more important than the school they attend said Dennis Papini, chairperson of a psychology department.

"It depends on how seriously a person takes school and what level of courses they take as to if they use it," said Katie Clark, junior public relations major.

According to Clark, she felt high school did prepare her to be organized in college. Her high school used agenda books and stressed the importance of organization for college. Honors courses and those classes helped teach the organizational skills she needed for college.

"Schools are structured to help develop those organizational skills," Papini said.

In high school it is not the parents' responsibility because students need to learn things for them, said Jennifer Clinton, senior anthropology major.

"High School was really laid back," said Camilo Molina, senior broadcasting journalism major. "When I got to college it was hard to keep up with [class work] because teachers don't care if you're in class or not."

High schools could do a better job teaching organizational skill, Clinton said.

Organization is an individual trait rather than a group trait, Papini said. Schools can help foster the development of organizational skills but not without parental guidance.

"I was an AP and honors student," Clinton said. "I had a heavier work load."

Organizational skills depend on the high school, said Kenneth Scherzer, professor history department. Some students are prepared for class and other students are not.

"I think a lot of students avoid challenges," Scherzer said. "High schools should help people seek out those challenges."

The only thing high schools can do to prepare students for college is to teach at the college level said Cicely Springfield, junior electronic media production major. They can assign more tests and papers based on college courses.

"Teachers always say they are preparing you for college," said Molina.

"But I think they could have played the role of a college professor more the junior or senior year instead of just a high school teacher."

## SGA struggles to implement changes on MT campus

By Josh Hudson

Staff Writer

The Student Government Association has passed several pieces of legislation this year, ranging from constructing sidewalks to proposing a referendum before the student body on whether to build a student university center.

Yet the majority of the resolutions passed get little attention by the university, according to SGA President Jay Cash.

"We would like to receive some feedback from the departments at least letting us know they have received the legislation," Cash said. "We have not even gotten that in most cases."

As a result, the voice of the students is constantly undermined and legislation that should be addressed by its respective department in a reasonable amount of time is being passed through the senate multiple times.

Gene Fitch, dean of Student Life and associate vice president of Student Affairs and faculty advisor to the SGA, sees this as a problem as well.

"We would like to reiterate our responsibility to the student body to the departments around campus," said Fitch.

Legislation is introduced to the senate, voted upon, and if approved, the legislation is then passed along to the Vice President

of Student Affairs Bob Glenn who sends the legislation to the appropriate office with a cover letter asking for their consideration and input on the issue.

"If things do not change by next semester, we will ask Dr. Glenn to be more forceful," said Cash.

When asked about dealing with legislation, several departments expressed mild confusion and suggestions.

Dean of the Library Don Craig, who recently helped add a Starbucks in the library as suggested by SGA legislation, explained that he recommended senators do more research before writing and passing legislation.

Along these same lines, Executive Director of Housing and Residential Life Sarah Sudak explained that her department has divided itself up into student-run area governments that deal with problems expressed by students living in the dorms.

"When we take the legislation to the Senate, they normally tell us that was the first they had heard of the problem," Sudak said, adding that she would like to see the senators work more closely with the area governments so both parties may be better informed about problems.

Sudak also said she is confused with how to handle legislation.

See SGA, 3



Photo Illustration by Blake Arnold | Art Director and Jeremy Wyatt | Online Editor

## New office to improve business with community

By Mallory Bowden

Staff Writer

University partnerships with the community are an invaluable part of a successful educational environment, and they are even outlined as the third major goal of the university in its 2002-2012 Academic Master Plan.

The Academic Master Plan centers itself around three goals: educational quality, student-centered education, and strategic partnerships.

However, partnerships between students and the community present

opportunities for hands-on learning and strengthening the first two goals of the university, Gebert said.

"The more involved a student is, the more they'll remember, leading us back to goals one and two," Gebert said.

MTSU is known for its variety of partnerships which include working to provide internships with businesses for students, assisting non-profit organizations to achieve a common goal—such as the partnership between the Tennessee Preservation Trust—the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation and the MTSU Department of Public History.

Also, partnerships can include improving school facilities.

"One of our more creative partnerships occurred when President McPhee negotiated to acquire city funds for our soccer fields," Gebert said.

Owens manages the CUP office website from a temporary office in one of the library study rooms. The website includes forms for professors to report current partnerships within their departments as well as forms for off-campus and prospective partners. Information from these reports is fed into a database that reports the name and the classifica-

tion of the partnership. Students can use this information to find different interests that correspond with different internships and opportunities.

"For instance, a student who is interested in Boy Scouts can go online to see who on campus has a partnership with Boy Scouts and find a way to work with that partnership," Gebert added.

From now until Christmas, one of the major goals of the CUP office is to refine the reports it has already received in order to present the most accurate and useful information. The database hopes to focus more on internships, which have

often been neglected or unnoticed in the past, said Owens.

Along with refining existing resources and partnerships, the CUP office exists to form new partnerships with the community. Partnerships between the university and bio-technology companies and collaboration for research on more efficient forms of fuel are only a couple of the more promising new partnerships forming.

"We share resources for issues and challenges," Owens said. "Also, we work to bring people on campus. It is a system of give and take," Owens said.

# Bookstore tries to relieve money stress with rentals

By Faith Franklin  
Staff Writer

Recently, two MTSU alumni have joined together in the fight against rising textbook prices.

Graduates Ron Atkins and Stephen Watkins have come up with an alternative to students' recurring semester problem of books by starting a local textbook rental store called "The Learning Curved."

"Not all students are fortunate to have a full scholarship and have to pay for books out of their pocket both semesters, and when they bring their books back from the previous semester they don't even get half of what they originally paid," said Donielle Fitzgerald, freshman textile merchandising and design major.

At the beginning of every semester, students go through the process of scheduling, tuition payments and financial aid. In addition to everything, students still have to purchase books for their classes.

"We were students at MTSU and we had to buy textbooks [every semester] that we maybe used six times out of the semester," said Ron Atkins, recent MTSU graduate. "We realized that the bookstore was ripping us off, so we looked for other alternatives and we came up with The Learning Curved."

### The Learning Curved works in an easy to follow four-step process.

- [1] Reserve your textbooks online at [www.tlc-tnsu.com](http://www.tlc-tnsu.com).
- [2] Pick-up your books from the location listed on the Web site.
- [3] Use the books for your classes.
- [4] Return the books at one of our convenient locations.

Students already have enough financial burdens with the increasing cost of tuition and housing without adding pricey books to the list, according to these enterprisers.

"The name The Learning Curved comes from the bell curve that teachers use to help students out. The goal of The Learning Curved is to help the average student out," Atkins said.

According to Atkins, The Learning Curved will offer students a cheaper alternative for their textbook needs because they believe that students should have a choice whether or not to buy or rent textbooks.

"I believe that the school bookstore is ripping MTSU students off and if the students can rent books, they will not worry so much about bills and focus on their education and be better students," said Jennifer Viar, freshman mass communication major.

The Learning Curved is looking for a permanent location and hopes to have one by the beginning of the spring semester, Atkins said. Students are still able to rent and reserve their books for the semester to make sure they are in stock, by doing so online.

"I think that it's a good idea to have a textbook rental store. I am definitely interested in renting my books for next semester," Fitzgerald said.

When The Learning Curved moves to its permanent location next semester, books will also be available for hourly rentals and three-day rentals for those students who need a book, but not as their primary text.

## Faces in the Crowd

Christina Batts, senior marketing major, was on the first floor of the KUC Wednesday having a bake sale while selling cookbooks and canned jars of food as part of a fundraiser for Phi Sigma Pi National Honors Fraternity.



### 1. What is the fundraiser for?

It is for our annual formal that we are hosting this weekend.

### 2. Why do you have an annual formal?

It is our one chance all semester to get all dressed up and have fun and fellowship with one another. We enjoy dinner, dancing and we also get to present awards.

### 3. Why is that the one chance that you get all semester?

Because we are an honors fraternity we devote a lot of our time to schoolwork. In addition to that many of us are busy with jobs, it is usually the only time that we can get together, so we use it to celebrate the

end of the semester.

### 4. Why did you all decide to have a bake sale?

We were already selling the cookbooks and the jars, so we added a bake sale to increase income.

### 5. How did you get involved in Phi Sigma Pi?

I received a letter about the fraternity and I had a friend who was already a member, then I went to the informational and decided that it was something that I wanted to do.

Compiled By: Faith Franklin

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

# SIDELINES

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for the Spring semester

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To apply, send a resume and cover letter, with three references, to

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- Features editor
- Exposure editor
- Photo editor
- Opinions editor
- Copy editor
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- Design editor
- Staff designers

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**CRIME BRIEFS**

Wednesday, Nov. 15 - 12:33 p.m.  
Lyon Hall  
Complainant advised that someone had stolen her camera from the computer lab at Lyon Hall.

