

2-25-2005

## The Murray State News, February 25, 2005

The Murray State News

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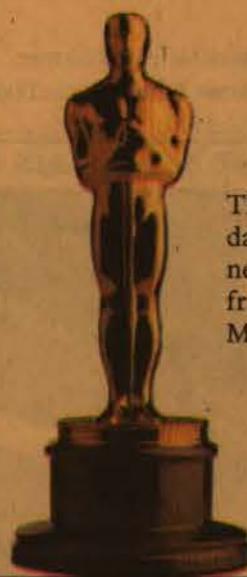
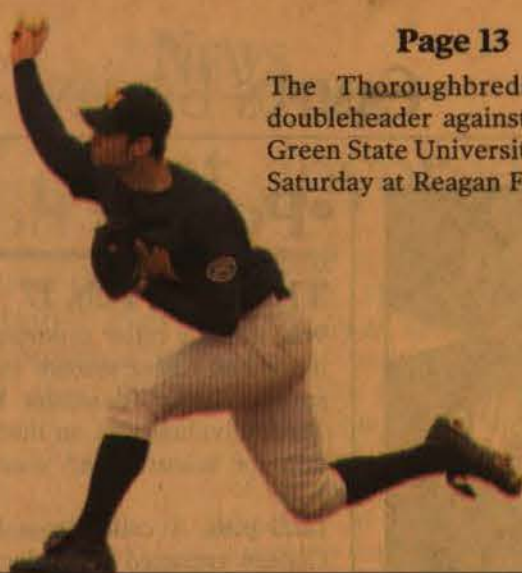
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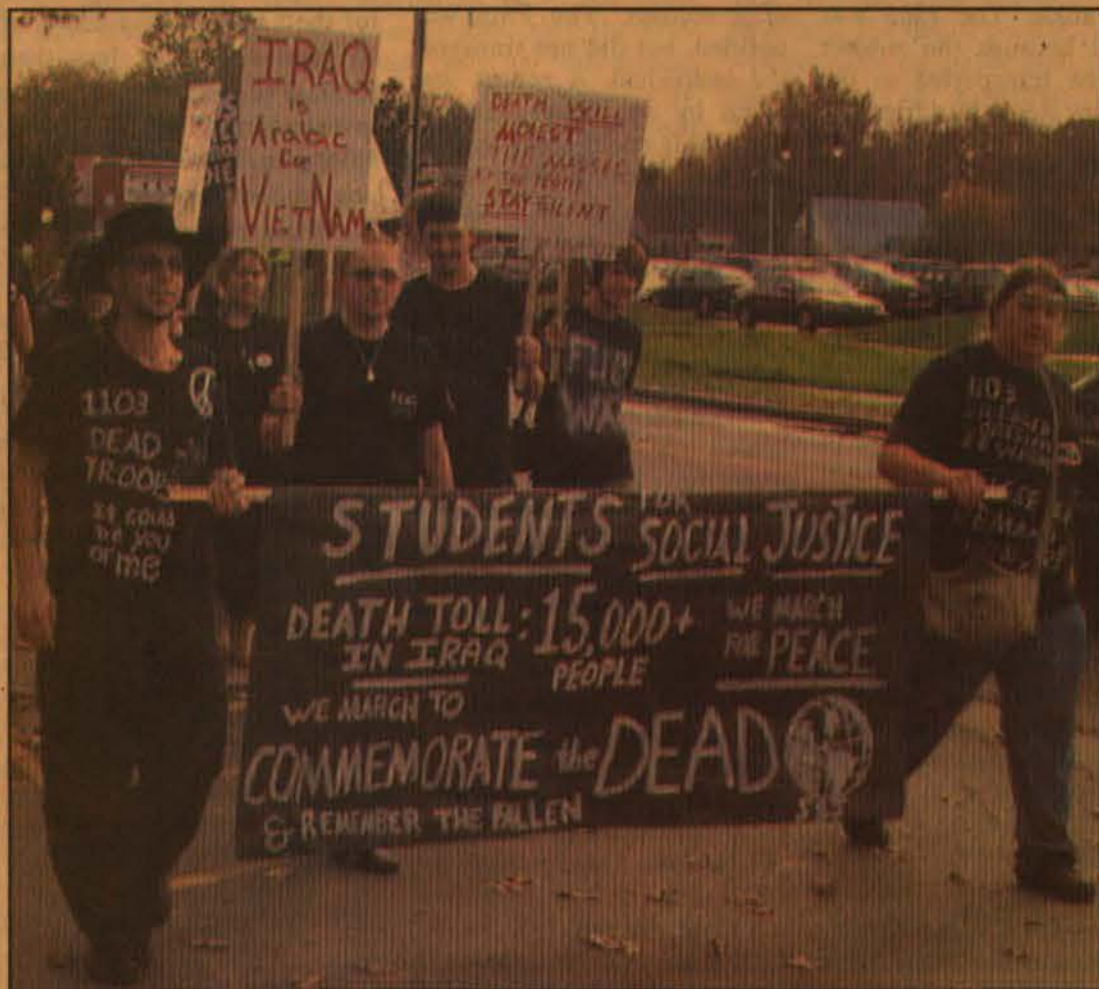
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## What would America be like . . .



file photo



photo illustration by Chia-Hung Chang/The News

## . . . without the First Amendment?

### Survey results find lack of appreciation

**Vanessa Childers**  
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Many Americans lack a fundamental understanding of the First Amendment, according to recent Knight Foundation and First Amendment Center surveys analyzing the status of the First Amendment.

The Knight Foundation study, released in January, surveyed more than 100,000 high school students, teachers and administrators. It found a lack of First Amendment knowledge. The First Amendment Cen-

ter, which releases such surveys every year, found similar results among Americans of all ages.

For instance, in the Knight survey, results indicate nearly three of every four students do not appreciate the amendment or the rights listed in it. According to the center's 2004 survey, more than two out of five Americans think the amendment "goes too far" in the freedoms it guarantees.

"Americans say they believe in the First Amendment, but, in practice, they are less enthusiastic," Paul McMasters, First Amendment Center ombudsman said. "In essence, they believe in the First Amend-

ment for themselves, but they aren't too sure about the other guy."

He said individuals need to learn the First Amendment because when people know their rights, they can protect them.

"The apex of the First Amendment is someone standing up for someone else's First Amendment rights, not just for their own," McMasters said.

Ann Beck, associate professor of government, law and international affairs, said about 70 percent of introductory-level American government students cannot name most of the five First Amendment freedoms.

"The thing I always struggle with is how to make students see how it does affect them in their everyday life, and it does affect them," Beck said. "It has repercussions for their livelihood

and their quality of life."

In trying to educate students about everything for which the First Amendment stands, Beck said she requires her students to read The New York Times and other media in some of her classes. She said it is important to know effects the media has on disseminating information.

"I believe everyone who goes to college has to come out with at least the same knowledge we ask a new citizen to have," she said. "We have got to be able to replace leaders, and to keep alive democracy, you have to be willing to train new leaders who believe in the democratic process."

Beck said she found most people seem to support the First Amendment in general, but, when given specific examples of its application, many answer differently. She said students need to

take ownership of their government.

"You have to practice those freedoms to make them real," Beck said. "You've got to practice them within our University, within our residences or residential colleges and within our departments. Everywhere we are, we've just got to practice them, and they're not easy to practice it to keep from losing it."

Cynthia Gayman, assistant professor of English and philosophy, said, based on the survey results and her own observations, the First Amendment is in danger in America.

"If we let our fear let us put security as our highest priority and security as an entity that would curtail our freedom, in the end, we will have lost everything we have fought for," she said.

In her classes, Gayman encourages her students to express themselves and their views in class discussions. During her fall semester philosophy of religion class, one documentary and a student's comment that followed spurred a significant response.

"We had just finished watching a documentary on an interview with the Dalai Lama, who is a very wise, gentle and intellectual man, and, after it was over, one of my students said, 'Well, he's not a Christian, so he's going to hell,'" Gayman said. "The response to that was one of such outrage. Several of the students agreed with him, but there were others who were profoundly offended by that remark."

However, she said the debate was not hostile

see **PROFESSORS/3**

## State House passes budget, tax reform plan

**Stephanie Zeller**  
Staff Writer  
[szeller@thenews.org](mailto:szeller@thenews.org)

The House of Representatives passed the state budget in a rare unanimous vote late Friday night after a 96-4 approval for a tax reform plan that would allow necessary funding for projects defined in the budget.

"I dare say that never before has a budget bill passed the House unanimously," Rep. Melvin Henley, R-Murray, said.

Both party leaders discussed their problems with Gov. Ernie Fletcher's budget and were able to create a budget "everyone could put their stamp of approval on," said Tom Martin, director of Communication for the Office of the Speaker of the House.

"(The committee went) in and tweaked the bud-



"I dare say that never before has a budget bill passed the House unanimously."

**Melvin Henley**  
State Representative  
R-Murray

get to reflect current fiscal reality," Martin said.

Changes to the budget include \$17.2 million more in additional basic school funding than the governor had offered, and a 3 percent increase in funding for Kentucky's state employees and teachers, rather than the proposed 2 percent.

The House budget will also restore \$23 million of the \$40 million taken from universities in 2004's budget cut.

The revised budget was

then presented to representatives for a vote. It only takes 60 votes out of 100 for a bill to pass, but all members of the House voted to pass the budget.

"(The House budget) shows how far bipartisanship has come in state legislature," Martin said.

Included in the House budget is funding for Murray State's new \$15 million biology building, Marvin Henley said, the funds for which will be available because of the new tax reform bill.

The committee's main obligation was to review and make changes to the governor's tax plan, Martin said.

For the budget to become a reality, the Tax Modernization Bill was voted on as a means for funding the budget. The bill is a tax reform plan that changes the way corporations are taxed in Kentucky.

In the past, some out-of-state corporations that operate in the commonwealth have avoided paying the Kentucky income tax in the past, but with the new bill, the corporations will be held accountable for the taxes.

"I consider (the income tax) to be the most important aspect of the bill other than the Murray State science building," Henley said.

The tax plan also allows \$115 million to be distributed to universities

throughout Kentucky in the 2006 fiscal year for sanitary sewage, water and construction projects on campuses.

The governor proposed families of four whose income is below \$12,000 receive tax relief. However, the House increased the income to \$18,850, which is the federal poverty level said Martin.

The House also changed the proposed cigarette tax from 34 cents per pack to 29 cents per pack.

Henley said, although it is not perfect, he agrees with many of the changes to the budget.

"I think it's the best that we can do," Henley said.

The next step in the process is gaining Senate approval.

The Senate committee convened during the weekend to discuss the budget and when it met Tuesday.

## Former AD files lawsuit in circuit court

Staff Report

Former Athletics Director E.W. Dennison filed a lawsuit against Murray State Feb. 17 in Franklin Circuit Court in Frankfort.

The complaint alleges the University violated Dennison's contract and freedom of speech, according to The Murray Ledger & Times.

At the Sept. 17, 2004, Board of Regents meeting, the board unanimously supported Dennison's reassignment to the director of corporate and foundation giving. However, Dennison resigned from the University on Jan. 31.

Additional information about the suit was not available at presstime.



**E.W. Dennison**





Michael McLaurine/The News

Ryan Payne, sophomore from Owensboro (left), Chris Ark, freshman from Old Hickory, Tenn. (middle) and Matt Buchanon (right), junior from Grand Rivers, jousted in White College Wednesday.

**Campus Ministry hosts rummage sale Saturday**

The Newman House Campus Ministry will host a rummage sale from 6 a.m. - noon Saturday at Mattingly Hall behind St. Leo Catholic Church.

All proceeds will benefit a Spring Break service trip to rural Jamaica to help rebuild houses destroyed by last year's hurricanes.

Those interested in donating to the sale can drop off items today between 4 p.m. - 6:30 pm. For more information or to make a donation, call 753-1391.

**Fraternity hosts carnival to benefit AIDS research**

Sigma Phi Epsilon will be hosting "Party Gras," a series of events to benefit the youth and community.

Events include a park cleanup Tuesday and playing games with children from 3 - 5 p.m. Wednesday in the park across from Pagliai's on Chestnut St.

From 4 - 6 p.m. Thursday at the Sigma Phi Epsilon house, 1400 Main

St., the fraternity will host a carnival consisting of several games and other entertainment.

