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MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

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LIFE & ARTS



Senior Dustin Withrow, at left, helped bring the Best Buddies program to Morehead

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SPORTS



Eagles beat Tennessee Tech, 84-75

page 5

MORE

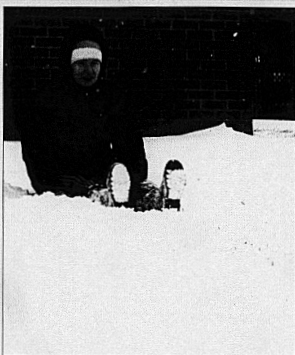


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Betty Chaney / The Trail Blazer

Using a plastic storage container lid, senior Allison Wells attempts to sled down a slope behind Normal Hall. Wells says she decided to brave the freezing temperature and play outside. "There is an abundance of snow and I had nothing else to do," she says. "I didn't want to stay in my room all day."

Ensemble builds lasting bonds

BGE does more than sing

ALLI COLLIS - LIFE & ARTS EDITOR

Members of MSU's Black Gospel Ensemble enjoy the fellowship and sharing of cultural awareness the group provides. But mostly they like raising their voices in song.

MSU student Davonia Stuart has been a member of the Black Gospel Ensemble (BGE) for two years and said she joined because singing is her passion.

"I grew up in household with family members who either sang in a church choir or gospel choir," Stuart

said. "I have always had the desire to sing black gospel music, and I figured the Black Gospel Ensemble would be the perfect way for me to utilize my talents."

BGE President Aryn Howland has been with the program for three years. She said she knew after her first practice that the Ensemble was where she belonged.

"I became a Christian when I was in middle school, but during my junior and senior year of high school my relationship with God changed."

SEE BGE - page 2

Weapon brought on campus

BETTY CHANEY - EDITOR

On Jan. 28, the MSU Police Department received a report of a student in a classroom with a firearm.

Police Chief Matt Spark said the student was in possession of the weapon because he was an off-duty corrections/police officer.

"The KRS, the Kentucky Revised Statutes, allows a certified corrections officer or police officer to carry weapons off-duty," Sparks said. "He had a carry-conceal permit. He was under the misconception he could carry and legally he could."

Legal, an off-duty police officer or off-duty corrections officer can carry a gun on this campus even though it's posted "No concealed weapons." Legally you can do that because state law allows you to do that.

Sparks said the fact that the individual is a student is what prevents him from being allowed to carry his off-duty weapon.

Under MSU policy, students are subject to criminal charges and potential dismissal for carrying any deadly weapon on campus.

"On top of his profession, he's a student," Sparks said. "He thought his profession would allow him to do that and it would have - except he's a student."

Sparks said no one was in any danger.

"It wasn't a situation where somebody's carrying a gun on

campus to threaten someone or looking for trouble or looking to cause anyone any harm," he said. "It was just an off-duty professional who happened to be a full-time student."

Sparks said he encourages students who are corrections/police officers to stop by the police station and talk to them.

"We usually like to talk to them and know who they are and where they have classes," Sparks said.

There may be other instances where a corrections officer is carrying a concealed weapon. Normally we ask that they stop by and check in with us. That way

if we get a complaint we know where they are and what we're dealing with. We know it's not a threatening issue."

Sparks said most of the time officers try to conceal their weapons so they are never seen. "This young man was trying to do that but just the end of the holster was showing from under a sweatshirt and some students saw it and reported it to a professor," he said.

The issue Sparks said concerns him was the two-hour delay in reporting.

"Students saw the gun, reported it to the professor who reported it to us," he said. "I'm not sure what happened but there was a delay from the time the gun was first seen on campus to the time it was reported. There was too much delay in

SEE WEAPONS - page 2



Colin Baker / The Trail Blazer

Wellness Center overcrowded

CANDICE TUFANO - STAFF WRITER

MSU's Wellness Center has been teeming with students and staff for the past few weeks.

Wellness Center Director Jane Tenyer said the staff has noticed a definite increase in the number of people working out. Students have noticed the increase as well.

Senior Andy Plank said, "It is getting busier because of the new year and because students are trying to get ready for spring break."

Because of the demand, some students said it is difficult to get access to workout machines in a reasonable time.

Freshman Cody Hart said, "It takes time out of my workout waiting for people to get off machines. So here I am, waiting on someone who only cares about looking good for Spring Break. When I know I'll be at The Wellness Center the whole year because I care about my health."

Senior Jason Oliver recently

started paying for a membership at a local gym to avoid the overcrowding at the Wellness Center.

"It gets really, really busy around this time of year because of Spring Break and I don't want to have to wait around to get machines," Oliver said.

The Wellness Center uses sign-up sheets to better organize the flow of patrons coming in to workout on aerobic machines.

Tenyer said, "With the sign-up sheets you can plan your day and

reserve a time to work out when you know you will be there."

The Wellness Center will move to a new location in the coming year. "It's new home will be in the Student Recreation Center, which would provide more space for the wellness center and free up area for the addition of more machines."

Tenyer said this might help reduce the amount of congestion in the Wellness Center and make it easier for students to work out during peak hours.

