

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 8, 2003

39 57



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between fashion, over-exposure

In Living, 4



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SIDELINES

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Volume 78 No. 51

Campus Briefs

JAWC to host legal clinic this month

The June Anderson Women's Center is sponsoring a free legal clinic on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. The clinic is available to all MTSU students, faculty and staff. Appointments to speak with an attorney can be made by calling the JAWC at 898-2193. Space is limited.

College of Business to hold conference

A conference titled, "Ethics and Values: Classroom and Boardroom" will be held from 8:30 a.m., the registration time, to 2:30 p.m. Jan. 30 in the Willis Conference Center, located at 26 Century Blvd. in Nashville.

The conference fee, including lunch, will be \$50 per person. The registration deadline is Jan. 24.

Three panel sessions will be held and will include "Crisis Management: Testing Ethics and Values," "Teaching and Applying Ethics and Values" and "Sabanes-Oxley: Regulating Ethics and Values."

Moderators will include E. James Burton, MTSU business dean; Earl Swenson, FAIA and holder of MTSU's Chair of Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning; and Marvin Runyon, holder of MTSU's Chair of Manufacturing Excellence.

The first panel will include Jeff Eller, Aubrey B. Harwell Jr. and Jennifer Kraus.

The second will feature Megan Barry, James Beard and Holly Hollis.

The third panel will include Joel Gordon, Kevin McDermott and Joelle Phillips.

For more information and a brochure, call MTSU's Jennings A. Jones College of Business at 898-2764. For directions, go to www.mee-tatwillis.com.

Buffalo Man author to sign books Saturday

Michael Kellum, author of the *Buffalo Man* series will be at Books-A-Million Saturday on Old Fort Parkway in Murfreesboro between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. for book signings. All are welcome.

Kellum wrote the first of this series, *Buffalo Man*, featuring Mack Bolin and his development from a young man to a farmer, to a gunslinger during the later part of the 1800s.

Recruited by a secret army and discontent with his life, Bolin is trained to be a murderer, an expert of mayhem and possess well-tuned survival skills.

Registration numbers increase for Spring 2003

As of yesterday, 19,278 students are registered for the Spring 2003 term at MTSU.

At the same time last year, only 18,378 students were enrolled.

The 4.90 percent increase also included 358 students who were purged for non-payment Monday night. ♦

Gebert newly appointed provost

By Amanda Maynard
and Jason Cox
News Editor
and Managing Editor

MTSU has chosen a permanent provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs.

Kaylene Gebert, currently the vice president for Academic Affairs at the University of

North Alabama in Florence, will begin work March 1. She will replace interim Executive Vice President and Provost Bob Eaker, who took the reigns in early 2002 after university President Sidney McPhee's cabinet reorganization, which removed former Provost Barbara Haskew from the position.

"[It's] a very attractive thing to be part of an institution that's very dynamic and to think that I can help contribute to improving the quality of the education at the institution," Gebert said, "as well as to help it grow in appropriate ways."

"My role is to provide quality education ... so that we're responsive to student demands

and needs as well as the larger demands of universities from a statewide perspective," she said. "Much of that role is a listening role as well as a guiding role for faculty, staff (and) students who are also interested in making the institution better."

Gebert said that the jobs of provost and executive vice president "really do kind of fit

together."

"She's worked in two systems of higher education, both the Tennessee Board of Regents and the Pennsylvania system, which really exposed her to the kinds of issues a major university like MTSU has to deal with on a day-to-day basis," McPhee said.

See Provost, 2



Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

MTSU's current airplane fleet that resides at Murfreesboro Municipal Airport is more than 20 years old and will be sold to benefit the program.

Aerospace department lands new fleet

By Patrick Chinnery
Senior Staff Reporter

The Tennessee State School Bonding Authority has approved a bond for MTSU's aerospace department, enabling it to purchase a new fleet of 25 aircraft.

The 20-year, \$5.1 million bond issue was approved Nov. 14 by a unanimous vote. While its passage was expected, it was a long time coming for Paul Craig, chair of the aerospace department, and his staff.

"We've been working on the project ... for several years ... about nine months since we've been working on the bonds itself," Craig said.

University officials believe that new aircraft are essential to maintain MTSU's reputation as one of the top aerospace schools in the country. The new planes will help train students with

some of the most up-to-date technology currently on the market.

"To be honest, getting a larger fleet was not the idea. The idea was to get a fleet that was new from a technology standpoint," Craig said.

Craig explained that aerospace students would face an increase in flight fees to repay the bond issued by the state. Acknowledging that the flight fees have already increased over the past few years, Craig said that the increases were essential to maintaining adequate insurance and servicing the planes.

"We feel like the insurance on these new planes will increase because they're more valuable. The actual airplanes themselves will be more efficient because their operating costs will be lower than the [planes] we have now," Craig said. "Our estimates are a 3 to 5 percent increase [in fees] right now."

No other student fees will increase to

"The reputation of our program made for a smooth process."

— Mike Gower

Associate vice president, Business Office

pay for the planes.

According to Mike Gower, associate vice president, business office, for the bond authority to approve a program, there are two critical parts to the proposal — a demonstrated need for the products to be purchased and a reliable revenue stream to repay the bond. MTSU met both requirements.

"In this case, we had a really good justification because the need was there. ... We had [an adequate revenue stream] with the student flight fees. The reputation of our program made [for] a

smooth process," Gower said.

The university has been accepting bids for the multimillion dollar contract since December and recently awarded the bids to two companies, Piper Aircraft Corporation in Florida and Diamond Aircraft of Ontario, Canada.

Five models will be represented in the new cadre of aircraft, each with a specific purpose. Nine of the planes will be DA-20s, for students learning to fly for the first time. Eleven DA-40s will be

See Aerospace, 2

Professor investigates student dropout reasoning

By Sarah Saussy
Staff Writer

MTSU English professor Robert Petersen ignites the minds of his freshmen students through an assignment structured to analyze why students drop out of college.

According to Petersen, first-year freshmen are highly liable to drop out of college.

"I think we do have freshmen who don't understand what college is going to be," MTSU history professor Robert Hunt said.

By examining the phrase, "Shape Up or Ship Out," Petersen assigns a specific writing assignment each semester on the idea of students dropping out and the pros and cons of that decision.