Prices for the carnival will be \$1 for children/adults ages 16 and up and free for children under 15.

All proceeds go to YouthAids, which is dedicated to fighting HIV and AIDS viruses.

For information about the carnival or the rest of the week's events, call Jamie Green at (270) 556-6345.

**Corrections**

On Page 10 of the Friday publication, Judy Lyle's title was incorrect. She is the health educator and staff nurse at Health Services.

Also on Page 10, Paul Elfen was incorrectly referred to as a non-student. Elfen is a junior.

The Murray State News regrets the error.

*Campus Briefly is compiled by Carrie Pond, assistant news editor. If you would like to submit information for Campus Briefly, phone 762-4480.*

**Police Beat**

**Thursday, Feb. 17**

**9:20 a.m.** A caller reported an individual had a seizure in the parking lot of Alexander Hall. The individual was on medication for seizures and was not hurt.

**12:21 p.m.** A caller from Hart College reported a burglary. A report was taken for third degree burglary of cash. The incident is under investigation.

**8:53 p.m.** A caller from the wellness center requested an EMS for an individual with a possible broken ankle. The EMS was canceled because the subject was to be transported to the Emergency Room by a friend.

**Friday, Feb. 18**

**2:46 a.m.** Jared Daniel Renner, 18, freshman from Chester, Ill., was arrested at 121 N and Victors St. for driving under the influence. It was his first offense.

**5:54 a.m.** An individual at Public Safety requested to speak to an officer regarding a vehicle that had been following him while he rode his bike from the country into the city. The individual was referred to the Calloway County Sheriff Office.

**11:07 a.m.** An officer stopped near Wells Hall when students started climbing onto moving vehicles. All subjects knew one another and assured the officer everything was okay. A verbal warning was given.

**Saturday, Feb. 19**

**7:36 a.m.** A caller from White College reported an assault on campus. The EMS, Public Safety, Student Affairs and counseling staff were notified. The incident is under investigation.

**2:31 p.m.** A caller reported a dog present while walking in

Racer Arena on Friday. The caller was concerned the dog might trip an elderly person.

**8:25 p.m.** A citation was issued to Anthony Clark Evans, 20, sophomore from Owensboro, for disregarding a stop sign in front of Springer College and failure to produce proof of insurance.

**Sunday, Feb. 20**

**3:54 a.m.** A caller from White College reported a fight that possibly resulted in the injury of a student. The EMS was notified, but did not transport the individual. A report was taken by an officer and the incident is under investigation.

**2:52 p.m.** A caller in Cleveland reported having an accident with a University vehicle. The state police and transportation services were contacted.

**Monday, Feb. 21**

**12:15 a.m.** A citation was issued to Cassidy Layne Everette, 22, junior from Princeton, for disregarding a stop sign at the corner of Waldrop Drive and the Residential College Circle. Everette also failed to produce proof of insurance.

**3:39 p.m.** An individual from Hart College requested assistance after dropping keys down the elevator shaft. The individual had to leave for practice and asked to have the keys left at the front desk. Central Plant was notified.

**11:29 p.m.** A caller reported a 13-year-old being dropped off at the Curris Center by his mother with no way to get home. This incidence has happened more than once. An officer spoke with the mother and a report was taken.

**11:57 p.m.** Andrea Brooke Fugate, 20, sophomore from Lexington, was issued a citation at College Courts near Waldrop Drive for having neither proof of insurance nor her operator's license in possession.

**Tuesday, Feb. 22**

**3:30 p.m.** An individual reported the radio missing from his/her vehicle while it was parked in the Main St. parking lot. A report was taken for theft by unlawful taking of an item valued at less than \$300. The incident is under investigation.

**5:06 p.m.** Allen O'Neil Jr., a non-student, was issued a summons regarding the theft of a baseball cap that occurred Feb. 16.

**Wednesday, Feb. 23**

**12:38 a.m.** A laptop computer was found in a trash can in Public Safety.

**10:55 a.m.** John A. Huffine, 32, graduate student from Murray, was issued a summons regarding the book theft on Feb. 15.

**2:52 p.m.** The theft of a car radio was reported in the Lutheran parking lot. The incident is under investigation.

Motorist assists - 3  
 Racer escorts - 3  
 Arrests - 1

*Police Beat is compiled by Carrie Pond, assistant news editor, with materials provided by Public Safety. All dispatched calls are not listed. For a complete listing, visit www.the-news.org.*

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# Professors discuss News' event coverage

## From Page 1

because students, for the most part, respect others' views within the classroom.

"People must overcome politeness as the highest value," Gayman said. "I think politeness is very important, but having an opinion and having the courage to state that opinion should not conflict with politeness, and politeness shouldn't mean silence."

After Friday's publication of The Murray State News, several students, parents and alumni debated "The Vagina Monologues" coverage in online forums. From dissatisfied readers calling the coverage "obscene" or "distasteful" to those who thought it was "good work," people expressed a wide range of views on the Feb. 18 issue.

Some individuals on the forums wrote the coverage was too explicit for the city and University communities.

"The job of a newspaper is not just to reflect the social norms," Gayman said. "It is to tell the news in such a way to allow people to confront the hypocrisy of their own norms. And, if a college campus only exists

"If we don't have a presumption that the First Amendment outweighs almost every other thing, then you have everyone making decisions, and pretty soon you don't have free speech anymore."

**Jeanne Scafella**  
Chairwoman of the Journalism  
and Mass Communications Department

to conform to students' views and not to challenge them, then we are not doing our job."

John Dillon, professor of journalism and mass communications, said the coverage was an "embarrassment" to the department on a Blackboard discussion board for one of his classes.

"The Murray State News was wise to cover the 'Monologues' event on campus, as the production was certainly a bonafide campus event and of interest to a broad number of people," he said in an interview. "What bothered me was treatment of the story, which I believe was more lurid than illuminating."

"It is beyond the scope of most journalism to so strongly sexualize a news event, even if the event is fundamentally sexual," he said.

Jeanne Scafella, chair-

woman of journalism and mass communications, said she has heard of some people wanting to stop donating to the department after The Murray State News' coverage. She hopes people will consider the paper and department as a whole before making these decisions.

"(The paper) is not the property of students running it or the University," she said. "It is a public forum for the exchange of ideas."

For the paper to remain a free exchange of ideas, Scafella said it had to remain independent and not face censorship or prior restraint of publication. She said because the University set the paper up as a public forum, there is a limit to what can be done to censor its content after creation.

"It is within the realm of the student editorial board

to make those decisions," she said. "The fact we're having all of these discussions is probably a good thing. The fact people are no longer willing to donate to the department because of the content is something we have to live with. Free speech is expensive."

Based on U.S. Supreme Court cases, Scafella said material printed in last week's paper did not qualify as obscenity because there was not explicit sexual content. Because of this, she said the paper could not be censored. She said the First Amendment is important because it facilitates open debate and allows anyone to question those in charge.

Said Scafella: "If we don't have a presumption that the First Amendment outweighs almost every other thing, then you have everyone making decisions, and pretty soon you don't have free speech anymore."

Forums are available at [www.thenews.org](http://www.thenews.org) and the [www.murraystate.edu](http://www.murraystate.edu) discussion boards for those who would like to post their views on The Murray State News' coverage of "The Vagina Monologues." Letters to the editor can be e-mailed to [ecawein@thenews.org](mailto:ecawein@thenews.org).

## First Amendment Supreme Court Cases

### • *Gitlow v. New York*:

"For present purposes we may and do assume that freedom of speech and of the press - which are protected by the First Amendment from abridgment by Congress - are among the fundamental personal rights and 'liberties' protected by the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment from impairment by the States."

### • *Miller v. California*

1. Obscene material is not protected by the First Amendment. ... A work may be subject to state regulation where that work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest in sex; portrays, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law; and, taken as a whole, does not have serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

2. The basic guidelines for the trier of fact must be: whether the average person, applying contemporary community standards would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest.

### • *New York Times v. Sullivan*

"A State cannot under the First and Fourteenth Amendments award damages to a public official for defamatory falsehood relating to his official conduct unless he proves 'actual malice' - that the statement was made with knowledge of its falsity or with reckless disregard of whether it was true or false."

"Whether or not a newspaper can survive a succession of such judgments, the pall of fear and timidity imposed upon those who would give voice to public criticism is an atmosphere in which the First Amendment freedoms cannot survive"

### • *Cantwell v. Connecticut*

"But the people of this nation have ordained in the light of history, that, in spite of the probability of excesses and abuses, these liberties are, in the long view, essential to enlightened opinion and right conduct on the part of the citizens of a democracy."

### • *Bridges v. California*

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# OPINION

Opinion Editor: Elizabeth Cawein  
Phone: 762-4468

## What do YOU THINK

Have you ever taken offense to something in The Murray State News?

"No, for the broad audience at Murray State you should expect to read diverse news."

Steven Quarcelino  
graduate student, Alivaton



"I am offended by the lack of positive information toward African-Americans. The negative always makes the front page."

Starlise Stokes  
senior, Clarksville



"No, everyone has the right to their own opinion as long as it does not insult others."

Shu-Chun Yen  
graduate student, Taipei, Taiwan



"Yes, it was hard for me to explain the vagina on the front page to prospective students and their parents at Academic Excellence Day."

LeeAnna Green  
junior, Mayfield



Erin Cummins/The News

## Reporting news first priority

### OUR VIEW:

#### Issue:

STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY WERE UPSET BY LAST WEEK'S FRONT PAGE HIGHLIGHTING "THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES."

#### Position:

THE NEWSPAPER HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT THE NEWS IN ALL SITUATIONS, EVEN CONTROVERSIAL EVENTS.

The staff editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of The Murray State News. The editorial board is composed of all section editors.

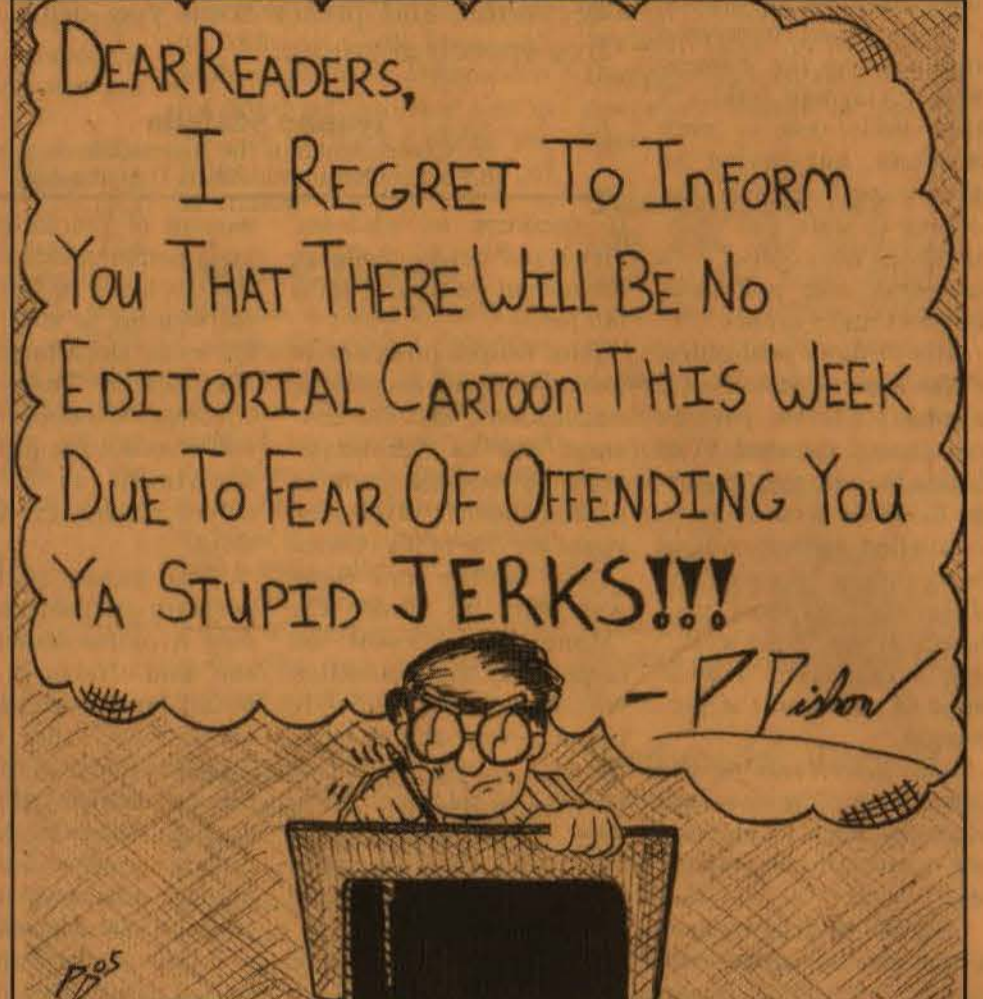
What makes something newsworthy? A news writing text book will tell you it must be timely, have proximity, prominence, human interest, drama and an impact on readers, among other things.