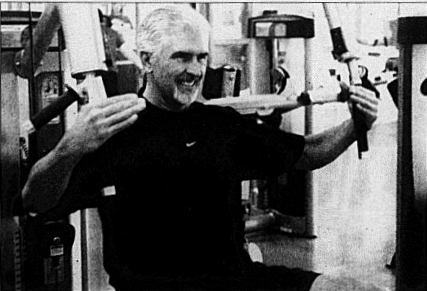
"Our current fitness area is 6,000 square feet and the new facility will be anywhere from 10,000 square feet to 13,000 square feet. This is going to free up a lot more space. We will be able to keep all of our equipment that is still in good shape plus add new equipment," Tenyer said.

Senior Mark Grooms, a former employee at The Wellness Center, said, "The new rec center is really going to benefit students."

The new center will be closer to students who live in the dorms, and will incorporate aerobic machines, weights, and a pool, he said.

"I really think Jane Tenyer is going to do everything possible to make the new facility the best possible and take students concerns seriously," Grooms said.

The Student Recreation Center is scheduled to open in 2011. Until then, Tenyer recommends students visit the Wellness Center before 3 p.m. to avoid the crowds.



Betty Chaney / The Trail Blazer

Jared Lewis says he goes to the Wellness Center in the afternoons to avoid the evening crowds.

WEAPONS

continued from page 1

the time it was reported. Eleven minutes from the time the police first got the report we had the gun and the individual in our possession."

Sparks said if anyone sees a gun on campus, he or she needs to call the police immediately.

"Don't try to figure out who the person is or what

the person is doing or if the person is justified in having a weapon," he said. "It concerned me that the students who saw this did not call the police. If you go to a class and see a gun, I want that student to excuse themselves, go outside, and call the police right then. Don't wait until after class, don't just assume somebody else will report it or that person has a legal right to have the weapon. Don't make those assumptions."

In addition to firearms, and other deadly weapons with blades or sharp surfaces, students also cannot carry Tasers and are discouraged from carrying Marks or pepper spray, Sparks said.

"Because of accidental discharge we discourage students, faculty and staff from carrying," Sparks said. "It's not something you could be arrested for. It's not against law but against administrative policy. We carry pepper spray. I'm not

saying students are any less responsible. I've seen cops accidentally discharge pepper spray."

Sparks said a concern with pepper spray is the chemical's potency.

"If we go into a classroom and have to spray someone, that whole room has to be cleared out, even if I don't spray you directly, because of the potency," Sparks said. "It'll make everyone's nose run or bother their eyes."

other events.

The BGE was created in 1968 by four MSU students who all were influenced by the Edwin Hawkins Singers performing "Oh Happy Day," Abell said.

"I find it a great outlet," Abell said. "It was started to allow students to have spiritual growth."

"Abell was involved in the Ensemble during her student years at MSU."

"I was a part of the Black Gospel Ensemble from 1970-75. I left to do grad work, but I still followed them," Abell said.

Abell said the Ensemble is different than other musical groups on campus.

"It's different because of the background and cultural experience. It's more of an ethnic experience," Abell said. "People of my race tend to participate, come together, and have a good time praising the Lord."

Abell said during her years as a student member of the group, the BGE brought Black students together.

"It was a way in which we could vent and all relate; everyone looked forward to it," Abell said. "Students would testify and really feel the songs, and start to cry."

The Black Gospel Ensemble has several performances coming up in February to help celebrate Black History Month. The BGE will be singing at Mayville Community College Feb. 18, and will travel to Cincinnati and Nashville Feb. 19 through Feb. 21 for Tour 2010. The group will perform in Morehead Feb. 25 at the First Baptist Church, and present a spring concert April 21.

BGE

continued from page 1

I had been betrayed, lied to, and fooled by the church, and instead of leaving the church and finding a new

one, I left God behind, too," Howland said. "After my first practice with BGE I knew that was where I belonged, and for the first time in a long time I felt I was in God's presence again, and this was where

he wanted me to be."

Stuart said in her two years with the Ensemble she has enjoyed building bonds with other students, and gaining a better understanding of teamwork.

"In a choir it does not depend on a single voice but the collaboration of how well those single voices work together," Stuart said. Howland said she also has had positive experiences through BGE.

"I have met some wonderful life-long friends, been challenged spiritually, and most importantly grown closer to God," Howland said. "I encourage anyone who wants to learn, grow, and spread the Gospel about Christ to consider BGE."

The Ensemble has performed in several different states and regularly is asked to perform at festivals and workshops. The MSU Black Gospel Ensemble is open to all students, BGE advisor Ritta Abell said.

"Anyone can be involved. There are no auditions," Abell said. "It has always been open to any student."

The Ensemble currently is directed by Dr. Roosevelt Escalante, and has 35 participating students. They are known for the contemporary gospel music they perform for churches and

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Graduation ceremony changed

BETTY CHANEY — EDITOR

MSU's traditional spring commencement ceremony this year will be divided into two smaller programs.

Commencement will take place on May 8. Students in the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Education will graduate at 9 a.m. The ceremony for those in the College of Science and Technology and the College of Business and Public Affairs will begin at 2:30 p.m.