Friday, Nov. 17 - 4:32 a.m.  
Jim Cummings Hall  
Vandalism Under \$500  
Complainant advised that students, causing the elevator on both sides to be non-functioning, had pushed a soda vending machine onto an elevator.

Friday, Nov. 17 - 12:14 p.m.  
Orchard Lot  
Vandalism Under \$500  
Subject called and reported that someone had vandalized his or her vehicle.

Saturday, Nov. 18 - 9:35 p.m.  
Theft from Automobile  
Greenland Drive Lot B  
A car was broken into and victim's purse was stolen.

Sunday, Nov. 19 - 9:04 p.m.  
James E. Walker Library  
Theft Over \$500  
A bicycle worth \$1,700 was stolen from the east side bike rack near the library.

Sunday, Nov. 19 - 11:31 p.m.  
Rutherford Boulevard  
Driving on Suspended License  
Jeff N. Gramon, 34, of Memphis, Tenn. given a citation for driving on a suspended license.

Monday, Nov. 20 - 10:46 a.m.  
Nicks Hall  
Theft Under \$500

Subject called and requested an officer in reference to vandalism done to the soda vending machine.

Monday, Nov. 20 - 12:11 p.m.  
Todd Building  
Theft Under \$500  
Subject called and requested an officer in reference to an item taken during a lecture and would like a report.

Monday, Nov. 20 - 12:12 p.m.  
Off Campus  
Driving On Suspended License  
Jessie Richards, 24, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., was given a citation for driving on a suspended license.

Monday, Nov. 20 - 4:40 p.m.  
Felder Hall

Theft Under \$500  
Matthew Bush came to the police department to report his bicycle being stolen.

Monday, Nov. 20 - 5:27 p.m.  
Nicks Hall Lot  
Simple Possession and Casual Exchange of Marijuana  
Officer had given an escort to a subject and observed another subject playing loud music in a vehicle. Officer then observed upon approach noticed Jeredan Lyles, 22, of Hermitage, Tenn., was rolling a blunt with marijuana.

Monday, Nov. 20 - 8:59 p.m.  
James E. Walker Library  
Theft from Automobile  
Tags were stolen off vehicle in library lot.

Wednesday, Nov. 22 - 09:44 a.m.  
Jim Cummings Hall  
Arson  
Complainant made a report of a suspect lighting a fiber on a resident assistant door on fire.

Thursday, Nov. 23 - 6:54 p.m.  
James Union Building  
Vandalism Under \$500  
An air conditioning duct, near the loading dock for dining services between Rutledge and James Union Building, looked like someone had tried to kick it in.

Monday, Nov. 27. - 8:22 p.m.  
Learning Resources Center  
Theft Over \$500  
The possible theft of a cellular telephone in the Murphy Center.

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**SGA: Difficulty enforcing changes**

Continued from 1

"I do not know if I am obligated to make these changes or if they are just suggestions," Sudak said. "I think some things would be better as a memo from the SGA."

Glenn explained that legislation is "the voice of the students" expressing their concern for a given matter on campus.

"We ask that the proposed changes be looked into, and if possible, steps be taken to meet the changes. I have never come across anyone who has just dismissed legislation from the SGA," said Glenn.

Executive Vice President and Provost Kaylene Gebert, when asked about legislation requesting classes to be canceled on Good Friday, said that some things the SGA suggests, including the academic calendar, are mandated by the Tennessee Board of Regents and nobody on campus has any control over these, and again, emphasized research on the senators' part.

"There have been many

instances when we have worked with the TBR regarding legislation," Cash said.

The recent vote on raising tuition for a new student union center was a result of TBR's response to that particular legislation, saying they would not approve the tuition raise unless the student body voted in favor of it.

"It seems some people use TBR as an excuse to get out of acting on the legislation," said Cash.

When asked about research, Cash said that was something the SGA did need to work on.

"Fitch has a record of all legislation passed in the last eight years, and we need to work on making that more accessible to the senators," said Cash. This would help prevent legislation passing through the senate multiple times.

"Spontaneity is the nature of a student, and I do not think that is a bad thing," Glenn said about senators not doing enough research on their resolutions.

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# OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

## Top-heavy management prevents SGA from producing real results

Consider this: MTSU is operated by a top-heavy administration, meaning that all decisions and policies flow downward. There's President Sidney McPhee, then there's everybody else. Next, consider that the Faculty Senate, a legislative body made up of professors from their respective colleges or departments to provide perspective and advice, has tried before and will most likely try again to acquire some real governing influence, rather than merely cry foul. Then, at the very bottom, tucked neatly in its proper place, is the Student Government Association, which in its own "spontaneity" tries to help the students.

This image of SGA is ugly and bleak, but not helpless. The fact is, departments are under no obligation to implement SGA's resolutions, which means SGA is in the selling business. Yes, that means research – not just when it comes to the solution, but when it comes to the problem itself.

We understand that the SGA Senators donate their time and are hard-working, but sometimes, really, these resolutions could use more thought. If, maybe, SGA did away with the hour system requiring senators to accomplish a certain amount of work, this would eliminate hasty resolutions. Or better yet, resolutions would be sponsored primarily through committees. This would provide more people to work each the problem and put less strain on the senators.

Either way, the issue is that SGA is having little impact except when the administration wants something, i.e. the Student University Center, or when the students get riled up, i.e. Forrest Hall. If better resolutions are devised, resolutions that identify real problems, which in turn will result in practical solutions, then maybe the student body will take more notice and get involved.

## So-called pious abuse power of their pulpits

One of the gravest misfortunes facing our nation today is the religious, conservative right's abuse of their weekly place in our lives and their role in our families. Attending church is a widely accepted tradition in the United States. Do we get more out of it, however, than we realize?

Have you ever been instructed who to vote for – been told "God's pick" for a political position while fighting boredom through an entirely unrelated church service? Did the words "George W. is the man for the job" ever make you shift your weight on a hard pew, breathing in the once-reverent air of a church service? Think hard, it happens more than you realize.

Every Sunday, ministers armed with only a seminary degree feel inclined to weigh in upon the slant of our political views. In essence, they stack books under the left legs of our collective table, and the formerly level objects resting on top slide and scatter clear off the right.

The United States was founded upon a separation of church and state. People fled England because they didn't have this and, in fact, needed it to worship as they saw fit. The very first amendment in the Bill of Rights states that, "Congress shall make no law respecting and establishment of religion." Should religious officials be allowed to use only their knowledge of moral law to influence a government which cannot and does not, in turn, acknowledge them back?

This separation exists so the ethics of government aren't influenced by the morals of religion, and people can worship freely without being instructed as to how. It's a stipend of government being trampled on when those with "religious" authority tell the rest of us whom to place in leadership of our country – dogma leaping over its boundaries.

Look at your friendly neighborhood ministers, who nudged us to vote into office a tool, literally and figuratively, as our president. These elects of the moral majority, which the pious publicize from the pulpit, don't even exhibit the traits that religion calls for. The fear of more dead, unborn fetuses leads the "upright" to elect a man with no reservations. He can and will kill real, living innocent people of Middle Eastern ethnicity. Justifiable, because they're probably terrorists. Right.

Messages of charity and com-



Polishing Brass On The Titanic

Brandon Bouchillon  
Staff Columnist

passion ring out in generic church services. Then congregations elect as their leader a man who very much hates homosexuals and their personal choice, a president who's taken us to war, who's vanquished thousands because God forbid they should hate our freedom. All the while a closed Bible in the corner screams from its bindings, "Thou shalt not kill."

By definition, this makes these deviant religious leaders at the same time Pharisees and hypocrites. But the recent midterm election results show promise. People are finally starting to form their own opinions, instead of accepting the ones handed from above.

This isn't meant to be a rant on the wrongdoings of the right-wing; the left commit faults that are just as grave. Give their majority some time and they'll provide plenty of ammo.

However, the image clears to this: People should form their own, thought-out, logical opinions regarding who they vote for. A choice that stems from their reasoning. Taken from their questioning, their deduction. Not drawn from the sermon notes of a partisan religious patriarch who "knows" what's best for us.

My favorite prophet, Bob Dylan, once sang, "Gonna change my way of thinking, make myself a different set of rules. Gonna put my good foot forward and stop being influenced by fools." Americans should grow strong-willed enough to take the burden of political decision upon their own shoulders. Until we, as a nation, look inward to find ethical answers as to who can best operate our branches of government, we will never know peace. We'll continue down this path, slanted to the right and led by the "righteous," until it ends at the foot of some great door, an unholy destruction lurking behind it as the pious prod us ever onward.