When news is placed in the paper, it is because it meets these requirements. When it is placed on the front page, it is of paramount importance to the readers of the newspaper, as determined by the editors.

Items of paramount importance might include major crimes, fires, budget or financial news affecting the University, a change in University policy or controversial happenings on campus.

All of these topics have been addressed many times on front page after front page of The Murray State News.

Since the paper's release last



Friday, the front page highlighting "The Vagina Monologues" has been called everything from an embarrassment to the journalism department to sensationalized to disgusting.

The Murray State News is a student newspaper, protected by the First Amendment just like all other newspapers. Our first priority is to bring news to the campus community.

Beyond the fact that it's surprising to hear of "The Vagina Monologues" in a town like Murray, the production also raised about \$2,500, around \$2,000 of which went straight

to one of the most underfunded services on campus, the Women's Center. The play also sold out the Curris Center Theater.

As students learning the craft of journalism, we strive each week to find and print the news to the best of our abilities. While the word vagina on Page 1 may have screamed "disgusting" at readers, "The Vagina Monologues" screamed "newsworthy" to the staff of The Murray State News.

We listened, because as of yet, we have no intention of abandoning our No. 1 obligation: delivering the news.

## •Your Opinion

### 'Vagina Monologues' story sensationalized

Was it really necessary for The Murray State News to publish the word "vagina" in huge print with the double entendre "satisfies audience," in the Feb. 18 issue? Was this really front page news at Murray State?

It is noble Murray State hosted "The Vagina Monologues" to promote better self-esteem for females and the awareness of abuse and offenses against women, but why the bold word right on the front of the page and the photo of a man's buttocks in front of the simulated vagina entrance? Obviously it was to catch the reader's attention and be cute.

Guess what, it wasn't cute, it wasn't heroic and it wasn't ground breaking. It was completely vulgar and tacky, reminding me of obnoxious tweens and teens who moon and flash body parts out of car windows and yell four letter words for the sake of using them.

My double entendre for today is that "front page news" was the name of a pornographic book and video store I often drove past in metro-Detroit.

If anything, your front page news also devalued "The Vagina Monologues," just as much as a "Beavis and Butthead" segment might have.

What's next - headlines extolling swingers clubs, the joys of picking up prostitutes and the glorious glory holes in public rest stops?

To top off this, I have noticed for a long time that The Murray State News rarely has any news stories in it, just Murray State public relations press releases, trite and inane opinion columns and feature stories. Obviously the researching and investigation of important and overlooked news for the benefit of the Murray State community isn't part of your newspaper's goals.

I'll bet The Murray State News

didn't keep in mind that Saturday was Academic Excellence Recognition Day, as well as the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication's Annual High School Journalism Workshop, with dozens of highschoolers and their teachers on campus.

Let's bet that headline and photo made a great impact on their parents' and teachers' enthusiasm for enrollment at Murray State, as well as pleasing donors and benefactors.

Greg LaLiberte  
graduate student  
Detroit

### 'Monologues' piece played distastefully

Let me just say I totally and utterly believe in the freedoms of our First Amendment, so the content of The Murray State News should be controlled only by its staff.

However, the staff should be aware when putting out a newspaper you hope will build a readership as well as professional reputation with readers, you have to take readers' wants into consideration. The way the story was handled was an insult to the students, and this is coming from a guy from the "Beavis and Butthead" generation.

Should the story have been covered? Yes. It was a huge event for feminism and the empowering of women and a rather important happening at Murray State. Could it have been done differently? Most likely.

The word "vagina" in the title is going to get people to pick the thing up anyway, no need to take it out and beat the reader over the head with it. The lead of the story also left me wondering "Was this the most important part of the event?" A giant cloth vagina most definitely was not the central part of the play. It was about celebrating feminism, so I think a much better lead could have been found. Also, if

you have a picture of the vaginal entrance, why do you need to describe it?

I know, I know, most of you are saying if you don't like what The News does, then just don't read it. I know I have the right to not pick the paper up, but I'm still going to. Why? Because it has no competition. It's the only campus newspaper. Murray State News staffers, when you hit the real world, you will see that the newspaper you work for will have competition. Each time you upset a reader, each time you offend someone, you will get phone calls, you will see rack sales go down and subscriptions dropped, and you will see your competition thrive.

I know this because I've lived and learned at a community newspaper, The Tribune-Courier. I have heard and read on message boards that certain staffers weren't concerned if readers were offended or not.

I think you are forgetting to realize that without readers, your newspaper doesn't exist. The newspaper business isn't about what the reporter wants, it's about what the readership wants.

When people stop picking up the paper, advertisers will realize it and drop advertising, thus shrinking the paper's budget until the paper is nonexistent.

Not concerned with offending the readers? Perhaps that is an ability you should learn to hone for a future position in journalism.

Take this whole thing as a learning experience. After all, that's what a campus newspaper is for. Just don't walk away shaking your head and calling those who didn't agree with the article prudes and ignore them. Those prudes could end up being your target audience in your future of reporting.

Jamie E. Dexter  
junior  
Gilbertsville

### Vagina on front page printed in poor taste

Freedom of the press, recognized and supported through the First Amendment, rightfully allows the expression of divergent thought from the norms of society and governments.

However, there is nothing noble or commendable about that right when its use is to promote a simplistic shock value into the minds of the populace. I am naturally referring to the headline which graced our otherwise respectable newspaper last week when the intellectually unique "Vagina Monologues" became perverted into a simple over-sized pink "vagina" above the fold.

Liberty allows for such tackiness to become the priority of the editor in chief to levy, but the greater question that rests in my mind is why such a slight and unwarranted connection to the name of the program itself was introduced in the stead of actually calling a spade a spade. Where was discretion in this process of print, and just when was it decided that shock was the word of the day instead of decorum for an otherwise respected newsprint? These unanswered questions leave me to wonder about the credibility of the staff of our fair paper.

Aaron Butler  
freshman  
Owensboro

### Write to us

The Murray State News welcomes commentaries and letters to the editor. Letters should be 400 words or less and must be signed. Contributors should include addresses and phone numbers for verification. Please include hometown, classification, title or relationship to the University. Commentaries should be limited to 500 words. The Murray State News reserves the right to edit for style, length and content.

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The Murray State News strives to be the University community's source for information.

Our goal is to present that information in a fair and unbiased manner and also provide a free and open forum for expression and debate.

The Murray State News offers a hands-on learning environment for those students interested in journalism or other fields relating to the production of a newspaper.

The campus press should be free from censorship and advance approval of copy; and, its editors should be free to develop their own editorial and news policies.

The Murray State News is prepared and edited by students and is an official publication of Murray State University. The first copy of The Murray State News is free. Additional copies are available for 25 cents at 111 Wilson Hall.



# Awareness equals victory for abused

# Vagina talk: Go on, giggle

## In My Opinion



**Brandi Townsend**

"PLEASE DON'T SILENCE WOMEN LIKE ME. WE'RE LUCKY WE'VE LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT."

Recently a thread was started on the Murray State message board concerning The Murray State News' coverage of "The Vagina Monologues." Some have written to show disgust, some to applaud The News. I'm here to applaud them.

Many people say the coverage shouldn't have appeared in the paper. They say even with freedom of the press, the article's obscenity outweighed its newsworthiness.

The main problem those who disapproved seemed to have was the photo of the faux vagina entrance and the word "vagina" appearing in large letters coming from one of the actress's mouths. They call this obscene and distasteful. Since when is the standard, anatomical term for female genitalia obscene or distasteful?

Let me just say that, if you read the article at all, you

would realize it is not obscene, and you would realize why such an event is newsworthy.

First of all, the show was sold out with standing room only. Considering it took place on Valentine's Day, a day when many people would choose to celebrate in some other way, a very significant number of people chose to see the show instead. Also, the event raised money for the Murray State Women's Center, which gets no funds from the budget and receives only scraps from other departments if available. That money will do wonders for women who need help at Murray State and in the community.

The whole purpose of "The Vagina Monologues" is to raise awareness and respect for women. If we fear the word "vagina," we will undoubtedly fear the place. Women are abused

more often than we realize, and it's time someone stands up and says something. Many who aren't abused are too ashamed of their own anatomy and femininity to discover the wonderful world down under, which, by the way, God created with a high-potency pleasure center for a reason. Of course, not all men are abusive and not all women have problems discovering themselves. In fact, many of my male friends are very respectful of vaginas, and many women are fascinated with their own unique vaginas. And yes, God did give us that pleasure center known as the clitoris for a reason.

Haven't you ever read Song of Solomon?

Most importantly, we should be grateful Murray State hosted "The Vagina Monologues" this year and that The News covered it so fervently. If you recall Car-

rie Pond's commentary last week, I am the girl she was talking about. I'm sure I've passed many of you on the way to class or perhaps chatted with you on the elevator, but you had no idea that I was trapped in a sexually, emotionally and mentally abusive relationship for four years and that I am just becoming comfortable with talking about it and have finally found respect for my vagina.

I'm sure you've passed other women on campus with a similar story.

For people like me, "The Vagina Monologues" and its subsequent coverage in The News was a personal victory.

Please don't silence women like me. We're lucky we've lived to tell about it.

*Brandi Townsend is a senior history and Spanish double major from Parsons, Tenn.*

I have a vagina. Are you offended? You're probably not offended by the fact that I have a vagina, as long as I keep it locked up in my pants, under a layer of thick, protective underwear and the safety of a chastity belt.

You might blush at the mention of its name, though, and chances are you would definitely take offense if the word was written in big, bold pink letters somewhere you were forced to look at it.

Like, say, the front page of The Murray State News.

To say a few people were bothered by last week's front-page would be nothing if not a gross understatement. Why the word vagina? Why so big? Why the front page?

It's hard to estimate how many Murray State students would never have had another opportunity to see "The Vagina Monologues" performed live had it not been for the student production on Valentine's Day.

And even if some students did not attend, simply hearing about the play and its presence in Murray surely sparked their interest in its purpose and mission, regardless of how they felt at the initial mention of its title.

We are living in the Bible Belt, people, smack in the center of its silver buckle. There very well may be more churches in Murray than there are gas stations, and this production was incredibly newsworthy.

It was news that deserved front page billing and deserved to be read and news that needed an eye-catching, bright title to draw in readers.

Hence, "vagina." The title of the play, after all, includes this word and it is nothing more than the scientific name for a part of the female reproductive system. Will readers throw their papers down in disgust if next week we put the words "fallopian tubes" across the top of Page 1? They, too, are innocent members of the reproductive process, innocent parts that are not discussed nearly enough, especially by their very owners - women.

We walk around with mysteries between our legs because it's not OK to talk about female sexuality. Every day of our lives is another scene from "The Penis Monologues," and vagina talk should be left to gynecologists' offices. The earth revolves around a phallic symbol, for God's sake!

"The Vagina Monologues," like the clitoris, is pure in purpose: promoting the understanding of women's issues and making it OK to talk about your sexuality and your beautiful, fabulous, unique vagina.

"Vagina Monologues" author Eve Ensler asked women she interviewed questions about their vaginas such as "What would it wear?" and "What would it say?" I happen to think one important question was left out.

If your vagina could be hungry, what would it eat?