While the division of ceremonies will likely continue in the future the lines of division will change. Registrar Loretta Lykins said.

"The colleges will rotate every spring," Lykins said. "The same college will not have the 9 a.m. ceremony every year. The division may change. The division is to pair a large college and a small college at the same time."

Lykins said the change is a result of concerns for space and safety.

"May is standing-room only," she said. "We usually have about 800 to 850 graduates in May. We won't know how many to expect for these ceremonies until we make out the seating chart about a week before commencement."

The May ceremony includes summer degree candidates — students who will complete their degree requirements during the

summer sessions, Lykins said.

"These students are given the option of graduating in May or December," she said. "Most choose May."

Lykins said right now there are no plans to change the winter commencement ceremony because traditionally it is a smaller program.

"In December we have between 350 and 400 graduates," Lykins said.

The length of the ceremonies may also be shortened.

"The ceremonies will be shortened because of the number of graduates but the format will be very similar," Lykins said. "Each ceremony will have a student speaker selected from one of those two colleges, whereas, in the past we only had one student speaker."

Lykins said there have not been any changes made to the graduation application process.

"Graduation application cards have not changed for this year," Lykins said. "We have discussed doing a color coding. Blue would be for one ceremony and gold for another, but we're not doing that right now. The card to apply for a degree on the undergraduate level is still pink and the graduate level is still white. We're just going to sort through it this year."

March 15 is the last day to pay the \$10 fee and apply for graduation.

THE TRAIL BLAZER

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R 117-mv

1:05 4:05 7:05 10:00

Tooth Fairy

PG 102-mv

1:30 4:15

Legion

R 102-mv

7:25 9:50

Percy Jackson:

The Lightning Thief

R 118-mv

1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45

Valentine's Day

R 105-mv

1:10 4:10 7:10 9:55

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

Dear John

PG-13 102-mv

1:20 4:25 7:15 9:35

The Wolfman

R 132-mv

1:35 4:30 7:20 9:40

MIDNIGHT SHOWING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

THE TRAIL BLAZER

EDITORIAL

No more "don't ask, don't tell"

On Jan. 20 the 17 year old, "don't ask, don't tell" policy was denounced by the nation's top two defense officials in front of Congress after President Obama reaffirmed his opposition to the law in his recent State of the Union address.

Surprisingly, the right wing voice of American has been shockingly silent at the prospect of letting homosexuals serve openly in the military, after years of railing against any gay-rights legislation that has been proposed at the state and national level. Fox News ran only a brief story on Adm. Mike Mullins' spirited address to congress and Fox pundits did not even touch the issue.

Senator John McCain was one of the only voices of opposition, and a weak one at that. McCain stated, less than four years ago, that he would support the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" if top military officials did. Yet last week when the U.S. Secretary of Defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff called on Congress to repeal this insensitive and archaic law, McCain suddenly changed his mind. He stated he didn't think the law should be changed as long as the U.S. is involved in any war, an opinion that could push the repeal off Capitol Hill indefinitely given our nation's current military situation.

His opinion is even out of touch with his own party. Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and supporter of "don't ask, don't tell" when it was passed in 1993 has switched sides. He said in a statement issued by his office, that in the past 17 years attitudes and circumstances have changed and put his full support behind the effort to have the law repealed.

So why are conservatives, who so noisily opposed same-sex marriage, so quiet now? With midterm elections around the corner they may be getting a sense that the American public has become less homophobic.

House GOP leader John Boehner, evaded questions about "don't ask, don't tell" by asking why America would want to get into that debate in the middle of two wars. Perhaps the Republicans really do not want to be involved in the debate because they feel that Americans are more ready to see openly gay men and women serving our country than a political party opposing what is essentially a civil rights issue.

There are, and always have been, homosexuals serving in the military, yet our nation's policies have forced them to hide their true identities. At a time when we are involved in two wars, we need every person who is willing to serve. With the support of the president, the secretary of defense, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, it is the right time to do away with the prejudicial don't ask, don't tell law.



COMMENTARY

Time to rethink tenure



CODY EVANS
—
Staff Writer

The great American poet and songwriter Bob Dylan once said, "He not busy being born, is busy dying."

Since the 1960s, Dylan's words have served as a rallying cry for social change, appealing especially to American youth, and Dylan's words are now more relevant to college students than ever.

The concept of a university is held in high esteem in the collective social consciousness. Universities are places where young people go

to gain the education needed to create better and brighter futures, places where children mature into adults and students mature into leaders.

However, this concept is under attack from the inside. It is impossible for universities to carry out their purpose if complacency has slowed the academic gears to a halt.

The idea of offering tenure to professors was born in order to preserve intellectual freedoms and reward hard work with job security. But those ideals have since gotten in the way of the university's primary function — providing the best education possible for students.

In no profession

should a person be given a career-long free pass for just a few years worth of quality work, especially when the profession has such widespread impact.

Students should not be denied a knowledgeable and competent professor simply because the professor was deemed knowledgeable and competent 20 years ago.

Without the possibility of turnover some professors feel no motivation to stay in touch with the latest information in their fields.