Brandon Bouchillon is a junior mass communication major and can be reached at bcb2t@mtsu.edu.

## Forrest's KKK role exaggerated

By Bill Bearden

Guest Columnist

While not a student nor alumni of Middle Tennessee, I am a student of history, and member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

I write you today because I have read via the Internet that a very small group of students desire the name of America's greatest cavalry leader be removed from the ROTC building.

It is my understanding that a Miss Amber Perkins, sociology major from Nashville, and one-time vice president of the MTSU African American Student Association, has gathered a small petition of 205 signatures and presented it and some research to Student Government Association Senator Steve Disser, who penned a resolution for its removal, which was passed by a 19-5 vote.

According to the story, Disser took for granted the information handed him and ran with it, because he "had the responsibility to represent the students."

Hopefully, we would all agree that factual history and a complete education are more important than emotional activism, which is what this 'controversy' seems to be based upon.

Here is the story that seems to have eluded the Anti-Forrest Hall factions. One can only guess as to why they want to hide these facts. Perhaps it would interfere with their radical agenda? The KKK was founded in Dec. 1865 by six former Confederate officers: Captain John C. Lester, Major James R. Crowe, John D. Kennedy, Calvin Jones, Richard R. Reed and Frank O. McCord.

Kennedy, Lester and Reed were from the CSA 3rd TN Infantry. They put it together in the back room of J. Calvin Jones' father's law office in Pulaski, Tenn. The six young men organized as a social club or fraternity and spent their time in horseplay of various types, including wearing disguises and galloping about town after dark.

They were surprised to learn that their nightly appearances were causing fear, particularly among former slaves in the area. They quickly took advantage of this effect and the group began a rapid expansion. Various factions formed in different towns, which led to a meeting in April, 1867 to codify rules and organizational structure.

On Aug. 28, 1868, in the Cincinnati Commercial, Lt. Gen. Forrest was interviewed to get his "views in regard to the condition of your civil and political affairs in the State of Tennessee, and the South generally."

The following back and forth is between the reporter and Forrest. The reporter begins asking Forrest about the Klan.

"Why, General, we people up North have regarded the Ku-Klux as an organization which existed only in the frightened imagination of a few politicians."

Forrest replied, "Well, sir, there is such an organization, not only in Tennessee, but all over the South, and its numbers have not been exaggerated."

"What are its numbers, general?"

"In Tennessee there are over 40,000; in all the Southern states they number about 550,000 men."

"What is the character of the organization; May I inquire?"

"Yes, sir. It is a protective political military organization. I am willing to show any man the constitution of the society. The members are sworn to recognize the government of the United States. It does not say anything at all about the government of Tennessee. Its objects originally were protection against Loyal Leagues and the Grand Army of the Republic; but after it became general it was found that political matters and interests could best be promoted within it, and it was then made a political organization, giving its support, of course, to the Democratic party."

"Do you think, General, that the Ku-Klux have been of any benefit to the State?"

"No doubt of it. Since its organization, the leagues have quit killing and murdering our people. There were some foolish young men who put masks on their faces and rode over the country, frightening negroes, but orders have been issued to stop that, and it has ceased. You may say, further, that three members of the Ku-Klux have been court-martialed and shot for violations of the orders not to disturb or molest people."

"Are you a member of the Ku-Klux?"

"I am not, but am in sympathy and will cooperate with them. I know that they are charged with many crimes that they are not guilty of. A case in point is the killing of Bierfield at Franklin, a few days ago. I sent a man up there especially to investigate the case, and report to me, and I have his letter here now, in which he states that they had nothing to do with it as an organization."

"Then I suppose that there can be no doubt of a conflict if the militia interfere with the people; is that your view?"

"Yes, sir; if they attempt to carry out Governor Brownlow's proclamation, by shooting down Ku-Klux – for he calls all Southern men Ku-Klux – if they go to hunting down and shooting these men, there will be war, and a bloodier one than we have ever witnessed. I have told these radicals here what they might expect in such an event. I have no

power to burn or kill negroes. I intend to kill the radicals. I have told them this and more, there is not a radical leader in this town but is a marked man, and if a trouble should break out, none of them would be left alive. I have told them that they are trying to create a disturbance and then slip out and leave the consequences to fall upon the negroes, but they can't do it. When the fight comes not one of them would get out of this town saying it was 'being perverted from its original honorable and patriotic purposes, becoming injurious instead of subservient to the public peace' live. We don't intend they shall ever get out of the country. But I want it distinctly understood that I am opposed to any war, and will only fight in self-defense."

The Klan's increasing reputation for violence led the more prominent citizens to drop out while criminals and the dispossessed began to fill the ranks. Local chapters proved difficult, if not impossible, to monitor and direct. In disgust, in January, 1869, Forrest used his public notoriety to call for the disbanding of the organization, saying it was "being perverted from its original honorable and patriotic purposes, becoming injurious instead of subservient to the public peace" and the vast majority of local groups followed his lead.

A small number of local units continued to operate but were eventually disbanded or sent into hiding by federal troops.

In 1871, William Tecumseh Sherman chaired the 42nd U.S. Congressional Committee Investigation into the KKK and its activities. Among the former Confederate officers investigated and interviewed was N.B. Forrest since his name was used in forming and recruiting the original Klan. Sherman was never a friend or ally of Forrest. "Forrest is the very devil," Sherman wrote Secretary of War Stanton on June 15, 1864. "If we must sacrifice 10,000 lives and bankrupt the Federal Treasury, it will be worth it. There will never be peace in Tennessee till Forrest is dead."

Sherman was also noted to have stated before the investigation convened that, "We are here to investigate Forrest, charge Forrest, try Forrest and hang Forrest."

When the Congressional Committee completed its investigation, including a revisiting of the alleged "Ft. Pillow Massacre," and concluded that while Forrest's name had been used in forming the Klan that it was likely done without his permission and that his only activities related to the Klan were his public efforts to compel it to disband.

Bill Bearden  
Carrollton, Ga.

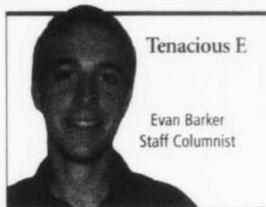
## In higher education, elite is good

If you've been in academia for more than 15 minutes, you've probably heard the term "ivory tower," or possibly leveled it at one of your professors. Stop and think about what it means.

To accuse someone of living in an ivory tower is to accuse them of willfully disconnecting from the practical side of life, and immersing themselves in esoteric (and ostensibly useless) academic pursuits. This is a dangerous attitude to take, especially for a college student.

As higher education becomes more accessible and enrollment increases, the criticisms leveled at academics seem to worsen. Students accuse their professors of preaching useless garbage, or intentionally going over their heads. This spirit is contrary to a good academic mentality.

Accusing professors and other learned people of elitism is not new. According to Wikipedia, the term "ivory tower" practically implies an association with the academic world, particularly the humanities. Using this as a pejorative is a cheap potshot at entire fields of study. It's easy to accuse someone of elitism if they go over your head. So easy, in fact, that it is practically implied that all professors are elitist. Maybe they are, but



Tenacious E

Evan Barker  
Staff Columnist

maybe it's not a bad thing.

Consider this: In a lecture, your professor loses you on a long tangent about marginal utility, and since you didn't understand the lecture, you accuse the teacher of being an elitist. You assume that since you didn't understand the material, it isn't worthwhile. Be honest with yourself. Unless you're a sheep, you've questioned the utility of a lesson at one time or another.

Resist the temptation, however, to assume the worst about all professors, lectures and classes that you encounter. If you do that, you're simply blowing off an education that you've already paid for. Chances are your professor is trying to teach you something worthwhile. Whether or not you understood it does not diminish its relevance. The professor's job is not to be "man of the people;" their job is to help you feed your brain. To accuse them of ivory tower-ism is simply to shoot the

messenger.

It's even more dangerous to let this mentality of anti-elitism make it into your everyday life. If you get in a car accident, and you need brain surgery, would you want a mediocre brain surgeon, or an elite surgeon? Don't you love an elite football team that wins? The trial lawyers that win the big cases are elite, without a doubt.

Furthermore, elitism is the reason that you're here. Whether or not you realize it, you are in school to obtain upward mobility, and move into that class of "the chosen." You want the six-figure income and the secure job, and you don't get these things by shrugging off your professors simply because their lectures are difficult. Elitism is the driving force behind capitalism and upward mobility and for that, it occupies a very important place in the advancement of humanity.