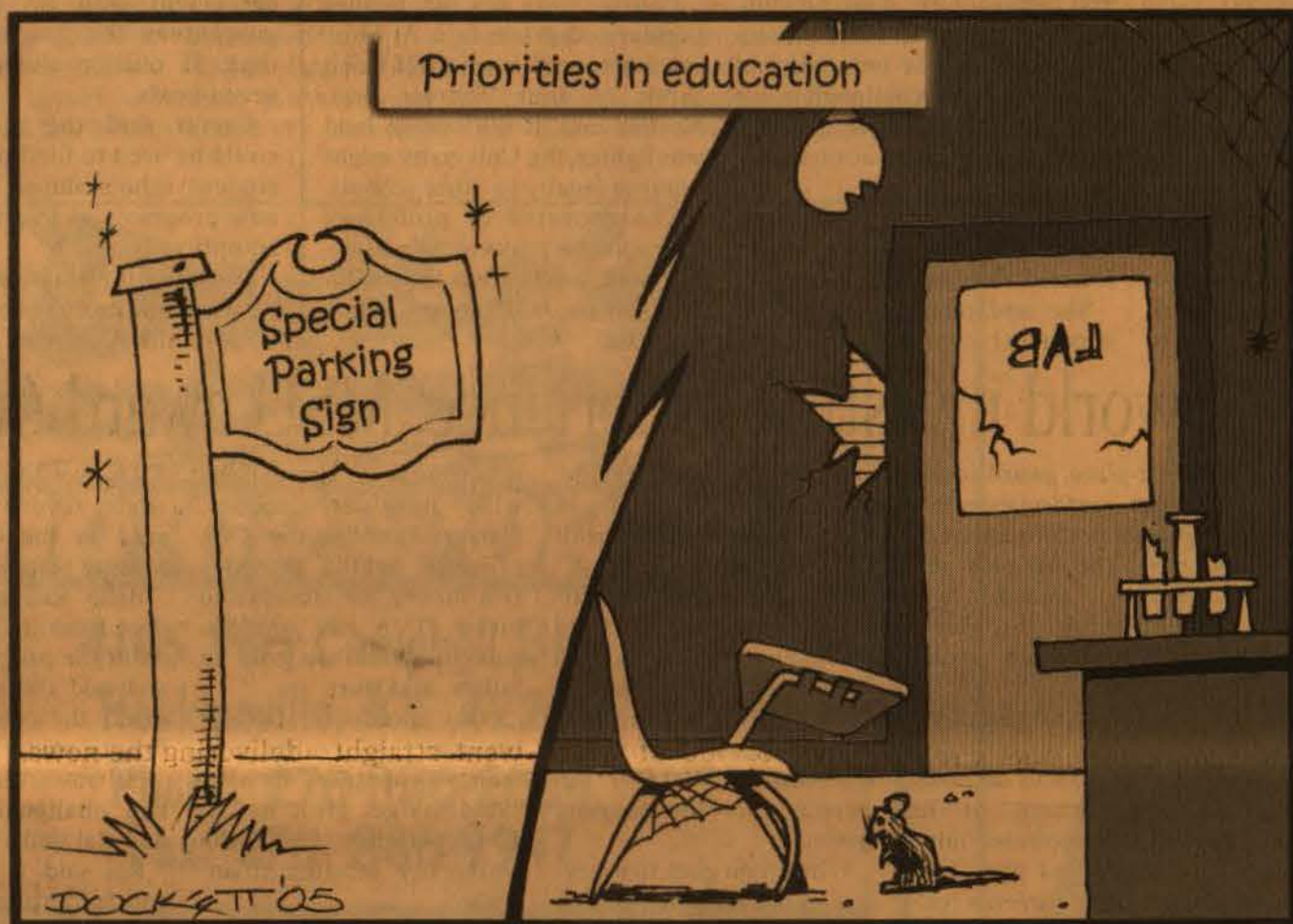
Well my vagina is hungry, and it snacks on conservatives - not just any conservatives. My vagina knows some conservative vaginas of whom she is quite fond. It's those ignorant, misinformed conservatives. The ones upset by "vagina" all big and pink on the front page.

Why so bright? Why pink? Because my vagina is pink, that's why. It's pink, it's pissed and it's staying right here.

*Elizabeth Cawein is the opinion editor for The Murray State News and can be contacted at ecawein@thenews.org.*



**Elizabeth Cawein**



# Coverage of 'Monologues' oversteps line of decency

## In My Opinion



**Ryan Ringley**

"FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS ARE TWO INALIENABLE RIGHTS THAT NO PERSON SHOULD TAKE FOR GRANTED."

I am not one who is easily offended by the anatomically correct mention of the word, dare I say it... vagina. My view point on this seemingly sensitive issue is simple: the play was an excellent benefit show for the women of Iraq and the Murray State Women's Center, but unfortunately the true purpose of "The Vagina Monologues" was handled disappointingly on the front page of The Murray State News.

Being a fellow member of the Murray State department of journalism and mass communication, I am all about First Amendment rights. However, as educated in class, sometimes those First Amendment freedoms are not always free. Freedom of speech and press are two inalienable rights no person should take for granted.

Unfortunately, as some of The Murray State News staff may have discovered this week, just because something can be said does

not necessarily mean that it should be said.

As I learned early in my journalism classes, one of the most important things a journalist can do is keep in touch with what the audience will find acceptable. No journalist will ever make everyone content, that is something that has to be accepted. But it goes without saying that the audience should remain the focus.

Should "The Vagina Monologues" have made the front page news? Yes!

Should the headline have been published in large pink letters stating, "Vagina: Event satisfies audience"?

No.

Before you think that I am entirely naive to suppose that people never hear this word, it is not the word that is the problem; rather, it is the large emblazoned pink words along with the picture of the female anatomy adorned doorway to the event that was featured on the front of The Murray

State News.

Over the past week, I have witnessed adults, students and children alike pick up the paper, take a look at the front page, laugh or gawk and then point out the front page to someone standing nearby.

The purpose of "The Vagina Monologues" was to raise awareness of significant women's issues. It was not meant to be taken completely out of context simply to get the reader's attention.

The printing of the sensationalistic headline could not have come at a worse time for the University. Last weekend, Murray State played host to a workshop for journalism students as well as Academic Excellence Recognition Day for high school seniors.

Some may say, "Well, the paper isn't printed for people outside of the University or prospective students. It is printed for the Murray State students." Au contraire!

When thinking about the audience of The Murray State News on any given week, it could consist of Murray State students, faculty, staff, alumni, the Murray community and let us not forget prospective students.

Seeing how The Murray State News is one of the most widely circulated publications of the University, it seems the responsibility of the paper is to present the newsworthy subjects in an effectual and tactful manner.

Whether you agree or disagree with "The Vagina Monologues" headline, it is in the past. It has been printed, and the only direction to go is onward. I believe that all students, myself included, should use this impassioned debate as a learning tool for the future.

*Ryan Ringley is a junior public relations major from Memphis.*

## Clean up campus in effort to be PC

Are you offended by anything on campus? In an effort to promote political correctness and sensitivity to one another's feelings on campus, "Straight from the horse's mouth" decided to point out a few things that could be offensive.

The following items have got to go:

- White College. Clearly, this is a racial slur.
- Blackboard. Same problem. Blackburn? Yeah,

that's got to go, too.

- Where is the Men's Center if there's a Women's Center? Clearly, this is sexist.

- Fast Track should stop selling Sobe drinks, because one of the flavors is called Tsunami. Clearly, this is insensitive.

- Semesters. Another issue of sexism. Why is everything based on the penis?

- The names of famous intellects carved on the outside of Pogue Library. Some might disagree with

the works of these authors, musicians and philosophers, and thus the names should be removed.

- Free condoms and contraceptives at Health Services. This is obviously encouraging and condoning premarital sexual relations and is simply unacceptable.

- All co-ed residential colleges should be abolished, because when males and females live in close proximity with one another they might realize that males have a penis and females

have a vagina.

- The no smoking signs outside of Faculty Hall are discriminatory toward smokers. They should be removed before someone feels like an outcast.

## Matrimonial bliss for sale in Faculty

A flier in Faculty Hall recently advertised the sale of an engagement and wedding ring. An assortment of items are often sold by mass-produced fliers, but wedding rings just aren't

something you'd expect to see being hawked near the elevators in Faculty Hall.

The question that begs to be asked in this situation is whether or not someone would really want to give their fiancée a used wedding or engagement ring - especially considering the ring's first time around it didn't work so well.

*See something humorous, confusing or outrageous on campus? Let us know. Send tips for "Straight from the horse's mouth" to ecawein@thenews.org.*



Straight from the horse's mouth...



# Tenure system allows faculty job security

## Report suggests changes in review procedures

Stephanie Zeller  
Staff Writer  
szeller@thenews.org

Murray State professors agree some changes could be made to the tenure system, which provides job security for faculty with a terminal degree, but think it is a good system overall.

Tenure-track professors must have a doctorate or a similar degree and must work at a university for seven years. They can apply a year in advance and must produce evidence of their success as an educator through research, service and teaching.

"It forces younger faculty to focus on their obligations in these three main areas (when applying for tenure)," John Dillon, professor of journalism and mass communications, said.

A professor's success as an educator can be shown by getting published in a scholarly journal or by presenting research at academic conferences, Dillon said. Dillon, with help from Television Operations Director Jeremy McKeel, submitted a content analysis to an online journal on Web sites in reference to the 2004 election.

College and university committees decide if a professor is

worthy of tenure based on their merits, Dillon said, but the provost and the president make the ultimate decision.

"It's known to be fairly rigorous," Dillon said.

Tenure is a commitment from the University that reassures job security for a faculty member, Dillon said. It is a vote of confidence that the professor has effective teaching qualifications.

"I feel committed to this community," Dillon said. "I don't need to worry about where I get my next job."

Dillon said some professors may think since they are tenured, they can relax and stop focusing on their academic progress. To establish if tenured faculty are still remaining focused, Murray State has post-tenure reviews, which are yearly activity reports that assess professors' continued success.

Nevertheless, some professors said the system could be more flexible to the needs of professors, especially women.

A report developed by the American Council on Education and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation asks for policy changes to universities' tenure systems giving women, who are both professors and mothers, more time to

develop research before their tenure reviews, according to cnn.com.

Some universities are considering increasing the years prior to review from seven to 10.

Marcie Johnson, senior lecturer of English and philosophy, said she is sympathetic to newly tenured faculty who have too many classes and less time for research and writing.

"Ten years would be more merciful to (collect) data," Johnson said.

Johnson said she is on a non-tenure track, which means she is hired on a year by year basis. Although she is not tenured, she said she can understand the pressures a tenured professor faces to get research done.

"Teaching takes more time than those who are not involved realize," Johnson said. "(It takes me) at least three hours (to prepare) for every hour (I) teach."

Professors who have children must learn to balance family and teaching.

Associate Professor of English and philosophy Ann Neelon, who has been with Murray State since 1992 and is tenured, said the system is challenging for new faculty who have to fulfill many expectations academically.

"There are more and more expectations for (people) to get tenured," Neelon said.

She said tenure-track professors must comply to compete

with the limited amount of jobs in the department.

Female professors struggle with family pressures when trying to be both a mother and faculty member.

"I happened to get lucky that I got a book out after my first child," Neelon said. "I may not have been able to have a second (child)."

She also said some universities attempt to lift the pressure by allowing women to take a period of time away from their "tenure clock," but Murray State is not one of them.

Murray State does not have a defined maternity leave, however, there is both a sick leave policy and a family medical leave policy, which can be used when a woman is pregnant, Associate Vice President for Human Resources Joyce Gordon said.

Days accumulated for sick leave allow faculty to reap full benefits, but the family medical leave is six months without pay and with health benefits, Gordon said.

Course loads can put further pressure on professors. At Murray State, professors must teach three or four courses and, Neelon said, if the course load was lighter, the University might not lose faculty to other schools.

The concerns of professors may soon be answered if university presidents across the nation consider the ACE report's policy changes.

# Credit cards offer alumni incentives

Staff Report

A trend of alumni associations across the country is to move away from being solely donation agencies.

Many are beginning to sponsor programs and incentive plans. The most popular has been credit card programs.

Jim Carter, vice president of Institutional Advancement, Development and Alumni Affairs, said the credit card program began at Murray State 10 years ago.

"It has been very beneficial," said Carter. "We have received an excess of \$550,000 from the card with as many as 5,000 cards out there being held by alumni."

The alumni association is granted a small percentage of every transaction with no added cost to the cardholder, Carter said.

The University negotiated an agreement with US Bank, which guarantees the association more than \$1 million during the next seven years.

Carter said the money raised could be used to fund programs and student scholarships. He also said new programs and services may be an option.

For more information on the card visit [www.murraystate.edu](http://www.murraystate.edu) and click on the Alumni & Friends link.