The students are told to

examine a "Professor's Prospective" column, titled, "If you don't like school, why don't you drop out?" from MTSU journalism professor Gary Wolf in a 1997 edition of *Sidelines*.

Then the students interview three or more people: one student thinking of dropping out, one faculty member or adviser, and one person who left school and never returned. According to the *Sidelines* column, Wolf worries about the fact that a big part of learning is up to the student.

"(I'm) worried, I guess, because of some of what I see in my own students ... [for instance] making the same mistakes over and over, doing today what we discussed not doing yesterday, not opening the book, not buying the book, not writing down the thing unless I

write it down first and not always then," Wolf stated in his column.

"For some students, it may be the first time to sit down and talk to an administration or faculty member," Petersen said.

The students are to argue in the essay whether or not it is good for an MTSU student to drop out of school under certain circumstances, considering the information obtained from the interviews.

"My goal is to keep them and encourage them to stay," Petersen said. "Part of my purpose is to encourage adjustment."

The main purpose of the assignment is for the students to evaluate their priorities and to emphasize time management,

See Dropouts, 2

Employment during school adversely affects student grades

By Sarah Saussy
Staff Writer

"These days almost no one can go to school without having to work a usually sizable amount of time," said Robert Hunt, an MTSU history professor who graduated college in 1974.

According to MTSU physics professor Victor Montemayor, when he attended college, not a lot of students worked. They weren't allowed to have cars on campus, but now students have to pay rent and bills.

"More students are working more hours than ever [in jobs], and as far as I know there are still only 24 hours in a day,

though a lot of students are trying to stretch that," said Tom Mortensen, a senior scholar at the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education, in an article from "The Chronicles of Higher Education."

Jobs today are more attractive. There is more money to be made, and the work is not as hard as it once was for college students, MTSU English professor Robert Petersen said.

According to Petersen, students today have more available resources, like computers and cellular phones, than when he was a student.

See Busy, 2

Aerospace: Planes acquired for fall semester

Continued from 1

used to teach students how to fly in, under and above clouds; one of these will be equipped with television screen control panels, as opposed to the regular circular dials. The other 10 DA-40s will receive television screen cockpits within the next three to five years.

The other planes MTSU will receive are three Piper Arrows (with retractable landing gear)

and two Piper Seminoles (with one engine on each wing).

MTSU's current fleet is more than 20 years old and is composed of 25 planes, 19 of which are owned by MTSU and six that are leased by the university. Its youngest craft is a 1982 Cessna. At least three planes will be kept from that group of aircraft for the MTSU flying team. The rest will be sold with the proceeds most likely going to help reduce student costs.

Craig expects the new planes, which should arrive in time for the use in the upcoming fall semester, to last for at least 15 years.

"Airplanes don't age like cars do," Craig said. "They're expected to last. There is no definite end when you can't fly them any longer, but the market is usually 15 to 20 years."

For more information, please contact the aerospace department at 898-2788. ♦

Provost: Vice president and provost position change effective as of March 1

Continued from 1

"She's had the opportunity and the experience of working on policy issues that, certainly, I think would be a great benefit to the university," he said. "Secondly, her familiarity with the TBR system and with the policy issues really made her kind of a standout from the other [applicants]."

"Her experience in dealing

with high-quality programs, getting those programs through various governing agencies, I think, will add significant value to her as the provost and executive vice president," McPhee said.

In addition to serving at UNA, Gebert previously served at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education from 1997 to 1999.

Prior to that, she was the

assistant vice chancellor for TBR.

She received her bachelor's degree in English and speech-drama with a teacher certification at Hanover College in Hanover, Ind., her master's degree in theater production at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., and her Ph.D. in historical and contemporary communication from Indiana University in Bloomington. ♦

Busy: Professors explain student work habits, changes throughout time

Continued from 1

"When I had a term paper to correct, I had to retype it," Petersen said.

"Today students want 'things,'" Petersen said.

So, they come to college for the sole purpose of getting a job. When Petersen was in school the main focus was directed toward campus, and students lived more simply then.

According to Peggy Harrell, Oakland High School counselor, the main goal is that the student will be successful.

"The correct placement for them is important, finding a

university environment to suit who they are - small, large, urban," Harrell said.

"The nature of who goes to college has changed," Petersen said. "Now, there are more middle class students, and as a result, more dropouts."

According to Hunt and Montemayor, there are a larger percentage of nontraditional students, and when Hunt studied in college, there were less transfer students, and fewer students that changed majors more than once.

When Petersen was a college student, most students didn't drop out voluntarily. They flunked out, which he attributes

to undervaluing opportunity.

Harrell feels that if a high school senior has a plan other than college, that's perfectly acceptable.

"Some students are interested in filmmaking or going to Europe," Harrell said. "I'd want them to sort through their life and encourage them to try a semester."

According to Petersen, some students may be coming to college because it is a fad, and they are just following a lead.

One thing remains, he said. "Immature 18-year-olds are still going to be immature 18-year-olds," Petersen said. ♦

Dropout: Class preparation crucial

Continued from 1

but also to show the students that they're not alone if they think that MTSU may not be the place for them.

"If you decide to drop out, you can always return to finish what you started, but if you decide to drop out and never come back, you're only hurting yourself," MTSU student Tiffany Traverso wrote in her essay.

According to Petersen, many factors may be the driving force of dropouts. The student could have bad grades, low priorities or could be juggling school with the combined stresses job.

Maybe the student resents the notion of being told what to do or has a communication or compatibility problem with a certain teacher. Self-confidence is a big factor, and students that get involved on campus are more likely to stay, Petersen said.

"But the issue is bigger than just the freshman class," Hunt said. "The attrition of the school comes later."

A lot of students that drop out do so after a few years when starting upper-level course material. Many students try two, three or four different majors until they find what's right for them, if they find one at all, Hunt said.

According to MTSU physics professor Victor Montemayor, the majority of the students he receives have already been through a number of science courses.

"We don't see a lot of the people that just kind of vanish," Montemayor said.

Petersen's students concluded some acceptable reasons for dropping out, like an illness, a death in the family or financial instability, Petersen said.

According to Hunt, dropping out of school is perfectly fine for any student if it is an honest decision, especially if all that the student accomplishes is wasting their and taxpayers' money.

Montemayor thinks it is also a matter of attitude and that some students don't realize the workload.

