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February 26, 2004

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# SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,  
TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 66

## Allen: TBR investigation 'biased'

### Former assistant's complaint charges McPhee, MTSU created hostile environment

By Kristin Hall  
News Editor

Tammie C. Allen's lawsuit against President Sidney McPhee, MTSU, the Tennessee Board of Regents, TBR Chancellor Charles W. Manning and the state of Tennessee alleges the sexual harassment investigation was slanted in favor of McPhee.

Allen, former administrative assistant to McPhee, filed a sexual harassment complaint with the TBR Oct. 6, which accused McPhee of unsolicited advances, kisses, groping and requests for sexual activities.

TBR completed its investigation in November and reprimanded the university president with a \$10,000 pay cut and a 20-day suspension.

"The TBR, under the discretion and control of Chancellor Manning, conducted an investigation that was incomplete and biased in the favor of McPhee," according to the civil complaint filed Feb. 13 in Rutherford County Circuit Court.

The court complaint seeks monetary redress for incurred medical expenses and "severe emotional distress, mental anguish, indignation, wounded pride, shame and despair," as a result of the actions by TBR, MTSU and Manning. In addition, the complaint requests a jury trial to determine if the defendants are liable.

The complaint says Allen

attempted to provide the TBR with more witnesses to the alleged sexual harassment, but TBR did not confer with the additional witnesses.

Allen also took a polygraph test in November to prove her case, but the TBR refused to consider that as a piece of evidence, the complaint alleges. She also requested that investigators administer a polygraph examination to McPhee; TBR



McPhee

#### DAMAGES SOUGHT

- Actual past and future damages according to the proof
- Damages for humiliation and embarrassment, pain and suffering and emotional distress as are allowed under the provisions of TCA 4-21-101 et. seq.
- Reasonable attorney's fees and costs of court as provided by law
- Such other and further relief, both general and special, at law and in equity, to which plaintiff is justly entitled

Complaint filed Feb. 13, 2004

denied that petition as well.

Allen's humiliation came as a result of the media attention the sexual harassment complaint received and McPhee's accusations as to Allen's character,

according to complaint.

"McPhee engaged in a persuasive campaign to falsely deny Allen's factual allegations per-

See McPhee, 2

## Fraternity fight under investigation

By Kristin Hall  
News Editor

One fraternity member was sent to the hospital after a fight on Greek Row Jan. 30, prompting a Judicial Affairs investigation into the incident.

According to Public Safety, Sigma Nu member Jonathan Russel Harper, 19, was found bleeding from a cut above the eye and was taken to the emergency room.

Brandon Bouchillon, 18, a Sigma Chi member, was also included in the police report as a victim of simple assault.

Bouchillon said that the trouble started that night after an unidentified member of Sigma Chi entered the backyard of the Beta Theta Pi house on Greek Row.

"One of my brothers was in their backyard, and he was taunting them," Bouchillon said.

Beta Theta Pi President Dan Smelcer was a witness to the assault. "I believe he was drunk, and

we asked him to leave," Smelcer said. "They were not willing to leave. Eventually it erupted into some yelling, and we finally got them outside the gate."

Bouchillon said that Harper was helping the Sigma Chi brothers return to their house when the fight broke out.

"Jonathan was there as an innocent bystander," Bouchillon said. "He got hit by a Beta as he was helping to escort one of my brothers back to my house and make peace. The only ones throwing fists were the Betas."

However, Smelcer said his fraternity was not responsible for Harper's injuries.

"None of us were actually involved in the fight," he said. "I didn't see who punched the guy. But the witnesses I talked to said it was a non-Beta."

"Harper was just in the wrong place and the wrong time," Bouchillon said. "He was trying to make peace, and he got hit by one of them. They won't

See Fight, 2

## Faculty members get chance to work within administration

By Andrea Hinch  
Staff Writer

The Administrative Fellowship is looking for faculty interested in seeing how the administration works from the inside.