# Finance students gain real-world investing experience, MSU award money

Marianne Stonefield  
Staff Writer  
mstonefield@thenews.org

Finance students who gained hands-on experience in 2004 also earned \$35,000 in awards for Murray State.

David Durr, endowment chair of investment management for the department of economics and finance, teaches a course in which students take part in the Tennessee Valley Authority Investment Challenge. The program provides students with real-world experience

in portfolio management.

Durr said awards the University received as a result of efforts of students in the program were not just a result from the previous year.

"It's the culmination of six years of very good investing," Durr said.

Participants in the program at Murray State had a 28.69 percent return from stock investments in 2004, while the average return for the past three years was 19.54 percent.

The returns resulted in

the first-place award in the one-year performance and three-year performance categories. The one-year performance award was \$15,000, while the three-year performance award was \$20,000.

According to the TVA Web site, the program was created in 1998 to diversify the management of its Nuclear Decommissioning Trust Fund and give Tennessee Valley students real-world experience.

The TVA Investment Challenge works with 25

institutions from the region, including the University of Kentucky and Vanderbilt University.

TVA gave program participants at Murray State \$100,000 to invest in 1998. Participants manage \$700,000 for TVA, and their earnings have earned the University \$100,000 in awards since the program started.

"The credit goes to everyone who has participated in the last six years," Durr said of the awards.

Other schools have

investment simulations with imaginary money, Durr said, unlike the TVA program, which provides real money for students to invest. TVA has portfolio guidelines for students to follow, said Durr.

"Our students benefit because they realize real money is at stake," he said. "Students get great hands-on experience (and) the University benefits financially."

Furthermore, Durr said other schools handpick students who participate in the

TVA Investment Challenge, while anyone can participate in the Challenge at Murray State.

Bella Raj, graduate student from India, participated in the program last year and said she would recommend the course to other finance students.

"It was a very interesting and challenging thing to do," Raj said.

Raj said it was a good course despite the amount of time she devoted to researching and analyzing companies.

<p><b>Monday</b></p> <p><b>MARTINI MADNESS</b></p> <p>1/2 Price Martinis</p> <p>From 6 p.m. - close</p>	<p><b>Tuesday</b></p> <p><b>\$1.50 MARGARITAS</b></p> <p>From 5 - 9 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><b>75¢ BUD BEER</b></p> <p><b>CHICAGO STYLE PIZZA</b></p> <p>9 p.m. - close</p>	<p><b>J. Edward's</b></p> <p>SEAFOOD • STEAKS • SPIRITS</p> <p>1901 N. 12th St. Murray, KY 753-7720</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b></p> <p><b>MILLER NIGHT</b></p> <p>Bucket of Beer</p> <p>6 Miller Lite Long Necks</p> <p><b>\$10</b></p> <p>9 p.m. - close</p>	<p><b>Thursday</b></p> <p><b>OYSTER NIGHT</b></p> <p>50¢ Oysters on the Halfshell</p> <p>4 - 10 p.m.</p>
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# University renames center in honor of former professor

**Carrie Pond**  
Assistant News Editor  
cpond@thenews.org

A ceremony renaming the former African-American Student Services and Ethnic Programs Office the Dr. Marvin D. Mills Multi-Cultural Center in honor of the former University professor will be held at 3:30 p.m. today on the first floor of the Curris Center.

Geco Ross, sophomore from Paducah and student support staff coordinator for the multicultural center, said Mills has been an important figure not only for the multicultural center but the entire University.

"Mills is a former professor who has been very influential in developing many important programs at Murray State, including the Marvin Mills Scholarship Program," he said. "He has been very instrumental to several different events on campus as far as promoting the success of the students and the facul-

"We grow more diverse as time goes on (but also) the world is now a smaller community because of the communication system. This center shows that Murray State is interested in living with and learning from people all over the world."

**Marvin Mills**  
former University professor

ty alike."

Ross said the center has undergone major renovations and those in attendance at the dedication ceremony will be the first to view the newly-renovated building.

"It will be the first time people can see the center with its new face," Ross said.

Ross said the dedication service will include a short history of the center and information about the role of the multicultural center on campus and the services it offers. Mills will be present to make an acceptance speech.

According to a Murray State press release, Mills joined the University fac-

ulty in 1977 and served in what is now the department of occupational safety and health. He established the occupational safety and health internship program and the Finnish intern exchange with Tampere University of Technology.

As an advocate for higher education, Mills has assisted the University school relations office with student recruitment for the past decade and has hosted several prospective student receptions and Murray alumni gatherings.

The Marvin D. Mills Scholarship Program was created to assist African-American students from Kentucky who show high

academic promise. Mills currently resides in Lexington with his wife, Eunice.

Mills said he is a great supporter of the multicultural center and is extremely grateful for the dedication.

"I am moved that they would do this in my honor because I am behind (the center)," he said. "I feel humbled and honored. This is a once in a lifetime event for me."

Mills said the multicultural center shows Murray State is ready for the future and a worldwide community.

"The multicultural center says 'let's be in touch with the rest of the world,'" he said. "I have seen the world change in my lifetime. We grow more diverse as time goes on (but also) the world is now a smaller community because of the communication system. This center shows that Murray State is interested in living with and learning from people all over the world."

Mills said once people open up to one another, they can find many commonalities with others, no matter what their backgrounds.

"The more you learn about other people, the more you learn that we have many things in common," he said. "We all love our children, we all love our parents, we all love music and we all love to dance. We share all these things and more. When you bring people together, it breaks down barriers."

Mills said the multicultural center is an important entity to have on campus because it helps students learn about other cultures, which is knowledge they can carry with them after college.

"The young people that are now in college are the leaders of their countries for tomorrow," he said. "If they have a good intercultural experience at Murray State, they can take those experiences with them. (The center) will also give the University a chance

for them to recruit people from all over the world."

The office of African-American Student Services and Ethnic Programs exists to serve and support all students by sponsoring cultural, social and educational programs and workshops on campus and to increase the retention of African-Americans and other minority students. The office provides personalized assistance to those students by helping with adjustment to college life, success in academic work and involvement in the co-curricular life of the University.

Geco Ross said the multicultural center has many different programs to help students from all cultures and races.

"(The office) is not just for minority students," Ross said. "That is a common misconception. Multicultural is just what it says. The center is not just for one race or minority. We are here to enrich the campus of Murray State as a whole."

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# COLLEGE LIFE

College Life Editor: Janet Robb  
Assistant College Life Editor: Phil Dishon  
Phone: 762-4468



Ricky Agostin/The News

Students listen to Michael Tolcher perform Monday night at The Curris Center Stables. The concert was moved to The Stables from Lovett Auditorium after Ingram Hill canceled its concert.

## Tolcher performs despite 'Hill' illness

### Opening act plays at The Stables

**Stephanie Salmons**  
Staff Writer  
ssalmons@thenews.org

Murray State planned to welcome Ingram Hill Monday; however, because of illness, the band canceled its show.

The evening was salvaged when opening act, Michael Tolcher, agreed to perform.

Susan Greene, senior from Collierville, Tenn. and concerts chair for the Student Government Association, said SGA found out about the Ingram Hill cancellation Monday morning.

The concert was moved from Lovett Auditorium to the Curris Center Stables where Jeff Heine, senior from Paducah, performed as the opening act.

"We called (Heine) at the last minute and he agreed to fill in," Greene said.

Nick Garvin, vice president of the SGA, said after Tolcher was told about Ingram Hill's cancellation, Tolcher asked if there was a smaller venue available for the concert.

The Stables was the only place available on such short notice, Garvin said.

"Events always turn out good (at the Stables) because of the atmosphere,"

Garvin said. "It's an intimate setting."

Michael Tolcher, a Georgia native, said while playing on a college campus does have certain drawbacks compared to other all-ages venues, there are benefits.

"A lot of people know each other, so they're not shy in front of each other," Tolcher said. "There's just more of a synergy because they're classmates and friends."

Tolcher said being a traveling musician has its ups and downs, but at this point in his career, the good outweighs the bad.

"At this stage the best part is just the opportunity to perform and inspire people," Tolcher said.

Tolcher said when he performs, he tries to get a particular feeling from the audience.

"There's just a favorite feeling I go for, that's when the whole crowd is just completely free of their skin and happy and just feeling it," Tolcher said.

Heine began his acoustic set at 8 p.m., with Tolcher following at approximately 8:45 p.m.

"Thanks for coming and hanging out, even though



Michael Tolcher plays acoustic guitar while performing a song from his album 'I Am.'

it's half of what you expected," Tolcher said to the audience after his first song. He then dedicated the

second song of his set, "Bad Habits," to Justin Moore, singer and guitarist for Ingram Hill, and wished

him a quick recovery. Tolcher played songs from his album "I Am" and even took requests from the

student audience.

Tolcher ended the set with the single, "Mission Responsible."

"I wrote it in 1998," Tolcher said. "So it's been seven years. It's been my moneymaker ever since."

After the show, Tolcher stayed to sign autographs for fans and to take pictures.

Tabitha Rhoads, 22, from Godfrey, Ill., said SGA did a great job booking Tolcher.

"Actually, I came here for Ingram Hill, but I've seen Tolcher before so I decided to stay," Rhoads said.

Rhoads said she was upset Ingram Hill had to cancel, but she saw them Thursday and Friday of last week and could tell that Moore was not feeling well then.

"I thought it was fun," Rhoads said. "I'm not use to seeing Tolcher acoustic but I thought it was great and a lot different from his electric set."

Jeanie Morgan, SGA adviser, said she was pleased with the turn out.

Morgan said a large number of people was expected to show up for Ingram Hill, but after receiving the cancellation call, everyone involved worked hard so the evening was not a loss.

Said Morgan: "Nothing could be better than having a show this good and having your student staff pitch in 100 percent."

### THE QUAD SQUAD by Robert Duckett





**This Week**

**•Friday**

**Up 'til Dawn**  
8 p.m., benefit for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, RSEC

**•Saturday**

**Movie Marathon**  
Noon, "Godzilla," free admission, Curris Center Theater

**•Sunday**

**Barrel Racing and Team Roping**  
9 a.m., free admission, Expo Center

**•Monday**

**Meeting**  
6 p.m., for information contact Herman Felton at 762-3935, Barkley Room, Curris Center

**•Tuesday**

**Athena Festival**  
For information contact Eleanor Brown at 762-6452, Price Doyle Fine Arts Center

**•Wednesday**

**Global Taste Test**  
11 a.m., Rocking Chair Lounge, Curris Center

**•Thursday**

**Lecture**  
7 p.m., "A Second Look at Clara Schumann," Performing Arts Hall

**•March 4**

**Men's Tennis**  
2:30 p.m., MSU vs. Southern Illinois University, Bennie Purcell Tennis Courts

**•March 5**

**Boxes and Walls**  
6 p.m., Third floor Curris Center

# Exercise class 'cuts footloose'

## Leg warmers, headbands a must for aerobics

**Phillip Dishon**  
Staff Writer  
pdishon@thenews.org

At 5 p.m. Sunday, the aerobics studio in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center looked like the set of "Flash Dance" as Murray State students burned off calories '80s style.

This '80s-themed aerobics class let students sweat and move to the No. 1 hits of Cyndi Lauper, Michael Jackson, Madonna and the B-52s. Corky Broughton, chair of the department of wellness and therapeutic sciences, said this class was just one of many ways students can get healthy on campus.

"The wellness center gives the student population a vast array of activities that combined both recreational and fitness opportunities," Broughton said. "Students have the opportunity to choose from a variety of recreational activities that meet their personal needs for fun, relaxation and recouping from the everyday routine of classes and work.

"All of the fitness classes are geared toward helping individuals create a healthy and sound body," Broughton said.

Broughton, who is also the

program coordinator of the fitness programs at the wellness center, said the idea for this class was developed by the students who instruct aerobics.

"All of the fitness instructors had the idea of the aerobic class based on a theme," Broughton said. "The instructors were hoping to let participants have fun and feel relaxed while instruction on different aerobic movements were being shown.

"(The instructors intend) to offer similar classes in the future to help get students involved in different types of fitness classes by having fun and, at the same time, (providing) a healthy service," he said.

Katie Fowlkes, junior from Collierville, Tenn., was one of the aerobic instructors who organized and proctored the class.