"People revolt against the idea that they have to work hard," Montemayor said. "A number of them really get upset and almost battle with you. I have communicated with some students that I recommend dropping out if I see them spiraling downward, to help them get their life back together."

"Frankly, I wish more people would make a decision like that because they're only harming themselves by staying here," Hunt said.

In Wolf's column, he mentions that he dropped out several times when he was in school.

"Each time I found myself returning to my education with renewed interest, energy and devotion to task, characteristics I find noticeably lacking in my students here at MTSU," Wolf wrote. "School actually seemed easier and more fun each time I went back."

Petersen noted that some students go to school only to get a good job, as if job is more important than school.

Before the written assignment, Petersen asks his students to write down their top 10 priorities. Essentially, Petersen

mostly saw priorities of family, religion and a significant other. The purpose of the exercise is to ask, "Where is school on the list?" In some instances, "my truck" or "having a good time" were listed as the No. 1 priority. According to Petersen, this clearly shows that these students are not sure why they are in college.

"I think a lot of students don't do work outside of classes," Petersen said.

An article in "The Chronicle of Higher Education," the National Survey of Student Engagement, released in November, concluded that 12 percent of last year's freshmen at four-year residential colleges reported spending 26 or more hours per week preparing for classes.

While the majority, 63 percent, said they spend 15 or fewer hours on class preparation, which the survey defines as "studying, reading, writing, rehearsing and other activities related to your academic program."

According to the "Homework, What Homework?" article in "The Chronicle of Higher Education," some educators believe that students today are so accustomed to distraction and bombardment with media images that they find it harder to concentrate than students in the past.

"I try to get them to make good judgment decisions, not based on emotions," Petersen said. "I hope when they look at the paper, they realize, 'I have learned something.'" ♦



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From the Editorial Board President's cabinet nearly complete

At long last, university President Sidney McPhee's cabinet is complete ... well, almost.

Just a year ago, McPhee reorganized the university's cabinet structure, moving two vice presidents elsewhere in the university in order to replace them. He also created a new cabinet position for Information Technology. For about a year now, MTSU has been searching for scholarly replacements for the former cabinet-holders. Just last semester, the university appointed a permanent vice president for Development and University Relations. And just a few days ago, McPhee appointed a new executive vice president and provost, Kaylene Gebert.

McPhee almost managed to fill his entire cabinet and replace interims with permanents, but Vice President for Business and Finance Duane Stucky announced his upcoming resignation just shy of Winter Break, leaving McPhee with yet another position to fill.

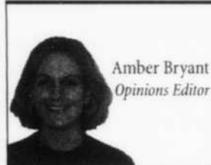
Hopefully, McPhee will be able to find a permanent replacement for Stucky and complete his cabinet, which has undergone several changes, a common practice when a new president gains tenure.

Gebert, his choice for provost and vice president, will take office in March. She seems to have all the qualifications needed in a vice president at MTSU. She has years of administrative experience and fosters support for institutional research. She also knows the ins and outs of the labyrinthine Tennessee Board of Regents system.

If McPhee can select a vice president for Business and Finance, his cabinet will be complete. With his team in place, McPhee should be able to do all it takes to pioneer MTSU into a new year and a new era during a time of growth and expansion, not to mention never-ending budget concerns.

We will be looking to McPhee and his cabinet to lead the way. ◆

From the Opinions Editor Women not defined by the size of their chests



Amber Bryant
Opinions Editor

Sitting in the plane on my way to New York a couple of weeks ago, I came across a book review in an in-flight magazine. One of the mentioned books, titled *Girl Culture*, is a collection of photographs documenting the daily social practices and icons associated with young women. The cover features a bra-donning teenage girl looking at herself in a dressing room mirror while pushing her breasts together in a relatively successful attempt to feign cleavage.

Strangely enough, my initial reaction to the image wasn't one of contempt or grief, even though I spend too much of my free time feeling anguished over similar portrayals of young women in advertisements, magazines and books. I barely even noticed it, proving that the photographer, Lauren Greenfield, had done what she probably intended. The picture is familiar for almost any post-adolescent female, whether she was doing the boob smashing or a

childhood friend was.

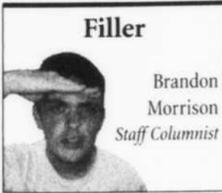
After I'd realized that my feminist knee-jerk reaction was sleeping on the job, Greenfield's picture provoked a number of questions, snowballing into a weeklong ponderance of why, exactly, women daily sacrifice logic for bigger breasts.

I'm certainly guilty. Up until last week, I willingly participated in conventional American female culture by owning an arsenal of Victoria's most padded Secrets, albeit illogical and highly unnecessary.

For one, it's uncomfortable. Disagree? Try wearing a bra sans eight inches of extra fabric strategically hidden (or no bra at all) for a while. Next, it's degrading. I've never seen a department in Dillard's offering up rack after rack of male "enhancement" products.

I realize that the days of bra-burning are little more than an ancient joke for most people, but perhaps those women were on to something. All too often, young women limit themselves to being defined by the buxomness of their bosoms. Learn to live happily in your own body, choose common sense over social expectations and, last but not least, free your friends. ◆

Playoff system better exposes talent



Filler
Brandon Morrison
Staff Columnist

Quick, who played in the Conagra Foods Hawaii Bowl?

If you guessed Tulane University and the University of Hawaii, then you probably looked it up.

This college football season, 56 teams battled it out in 28 overpriced games. That means that almost half of college football's 117 Division I-A teams are playing in what is supposed to be the sport's most sacred games.

Teams like the University of Louisville, with a 7-6 record, are mak-

ing it to the big games. In the Gaylord Hotel's Music City Bowl, fewer than 35,000 fans attended the event. Classic powerhouse teams such as Tennessee, Auburn and Nebraska struggled to fill stadiums with avid fans because of an oversaturation in the bowl market.

Frankly, there aren't enough good teams with large fan support in college football to fill 30 stadiums every year.

If bowl games are supposed to show off the best college football has to offer, then no team with more than three or four losses should ever make it to a bowl game.

Let's face it - with so many genres of sports to watch now, smaller college programs can't draw in the money and fan support

they need to thrive. That doesn't mean they need to give up their dreams of a sports dynasty, but they should make their goals regarding how they want their program to grow more realistic.

Take MT's program for example.

After three years in Division I-A, the Blue Raiders have made a name for themselves in the local media.