If a teacher is told he or she cannot be fired, the result is often a sluggish and disinterested approach in the classroom that leaves students sluggish and disinterested as well. If

students aren't interested, they aren't learning, which is a slap in the face to everything higher education stands for.

The time has come for students to question whether or not the education they are receiving is worth the price they are paying. And professors must ask themselves whether they are going to work each day to educate or simply to collect a paycheck.

The American university is a place where young people go to change their lives, to be born. It is an injustice to expect them to do so in the midst of an academic system that is busy dying.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Commuter complains about MSU weather policy

I am writing to our student government and the Trail Blazer because I do not know who else to speak with.

Speaking as both a commuter student and a sensible adult, I can hardly believe that the

university is so callous as to disregard the safety of its students. With the quantities of snow we have and more coming down every minute, I would have thought the university would be concerned enough to at least delay classes. It appears that my thoughts were wrong. The university doesn't seem to appear at all worried about the more than half of their students who are commuters. While the roads in and

immediately surrounding campus are most likely passable, those of us who live in rural areas (a huge proportion) are not so lucky. Our roads have not yet been plowed so that we can successfully get to our classes.

As an adult, I have made the decision that my safety is important and am not attending classes today. While I feel this is the best decision for me, I also know that I will be penal-

ized by professors because the university was not officially closed. Being a conscientious student this greatly concerns me.

I am sure that many other students share my point of view. We would like for those who make the decisions regarding weather to know that their disregard is not taken lightly.

Bethany Hamilton
MSU student

Be part of the discussion

The Trail Blazer welcomes reader responses. Letters should be 400 words or less and signed. Addresses and telephone numbers should be included (for verification purposes only). Letters must be received in Room 317 Breckinridge Hall or emailed to editor@trailblazeronline.net by 4 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication.

The Trail Blazer reserves the right to edit letters for purposes of clarity, brevity and legal considerations.

CAMPUS COMMENT

Do you think "don't ask, don't tell" should be repealed?



Kandace Mergel

Freshman
Radiology
Mansfield, Ohio

"Yes, they should be allowed to be who they are."



Alex Strong

Freshman
Computer Engineering
Jackson, Ky

"Yes, they are risking their lives just like anyone else."



Jason Balser

Sophomore
Exercise Science
Covington, Ky

"If gays want to fight for our freedom they should be able to. They live here too"



Tyrone Shaw

Junior
Pre-Physical Therapy
Atlanta, Ga

"Yeah, they should be able to serve our country like anyone else."

THE TRAIL BLAZER

Student brings Best Buddies program to MSU

DAVID RAY GILLUM—STAFF WRITER

Looking for a new buddy? An organization at MSU can help you find one. Best Buddies, an organization that promotes friendships between people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and non-disabled peers, is gaining attention on campus.

"Many people are approaching me about joining," 22-year-old senior Dustin Withrow said. Withrow serves as head of Morehead State's Best Buddies chapter.

Best Buddies is a national organization founded in 1989 by Anthony Kennedy Schriver. Inspired by his mother, Emilee Kennedy, Schriver developed the organization in order to promote the well-being of people with disabilities, Withrow said.

Best Buddies pairs each college buddy with a disabled buddy, who is chosen from among people participating in programs at Horizon Village, which is operated by Pathways. The buddies are matched for

one year.

College buddies are expected to create friendships and spend quality time with their paired buddies.

"The college buddies get as much out of the friendship as the buddies get out of it. It's a symbiotic relationship," Withrow said.

Withrow compares this organization to the nationally known Big Brother, Big Sister program. Research has shown that people with intellectual disabilities thrive when allowed to enter a new social network other than their own families, Withrow said.

"Outside of their family, they don't have anybody else," she said.

Best Buddies also provides programs to help people with disabilities to find jobs and gives them opportunities to live their life to the fullest, Withrow said.

Morehead State was chosen by Best Buddies' founders to be one of the charter colleges in Kentucky to adopt the organization, Withrow said.

Withrow said she was contacted by a national Best Buddies representative and asked to run the organization at MSU.

"It seemed like second nature to me," Withrow said. "My mother was a Special Education teacher. I've spent family dinners and holidays with people with disabilities. I always heard my mom talk about their need for empathy. I think that they're misunderstood."

However, starting the organization has been a slower process than Withrow expected.

Withrow's said dealing with the paperwork, finding a host-site, recruiting a faculty advisor, and getting things situated at the state level have created a heavy workload.

"I'm an optimist," Withrow said. "I thought it was going to be fast."

College members meet their assigned buddies at Horizon Village and begin building relationships. Withrow said buddies are chosen by Horizon and have not yet been assigned.

Withrow was MSU's representative at the Best Buddies national conference at Indiana University where she received leadership training for the organization.

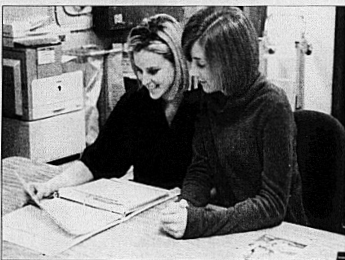
At the conference Withrow said she got to see first hand how Best Buddies can positively affect lives and allow people to exceed the norms of their disabilities.