"We just wanted to try it out and see if a themed class would do well," Fowlkes said. "We thought it would be a fun thing because a lot of times when you think of aerobics classes you think of the '80s."

Fowlkes said even though this was the first themed class offered at the wellness center, it wasn't difficult to organize. She said many of



Michael McLaurine/The News

**Students and instructors, dressed in '80s apparel, worked out to songs like Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' and Cyndi Lauper's 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun' Sunday in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center aerobics studio**

the instructors have family who taught aerobics during the '80s and most of the class was based on authentic '80s exercise styles.

There were 30 spots available in the aerobics class and reservations were not available.

The only other limitation of the class was students were required to dress in traditional '80s workout attire such as sweat bands, tank tops and spandex, to fully experience an '80s-aerobic workout.

Fowlkes said the dress code was something to make the experience more enjoyable for those who attended.

Brandi Townsend, senior

from Parsons, Tenn., was excited about the class because of her love for everything '80s.

"I really love '80s music and '80s clothes," Townsend said. "(The class) brought back my childhood in a way."

Townsend said the class allowed her to get a thorough workout and have fun in a comfortable, relaxed environment.

"(The instructors) were really energetic and organized," Townsend said. "I really wish they'd do this all the time. I had so much fun!"

Katie Fowlkes said student participation is necessary for classes like this one to be offered regularly.

"We hoped that a lot of people would be interested," Fowlkes said. "We hope to be able to offer this class a couple times this semester."

Corky Broughton said he believes this class was successful in getting students who would not normally exercise at the wellness center involved in a fitness program.

"(The instructors) gave of their time to provide all participants a fun and safe way to enjoy a fitness class," Broughton said. "From the students that attended, the only comments I have heard is that they had a great time and they all laughed (at each others clothing)."

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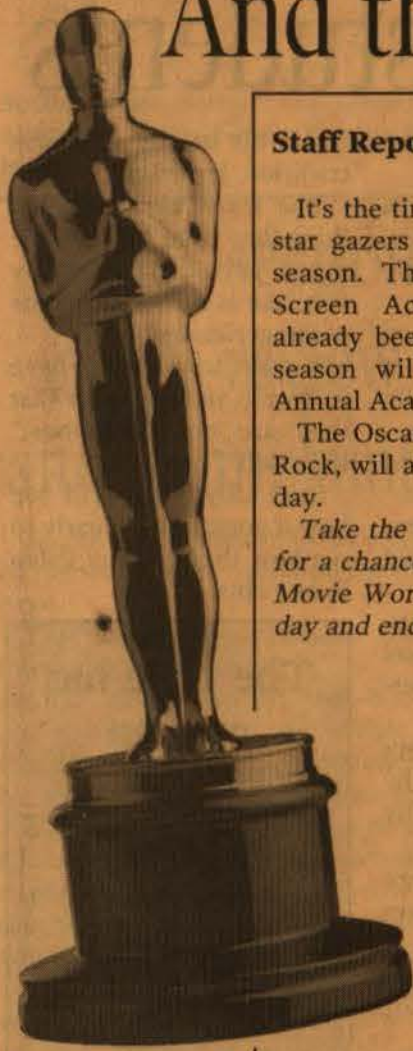
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# And the Oscar goes to...



## Staff Report

It's the time of year movie lovers and star gazers dream about: awards show season. The Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild Awards have already been handed out, and now the season will culminate with the 77th Annual Academy Awards.

The Oscars, hosted by comedian Chris Rock, will air live on ABC at 7 p.m. Sunday.

Take the "Oscar Quiz" at [thenews.org](http://thenews.org) for a chance to win a movie rental from Movie World. The contest begins Monday and ends next Friday.



art by Chia-Hung Chang/The News



(Above) Johnny Depp, Don Cheadle, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jamie Foxx and Clint Eastwood compete for best actor and Imelda Staunton, Annette Bening, Catalina Sandino Moreno, Kate Winslet and Hilary Swank compete for best actress Sunday during the Oscars. (Left) 'The Aviator,' 'Million Dollar Baby,' 'Finding Neverland,' 'Sideways' and 'Ray' are the best picture nominations.

## This Week in Entertainment

### Albums

1. **Seventeen Days**  
3 Doors Down
2. **The Documentary**  
The Game
3. **American Idiot**  
Green Day
4. **Gemini**  
Brian McKnight
5. **Totally Country Vol. 4**  
Various Artists

Source: Billboard.com

### Box Office

1. **Hitch**
2. **Constantine**
3. **Because of Winn-Dixie**
4. **Son of the Mask**
5. **Are We There Yet?**

Source: movies/nytimes.com

### Songs

1. **Let Me Love You**  
Mario
2. **Candy Shop**  
50 Cent featuring Olivia
3. **Boulevard Of Broken Dreams**  
Green Day
4. **1, 2 Step**  
Ciara featuring Missy Elliott
5. **How We Do**  
The Game featuring 50 Cent

Source: Billboard.com

### DVD

1. **Ray (widescreen)**
2. **The Grudge**
3. **Ray (pan and scan)**
4. **Mulan 2**
5. **Shall We Dance?**

Source: Billboard.com

### Books

1. **The Broker**  
John Grisham
2. **The Da Vinci Code**  
Dan Brown
3. **The Five People You Meet in Heaven**  
Mitch Albom
4. **Survivor in Death**  
J.D. Robb
5. **State of Fear**  
Michael Crichton

Source: nytimes.com

### Web site

[cbs.com/primetime/survivor10](http://cbs.com/primetime/survivor10)

This Web site is the source for everything you need to know about "Survivor: Palau." The site offers exclusive content about tribal information, cast stats and behind the scenes footage. The site also gives detailed previews of what is coming up for the survivors.

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# Castaways land on homeland of MSU students

**Amanda Morris**  
Contributing Writer

Twenty castaways are sent to live on an island to see who can outplay, outwit and outlast all of the others.

Going into its eighth season, "Survivor" has traveled to many parts of the world. From the Outback to Vanuatu, the game has had many twists and changes. Each new season brings its own challenges. "Survivor: Palau," the new season which premiered Feb. 17, is no exception.

Survivors were not given supplies with which to start. That means no food, fire or water.

Three castaways were sent home the first night. Since the teams were not pre-selected, the survivors picked their teams sending two survivors home right away. The third was sent home when she was voted off at tribal council.

Although many students had not heard of Palau, an island south of the Philippines, before now, three students at Murray State are Palauan.

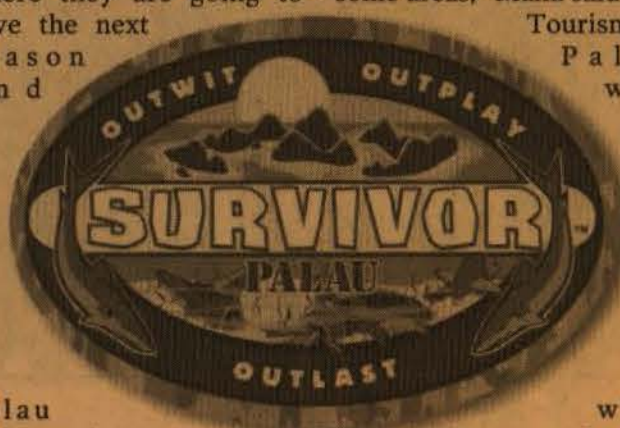
"When someone asks me where I'm from, they never know," Malia Phillips, non-traditional student from Hopkinsville, said. "Now I just tell them to watch 'Survivor.'"

Malia, her sister Lilly Phillips, junior from Hopkinsville, and brother Jerry Phillips, senior from Hopkinsville, are all Palauan and excited "Survivor" is being held in Palau.

"When I first heard ('Survivor') was going to be in Palau, I called my mom," Jerry said.

"Survivor: Palau" is taking place on what are known as the Rock Islands. They are located south of where many Palauans live. The islands are small and uninhabited by people.

"Survivor" producers have a formula that decides where they are going to have the next season and



Palau happened to fit it, Malia said. She said Palau is a tropical and exotic place.

The Rock Islands are known mostly for tourism. The waters around the Rock Islands are acknowledged as great place to scuba dive.

"Many people come to scuba dive," Malia said.

The Rock Islands also have wreckage from WWII. "You could walk along

the beach and look in the sand and find bullets in some areas," Malia said.

Tourism to Palau was cut

when "Survivor" was taping. The ship line was closed down and no one was allowed to sail by the island, Jerry said.

Food is one of the main concerns for the survivors but Jerry, Lilly and Malia said there is food all around them.

"The survivors said they could just live on the coconuts, which is funny because there is so much in

the ocean they could eat," Malia said.

"They could eat fish, sea cucumbers or even bats, which are a delicacy," Lilly said.

Their problem is they probably don't know what they can and can't eat, Lilly said.

"I'm sure they could find bananas to eat," Jerry said. In the first episode, there are things they wish would have happened.

"I'm disappointed they didn't refer to tribal council as bai (men's counsel meeting house)," Jerry said.

"I'm surprised they didn't use the money beads for the immunity necklaces," Lilly said.

Money necklaces were worn by women as a form of currency.

"I also wished they had used a story board for immunity," Lilly said.

A story board is a piece of wood with a story carved

on it. It is strictly a Palauan tradition, Jerry said.

The three agree on one thing they want to be on the show: jelly fish lake. Jelly fish lake is full of hundreds of stingerless jelly fish.

"I want to see them have to dive in and not know that they are not poisonous," Lilly said.

Said Lilly: "We will see how it goes; it is too early to see how they portray Palau in one episode."

## The tribe has spoken

• **What:** 'Survivor: Palau'

• **When:** 7 p.m. Thursdays

• **Where:** CBS

# Season of Lent about personal growth, spirituality for believers

**Elizabeth Fields**  
Staff Writer  
efields@thenews.org

To many Murray State students, the Lent season means giving up an indulgence for 40 days.

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, the day after Fat Tuesday, and lasts until Easter Sunday. Normally, sacrificing and fasting is associated with Roman Catholics, but other denominations such as Lutheran, Methodist and Episcopalian, depending on specific churches, celebrate Lent in a similar fashion.

Diana Trantham, junior

from LaPrarie, Ill., was raised in a Lutheran church and was encouraged to give something up for 40 days. Since she began her education at Murray State, Trantham has converted into a more nondenominational religion and is a member of Christ Ambassadors, a religious organization on campus.

"Because I was raised in a Lutheran home, I still recognize the Lenten season, but do not participate in it as I used to," Trantham said. "I used to give up stuff like cussing and soda, but like, cussing, it was something I shouldn't

have been doing all along."

Father Mike Williams, of St. Leo's Church, said Lent can be a time of year to nudge someone into giving up something for good.

"It can be about conversion and changing a lifestyle," said Williams. "Because what good does it do if you go for 40 days and then go back to your old ways."

Scott Moyes, freshman from Henderson, said he has a Catholic friend who gives up something for Lent and he said it is great, but does not participate in it himself.

"If you go into it wholeheartedly it could be a good way to start something, but I don't think most people follow through," Moyes said.

Students have tried to give up sweets, soda, smoking and other things, but Williams said it is not what is given up that makes the difference.

"The idea is to not get too hung up on the sacrificing," said Williams.

He said the point of Lent is to not brag about what the sacrifice is. It is something that should be kept between the person and God because it is not important who gives up

the most challenging offering. He said the idea is to make the choice and stick by it.

"Even though it is a paradox, a person should keep their sacrifice quietly while at the same time, it shouldn't stop there," Williams said. "It should affect the relationship we have with others."

He said it would be like if someone gave up an hour of television a night, but then did not do anything productive with the extra time.

Hannah Turner, sophomore from Owensboro, said she usually gives up sweets and soda.

"I usually do give up something I don't need as much of for the 40 days, but I also try to do something positive for 40 days like spend more time talking with my sisters and parents while I'm away at school," she said.

Whether it is a sacrifice for Lent or something positive for others, Father Mike Williams said as long as it comes from the heart, good will come out of it.

"Even if you do not keep your sacrifice for 40 days it still means something," said Williams. "Even an imperfect love is still love."

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# SPORTS

**Sports Editor:** Nathan Clinkenbeard  
**Assistant Sports Editor:** Brittany Renfro  
**Phone:** 762-4481

## Sports section needs review after complaints

To tell you the truth, I was offended the word penis wasn't on the front page.

That damn editor and her sexual organ discrimination.