They've shown that, despite being completely outclassed in some games, they aren't afraid of higher competition. At the beginning of last season, the team received many accolades for their difficult schedule.

Despite being embarrassed many times over last season, the Blue Raiders will still face high-caliber

schools such as Georgia next season.

Though many good things have happened to the team since becoming I-A, MT cannot expect to draw in the same amount of money that larger, more established programs can. The Blue Raiders have a long way to go before they can draw the attention and talent the program desires.

Right now, the Blue Raiders aren't ready to go to a bowl game.

Yet, teams at the same level of skill as the Blue Raiders are making it into bowl games. They don't deserve to be spotlighted with the nation's best.

College football needs to reclaim the splendor that bowl games used to have. College football needs to get rid of the minor bowl games and go

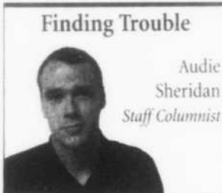
to a playoff system.

The college bowl system has gotten to the point where games are being played that no one cares about. If colleges went to a playoff system, then better teams would get the exposure they deserve, better players would get more playing time and the last games of the season would get back the prestige they once had.

If bowls are that important, then the semi-final and final matches could stay as bowl games. That way, sponsors can still pump money into the precious advertising pit that is college football. ◆

Brandon Morrison is a sophomore media design major and can be reached via e-mail at bjm2k@mtsu.edu.

Popular 'necessities' hinder living a fuller, simpler life



Finding Trouble
Audie Sheridan
Staff Columnist

Every holiday, I'm struck by the amount of people who refuse to - or just can't - think for themselves.

Holiday shoppers flock to what advertisers tell them to, and to whatever need some company has created out of nothing. These manufactured necessities are tricky because they sneak up on us.

By manufactured necessities, I mean anything that a person can reasonably get by without, but has become thought of as essential purely through the power of advertising.

Mobile phones are a great example.

These things are the 21st century equivalent of a leash, yet people still can't get enough. Putting a phone in your pocket or purse is like giving your parents, friends or co-dependent boyfriends or girlfriends a tracking device. Even worse is giving that power to your boss.

The ads themselves show what a nightmare having a mobile phone is, and we think it's funny. That poor kid getting harassed by his family on a first date with a girl isn't funny - it's sick.

Willingly adorning a dog collar and giving up independence is sad, but sadder still is the disconnection that mobile phones foster.

The ads say "stay connected," but is a phone conversation connecting?

What about body language, facial expressions or, better yet, taking off the leash and talking to the person standing next to you?

Mobile phones destroy the possibility of meeting new people, and they make you rude.

Perhaps being rude is something you don't care about, but it isn't cool to be antisocial. It's self-destructive and stupid. Unfortunately, mobile phones hurt people's social abilities.

Now, I've heard arguments about needing them for children, or only giving numbers to family and other things that seem, at first glance, to excuse leash wearing, but don't be fooled. A little forethought and planning, and perhaps getting to know neighbors or widening one's circle of friends, cancel out all possible necessity for owning a mobile phone.

A little note to parents: If your child has only your mobile to call in an emergency, you're already in the wrong. Gather friends you can trust and get rid of the leash. You need the free time anyway.

Convenience does not equal need. Phone conversations are barely above instant messages and e-mail in how personal they are, but they do provide a very convenient way to stay at a distance from those you would be close to - and not even know it. So be brave. Be different. Give up that altogether not cute novelty ring and Coca-Cola snap-on cover and live life without a leash.

Another great example of a manufactured demand is video games. In the ads, video games look striking. There's so much

detail (and getting better all the time), so many levels and so many moves! Then you buy the thing and spend 40 or more hours to beat the game. Sounds like an accomplishment, but only if you're demented.

You just sat on an ever-widening butt for an unreasonable amount of time going absolutely nowhere.

You're not smarter, more knowledgeable, stronger or anything else of value.

But you did get to the 700th level of Final Fantasy 15, right? Big deal.

I just have one question: Why is the real world so unappealing? Real accomplishments have real worth, and they feel better than the fake ones, but for some reason a lot of people choose the false ones. Maybe it has to do with the risk of real failure or maybe the effort required to try, but whatever the reason, video games manufacturers have sold many of us an easy way to avoid the real.

Don't let the advertising frenzy trick you. I only covered two things here, but this sort of wasted effort - time and money - is everywhere.

Things I'd include in the list would be cigarettes, fast food, brand name clothes and new cars. Find things in your life whose manufacturers need you more than you need their product, and get rid of them.

Your reward is a simpler, more enjoyable, real life and more time for people. ◆

Audie Sheridan is a junior philosophy major and can be reached via e-mail at als3g@mtsu.edu.

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines' occasional watch for mutton-heads.



In a case filled with irony, this attempted bank robber has led us once again to believe that you can never underestimate the absolute power of stupidity.

In Marked Tree, Ark. (a town about 135 miles northwest of Arkansas), police arrested Michael Brown on Saturday, soon after his robbery attempt went sour.

In the words of Marked Tree patrolman Jerry Lung, who made the arrest, the case was "a classic." Why was he caught so quickly? Because he's a dum-dum dummy.

Early that morning, he decided to rob one of his town's local banks. It was closed on Saturdays, so it'd be no problem, right?

Brown apparently decided to press his luck and, instead of sneaking in somehow, merely smashed in the glass front door and walked in.

Then, in a move that made police forces ask, "Just how stupid is this guy?" Brown decided to stare at the security camera for a while. Yeah, masks are so overrated. Of course, he set off the alarm.

Moving quickly to the teller windows, he was dismayed to learn that the money had been removed from the teller drawers - it had been put away because the bank was closed.

Imagine that. The bank didn't trust its glass front door to prevent any criminal entry, so it locked its cash away in a

vault.

With the way he'd bungled the robbery thus far, we wouldn't have been surprised if he had tried to open the vault by just turning the handle.

With his dreams of quick riches quickly fading, Brown decided that he was going to steal something, just so he wouldn't come to his trailer-park home empty handed.

So he yanked a clock radio off of a desk and stole fistfuls of Dum Dum suckers.

It wasn't reported how many were of the valuable root beer variety.

All this criminal behavior made Brown very hungry, so as he walked away from the bank with his loot, he started chain eating the lollipops, leaving the wrappers on the ground as he strode away.