The main place where people go wrong is by assuming that elitists detest the "non-elite," or that they feel entitled to a larger piece of the pie. There's a grain of truth in this, in that the elite naturally rise to positions of power and influence, because that's what happens. The misconception is that being elite automatically exempts you from caring about

other people, or practical matters. The so-called "limousine liberal" is a person of some affluence, who is apparently hypocritical when expressing an interest towards helping the poor. Perhaps these people are affluent because they aspire to elitism in education and hard work, but have not forgotten the "have-nots" on the lower rungs of the economic ladder.

The same goes for your professors. They don't hold class simply to fail you, but to help you elevate yourself from the position of the student to that of the professional. In the Soviet Union, the elite were expected to be servants of the people, but were censured or even executed for expressing things in terms too complicated for the Average Joe to understand. The effect of this was that much intellectual thought was stifled, and the country was done a tremendous disservice.

Don't fall into the same trap. Admire the elites: The professors, and the wealthy CEO's. Remember, you're trying to become one.

Evan Barker is a junior music performance major and can be reached at ehb2d@mtsu.edu.

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Middle Tennessee  
State University  
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8  
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Editorial: (615) 904-8357  
Advertising: (615) 898-2533  
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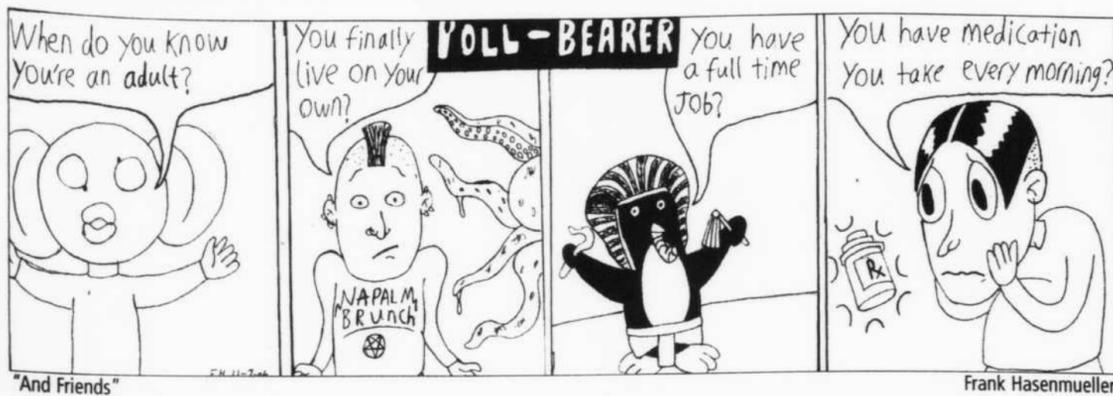
### Letters Policy

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"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

# Forrest's policies anti-racist

By William H. Swann

Guest Columnist

It is a fairly common occurrence for lies told as propaganda during a time of war to stir up the populace into supporting the war, to be considered factual by future generations. Thus it isn't really the fault of the Students Against Forrest Hall - they are acting on an incorrect information regarding Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest. I offer the following information about Forrest collected from Congressional Hearings and the Memphis paper.

Lie Number One: Forrest was the founder of the Ku Klux Klan.

Well, not exactly. No one has ever been found that could attest to Forrest having been at any KKK meeting, or of having participated in any KKK activities. The U.S. Congress investigated and the following is a record of the facts as they found them. The Congressional investigation of 1871 established that Forrest did not participate in the organization of the Klan, was not involved with the operations of the Klan, was not the "Grand Dragon," and actually worked to try to stop the Klan.

The primary accusation before that board was that Forrest was a founder of the Klan, and its first Grand Wizard. I shall address those accusations first. In 1871, Forrest was called before a Congressional Committee along with 21 other ex-Confederate officers including Admiral Raphael Semmes, Gen. Wade Hampton, Gen. John B. Gordon and Gen. Braxton Bragg. Forrest testified before Congress personally for over four hours.

Forrest took the witness stand June 27, 1871. Since he was building a railroad in Tennessee at the time, Forrest stated he, who had "done more, probably than any other man, to suppress these violence and difficulties and keep them down, had been vilified and abused in the (news) papers, and accused of things [he] never did while in the army and since."

He had nothing to hide, wanted to see this matter settled, our country quite once more, and our people united and working together harmoniously. Asked if he knew of any man or combination of men violating the law or preventing the execution of the law: Forrest answered emphatically, "No." A Committee member brought up a document suggesting otherwise, the 1868 newspaper article from the Cincinnati Commercial. That was their "evidence," a news article. Forrest stated that any information he had on the Klan was information given to him by others.

Sen. Scott asked, "Did you take any steps in organizing an association or society under that prescript [the KKK constitution]?"

Forrest responded, "I did not." Forrest further stated that he thought, "the Organization [the KKK] started in Middle Tennessee," although he did not know where, adding, "It is said I started it."

Sen. Scott asked, "Did you start it? Is that true?" Forrest answered, "No, sir, it is not." Asked if he had heard of the Knights of the White Camellia, a Klan-like organization in Louisiana, Forrest replied, "Yes, they were reported to be there." The senator then asked if Forrest was a member of the Order. Forrest responded he was not.

When asked about the Klan, Forrest said, "It was a matter I knew very little about. All my efforts were addressed to stop it, disband it, and prevent it ... I was trying to keep it down as much as possible."

He continued, "I talked with different people that I believed were connected to it, and urged the disbandment of it, that it should be broken up."

The following article appeared in the New York Times on June 27, 1871: "Washington, 1871. Gen Forrest was before the Ku Klux Committee today, and his examination lasted four hours. After the examination, he remarked that the committee treated him with much courtesy and respect."

Congressional records show that Forrest was absolved of all complicity in the founding or operation of the Ku Klux Klan, and he was certainly never a "Grand Wizard."

These committees had the utmost evidence and living witnesses at their disposal. The evidence precluded any guilt or indictment of Forrest and the matter was closed before that body of final judgment in 1872. The following findings in the Final report of this committee of Congress concluded, "The statement of these gentlemen (Forrest and Gordon) are full and explicit...the evidence fully sustains them."

Lie Number Two: Nathan Bedford Forrest led a Slaughter of United States Colored Troops at the battle of Ft. Pillow.

Well, again, that wasn't exactly what happened, as was discovered by the U.S. Congress during the same hearing. Another further bit of historical misrepresentation was resolved by that Committee and by reports contained in the Federal Official Records:

There was no "Ft. Pillow Massacre."

They found that there were isolated incidents, which took place on the riverbank, which Forrest personally stopped as soon as he arrived on the scene, but that there was no ordered or organized "massacre" of surrendered black Union soldiers.

The Federal Official Records show that much of the so-called "evidence" was fabricated after the fact.

There was an accusation that Forrest ordered the burning of Union barracks containing wounded Union soldiers.

Lieutenant Daniel Van Horn, Sixth U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery, whose report is contained in the Federal Official Records, documented that Lieutenant John D. Hill, also U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery, fired the barracks under orders of the Union commanding officer. Lieutenant Van Horn also reported, "There never was a surrender of the fort, both officers and men declaring they never would surrender or ask for quarter."

Accusations that "all" of the U.S. Colored Troops were killed was disproved by the fact that Forrest turned over 39 captured USCT to higher authority and also turned over the 14 most severely wounded USCT to the Acting Master of the U.S. Steamer Silver Cloud.

Accusations that Forrest had wounded Union soldiers "buried alive" were also proven false by the fact that Union officers were actually in charge of conducting burials.

The "Ft. Pillow Massacre" was simply wartime propaganda used by the Union in an attempt to demonize Forrest and convince USCT not to surrender.

In fact, at Marianna, Florida, and again at Ft. Blakeley, Alabama, it inspired USCT to commit mass murder of surrendered, unarmed Confederate soldiers.

Most people familiar with Southern Reconstruction are aware that there was certainly racial tension between the newly freed black people and the white Southern people who were still under Union Soldier Control during 1875. There was very limited mixing of the races on a voluntary basis.

Forrest was asked by the Memphis Jubilee of Pole Bearers, a predecessor of the modern National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, to attend their meeting and address their membership.

In the whole of the South, there probably weren't six white men who would have the intestinal fortitude to attend such a meeting where he was sure to receive a hostile welcome. Friends and comrades counseled him not to go, but Forrest was always a man among men.

He attended the meeting and made a speech that should be taught in every classroom in the United States because he was the rarest of Southern white men; he felt a kinship with Southern blacks, he respected them as people, he did not talk down to them and when he spoke to them it was with sincerity.