After all the hoopla, boo-hoing and chiding remarks by people on message boards, I am dumbfounded by how big of a deal this has become. I'm also thrown for a loop as to why all these people are not down here applying for jobs if they know so much about newspapers. I need more writers, people!

I guess, as a journalist, what I should be worried about now are people's feelings. Someone brought to our attention that high schoolers were on campus participating in a journalist workshop, and because of this we were supposed to think about what we put on the front page.

Whoops, how dumb of us to do our job of reporting news. I had to miss this event, but any somewhat controversial event responsible for selling out the Curris Center Theater is a front page story in my mind.



**Nathan Clinkenbeard**  
Sports Editor

So I've read the hate mail, and have come to the conclusion I should apologize for putting a picture of a shirtless tennis player, Jeff Lester, on Page 13 of last week's edition. This was definitely obscene, and I should have thought elementary kids could be on campus looking at the sports section.

If the word "vagina" wasn't on the front page I'm sure the messages would have been relayed to me for scantily-clad Jeff.

I've also decided to never write a story about any sports teams that lose, have someone arrested or anything negative for that matter. I realize I need to remember these teams and players could be reading these stories.

There will also be no reference to balls in any sports stories as long as I am editor. People could take this the wrong way, and I don't want to spark more controversy. Hit-and-run, double play, triple play and "Play Ball!" are also under consideration for banishment.

Maybe it is a good thing we don't have a swim team or wrestling team because Speedos would have no place in the sports section. Although, we may have to do something with the women's volleyball team. Hopefully they won't mind wearing baggy shorts instead of spandex. Sorry guys.

It will be a new-look sports section complete with everything positive and no one underdressed. No one will be offended as we kick the First Amendment and free press out the window.

Would that make everyone happy?

*Nathan Clinkenbeard is the sports editor of The Murray State News, e-mail him at nclinkenbeard@thenews.org.*



photos by Rashod Taylor/The News

**Senior Craig Kraus delivers a pitch to a Bradley hitter in Saturday's doubleheader. Kraus went the distance in a 2-1 victory.**



**Senior left fielder Clint Griggs swings at a pitch against Bradley pitcher Brandon Magee. Griggs hit a single in the 'Breds win.**

## 'Breds sweep to begin year

**Nathan Clinkenbeard**  
Sports Editor  
nclinkenbeard@murraystate.edu

Senior pitcher Craig Kraus set the tone for the Thoroughbreds Saturday as pitching became contagious in a doubleheader sweep of Bradley University.

Murray State (2-1) won the first game 2-1 behind Kraus's complete game, and the second game 5-1, with junior pitcher Billy Fares throwing a second-straight seven-inning performance for the 'Breds.

"Obviously, we are happy to get off to a good start like that," Head Coach Rob McDonald said. "One thing that stands out is the starting pitching, with Craig Kraus and Billy Fares."

Kraus struck out seven, walked one and allowed three hits during seven innings for the team's first victory of the season.

Two of Kraus's three hits allowed and the only run he gave up were surrendered in the first inning. From there Kraus took control of the game and did not allow another hit until Bradley's half of the sixth inning.

The 'Breds gave Kraus all the offense he would need with two runs in the bottom of the third. Freshman shortstop Michal Perconte grounded out to begin the inning, but sophomore second baseman Seth Hudson singled to spur the rally.

Junior right fielder Brett Mullins walked and sophomore left fielder Austin Swain singled home Hudson for Murray State's first run. Two batters later, sophomore center fielder Tyler Pittman singled home Mullins for the eventual winning run.

In the second game of the twinbill, the 'Breds offense caught fire in the first inning and provided more than adequate support for Billy Fares.

Fares spread out six hits during his seven innings of work. Despite taking a line drive off his throwing arm in the fourth inning, Fares completed his one-run complete game.

McDonald shook up the lineup for the second game, and it proved to his liking as the new inserts went a combined 6-for-11 with three RBIs.

After two hitters in the first inning, the 'Breds had its first run of the game as senior left fielder Clint Griggs singled home junior designated hitter Chaz Ebert. Ebert doubled down the right field line to open the first inning.

Pittman bunt singled to the pitcher and junior right fielder Lincoln Kent drove Griggs home with a one-out single to center.

Murray State tacked on two more runs in the second inning to drive Bradley senior pitcher Derek Goins from the mound after two innings in which he gave up four runs on seven hits.

Bradley's only run came in the seventh inning on a two-out single by junior designated hitter Justin Carr. Fares followed the run by striking out the next batter to end the game.

"Pitching is probably the most important factor for our team this year," Kent said. "Both Craig and Billy did a great job. Jon Ross did really well too, but it's tough to keep competing when guys are not making some plays behind you."

Rain was responsible for the cancellation of Sunday's finale.

Tuesday, the 'Breds traveled to Jonesboro, Ark. for a game against Arkansas State. Senior Jon Ross Shelton threw three shutout innings before the defense let him down with two outs in the fourth inning. Arkansas State piled on three runs in the inning and won 7-4.

"I think our kids played hard and gave us a good effort," McDonald said. "We didn't play well. I look back at a lot of defensive plays, and some that didn't show up in the box score as errors. There were several plays that we expect to make that we didn't make."

The 'Breds host Bowling Green State Saturday at noon for a doubleheader and Sunday for another noon game.

## Women's tennis squad scores first victory

**Nathan Clinkenbeard**  
Sports Editor  
nclinkenbeard@thenews.org

After dropping every match to the Missouri Tigers Friday, the women's tennis team edged Iowa State University 4-3 Saturday for its first victory of the spring season.

The Racers (2-1) came into the match not only with two straight losses, but no woman on the team had individually won a match. Sophomores Anna and Rachael Lask got the team rolling as they won a doubles match together as well as both of their individual matches.

"For four years Mellissa Spencer was our number one player, and we are trying to train Anna to take over that role," Head Coach Connie Keasling

said. "It will take time, but I feel she can do it. She has to face every team's best player and it takes a person with a tough mental game to go out there and compete."

The Lasks won as the No. 1 doubles team over Iowa State's freshman Caitlin Loprinzi and sophomore Jill Palen 9-8 in an eight-game pro set. Anna Lask met Palen again in the No. 1 singles match and defeated her again in straight sets 7-5, 6-4.

Rachael Lask won at No. 4 singles over freshman Beth Chermel, but needed a third set to knock her off 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Senior Jacklyn Leeper came through with two victories of her own as she teamed up with freshman Whitney Robards to defeat juniors Chrissy Derouin and Charlotte Ljungkrantz 8-6 in a

tight match. Leeper also won behind Anna Lask in No. 2 singles with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Loprinzi.

Sophomore Casady Pruitt played with senior Jennifer Ward and won the No. 2 doubles match over Chermel and sophomore Danielle Uscinski 8-3 to give Murray State the sweep in the doubles portion of the match.

Keasling was proud of her team for going out and beating the Cyclones the day after falling to Missouri.

"Iowa State is used to competing at a high level as well as playing indoor," Keasling said. "Match toughness was the key for us because every match was so close."

Pruitt was the only women's tennis player to take a set off a Missouri Tiger player in the

women's 7-0 loss. Pruitt dropped her No. 5 singles match 1-6, 7-5, (10-7) to sophomore Carolyn Kramer despite winning the first set.

The only other close match against the overpowering Tigers was in No. 3 doubles where Leeper and Robards lost 9-8 against freshman Charlotte Bellis and freshman Lubica Nadassaka.

In No. 1 singles, Anna Lask lost to senior Katka Sevcikova 6-0, 6-3, and Leeper lost in No. 2 singles 7-6, 6-1 to Yelena Olshanskaya.

Rachael Lask lost No. 4 singles 7-5, 6-3 to Nadassaka.

The women's next match comes Tuesday when they take on Tennessee-Chattanooga at 10 a.m. in Nashville.

Following the match against the Mocs, the Racers will take on Tennessee State at 3 p.m.

## The Sports Line...

### TV Events

**Tonight:** ESPN @ 7 p.m.  
NBA Basketball  
Cavaliers at Pacers

**Saturday:** CBS @ 12:30 p.m.  
NCAA Basketball  
Kentucky at Alabama

**Saturday:** ESPN @ 8 p.m.  
NCAA Basketball  
Louisville at Memphis

**Sunday:** ABC @ 1 p.m.  
PGA Golf  
WGC Accenture Match Play



### Murray State Events

**Today and Saturday:** Track  
Eastern Illinois University  
OVC Championships

**Saturday:** Baseball @ noon  
Reagan Field  
Bowling Green at Murray State

**Saturday:** W BBall @ 2:05 p.m.  
Lantz Arena  
Murray State at Eastern Illinois

**Saturday:** M BBall @ 7:05 p.m.  
Lantz Arena  
Murray State at Eastern Illinois



## Basketball team in conference nail-biter finale

Bob Hengge  
Staff Writer  
bhengge@thenews.org

The men's basketball team will close out another successful season Saturday as it battles the Panthers of Eastern Illinois on the road.

Coming off a nationally televised victory over the Rice Owls as part of ESPN's Bracket Buster Saturday, the Racers look to solidify its place in the upcoming Ohio Valley Conference Tournament.

Head Coach Mick Cronin knows that despite Eastern Illinois' record of 11-14 overall and just 6-8 in the OVC, this team is dangerous and should not be overlooked.

"We rested yesterday. We didn't have any practice; we watched game film and relaxed a little," Cronin said in his press conference after the Rice win. "We had a walk-through and pregame practice today, and it worked out well for us. Now, we've got some time to get some legs back for next week's run against Eastern Illinois."

The Panthers come into the game winners of two of its last three, and only a heartbreaking two-point loss to Eastern Kentucky prevented it from attaining its first three-game win streak of the season.

Junior guard Josh Gomes leads the team in scoring at 17 points per game. Freshman center George Tandy leads the



Head Coach Mick Cronin speaks with the basketball team during a timeout in the game against the Rice University. Murray State defeated the Owls 69-63 in a Bracket Buster game Feb. 19.

Panthers' interior attack and is solid on defense with 35 blocks on the year.

More than pride is on the line Saturday as these two teams meet. Next week's OVC Tournament and where the teams will be seeded hinges on the results of Saturday's game in Charleston, Ill.

Currently in third place, the Racers can gain a tie of second place with Samford and Eastern Kentucky if it is able to pull out a victory. As defending champs of the

OVC Tournament, the Racers will once again be expected to contend for the title.

If the Racers plan to prevail, the team will have to vanquish its trend of relying on second-half runs to overcome early deficits. Against Rice, as well as other key games such as the win over Austin Peay, the Racers had to battle back from poor shooting and sloppy defense. Cronin credited the defense for providing a spark against Rice in the second half.

"Our second-half defense was the difference," Cronin said. "We started getting into it a little more and got some steals."

Parody has been the story of this year's OVC race with no team running away with first place, as was the case last year with Austin Peay going undefeated in conference play.

All the players know the key is to play hard and as a team.

"We have to come out and play every game hard

and with emotion," junior center Pearson Griffith said. "We can't expect teams to roll over for us just because we're Murray State. We need more emotion, like guys diving on the floor for loose balls."

The OVC tournament begins with first-round games on Tuesday, hosted by the top-four teams in the conference. The winners of the four games move on to Nashville for the semifinals and finals March 4 and 5.

Shirley Martin/guest

## Unsuccessful duck hunts lead to angry cussing

The ducks pretty well outsmarted most of the waterfowling I know during last weekend's first season. That's irritating when you consider we're the top predators because of our brain size, but it isn't uncommon.

The four-day "early split" opened on Thanksgiving and closed Sunday. As expected, my buddies and I were standing in waist-deep ice water early that morning, waiting for the ducks to come pouring in. They didn't ever get to pouring, though. As a matter of fact, we never fired a shot.

The highlight of the morning came when I cooked breakfast on a Coleman stove I salvaged after running over it with a truck. The stove was pretty leaky after my four-wheel drive got through with it, and whenever I tried to light it, everything except the burner caught fire. I did end up cooking sausage and eggs, though, and they were tasty.

My buddies and I also got to practice our cussing quite a bit, which is important to a duck hunter. When you're standing in a swamp 15 miles from nowhere with guys you've met at 3:30 a.m. three mornings in a row, cussing eases the tension, especially if there are no ducks around.