He was undoubtedly very pleased with his petty theft.

The police soon followed, very pleased that Brown was foolish enough to leave a trail of candy wrappers leading right to his trailer.

Ah, how sweet justice is. ◆

Original story from Reuters via www.cnn.com, posted Jan. 4.

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

Showing some skin

Many women walk a fine line between fashion, over-exposure

By Sarah Elder
Contributor

Rising hemlines, dangerously low necklines and super-snug clothing cover (or don't cover) today's college females. No matter who you blame – *Cosmopolitan*, Britney Spears or El Nino – the fact remains that female students are wearing fewer clothes for college class.

Walking across campus, observers will find a melting pot of fashion examples (good and bad) from every genre. From heavy metal T-shirts to strappy sandals, college students are using their sense of style, or lack thereof, as a form of self-expression. But what exactly are they expressing by wearing provocative and revealing clothing?

"Girls like to be seen," says MTSU junior Jenny Yates. "They like it when a guy turns his head to look at them. They are looking for that kind of reaction."

Other students question the expression or personality their fellow students are trying to show. Grace Henrikson, MTSU music major, said she feels some current trends in fashion degrade women.

"Some women don't respect themselves



Photo illustration by Chris Kelly | Contributor

MTSU student Stevie Erickson sports a tube top underneath a sweater-coat for the winter season.

enough to be dressed appropriately. They feel that they have to gain attention in order to feel self-worth. It's really sad to me," she says.

"I think students are getting their fashion ideas from the media," says fashion merchandising major Whitney Dunn. "Jennifer Lopez has her own clothing line that mimics what she wears onstage and in her videos. The girls see the clothing on television, in magazines, and then they see it in stores, so they think that is the best thing to buy."

In the September issue of *Vogue*, fashion consultant Mrs. Ester takes on the subject of appropriate clothing in the workplace. Seeing a rising number of young women wearing "sexy" clothing to work, a concerned reader wrote, "Women are falling out of their clothes, baring their bellies, breasts, thongs and insufficiently pedicured city toes in curiously strappy sandals. It has little to do with the weather." The only advice Mrs. Ester gave to the reader was that fashion trends come and go, but classics never leave.

Anastasia's Attic's owner Christy Hager explains, "It's a fashion trend." Agreeing that fashion trends are as constant as the weather, she explains, "Our vendors make designs that mimic what the big guys are doing. You'll see the same colors, styles and cuts. It's the fashion world, and it's always changing." Catering to college students and fashionable young adults, Anastasia's Attic is a clothing retailer located on the Square in downtown Murfreesboro.

No matter where they shop, MTSU students defend their outrageous fashions.

"Students should be able to wear what they want," says MTSU senior Blake Holmes.

MTSU agrees.

In a university policy established in 1972 and last updated in 1979, MTSU stands far away from the issue of classroom dress by not having a dress code. The policy also states, "A student is expected to exercise reasonable judgment and decency in one's dress style."

Yet, some students feel that other MTSU coeds missed the appropriate dress discussion in University 1010.

With new trendsetters influencing the fashion scene, collegiate consumers are imitating performers like Britney Spears by wearing revealing and suggestive clothing. However, the classroom is not a music industry awards show, and prizes are not given for the best and worst dressed.

MTSU business professor Katie Kemp questions students' judgment in their attire for class.

"My concern is, do they know the difference in college attire and appropriate career dress?" she asks.

Is MTSU sending out the right message to its students about how to prepare for their future, including appropriate dress their first interview?

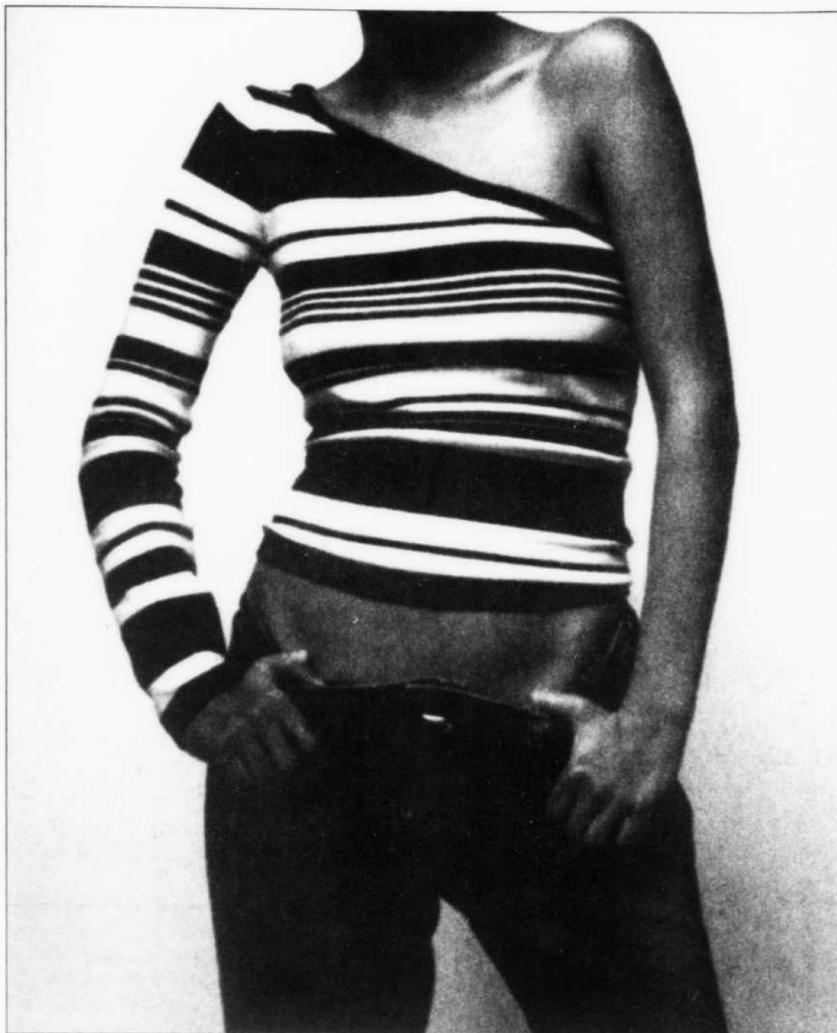


Photo illustration by Chris Kelly | Contributor

Many women are becoming even more daring by wearing off-the-shoulder tops and hip-hugging jeans. Appropriate workplace clothing is becoming a controversial issue.