The following was printed in the Memphis Daily Avalanche on July 6, 1875 regarding the meeting held on July 4, 1875:

"July 4, 1875 - Memphis, Tennessee - Nathan Bedford Forrest was invited to speak by the Jubilee of Pole Bearers, a political and social organization in the post-war era comprised of Black Southerners.

Miss Lou Lewis was introduced to General Forrest then presented him with a bouquet of flowers and said: 'Mr. Forrest - allow me to present you this bouquet as a token, of reconciliation, an offering of peace and good will.'

General Forrest received the flowers with a bow, and replied: 'Miss Lewis, ladies and gentlemen - I accept these flowers as a token of reconciliation between the white and colored races of the South. I accept them more particularly, since they come from a colored lady, for if there is any one on God's great earth who loves the ladies, it is myself.'

"This is a proud day for me. Having occupied the position I have for 13 years, and being misunderstood by the colored race, I take this occasion to say that I am your friend.

"I am here as the representative of the Southern people - one that has been more maligned than any other.

I assure you that every man who was in the Confederate army is your friend.

We were born on the same soil, breath the same air, live in the same land and why should we not be brothers and sisters?

When the war broke out, I believed it to be

my duty to fight for my country, and I did so. I came here with the jeers and sneers of a few white people, who did not think it right.

I think it is right, and will do all I can to bring about harmony, peace and unity.

I want to elevate every man, and to see you take your places in your shops, stores and offices. I don't propose to say anything about politics, but I want you to do as I do - go to the polls and select the best men to vote for.

I feel that you are free men, I am a free man, and we can do as we please.

I came here as a friend and whenever I can serve any of you I will do so. We have one Union, one flag, one country; therefore, let us stand together.

Although we differ in color, we should not differ in sentiment.

Many things have been said in regard to myself, and many reports circulated, which may perhaps be believed by some of you, but there are many around me who can contradict them. I have been many times in the heat of battle - oftener, perhaps, than any within the sound of my voice.

Men have come to me to ask for quarter, both black and white, and I have shielded them. Do your duty as citizens, and if any are oppressed, I will be your friend.

I thank you for the flowers, and assure you that I am with you in heart and hand."

Forrest was a slave trader before the war, but he had principles, which most slave sellers never possessed.

Forrest had a policy never to break up families, he had a list of cruel owners and refused to sell to them, he and his family brought new slaves to their home and cleaned, clothed and fed them before they were taken to market.

The general repurchased slaves who said their owners were mean and allowed slaves to choose whom they would prefer as owners.

Regarding Forrest's actual recorded conduct toward blacks during the Civil War, please consider the following, "First With the Most" Forrest," by Robert Selph Henry:

"45 of Forrest's own slaves, indeed served through the war with him as teamsters. I said to 45 colored fellows on my plantation... Forrest told a Congressional committee after the war, 'that I was going into the army; and that if they would go with me, if we got whipped they would be free anyhow, and that if we succeeded and slavery was perpetuated, if they would act faithfully with me to the end of the war, I would set them free. 18 months before the war closed, I was satisfied that we were going to be defeated, and I gave those 45 men, or 44 of them, their free papers, for fear I might get killed."

When freed, these men never left Forrest's side and served as personal servants, cooks, teamsters, foragers and scouts, with eight of them serving as Forrest's personal armed bodyguards.

Is there proof that these men rode into combat with Forrest? Most definitely and from the most widely-accepted authoritative source used by Civil War researchers and historians: Federal Official Records, Series I, Vol XVI Part I, Lt. Col. Parkhurst's Report (Ninth Michigan Infantry) on Forrest's attack at Murfreesboro, Tenn, July 13, 1862:

"The forces attacking my camp were the First Regiment Texas Rangers, Colonel Wharton, and a battalion of the First Georgia Rangers, Colonel Morrison and a large number of citizens of Rutherford County, many of whom had recently taken the oath of allegiance to the United States Government.

"There were also quite a number of negroes attached to the Texas and Georgia troops, who were armed and equipped, and took part in the several engagements with my forces during the day."

Forrest later commented to a Congressional committee in 1871 that, "Those fellows never left me ... and better Confederates did not live."

There you have the truth presented in a factual manner with sources and locations.

The very black people he treated with dignity and respect have demonized Forrest. I respectfully request you to issue a retraction of your slander of Forrest.

The Committees that cleared him of all wrong doing during and after the war was done during the Reconstruction period and headed up by Gen. William Sherman.

With deepest respect for the subject matter above and for our godly Confederate History, I remain your humble servant.

Rev. Dr. William H. Swann  
Marietta, Ga.

## Letters to the Editor

### Hurtt's crusade injured by tragic flaw

To the Editor:

The man at the center of the Forrest Hall controversy reads like a Shakespearean race-relations comedy of errors as interpreted by the cast of Blue Collar TV on an endowment from Lee Greenwood.

This time, a young white ram is tugging the black ewes.

In the updated story, though, the young white ram is *Sidelines* proto-conservative columnist and Nathan Bedford Forrest enthusiast Matthew Hurtt, who plays the tragicomic role of "A Midsummer Night Dream's" Nick Bottom with a scene-chewer affection not seen since Faye Dunaway lost it over wire coat hangers.

Hurtt's Bottom is full of 'Old South' wisdom and self-awareness but frequently makes Freudian slips of the tongue. If only we had a Puck who could turn Hurtt's head into that of an ass.

In a Facebook e-mail exchange, Hurtt maintained that the Forrest Hall issue isn't about race despite the fact that Nathan Bedford Forrest could've been the Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan - or not. "The history concerned is clouded at best," he wrote.

Since the history behind Forrest's involvement with the Klan remains "clouded," why exactly are Hurtt and his supporters fighting tooth-and-nail to bulwark Forrest's legacy? The foot-in-the-mouth banality of his argument doesn't end there.

In my dialogue with Hurtt, I couldn't help but think of the snarky Web site "Black People Love Us!" where fictional lily-white urbanites, Johnny and Sally, spiff fuzzy yellow cardigans as they sip goblets of red wine.

"Johnny always says, 'I'm not racist. One of my best friends is black.' I think he might mean me!" a black woman gushes on the Web site. I'm not saying that Hurtt is racist; that point isn't being contested, and it's an unfair characterization to say otherwise. However, there is a history of racially insensitive quotes on his part. He may have black friends, but so did Strom Thurmond.

In the April 10 *Sidelines* editorial regarding the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Hurtt wrote, "The only people (so far) who have returned to New Orleans are the affluent white Americans who actually care about their homes."

Nevermind the fact that the waterlogged blacks couldn't afford to re-build their homes at the drop of a hat. Hurtt also didn't take into consideration that New Orleans is still hurting from employment losses. Bars and entertainment venues have vacated the French Quarter by the mother lode. However, if you subscribe to the angry, white male on 'roids mentality of Rush Limbaugh, welfare queens driving welfare Cadillacs while eating welfare lobsters is an easier pill to swallow. Well, in Limbaugh's case, he swallows many pills.

I also found a wingdinger-of-a-Hurtt-quote on the Web site for the Murfreesboro rock band, The Features. According to his Facebook profile, Hurtt works for the band as a "volunteer."

Regarding a fellow fan's suggestion at The Features booking a Memphis date, Hurtt says, "I guess if The Features want to get robbed and murdered, they'll play in Memphrica - I mean, Memphis."

After the peanut gallery kindly pointed out that "Memphrica" is a term used unfavorably by whites when alluding to the fact that blacks outnumber whites in the fair city, Hurtt backpedaled, and said, "Okay, well, Memphis, it is! Or something."

I point these quotes out not to goad Mr. Hurtt's goat, but to, again, illustrate a cycle of racially insensitive remarks. Even if Nathan Bedford Forrest wasn't the first Grand Wizard of the KKK, the organization now exists to strike fear and intimidation into the hearts of an entire race of people. By implication of Forrest's actions, whether intentional or not, a subculture of lynchings, mob mentality, rape and Neo-Nazism exists in our society.

I wish that Hurtt could understand some blacks' unease at revering a would-be founder of the KKK, without dismissing their concerns as playing the race card.

In the end of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Bottom's inability to discern that his head had been turned into that of an ass was a metaphor for not being able to see the writing on the wall, in general. Let's hope that our modern-day Bottom sees the writing on the wall before it's too late.

Joey Hood  
Senior, College of Mass Communication

### Remember, Jesus still reason for season

To the Editor,

Merry Christmas. There is a major difference in greeting someone with 'Happy Holidays' or 'Merry Christmas.' Stop for one moment and familiarize yourself with the first six letters of Christmas... "Christ."

It is important to note that Christmas simply exists for the mere purpose of celebrating the birth of the Savior. It has been twisted into a day that celebrates retail ads and marketing scheming.