We killed a few birds during the weekend, which is about as good as I've heard of anyone doing. Many of my other waterfowling buddies never fired a shot. Evidently, the ducks we had around just before season decided to leave the evening before because it was too cold. The birds up north that are supposed to migrate in our direction never showed because it wasn't cold enough. Yeah, cussing is definitely needed in duck hunting.

But, we remain ever optimistic. If there are birds, there will still be cussing, because duck hunters are masters at burning up ozone with missed shotgun shell blasts when the ducks are really flying.

I try to watch my cussing when I can, especially when I'm writing or discussing something with an astute professor in class or when I'm talking with my fiancée's mother. After all, I want to make a good impression on these folks. My fiancée's mother has threatened me more than once with a bar of soap, too.

After a healthy string of vulgarity in the early-morning marsh, turning off the language is no small feat when I return home. If you don't like to cuss, go duck hunting. You'll learn real quick.



## Fourth-place finish not good enough for rifle team

Staff Report

After going to 25-straight NCAA Rifle Championships dating back to its inception into the collegiate ranks, the Racer rifle team will have to sit this year's championship out.

The NCAA Rifle Committee selected the qualifiers for the championship match being held in Colorado Springs, Colo. Tuesday and left the Racers off after the team finished fourth in its Sectional meet.

Jacksonville State will be the lone representative from the Ohio Valley Conference to shoot in the championships.

The Gamecocks took the team title of the OVC Championships Sunday in Morehead as the team won its first OVC crown since

joining the league in 2004.

Head Coach Ron Frost and his Gamecock squad held complete control over the air rifle and smallbore events.

The team won air rifle by 26 points over Tennessee Tech and smallbore by 30 points over the Racers to give Jacksonville State the title with an aggregate of 4656.

Tennessee Tech scored 4609 points to finish second and the Racers settled for third with 4599 points.

Murray State finished second in the smallbore competition with 2300 points and third in the air rifle portion with 2299, both scores being out of a possible 2400 points.

Junior Alex Culbertson and freshman Cameron Hicks led the

Racers in smallbore, tying for fifth with each other. Culbertson and Hicks each scored 580 points out of 600 to finish 10 behind leader James Hall of Jacksonville State. Freshman Dan Belluzzo tied for eighth place with 574 points.

In air rifle, senior Robert Purdy placed fifth behind a tight pack at the front of the standings. Four of the top-five shooters in air rifle were within two points of each other. Joseph Hall of Jacksonville State won air rifle with 593 points out of a possible 600.

Hicks and Culbertson also made appearances in the top 10 of air rifle shooting ninth and 10th, respectively.

Hicks scored the highest aggregate for Murray State

shooting an 1156 out of a possible 1200. Culbertson was two points behind with an 1154.

Belluzzo finished third individually for the Racers with a total score of 1139.

Jacksonville State not only swept the competition titles as team members won both Athlete of the Year awards as well as the Coach of the Year honor.

The Gamecocks and Tennessee Tech won seven of the eight All-OVC team spots. Jacksonville State had four recognized and the Golden Eagles had three. Jaymi Collar from Tennessee-Martin broke the dominance, making the All-OVC rifle team.

Murray State loses two seniors off a young squad with a majority of freshmen and sophomores.

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# Clash with Panthers to judge tourney fate

**Dan Tepe**  
Staff Writer  
dtepe@thenews.org

As the college basketball season winds down, discussions are slowly shifting from regular-season to postseason conference tournaments.

The Murray State women's team would be the eighth and final seed in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament, if it were to begin today.

However, the team (9-16, 5-9 OVC) has one regular-season game remaining. The team is scheduled to play at Eastern Illinois (9-16, 2-12 OVC) at 2:05 p.m. Saturday.

The outcome of the game could determine the postseason fate of the Racers.

Entering its game against Southeast Missouri on Thursday, the team was one and a half games up on ninth-place Austin Peay and a half-game behind Samford for seventh place.

The Governors have one game remaining at first-place Eastern Kentucky, which boasts a 13-1 record in conference play. Samford plays Saturday at sixth-place Tennessee State.

Eastern Illinois traveled to Murray earlier this season and the Racers escaped with a narrow 76-70 victory. Despite trailing at halftime and with

three minutes remaining, the Racers found a way to win.

The Racers' defense forced Eastern Illinois into 23 turnovers, which led to 29 points for the Racers in their first meeting. Another strong defensive performance could lead to another victory and a conference tournament berth.

Senior Rebecca Remington thinks the women will be able to play their style of basketball in the final games of the season.

"We just need to keep playing hard," Remington said. "We've been taking good shots, they just haven't been falling for us. As long as we keep up our intensity, then we should be able to play our game."

A key to the game Saturday could be how the Racers come out from the opening tip. Midway through the first half in the women's last game against Tennessee State, the team found itself facing a double-digit deficit.

The Racers made an 18-0 run late in the first half but it did not completely carry over into the second half in a 62-57 loss.

Murray State was led by sophomore forward Ashley Hayes. She finished with her second career double-double, scoring 16 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

Freshman guard Shaleea



Ricky Agostin/The News

## Alaina Lee, freshman guard from Houston, moves to the basket for the Racers.

Petty finished one rebound shy of a double-double. Petty scored 10 points and had nine rebounds. She also contributed a team-high five assists.

Murray State Head Coach Joi Felton was upset with the loss and feels the team needs to work on a few different areas.

"It was very disappointing," Felton said. "I felt like, coming in, we had a very good chance against Tennessee State. Our free-throw shooting was not good at all; I don't know what that was all about, but we'll get in the gym and work on it."

# Indoor track year complete with indoor championships

**Brittany Renfro**  
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Finishing out the indoor season, the track and field team will travel to Illinois to compete in the Ohio Valley Conference Championships.

Derek Chavis, head coach for the track and field team, said the team is excited about the meet and competing against the best of the OVC.

"More than anything I want the kids to have solid performances, not for me but for themselves," Chavis said. "The team has worked so hard, that they deserve to do well."

Southeast Missouri State hosted the team's last meet, which Chavis said was very low-key. Top performances in the meet included a personal record by junior Lauren Wilson in the 800-meter race, and sophomore Jon Gorey's time of 9 minutes, 31 seconds in the 3,000-meter race.

Although Chavis and many team members are new to Murray State track and field, he said things are beginning to come together.

"Technique-wise, the team is starting to understand how to perform at their potential," Chavis said. "Because the throwers are an especially young group, the meet at SEMO served as a springboard for the conference."

Senior sprinter David Claybrooks said he is looking forward to his last few indoor races.

"Personally, I would like to make it to the finals in the 60-meter hurdles," Claybrooks said. "The past few years I've been injured, which kept me

from really competing, and now I'm ready to do it right."

Rankings for the OVC Championships are based on the athlete's best result of the season.

Junior Jamie Nurnberger is ranked first in the 20-pound weight-throw at 52-4 1/2. Nurnberger is also nominated by Chavis for the OVC field athlete of the year.

Wilson is ranked 11th of 30 in the 800-meter race at 2:23.55 seconds and 14th of 36 in the 1,600-meter race at 5:19.29 seconds.

Also highly ranked is freshman Dominique Robinson, who is placed fourth in the shot put at 40-2 1/4. Freshman Rebecca Schweiker improved from her previous indoor best by three feet to 37-4 1/2.

Sophomore Chris Champion is ranked in the top 10 in the 35-pound weight throw with a toss of 44-8 1/4.

Chavis expects personal bests for the athletes and has tried to make the athletes more team oriented.

"The team and Chavis both want to do the best we can," Claybrooks said. "The best way for that to happen is if we stick together, sort of like a flying 'V.'"

Claybrooks said the team's goals are different for each person, but most important is that each person individually makes their time or throw closer to the next person.

"The people we have now form a good nucleus to build from," Chavis said. "We have some really talented underclassmen and the seniors on the team have made a huge impact."

The OVC Championships are today and Saturday in Charleston, Ill.

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Ryan Marchetti, sophomore from Christopher, Ill., looks to pass on the baseline during an intramural basketball game. Marchetti plays on Revolution, who took on Regents College 'B' team.

# Students represent organizations on intramural basketball courts

**Brittany Renfro**  
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With six divisions and more than 50 competing teams, intramural basketball is becoming one of the most popular student pastimes at Murray State.

Mary Rybicki, part of the Soc basketball team in the sorority division, also plays soccer for the Racers.

"Everyone on our team plays soccer for Murray State, so it's a great way for the team to bond outside of the competitive atmosphere," Rybicki, junior from Belleville, Ill., said. "Here we can let loose and it's not just about being the best."

Soc is tied for the first place position at 5-1 with Alpha Omicron Pi. Just behind is Sigma Sigma Sigma with a 4-2 record.

"We have 15 players on our team and some have never played basketball before in their life," Rybicki said. "That's what makes it fun. It's something new for some of us and for the rest of the

team it's a chance to play a different sport."

Women's residential college teams also compete in a separate division consisting of all eight colleges. Hart College is in the first-place position at 6-0, while Springer-Franklin College and Regents College are tied for the second-place position at 5-1.

In the women's independent division, Quiet Storm (4-0) and Dixiewrecked (4-1) are the leading teams. In men's independent Monday and Wednesday division, the Beavers lead with a 7-0 record.

The Franchise Boys lead the men's independent Tuesday and Thursday division at 8-0, followed by Hart's B team at 7-1.

Men's residential college team leaders include Hart College in first at 7-0, while White College stands with a 5-1 record and Clark College at 5-2.

Junior Zach Cox, from Herrin, Ill., is a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha basketball team and said intramural basketball is a great way to have a good time.

"It's fun to play competitive sports after high school that are still aggressive but not taken too seriously," Cox said. "We all want to win, but there's nothing wrong if we don't."

Lambda Chi Alpha leads the fraternity division at 7-0. Alpha Tau Omega follows with a 6-0-1 record, and Sigma Chi stands at 5-1-1.

"We lead the fraternity division with no losses," Cox said. "I would say that is because most of our team were high school athletes and we practiced before the season to get an idea of how we would play together."

Anyone can become involved in intramural sports at Murray State.

"Intramurals are a great way to meet new people, especially for freshman who are new to dorms or sports teams," Rybicki said.

Teams of about 15 are formed to compete each season for different sports including volleyball, softball, soccer and flag football.

To sign up for intramural sports contact the Intramural Office in the wellness center.

## Intramural Basketball Standings

Residential College Men	Residential College Women	Fraternity
Hart 7-1	Hart 6-0	Lambda Chi 7-0
White 5-1-1	Springer 5-1	Alpha Tau Omega 6-0-1
Clark 5-2	Regents 5-1	Sigma Chi 5-1-1
Richmond 3-3	Clark 3-3	Pi Kappa Alpha 3-4
Elizabeth 3-3-1	White 2-4	Sig Ep 2-4-1
Hester 2-5	Richmond 2-4	Phi Kappa Tau 2-4-1
Franklin 2-5	Elizabeth 1-5	Alpha Sigma Phi 2-5
Regents 1-6	Hester 0-6	Alpha Gamma Rho 0-6-1
Men's Independent	Men's Independent	Sorority
Beavers 7-0	Franchise Boys 8-0	SOC 5-1
Bullhorn Bandits 5-1	Hart B 7-1	Alpha Omicron Pi 5-1
Delbert Related 5-1-1	Elizabeth B 5-3	Sigma Sigma Sigma 4-2
Blitzkrieg 4-2	Regulators 4-4	Alpha Gamma Delta 3-3
Revolution 3-3	Road Runners 4-4	Trainers 2-4
Regents 2-4	Hester B 4-4-1	Alpha Sigma Alpha 2-4
Franklin 3 1-5	Hart C 1-4-2	Alpha Delta Pi 0-6
Alpha Sigma Phi B 1-6	Sig Ep 2 1-7	
Skalliewags 0-6	White B 0-4-2	

## First-round home game for Racers means 500 free tickets for students

### Staff Report

Should the Racers finish in the top four of the Ohio Valley Conference standings, the University has bought 500 tickets for student use only.

The first-round of the conference tournament is Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Regional Special Events Center.

Students have to pick their free tickets up at Gate C only. No other gate

will have student tickets, and students must have valid identification.

The winners of the four first-round games will then travel to Nashville and the Gaylord Entertainment Center for the semi-finals and finals.

Murray State has won 12 league tournament titles, tops in the OVC.

The Racers have also appeared in the OVC Championship 14 out of the last 17 years, winning 10 of those games.



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