"The entire conference was run by people with disabilities," Withrow said. "It was great to see the excitement for the life they had and to be able to give them an outlook for friendships."

Withrow has encountered one unexpected but positive obstacle. "I'm afraid we're going to have more members than buddies to match them with," Withrow said. MSU's chapter currently has 30 members.

Withrow expects to have the program running full force by August.

"I'm really, really excited to get everything going," Withrow said. "But I've had to keep reminding myself that Rome wasn't built in a day and good things take time."



Betty Chanoy / The Trail Blazer

Senior Dustin Withrow and freshman Laura King look over the Best Buddies manual. The program allows college students to be paired with a disabled buddy.



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Employment dates: June 1 - July 15.

Residence Hall Supervisor

Applications Due: March 31

Successful applicants will have a bachelor's degree, and experience in leadership, management, student life or Upward Bound. Residence Hall Supervisors will supervise students and Tutor Counselors. Residence Hall Supervisors live in the residence hall for the duration of the summer program.

Employment dates: May 24 - July 15.

Instructor

Applications Due: February 26

Successful applicants will have a bachelor's degree, and experience teaching or mentoring. Instructors teach either mornings or afternoons.

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Art Exhibition held

The Art Exhibition: Storytelling Narrative Art Juried event opened Feb. 3, at the Claypool Young Art Gallery. Jennifer Reis, gallery director, said the exhibition will consist of 38 pieces of artwork by artists from across the nation, all of which will tell a story.

"I think that most people are drawn to artwork that contributes to a story," said Reis.

Reis added that the genres of work included in the exhibition range from paintings to computer generation to comic book style artwork.

The exhibition will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, until Wednesday, Feb. 17, where a closing reception will take place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"Love Letters" presented

The Rowan County Arts Center will be holding performances of A. R. Gurney's "Love Letters" Feb. 12-14. Director of the Arts Center Rhonda Bailey said that the leading actors of the play will be award winning former MSU professors Shirley Gish and Travis Lockhart, who were apart of the original performance in 1993. Evening performances will take place Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. There will be a matinee Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for students.

Is college for everyone?

KARMEN HALL—
STAFF WRITER

"Go to college and get a degree if you want to succeed in life."

That is the mantra most young people start hearing by the time they've reached middle school. They hear it from their parents, teachers and guidance counselors.

Is college after high school right for everyone? The answer gets mixed responses.

Whitney Salyers, a former Morehead State student, said the pressure was too overwhelming for her.

"I felt pressure, especially from my family. They always went on about how I need to go to school to be able to get a good paying job," Salyers said.

Salyers said her mother struggled as a single parent trying to make ends meet.

"Mom didn't graduate high school... she had to start at the very bottom," Salyers said. "She's worked most of her life struggling to provide me with the things she never had at my age."

Salyers enrolled at MSU and made it through one year before dropping out. Salyers said she wanted to go to school but for all the wrong reasons.

"I wanted to be there with my friends and party, not to go to class and get an education," Salyers said. "I was so afraid of disappointing my family that I let myself give up."

Olivia Brown, another former MSU student, also felt the pressure of needing college to have a better life.

"My parents always told me I couldn't get a decent job without a college degree," Brown said. "They would keep asking if I had applied — over

and over."

Brown said she wanted to go to school but the complications of filing for financial aid were overwhelming.

"Whenever I would hit a snag in my paperwork for FAFSA, it seemed like the personnel at the Financial Aid office were not very helpful," Brown said. "I'd go to the office and tell them my problem but their answer was always, 'here, take this fill it out and bring it back.'"

Brown did finally enroll at MSU but dropped out after her third semester.

Brown and Salyers both said they want to go back to school but in their own time and on their own terms.

"I don't think it's for me right now," Salyers said. "But I do want to be a teacher one day."

Pam Ryan, MSU professor of philosophy, said she has experienced students who really don't want to be here.

Ryan said, "Parents push the counselors push the children into going to school, with the idea that everyone has to go to college. But I think they need to do it for their own intellectual well being."

Ann Andoloro, a communication professor, said she had to come to terms with her daughter not wanting to go to a university.

"She didn't like school. I wanted her to have a degree but she wanted to have a trade instead," Andoloro said.

"Ultimately, she did what was best for her and now she's studying in New Zealand."

Craig Dennis, MSU provisional studies coordinator, said most students struggle with the transition

more than anything.

"The teachers and parents do a poor job in preparing high school kids for the freedom that college bestows upon students," Dennis said.

Dennis said he thinks everyone can benefit from a college education.

"It's like digging a ditch — you have to have the discipline to go to school," Dennis said.

Lora Pace, director of First Year Programs at MSU, encounters students who sometimes feel they were pushed into going to college.

"Some students, especially, those who have done well in high school, feel like college is the next step," Pace said.

Pace said parents want their children to have a better life and college is the best way to achieve that.

"I think there are students who think they want to go to school then realize they'd rather do something that doesn't require a college degree," Pace said.

Renee Ison, an MSU sophomore, said she felt pressure from her high school counselor and her family members who attended college.