Most professors agree that while some clothing is distracting, students should be able to wear what they want. They also stress that the length of your skirt does not determine your grade.

Even so, some students say that low-cut necklines and high hemlines are a distraction in class. MTSU student John Huber said, "Earlier in the year, I saw two girls in bikinis and back packs, and I thought that was a little outrageous."

MTSU student Dani Schwegler sees some students' dress as distracting in class, but she doesn't think there should be stipulations on what to wear to school.

MTSU senior Amy Cummings offers another reason for campus skin showing. "I think the new class of freshmen are rebelling against the tighter high school dress codes. They get to college and just take advantage of no restrictions," she says.

After years in a uniform, MTSU freshman Christy Stonecipher agrees.

"Girls wear what they feel good in," she says. "Coming from a private high school, no restrictions on a dress code is very appealing. The freedom we are given at MTSU reflects what was taken away all through high school," she says.

Still, there is a fine line between being fashion-

able and being over-exposed. Female students can leave very little to the imagination when it comes to dressing for class. Girls of all shapes are sporting fashions that show more flesh than fabric. With media giants like Beyonce Knowles and Britney Spears showing off their womanly curves, this new generation of females is not afraid to do the same.

Girls of every size are cashing in on the trends that are saying, "less is more."

T-shirts fit tighter and blue jeans ride lower, showing off bra straps and thongs. Revealing undergarments are now fashion statements. Underwear is no longer just bedroom apparel. It has taken on a fashion life of its own – out it the open.

As animal prints and rhinestone-studded undergarments rise above hip hugging jeans and shoulder-baring tops, some students have taken underwear over the top. Push-up bras are adding even more to the seductive look of 2003.

In a crowd of tube tops and mini skirts, MTSU students are wearing whatever it takes to get attention and some students are pushing the line of decency when they dress for class – even in the cold of winter. ♦

Dear Annie

Age and distance: barriers to love

Dear Annie,

I need your advice on something. A few weeks ago I went on a blind date, set up by one of my friends who happens to be a girl, with a sweet girl named Peggy. She is definitely something to behold. She has wonderful charm and beauty around her and I enjoyed my time with her. By the end of this date, we started to really click and get close. We both have feelings for each other already, and I am considering asking her to be my girlfriend. However, there is a problem. I am here at college and she's 17 and in high school. So what I want to know is: Should I wait another few weeks before I ask her and should I even go through with a long-distance relationship? I know you can help me. You have the gift. – Hopeless Romantic with High Hopes

Dear Hopeless Romantic with High Hopes,

It sounds like you have found a very special girl. What if you didn't pursue this relationship? What if you decided that long-distance relationships are too tough? It's awful to have such a "what if" hanging in the air.

However, I think we should evaluate the potential "red flags" of this relationship. Note the new phrase for this semester: "red flags" – warning signs that pop up in relationships that could mean you need to re-evaluate your situation.

A long-distance relationship can be tough. It's better if you have a foundation to build on before you put miles between you. However, we can't always choose these optimal scenarios.

A perk to a long-distance relationship is that you can spend many hours just talking. It's a good way to get to know someone before the relationship intensifies.

I'm glad you stated her age. However, you didn't state your age. I hope that I don't have to remind you about the legal issues this could present.

Now, for the potential red flag – you're a college man and she's in high school. Do you see the problem? To make it clear, you're both in different phases of your life. She will go through some changes in her life as she moves from being watched by Mommy and Daddy to having freedom. I'm not trying to be negative. I just want you to enter this relationship with a clear head. Sometimes it's hard to see reality when your head is filled with romantic fantasies.

I can tell you're anxious for me to give approval to pursue this relationship. This is a new year and I think you should take this chance after you've evaluated any potential red flags. Only time will tell if this relationship will work out. Good luck!

Please e-mail your questions to DearMtsuAnnie@aol.com

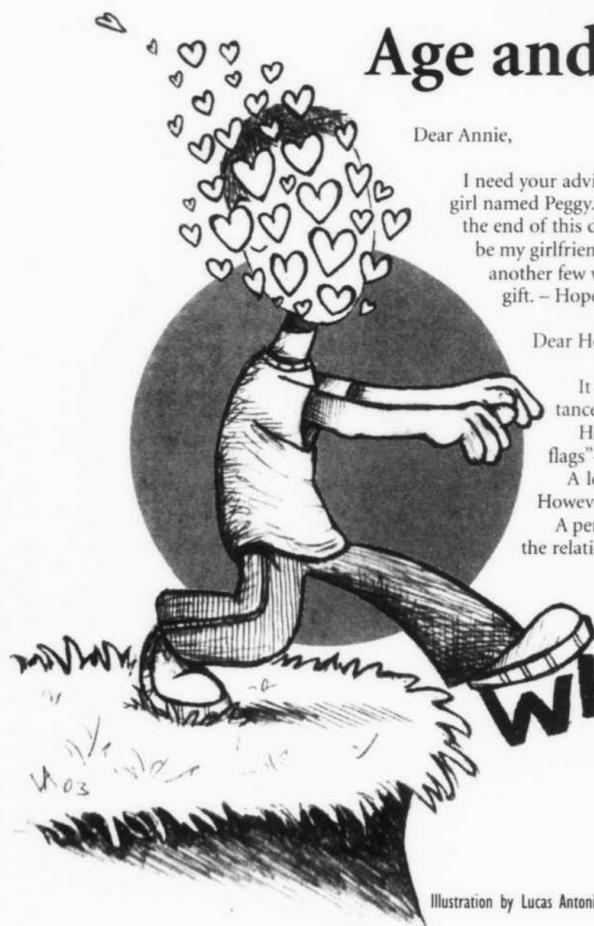


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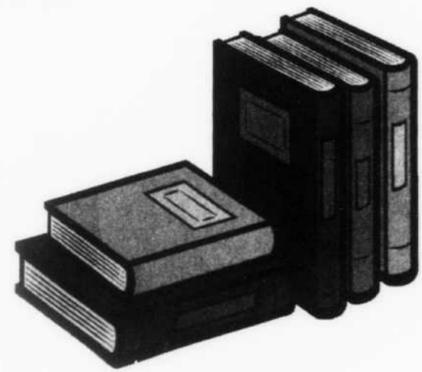
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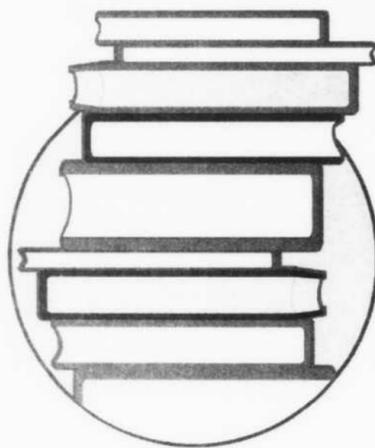
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SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Former MT quarterback makes professional history

By Erich Heinlein
Senior Staff Reporter

Cleveland Browns backup quarterback and MTSU alumnus Kelly Holcomb hit the record books when he recorded the third most passing yards for a single playoff game in NFL history Saturday.