Is there really a debate about the jolly, old man? I think the real debate exists when you put Christ back into Christmas. Stores, such as Target, took Him out last year and received overwhelming feedback from customers of their dissatisfaction.

No matter what religion, nationality or denomination one might be, the fact remains that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a celebration of the birth of our King. It is a time of peace, love and joy. It is a time to share the warmth and love and gifts we have with others. All these things symbolize who Christ is, which is why we put His name in our greeting.

So, wish me a Merry Christmas, as I will wish you.

Kandra Benton  
Junior, Regents Online Degree Program

### Racism exists, as does double standard

To the Editor:

I have some remarks on Shannon Mitchell's column did on the Michael Richards situation. ("Racism still at work in today's society" Nov. 29) I agree with her on that what was said was wrong of him. My remarks are on the fact that no one cares what the two black men were saying to Richards. Why are they saying anything? It is a comedy show - sit down, laugh and have fun.

There is no reason for interaction between the comedian and the audience unless the comedian wants them to. Of course, no one knows exactly what the two black men said in the first place. Perhaps they were saying racial slurs at Richards, which would explain his outbursts. If the two black men had not said anything, then this situation would have never occurred.

I understand that people are upset by Richard saying the "N" word, but how many black comedians have said the "C" word against white people with not a word spoken?

Now, I know that Richards was saying it in a more hateful way, but does that really even matter? If this society wants to be politically correct then we need to be politically correct 100 percent.

It seems to me that it is not only racism in today's society that needs fixing, but the double standards of races.

Ricky Dees  
Junior, College of Liberal Arts

Isn't it amazing what a little anti-apathy can do?

slopinio@mtsu.edu

# FEATURES

## 'Phantom operator' leads IT crew

Department blurs the line between man and machine

By Tom Cheredar

Staff Writer

In the cool, dungeon-like basement of Cope Administration Building, a man relinquishes part of his humanity by thinking like a machine, so the university may operate for one more day.

"It's almost like I become part of the computer," said Gary Gardner, a veteran data operator for MTSU's Information Technology Department. "I've been in [the department] so long, it's become second nature to me."

Gardner has worked at the IT department for the past 30 years – even before the university acquired its first personal computers. Fifteen of those years have been spent working the graveyard shift.

Five days a week, starting Sunday, from midnight until 8 a.m., Gardner checks various technical processes to ensure everything works properly during waking hours.

"I call myself the 'phantom operator,'" Gardner said.

In the noisy, artificially-lit data processing room, Gardner is responsible for maintaining system checks on payroll services, human resources, financial aid, records, WebMT, the online bill payment service and the list goes on.

Pipeline's scheduled downtime from 2 to 5 a.m. each weeknight is just the "phantom operator" doing his job.

It can be dangerous work, however.

"We've actually had a few [machines] catch on fire," he said.

Due to the tremendous amount of heat produced by computers, servers and other devices in the windowless data processing room, it's possible for a fire to ignite, which has happened in the past.

If the air conditioner suddenly stops working, then the temperature will rise 20 degrees within five minutes, according to Gardner.

And as if the threat of fire wasn't enough danger, the IT basement, which Gardner refers to as the "brain" of the university, is also susceptible to flooding.

"I don't know if you realize this, but there are two artesian wells underneath this building," Gardner said. These wells pump water to the surface using pressure naturally after a heavy rain. The wells under Cope, however, drain into the city's sewer system.

Apparently, the basement has flooded in the past, but none of the machines have been harmed in the process, according to Gardner.

Vice President for Information Technology Lucinda Lea confirms the existence of the wells but says the risk of damaging computer equipment is due to the circumstances beyond the university's control.

Most people probably don't realize the number of things that are done for the university to operate headache-free. Even fewer know that a graveyard shift, such as the one Gardner works, even exists.

"Students have no idea," Gardner said while nodding his head to and fro. He then, "They've got their computer and they're all happy – so long as it works."

The university is simply addicted to technology, and it's only getting worse, according to Tim Brown, associate vice president for Information Technology. The IT department is also responsible for solving computer-related problems for students and faculty, including e-mail.

"There was about a 20 percent increase in e-mail usage that was unexpected compared to previous semesters," Brown says. "This was not just in e-mail delivery, but in the number of people connecting in the system."

Brown rules out the possibility that the increase was due to a larger student population, which increased only 1.4 percent this semester to more than 24,500.

The increase led to a mid-semester project, which upgraded the university's archaic e-mail system, forcing Brown and the 75 other Information Technology employees to work late into the night.

"Even when we're at home, we work quite a bit," Brown said. "I was online with some of the tech staff until 9 or 10 o'clock last night."

It wasn't just the technical business that kept them up, however. Answering e-mail, voicemail and inquiries also kept the IT staff up sometimes as late as 4 a.m., according

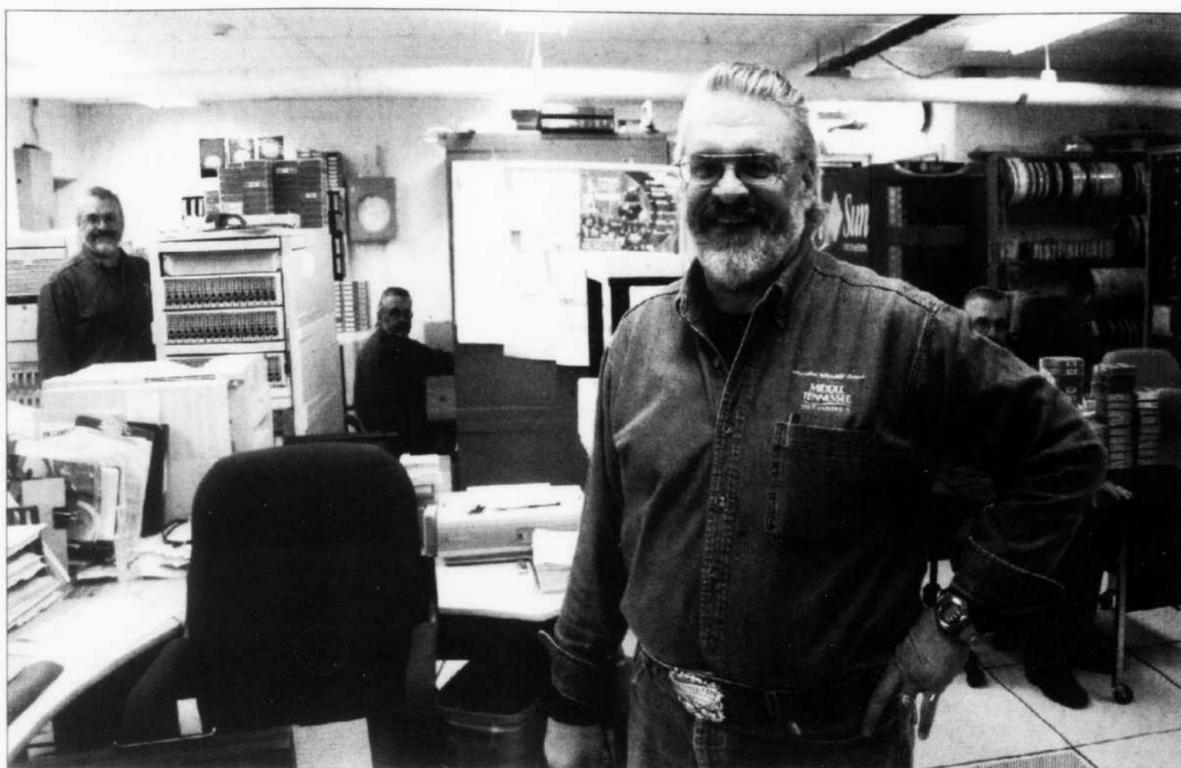


Photo Illustration by Greg Johnson | Staff Photographer

ITD data operator Gary Gardner takes multitasking to a new level as he works the graveyard shift. Gardner keeps the university's network running while the campus sleeps.

to Brown.

"I guess this is just one of those normal projects for us," Brown said. "We have staff going, literally, around the clock."

"Normally, we would never do a change like this in the middle of the semester," Lea said. "A whole lot of people spent a whole lot of time working from home."

The 75 IT employees, spread out across five different buildings on campus, must also keep up with their other duties, which include upgrading more than 500 computers, monitoring wireless connection use, answering questions, maintaining 70 servers and processing data.

That means there are roughly 350 people at the university for every one Information Technology employee. Most universities of MTSU's size have more than a hundred people working shifts 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Although the small, yet crucial IT department may eat, drink, sleep and live their jobs, they aren't strictly made up of technology junkies.