"They wanted me to follow in their footsteps," Ison said.

Ison said if it weren't for her father she probably wouldn't have gone to college but she is grateful for the push to continue her schooling.

"Being at MSU has helped me overcome my fears of finding my place in the world," Ison said.

"I finally understand why they wanted me to go. It's strengthened my life ambitions and showed me that I am capable of anything I set my mind too."

THE TRAIL BLAZER

Peterson shines; Eagles win

CLAYTON AKERS — SPORTS EDITOR



Clayton Akers / The Trail Blazer

Maze Stallworth goes up for a shot in the lane Saturday night against T-Tech

Morehead State came away with a hard-fought victory over the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles, 84-75, Saturday night at Johnson Arena.

Sophomore Steve Peterson scored a career-high 20 points and grabbed five rebounds.

"I was impressed with Steve tonight," Coach Donnie Tyndall said. "He had three offensive rebounds and five total with two assists and only one turnover. I thought he played a complete game."

The Eagles shot more than 50 percent from the field and dominated the boards, 39-21, due in part to efforts of junior Kenneth Faried, who recorded his ninth straight double-double and 18th overall on the season with 26 points and 17 rebounds against Tech.

The first half was a back and forth battle with six lead changes. The Golden Eagles were able to pull ahead 23-18 at the 6:10 thanks mostly to Frank Davis, who nailed five three pointers in the first half.

MSU bounced back on its next possession when Peterson drove in for a layup, which spurred a 12-0 run over a three-minute span. The Eagles took a 34-32 lead into halftime.

"In the first half we settled for too many jump shots," Tyndall said. "We took 25 shots a 13 of them were threes and the ball wasn't going inside enough."

In the second half Morehead State had a 71-61 lead but Tech closed the gap late and pulled within four at 73-69 with 3:12 to play, but MSU was able to seal the game with free throws.

In the second half Brandon (Shingles), Denante (Harper), and Steve all did a better job of driving to the rim," Tyndall

said. "We threw it to Kenneth and he got to the foul-line 17 times (12-of-17 from the free-throw line), which is a good number, but Tennessee Tech did a good job defensively."

Tennessee Tech played very, very hard," Tyndall said. "I thought they kept us out of rhythm offensively with their defense and changing defenses. They deserve credit for that."

Along with Faried and Peterson, senior Brandon Shingles notched a career high 13 points with three assists.

MSU's Denante Harper provided a huge boost off the bench scoring all 17 bench points. In the previous game against Jacksonville State Harper netted 18 points off the bench in a 94-95 win over the Gamecocks.

Tyndall said Harper hasn't started the past two games because he hasn't been playing aggressively enough.

The last two games he's been very aggressive," Tyndall said. "On both nights."

Tennessee Tech was led by Judd Dillard, who recorded a double-double with a team-high 25 points and 12 rebounds and Frank Davis, who hit seven three pointers for 21 points.

The Eagles swept the season series with the Golden Eagles (2-0) and have won five straight in the series. MSU improved to 17-7 overall and 11-2 in the OVC, while Tennessee Tech fell to 12-12 on the season and to 6-7 in the OVC.

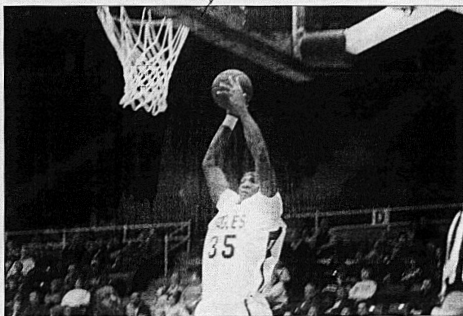
Tyndall emphasized how much Saturday's conference win meant.

"You have to win them to continue to do what we're trying to do," he said. "There are no easy games in this league and it doesn't matter if you're playing on the home or on the road."



Clayton Akers / The Trail Blazer

Steve Peterson had a career-high 20 points.



Clayton Akers / The Trail Blazer

Maze Stallworth goes up for a shot in the lane in MSU's win over the Golden Eagles.

Threes are a charm for MSU

TANNER HESTERBERG — STAFF WRITER

Threes have been a charm for the MSU women's basketball team this season.

Two home conference games last week were no exception, as the Eagles knocked down a total of 25 three-pointers in routs over Jacksonville State, 80-53, and Tennessee Tech, 80-45.

Thursday night's drubbing of JSU was also historic. MSU, the national leader in three-point attempts, hit a school-record 17 shots from beyond the arc.

"It's pretty easy to sit over there and watch them make (seemingly) every shot," Eagles Head Coach Mike Bradbury said. "Everybody was into it tonight."

The Eagles started the game on a 10-1 run and kept the baskets coming. MSU led 40-20 at halftime and outscored the Gamecocks 40-33 in the second half.

Four Eagles scored in double figures led by sophomore Ashley Martin, who scored eight of MSU's first 10 points and finished with a game-high 16. Sophomore Abby Steele netted a career-high 15 points.

Martin and junior Chynna Bozeman keyed the Eagles' three-point barrage by knocking down four triples apiece. Steele nailed three of her own as seven different Eagles scored from long range.