For the game, Holcomb went 26-43 with 429 yards, three touchdowns and one interception.

Holcomb played for the Blue Raiders from 1991-1994.

"I've never seen a guy play his first playoff game with so much confidence and so much poise," Steelers linebacker Joey Porter told the *Plain Dealer* in Cleveland, Ohio. "Plus he was on the road against our defense. He got into a rhythm and he got hot."

Holcomb took full responsibility for the loss.

"I think my interception had a lot to do with it," Holcomb said. "We were driving there and I think that kind of gave them some hope. If I take it down and don't throw an interception right

there it could be a different game."

Holcomb threw an 83-yard strike on the first play of the game to running back William Green.

His top receiver for the day was Dennis Northcutt, who had six receptions, for 92 yards and two touchdowns.

Holcomb's attitude today reflects how he played when he was at MTSU.

"This was never really a problem for Kelly while he was playing at MTSU," Blue Raider quarterbacks coach Alex Robbins said. "He was always a great

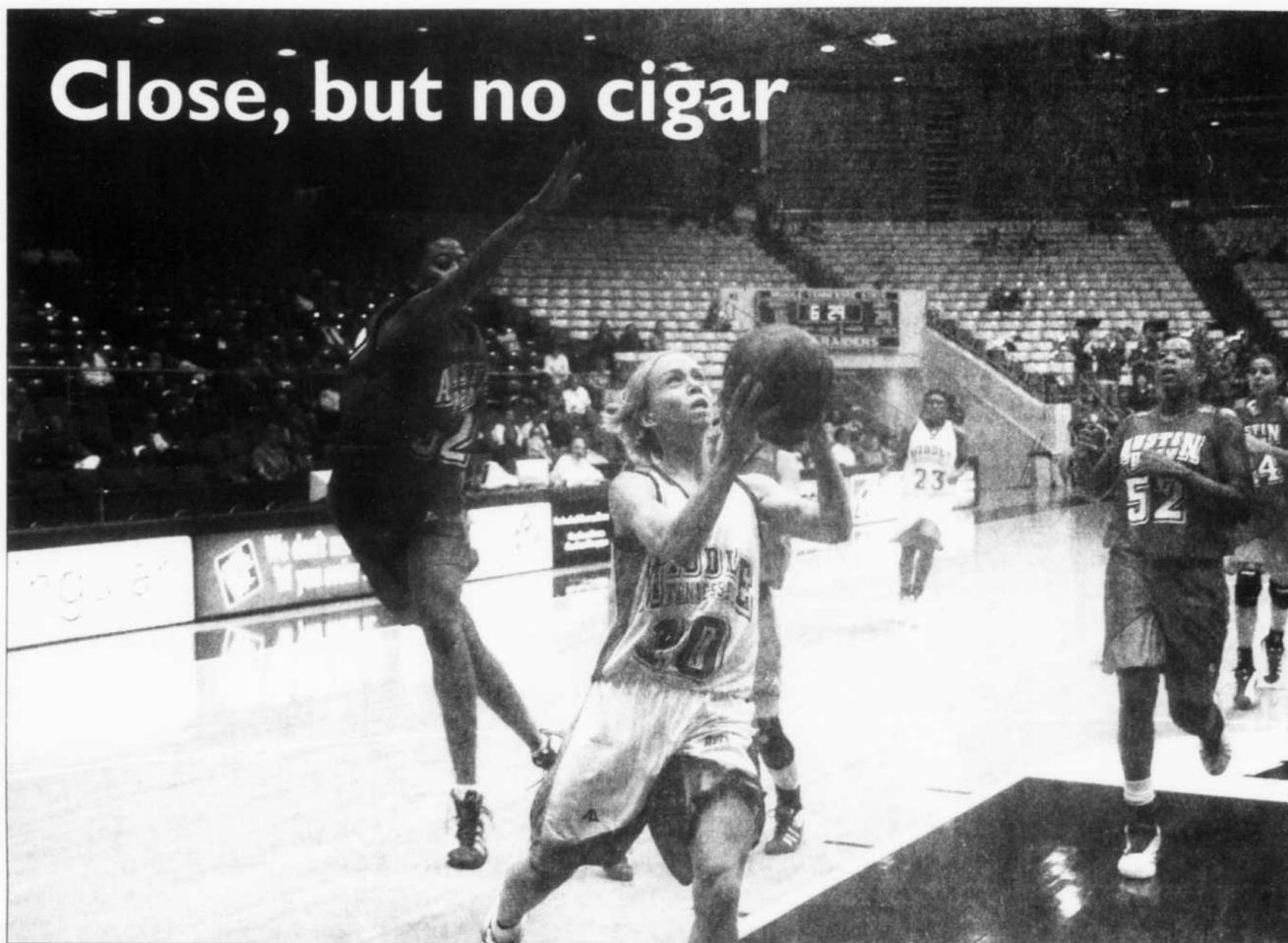
competitor and very smart. I knew he would be in the NFL from the day I saw him play in high school."

While at MTSU, Holcomb pretty much rewrote the record books and threw for more than 1,000 yards all four seasons. He holds the record for highest completion percentage in a game (21-23 vs. Jacksonville). He is also in the top 10 in a rash of other categories. There are several records which former MTSU quarterback Wes Counts broke. However, this just seems to be a sign of the times.

"When Kelly was in school, football was a different game," Robbins said. Robbins was referring to the fact that in 2003, offenses are more pass-happy than in the early to mid-'90s."