"We've definitely got our geeks, but there are all kinds of personalities," Lea said. "That's what really makes a group productive."

Most of the veteran employees use their downtime for reading, traveling or simply relaxing, according to Lea.

"You get a bunch of people like us in a basement with no windows, [and] we'll talk about technology," said computer science major Chris Harris, one of several student workers helping to answer questions at the Information Technology help desk.

Harris said most callers ask questions relating to translating computer jargon.

"Most of the time we get questions that have nothing to do with technology," Harris said, raising his voice amid the roar of jingling telephones in the IT basement hallway. He remarked that the phones have been ringing off the hook because of the e-mail transfer.

Harris also said network users – or "N users" to IT employees – are frequently confused when dealing with the two different ways to access e-mail messages, which had different usernames and passwords.

"They train us to understand what people mean and not what they say," he said.

Despite the extra hours answering questions, Lea said, she's been looking forward to a new e-mail client for nearly a decade, but a Tennessee Board of Regents stipulation prevented MTSU from switching sooner.

"There's one special project after another," Lea said, referring to the e-mail transfer.

"It goes with the job," Brown said. "If our systems aren't up and running, the university is not up and running."

### Computer Problems Translated:

1) Pipeline – Students typically call the IT desk inquiring about a "Pipeline" problem.

**Solution:** However, quite often they actually have a problem with WebMT, which is the service that students use to access records, grades, billing and such. It could also be a problem with WebCT, the service used for online class work. Be specific about which service is the problem.

2) Residents – Students who live on campus who have computer trouble.

**Solution:** Anyone who is a resident on campus needs to call the Resnet Service, not the help desk.

3) Gamers – Your new computer game refuses to work on the university's network.

**Solution:** Do some research on what your computer game requires to connect before calling the IT help desk. Although making sure online games work isn't a priority of the Help desk staff, they do make an effort to help students. Knowing what your game needs to run will increase the chances of being able to play.

4) Wireless Internet – Your wireless connection isn't working on campus.

**Solution:** If you own a PC, you'll need to download the Clean Access software, which ensures that your machine has no viruses. If the software does not allow access after being downloaded, your computer probably has a virus. Call the Help Desk for more information.

5) E-mail – You're not receiving e-mails to your campus account.

**Solution:** Try emptying the Deleted Folder to free up space for new files to be sent in. This is a manual process and clicking the delete button does not eliminate the discarded mail.

## New documentary highlights unapologetic Chicks

By Christina Runkel

Staff Writer

With President Bush's poll ratings the lowest they've been, where does that leave the ostracized Dixie Chicks? They are on top, again.

The girls, who will be back in Nashville at the Gaylord Entertainment Center tomorrow, just released a documentary about the affair that started a public uproar. "Shut Up & Sing" flashbacks to 2003 and continues through the next three years until their release of "Taking the Long Way," their new album.

When Natalie Maines, lead singer, announced to a London club, "Just so you know, we're ashamed the President of the United States is from Texas," the American public became outraged, while the London crowd applauded profusely.

A camera crew had been following the girls when things suddenly turned upside down, and the girls were on top of the media frenzy and the bottom of the ratings barrel.

The documentary shows every intimate detail of their experience.

In an ironic statement on the onset of the media whirlwind, the Chicks' manager, Simon Renshaw, said, "Wouldn't it be great if we could get them burning CD's and banning you from the radio?" The Chicks just shrugged with faces of dismay.

Renshaw got his wish.

Country radio banned Dixie Chicks' music, and to this day, many stations still do not play their songs.

After viewing the documentary, the American people might scratch their heads and ponder why the girls did not seem downtrodden, but rather joyful, of their new fame.

"I think this is better for our career. I think we've gotten more attention than we were ever going to get. We were never going to be

on the cover of Entertainment Weekly, we were never going to be interviewed by Barbara Walters," Maines said.

In a later interview with the Chicks, Maines said the experience has opened the doors for the girls to do what they want to musically because they don't have to worry about pleasing anyone.

In not trying to please anyone, Dixie Chicks are pleasing just about everyone.

The documentary takes a turn away from the media aspect of their careers and lets the viewer take a peek into their personal lives, from the birth of Emily's twins, to resting at their Texas homes and writing their songs on the new album, a special treat for music lovers.

For those who want a little more entertainment than the home life of celebrities, the documentary also delves into the war between Natalie Maines and Toby Keith.

In Keith's concerts, he makes sure that everybody knows he dislikes Dixie Chicks. During his hit song, "Courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue (The Angry American)" Keith puts up a picture of Saddam Hussein wrapping his arms around Maines with the words, "Dixie Duo" just as he sings the infamous line about putting "a boot in your ass," claiming it as "the American way."

The war with Toby Keith does not derail Maines. Instead, she shows her humorous side by wearing a "FUTK" shirt, and it doesn't stand for "Fans Unite for Truth and Kindness."

When the girls released their album "Taking the Long Way," everyone expected it to die from the get-go, but the girls showed the media outlets they are still on top, ending at number one on Billboard charts without depending on radio, let alone country radio.

So, what are the girls going to say next? Who knows? Tomorrow's concert could go off without a hitch – or it could be the start of the band's next documentary.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

The Dixie Chicks have detailed their roller-coaster ride since making controversial statements about the Iraq War in a new documentary.

# SPORTS

## Courtside with Rick Insell

By Jillian Davis  
Contributing Writer

He frantically paces back and forth, up and down the sidelines of the basketball court. The clock counts down in the second period. The score is tied, and the state title is on the line.

The clock keeps winding down to the last few seconds. Five ... four ... three ... timeout.

As a coach you have to figure out a strategy, one that will get your players down the court quickly and the ball in the net.

Speed. Agility. Determination.

Everything is weighing on your shoulders, but you must stay cool. Winning isn't everything. Winning may not be everything, but it's a challenge Rick Insell has overcome many times. Just take a look at his resume.

In 2005, he made the rare transition from high school girls' basketball to Division I-A women's college ball. After 28 years of coaching and putting his heart into the girls' basketball team at Shelbyville High School, Insell filled the position of women's basketball coach at Middle Tennessee.

For someone with no previous college coaching experience, the position at MTSU has been a dream come true. The words enclosed by a black frame on the wall of his office say it all: "The magic of risking everything for a dream no one sees but you."

He looks at it every day as a reminder of how far he has come as a coach.

"Dreams do come true," Insell affirms. "It's something you think about. I'm a coach and it's all I've ever done, from elementary to junior high to junior pro, AAU and high school ... it says if you stay in there long enough and dream big enough, one day it will eventually happen."

That day came in May 2005.

MT athletic director Chris Massaro announced Insell as the new women's basketball coach. Twenty-eight years of coaching high school basketball provided the blueprint for coaching college ball.

Insell's passion for the game has existed since he was a kid.

A young boy who looked on with amazement at the game, Insell grew up in Woodbury, where he still resides, and played basketball for the Cannon County High School boys' basketball team.

He enrolled at MTSU, but after only a few years he dropped out of college and entered the corporate world, working for Rudy Farms in Nashville. Unhappy with his newfound career, Insell put in his two weeks notice and re-enrolled at MTSU.

In 1977, he graduated with a degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation with a minor in History.

Soon after graduating, Insell was hired as Shelbyville's new history teacher. He applied for the position of assistant coach for the boys' basketball team. In doing so he had to apply for the head coaching position for the girls' basketball team as well. He was hired.

After one year of coaching, Insell fell in love — with coaching.

"I found out right quick this is what I want to do with my life because [the girls] were very coachable. They had a passion for the game," Insell reflects.

Insell's passion for the game and coaching paid dividends. He became synonymous with high school girls' basketball in Tennessee.

For 28 years Insell put his heart and soul into the game and coaching, and it paid off. Under his direction, Shelbyville won 10 TSSAA state championships, two USA Today National



Head coach Rick Insell watches the Lady Raiders as they play against Maryland. Insell won 23 district championships and 12 regional championships with Shelbyville High.

Championships, 23 district championships and 16 regional championships.

He was named USA Today National High School Coach of the Year twice and Converse National High School Coach of the Year twice. He developed six Tennessee Class AAA Miss Basketball Award recipients and 15 high school All Americans.

His record of 775-148 at Shelbyville illustrates his ability to produce a winning team.

"Coach Insell has a remarkable winning record and is a champion of developing talent for many, many years, and I have faith he will be able to continue doing those things at Middle Tennessee," Massaro says.

Although some were hesitant,

Insell was hired. Again his passion for the game stepped in and proved he was qualified.

Massaro comments that Insell had to come from behind, being new to coaching at the collegiate level.

"He was able to do so by demonstrating unbelievable passion for the position," Massaro adds.