Bradbury said revenge was a factor in the lopsided victory.

"We definitely had a little extra motivation for this game after an embarrassing loss down there at Jacksonville," Bradbury said. The Eagles fell to the Gamecocks, 70-60, on Jan. 9.

The Eagles followed up their blowout of JSU with a thrashing of Tennessee Tech on

Saturday.

Once again MSU started out hot, opening the game with a 21-6 run and leading 44-17 at intermission.

"We came out with a lot of energy and it showed early," Bradbury said.

The Eagles led by as many as 38 points in the second half.

MSU complemented its three-point attack (8-of-24) with an outstanding effort on the boards. The Eagles outrebounded the Golden Eagles 34-16 in the first half and 66-44 for the game.

"When we stopped them and dominated the boards like we did in the first half, that allowed us to get out in transition and score," Bradbury said.

Freshman Ashar Harris grabbed a team-high 18 rebounds after being held to four boards when the two teams met Jan. 7 in Cookeville, Tenn.

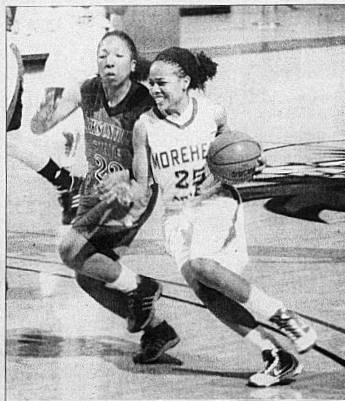
"Ashar Harris, as good of a freshman as she is, got embarrassed down there at Tech," Bradbury said Saturday. "She was up for the challenge today."

Martin and sophomore Courtney Lumpkin paced MSU with 15 points each.

The Eagles shot 42 percent for the game (28-of-67) while holding TTU to just 22 percent.

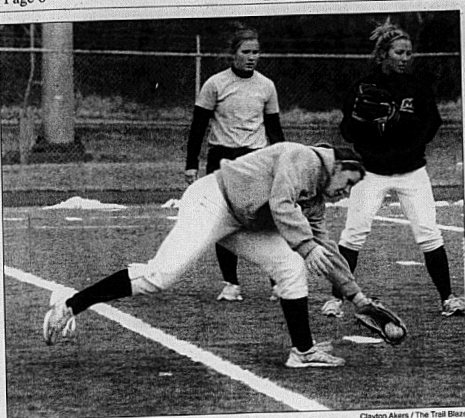
MSU improved to 18-6 overall and 11-2 in the Ohio Valley Conference. The Eagles have extended their win streak to five.

First place in the OVC will be on the line tonight when the Eagles visit Eastern Illinois (16-8, 11-1).



Clayton Akers / The Trail Blazer

Sophomore Courtney Lumpkin drives to the hoop against Jacksonville State.



Clayton Akers / The Trail Blazer



Clayton Akers / The Trail Blazer

Sophomore Brianna Williams fields the ball in practice at University Field on Monday.

Senior Alex Gjevrev hopes to win the OVC this year.

Softball opens season

CLAYTON AKERS — SPORTS EDITOR

Morehead State softball kicks off the 2010 campaign on the road this weekend in the Middle Tennessee Tournament in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The Eagles are coming off a stellar 2009 season where they racked up a school record 35 wins and finished third in the conference in the regular season. The Eagles fell in the second round of the OVC tournament.

Head Coach Holly Bruder enters her third season at the helm of the MSU softball program. In Bruder's first two seasons she guided the Eagles to two 30-plus win seasons.

Bruder and the Eagles bring back a veteran group lead by All-American pitcher Alex Gjevrev, who has broken numerous records in her career in an Eagle uniform. Last season Gjevrev broke school records for wins with 25 and strikeouts with 230. Gjevrev, who is in her last season, said she thinks the team is ready to take its game to the next level.

"Our goal as a team is to win the OVC and, hopefully, host the tournament," Gjevrev said. "I think we're ready to win a championship. We've been knocking at the door for a couple of years now and I definitely think we're going to win this year."

Along with Gjevrev, in the bull-pen is senior Sarah Funston, who tallied an 8-6 record with 86 strikeouts last season.

The offensive side has been a focal point for the Eagles in the offseason.

"Over the past two years we've focused on our offensive output," Bruder said. "Our offensive production has not been good. We averaged five runs a game. That's what it was."

"I try to focus on hitting everyday — from the short game to moving the runner to scoring that runner — the clutch hitting, utilizing the at bat and working the pitcher," Bruder said.

Junior Rebecca Butler will help lead the hitting attack this season. In 2009 Butler put up great numbers with a team-high 53 hits on a .333 batting percentage and a team-high seven

home runs.

Butler said the young players are coming along and can't wait to get the season underway.

"Offseason has been great," Bruder said. "We have progressed really well since the very beginning. We had a lot of young minds that didn't know exactly what coach wanted, but the fall season especially helped everybody."

Alex Gjevrev
— MSU Pitcher

top players as both an outfielder and infielder.

"She's really solid and could play second and outfield," Bruder said. "She is

definitely going to be an integral part of the team this season as a freshman."