Another local college player in the NFL is Steelers safety Brent Alexander. Alexander left Nashville's Tennessee State University in 1994 to play for the Arizona Cardinals. Alexander also played for the Carolina Panthers.

Pittsburgh then picked him up as an unrestricted free agent in 2000. ♦



Close, but no cigar

Lady Raiders scare Austin Peay in 78-68 squeaker

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Reporter

The Lady Raiders almost came from behind, but fell short in a 78-68 loss to Austin Peay Monday night.

The game started with the Lady Raiders taking a 12-8 lead during an 8-0 run on a basket by Mia Parviainen. However, the bottom fell out for the Lady Raiders as Austin Peay went on a 32-17 run to end the first half and take a 44-25 lead into the locker room.

"At halftime, Coach [Smith] talked about us not being focused and ready to play," MT forward Eboni Kirby said. "In the second half, we knew we had to make a change or we would not be in [a] position to win the game."

As the second half began, the Lady Raiders went into the game with a new desire to win. After some red-hot shooting by the Lady Goves in the first half, in which they shot 64.3 percent from the floor and 75 percent from three-point land, the Lady Raiders started to fire away to cut the advantage by APSU's. It started when Patrice Holmes nailed a three-pointer to begin the scoring for the Lady Raiders. A few minutes later Kirby added a three-pointer of her own to slice the lead to 33-48 with 13:31 to go in the contest.

MT was able to trim the lead to 10 points with 11:25 left in the game as Kirby was fouled while making a layup. Kirby then finished the three-point play by converting the free throw to make the score 50-40.

Then the game turned into the Patrice Holmes Show as she scored the next 10 of 12 points for the Lady Raiders. It started off with a put back off a Cartia Bailey missed three-point attempt to cut the APSU lead to eight points.

Kirby hit two free throws to make the score 53-44. Holmes added another jumper with 8:52 left in the game.

After a steal by Kirby, Holmes went long distance for three-points to decrease the advantage to 49-55. APSU answered back with a shot by Brooke Armstead to make the score 49-57 with 6:44 left. However,



MT guard Paula Penttila (top) scored two of six attempted two-point shots during the Austin Peay game. Forward Eboni Kirby (above) runs down the court around the Lady Gov defender. According to Kirby, preparing for the second half was tough, because she and the rest of the team "knew we had to make a change or we would not be in [a] position to win the game."

See Austin Peay, 7

MT men's basketball player earns SBC award

"Anytime a player wins an individual award, it's team oriented. When William plays well, it usually means that he rebounded well, and that leads to baskets for him. I thought it was nice overall effort for him this week on both ends."

—Kermit Davis,
MT men's basketball coach

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Reporter

With his performance in Middle Tennessee's 69-65 upset victory Saturday night over conference rival Western Kentucky, MT forward William Pippen earned the Sun Belt Player of the Week honors.

In that game, Pippen had 21 points and 10 rebounds in the Blue Raiders' victory. It was the second time this season Pippen scored more than 20 points in a game.

The only other time Pippen had more than 20 points was a 32-point performance in a 74-57 win over Christian Brothers on Dec. 18, 2002.

It was Pippen's second double-double of the season. The first time came on Dec. 7 in a 64-60 win over Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, in which Pippen had 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Pippen's leadership during the game earned him the award. With 14:21 remaining in the game, Pippen nailed a three-pointer to put up MT 43-41.

The shot gave the Blue Raiders the lead for good. Pippen also had a steal and scored with 2:36 left during a final push by WKU to get back into the game.

"Anytime a player wins an individual award, it's team oriented, and it was," Blue Raider head coach Kermit Davis said to MT Media Relations.

"When William plays well, it usually means that he rebounded well, and that leads to baskets for him. I thought it was a nice overall effort for him this week on both ends."

Pippen collected the SBC Player of the Week last season with his efforts in a 21 points in an 88-79 win over Tennessee State and 20 points in a 65-52 victory against Rice.

He is the first player from MT to win the award this season.

This week Pippen goes back to his home state of Arkansas to take on conference rivals Arkansas State and Arkansas-Little Rock.

The ASU game is tomorrow night at 7; the ULAR game is Saturday night also at 7. ♦

Photos by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor



Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

Lady Raider Patrice Holmes goes up for a shot during Monday's game against the Lady Govs.

Austin Peay: Lady Raiders take lead twice during game

Continued from 6

Holmes called long distance again with another three-point shot to cut the lead to five points with 5:55 left. After a missed shot by Armstead, Parviainen hit a three-pointer to knock the lead to 57-52. The Lady Raiders tied the score with 3:51 remaining when Kirby got a steal and Holmes passed to Keisha McClinic, who put it in the basket.

On APSU's next possession, Ashley Haynes could not connect on her shot. McClinic got the rebound and passed it to Holmes. Holmes fed the pass to Kirby going to the basket with 3:18 remaining. Kirby put it in to give the Lady Raiders their first lead since 12-11 with 14:49 left in the first half. However,

Gerlonda Paige scored for the Lady Govs to tie the score. APSU finished the game off with a 10-0 run to win 78-68. "I am a little disappointed in myself, to be quite honest," MT head coach Stephany Smith said. "In the last five minutes, we fought so hard. We had to fight behind for 35 minutes. We fought so hard in the second half and gave ourselves a chance and took the lead."

Holmes led all scorers with a career best 28 points. Kirby added 12, and Parviainen also had 10 points.

Armstead led the Lady Govs with 23 points.

The next game for the Lady Raiders is against Sun Belt rival Arkansas State tomorrow. The game is 7 p.m. in the Murphy Center. ♦

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INDEX		
Sales	100	House for rent 155
General	105	House for sale 160
Help Wanted	110	Roommates 165
Internships	115	Subleasing 170
Career	120	Lost & Found 175
Electronics	125	Personals 180
Textbooks	130	Pets 185
Tickets	135	Services 190
Misc.	140	General 195
Garage Sales	145	Wanted to buy 200
Apt. for rent	150	Other 205

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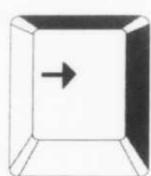
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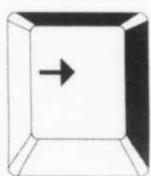
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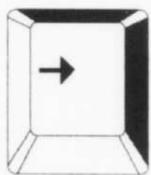
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