How does a coach deal with the transition from high school level basketball to the collegiate level? From junior pro to high school to Division I, the basics of basketball never change — just the people and the personalities. "Coaching is coaching," says Insell.

See Courtside, 8

## Troy gets set to face off with FIU

By Greg Hohwald  
Staff Writer

ULM 3-8 (2-4) at ULL 6-5 (3-3)

The Warhawks of ULM travel to Louisiana-Lafayette on Saturday to take on the Ragin' Cajuns in what will be the season finale for both teams. This game is highlighted by the Sun Belt's two leading rushers, Calvin Dawson, who has 1,081 yards on the season, and Tyrell Fenroy, who trails Dawson by two yards with 1,079. ULL comes in looking to extend its two-game winning streak, having beaten Arkansas State and Florida International in consecutive weeks. ULM, however, is looking to put together a streak of their own, having

won two out of their last three. Their only loss during that span was a nail-biter with a very good Kentucky team. In a game that is mainly being played for pride, the Ragin' Cajuns are looking for an above .500 finish in the Sun Belt Conference, while the Warhawks will be looking to end their season with a victory. Even though this game is being played in Lafayette, ULM has been playing their best football of the season, so I expect the Warhawks to come home with the victory.

Troy 6-5 (5-1) at FIU 0-11 (0-6)

Florida International will get its last chance to pick up its first win of the season, while Troy will be looking to clinch a bowl bid with a victory over

the Golden Panthers on Saturday in Miami. Troy comes into Miami on an emotional high after a thrilling, come-from-behind victory over Middle Tennessee last weekend, while FIU has virtually nothing going for them except the chance to play spoiler to Troy's conference title hopes. Troy's Omar Haugabook, the conference's leading passer, looks to continue his career season against a poor Golden Panther defense, and he will have the conference's third leading receiver, Gary Banks, to throw to. While everyone in the Murfreesboro area will be cheering on FIU for MTSU's sake, I can't see the Golden Panthers pulling out a victory against a Troy team looking to secure a bowl bid.

Results from last weekend games

ULM 23, North Texas 3

Calvin Dawson rushed for 117 yards on 23 carries and one touchdown as Louisiana-Monroe shut down North Texas 23-3 Saturday. ULM (3-8, 2-4 Sun Belt Conference) totaled 409 yards of offense, with 216 of them coming on the ground and 193 through the air. Kinsmon Lancaster completed 12-of-19 throws for 193 yards with no interceptions for ULM.

Louisiana-Lafayette 28, ASU 13

Tyrell Fenroy ran for three touchdowns and a career-high 178 yards on 26 carries as Louisiana-Lafayette

defeated Arkansas State 28-13 on Saturday. On the season, Fenroy has 196 carries for 1,079 yards and became the first player in school history with two 1,000-yard rushing seasons. The Ragin' Cajuns improved to 6-6 overall and 4-3 in the Sun Belt Conference.

FAU 31, FIU 0

Rusty Smith passed for two touchdowns to lead Florida Atlantic to a 31-0 victory over Florida International in a Sun Belt Conference game Saturday night. The Owls finished with 361 total yards of offense in the regular season finale before 9,655 fans at Dolphin Stadium. FAU finished with a 5-7 record and 4-3 in the conference.

## Givens brings newfound leadership

By Cody Gibson  
Staff Writer

The 2006 season has started at a frantic pace for the Lady Raiders, yet the one constant that remains is the play of senior guard Chrissy Givens. Givens has been consistent all season, scoring 14 or more points in every game thus far.

That's just the beginning of the numbers Givens has compiled this season. With an average of 22 points per game, six rebounds, five assists and nearly three steals per game, it is easy to see why Givens was voted the Sun Belt Conference's Preseason Player of the Year.

This season has not gone as expected for the team with a 3-3 record. Givens believes that the team's fortunes will change, and that these early season tests have made the team better already.

"No, you never expect to lose," she explained. "I'm not satisfied with the loss, but considering who we played thus far, I am excited we are sitting at 3-3. You have to be thankful for where you are. I think the way Coach Insell scheduled our schedule couldn't have been more perfect. I think it's good preparation for us during the conference season and getting us back to the NCAA tournament."

Chrissy Givens began last season as simply one of the returning starters from the 2004-2005 Sun Belt Champions. Last year, Givens broke out and had one of the best seasons in Lady Raider history. She quickly became a leader for the team, and is crucial to the chemistry of this season's squad. Givens believes that

this could be her favorite season, but it also will be bittersweet.

"This season will be the most special to me," Givens said. "Coach Insell believed in me. I didn't think I really was good enough to play college ball. After listening to him and doing what he said, this season could determine whether I'm playing [pro] basketball or not."

"But more than anything, to have four rings would mean a lot to me."

Givens' leadership has greatly helped newcomers to the team. Along with fellow senior Krystle Horton, Givens wants to lead her team into conference play with a cohesive attitude. She believes the team is almost where it needs to be going into conference play; it will just take a few more games to be at their peak.

Givens says that the girls on the team get along well on and off the court.

"We have always gotten along," she explained. "We love each other, and we are friends off the court. We have so many good players that we have to learn each other's strengths after a couple of games and a couple of losses. We see what we need to do and what we can do. I think it's coming together nicely."

Givens has scored 1,255 points and is currently 12th on the all-time scoring list at MT. She's also in eighth place in career steals with 203 and needs five more to pass Cortney Neclay (1996-99, 207) for sixth place.

Givens leads the Lady Raiders into action against Austin Peay on Monday at 5 p.m.



Senior Chrissy Givens scored a game-high 26 points against the University of Tennessee on Sunday in Knoxville.

## Courtside: Rick Insell

Continued from 7

The only difference Insell sees in coaching at the collegiate level is dealing with his team. In high school his girls would leave for home after practice and they were their parents' responsibility. It's different at MT.

"Not only do I coach my young ladies, but after we get through with practice, I'm not through there. I'm on call 24 hours. I'm kind of their fatherly..." he pauses, "...take the place of their father while they're here on campus."

Insell has his work cut out for him. Aside from coaching, he makes sure the team meets curfew, eats right, goes to class, tutoring and study hall and is on time for appointments.

One thing he forgets to mention is the recruiting involved in forming a winning basketball team. But he doesn't have too many problems with that. In his first year as coach for MT, Insell recruited a nationally recognized Top 10 team.

"One of our goals coming in was to have one of the top 20 recruiting classes in the country and hopefully a top 10," Insell says of his 2005-2006 recruiting class. "We used Middle Tennessee's name to be recognized with some of the top teams in women's basketball and I think this first recruiting class is the start of that."

"I think our selling points for recruits are our facilities, our security, the enthusiasm of this community, but truly there are so many selling points for Middle Tennessee that I can go on all night," Insell says. "I want to stress to them that we are committed to taking this program to the next level because that is what it is all about."

One player Insell is very proud of is his senior guard Chrissy Givens, an All-American and Sun Belt Player of the Year.

"She's so aggressive and she plays so hard. Right now, she's the catalyst on our team. The rest of the kids are feeding off her enthusiasm and her hard play right now," Insell says.

Coaching is no job to Insell. This is his life. Basketball is his life. Which is why, after his first

year as head coach for the Shelbyville girls' basketball team, he found something that he saw needed to be nurtured.

After attending some of the best players in the nation competed, Insell developed the Shelbyville Sport Shop, later to be renamed Tennessee Flight. Tennessee Flight is a program developed as an opportunity to give players an opportunity to play year round and against the nation's best players.

"I knew right then that this is where I needed my players to participate because they were going to play, in the summer and spring, some of the best players in the country," Insell explains.

"I sensed that the college women's game was going to grow and the opportunities would be great for a young lady to play college basketball and get an education."

Insell even makes the effort to promote women's basketball in his free time, when he is not playing golf or checking out the Walking Horse Celebration.

No one can better understand Insell's passion for the game than the people who influenced him along his coaching journey. From Pat Summit, University of Tennessee's women's basketball head coach, to his high school basketball coaches, Insell has made friends with whomever he comes in contact and they can see the sparkle in his eye whenever you mention basketball.

Massaro says, "Rick's love of the game, his desire to be successful and the contacts he has developed throughout the years are just unbelievable."

Today you can walk into Insell's office and see those framed words that say it all. Behind the desk is a joyful man of 54 who's living his dream of coaching college basketball. He is where he wants to be and loving every minute of it.

No one can forget the legendary basketball program he instilled at Shelbyville. Soon no one will forget the program he is expanding at MT. Rick Insell will always keep his roots firmly planted on the out-of-bounds line courtside as the clock ticks down...two...one.

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