Bruder also has high expectations for freshman shortstop Kayla Ashbrook.

"She's a phenomenal shortstop, who has very quick hands and is quick to the ball and that's something you can't teach," Bruder said. "She's very smooth up the middle and she'll be my starting shortstop come Saturday."

When OVC preseason rankings came out a few weeks ago the Eagles were picked by league coaches to finish in fifth place.

Gjevrev said she enjoys playing the role of underdog.

"I don't think it's a bad place to be," Gjevrev said. "I'd rather be the underdog that comes back and defeats everybody."

Bruder said she believes this Eagle team has a chance to go far.

"Realistically, I can see us definitely being a top two or three team," Bruder said. "With our staff on the mound and the hitters I know we have — if we never sell we can win this conference. I've never said that in two and a half years and I strongly believe that we are a contender for a conference championship."

The Trail Blazer ATHLETE OF THE WEEK —STEVE PETERSON—



Men's Basketball
Position: Forward
Height: 6-5
Class: Sophomore
Hometown:
Columbus, Ga

Sophomore Steve Peterson scored a game-high 20 points in Saturday's 84-75 victory over Tennessee Tech at Johnson Arena.

Peterson has averaged 7.7 points per game and pulled down 4.2 rebounds in 20 starts this season.

Shooters finish 5th

BOBBY HOSKINS —
STAFF WRITER

The Morehead State rifle team finished fifth over the weekend in the Ohio Valley Conference Championships at the Pat Spurgin Range at Murray State University.

The Eagles were in third place at the end of day-one events on Saturday, but after day-two events on Friday, the Eagles had slipped two spots back to finish in fifth place.

The Eagles shot an accumulated score of 4,525 points to finish behind UT

Martin who shot 4,533. Murray State won the Championship firing a score of 4,595 and Jacksonville State took second place with a score of 4,577. Morehead State Senior Kevin Mulligan was named to the Small Bore All-Conference First Team, shooting a 575 to finish in fifth place. Elizabeth Lyon was named to the Small Bore All-Conference Second Team. Lyon finished in seventh place shooting a 572.

The rifle team will travel to Lexington on Feb. 12 for the NCAA Sectional.

Tennis splits in weekend matches

CHRIS SLOAN —
STAFF WRITER

The Morehead State women's tennis team had mixed results over the weekend, losing 4-3 to the University of Cincinnati Friday and rebounding to beat Ball State 4-3 on Sunday afternoon.

The Eagles lost all three

of their doubles matches to the Bearcats. MSU fared a little better in singles competition winning three of the six matches.

Led by Alexandra Rydberg, the Eagles took the first singles match, 6-2, 6-7, 6-4. MSU also picked up singles wins by Kayla Tuscany and Lauren Delaney, while Alex Young had a

fast start taking the first set 7-5 before eventually falling to UC's Slynko Ksenia.

Sunday's competition at Ball State was filled with action. MSU was down 3-0 and faced a match point against them, but the Eagles stormed from behind to beat Ball State 4-3. The Eagles went

on lose all three of their doubles matches, but came back to win four of their six singles matches.

Alexandra Rydberg, Alex Young, Kayla Tuscany and Brooke Helms all picked up wins in singles competition.

MSU's women will be back in action Wednesday when they host Xavier.

SIDELINES

Colts fans don't deserve team

CODY EVANS — STAFF WRITER

What do you get for a 14-win season — a Super Bowl berth and an MVP year by your hall-of-fame quarterback? Apparently, not.

The Indianapolis Star reported Monday that all of 11 fans showed up at the Indianapolis International Airport to greet their wounded Colts after a disappointing Super Bowl loss.

Philadelphia may be famous for its fair-weather fans, but with a number like that, Indy can't be far behind. Colts fans have truly embarrassed themselves by turning success for granted and taking their backs on Manning and company in the team's time of need.

Anyone can be a fan when your team is 14-0. Anyone can be a fan when your team is playing for a championship. But it takes a true

fan to stand beside a team in the face of colossal defeat.

Some media outlets have mentioned the weather as a potential reason for the low turnout. While snow has indeed blanketed the majority of cities east of the Mississippi, blaming weather is just another scapegoat for bitter, childish fans who can't handle the realities of the game. It's easy to blame the snow, or the jets or Curtis Painter for all our woes, but it's harder to accept that no team is perfect and making a Super Bowl run is a major cause for celebration, even if you don't win.

On Tuesday, the Saints celebrated their Super Bowl win with nearly 200,000 fans lining the streets of New Orleans, hoping to get a glimpse of an extravagant victory parade. Sure, they won the game, but according to New Orleans tele-

vision station WWL, the parade had already been scheduled and was going to happen either way — win or lose.

The celebration was wrapped in plenty of "Dat Tuesday" and "Lombardi Gras" nonsense, but underneath it all was genuine love for a team that has become an essential component of its home city.

I'm not saying 200,000 Indy fans needed to throw colorful beads and shout silly catch phrases, but if the fans had any real love or respect for their team, more than 11 people would have shown up to console them.

Los Angeles may need to take its eye off the Jaguars and look at the Colts. Apparently, roots don't grow very deep in Indiana.