The program is for those interested in spending a semester in the Office of Academic Affairs instead of teaching a class.

Over the years, the fellowship has worked in conjunction with the Women's Commission but now the opportunity is open to anyone interested.

"The initial experience was to get a woman but we've now had a gentlemen work with us, so it's being called a fellowship of sorts," said Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost.

"For some, this might be a chance to see if they would like an administrative career, such as being a provost, which is basically being the chief academic officer of the university. You would have some overall university administrative responsi-

bility but there are other jobs available as well."

The application process to the program consists of a written letter explaining why the faculty member is interested in the fellowship, and what areas he or she would like to work in. The fellowship will only be taking one faculty member per semester.

Judith Iriarte-Gross, a physical science and chemistry professor, is currently involved as an administrative faculty fellow shadowing those in the Academic Affairs office.

"I have been able to be involved with something faculty do not often get to see," Iriarte-Gross said. "I have been allowed to be a part of all of the things that need to come together to make the university run as a whole and am amazed about everything that's going on. I knew that a large university like MTSU took a lot to make it run and it's just amazing to see how everything comes together to make the university the success

See Fellowship, 2

### STUDENT SHOWCASE



Photo by Josh Jordan | Staff Photographer

Tamiko Johnson, a junior in the College of Mass Communication, performs Tuesday night during the Urban Music Society's annual talent showcase. The UMS is a group devoted to providing students with the tools to further their music careers, particularly in hip hop, rap, rhythm and blues, and gospel.

## 'Brown vs. Board' 1954 decision changed the face of education

### Speakers urge community involvement to ensure freedom

By Andrea Hinch  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, two speakers recounted the effects of the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, and lamented the lack of understanding American youths have about racial history.

"Why do young people know so much about Nelly but not about people who actually

made a change in policy?" Ronald Rochon, from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, asked the crowd. "If I was Nelly more people would be here. When students understand the sacrifices people made for them to get an education, they will fill these seats."

Sekou Franklin, MTSU political science assistant professor, said racial hierarchy is important in the political world.

"In the 1950s, there was massive white resistance to the *Brown* decision," Franklin said.

Franklin said the failings of *Brown* included the lower courts' involvement with the

enforcement of the ruling. He also said state legislatures adopted bills of interposition saying federal judicial decisions – such as the *Brown* decision – could be rejected.

Two years after *Brown*, Franklin said, many in Congress signed a document called the Southern Manifesto that attacked the Supreme Court decision.

"Albert Gore Sr., senator of Tennessee, was one of only three who refused to sign it amidst threats to his life," Franklin said.

Letters sent to the senator during this racially charged

See Brown, 2

## Babbili to receive Pleas Award

By Meagan Kirby  
Staff Writer

This year's recipient of the John Pleas Faculty Award is Anantha Babbili, dean of the College of Mass Communication.

"I was surprised and humbled to receive this award. I was very pleased," Babbili said.

Babbili was notified about three weeks ago that he was receiving the award. Bertha Clark, last year's winner, was the one to notify him.

In addition to the teaching, research and public service that Babbili has done, he was also chosen for the award for his efforts to promote cultural diversity on campus.

Babbili has done much work in the mass communication field. Before coming to MTSU in 2002, he was a professor of journalism and media studies at Texas Christian University for 20 years. He has also published several books on mass communication.

The Carnegie Foundation and Council for the Advancement and Support of Teaching named him the Texas Professor of the Year. Babbili has been a finalist for the U.S. Professor of the Year Award.

"Nothing is more important than receiving an award from your colleagues," Babbili said. "This is the best award of all and very special to me."

Babbili has some plans for the mass communication program here.

"I want the faculty and students to shape the college," he said. "It is in wonderful shape with a solid foundation, good resources and great potential. I want to raise standards, raise the expectations and bring the college to another level of prominence."

Babbili will receive the award at a reception today in the Alumni Center. The reception will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. and the presentation of the award will start at 4:30.

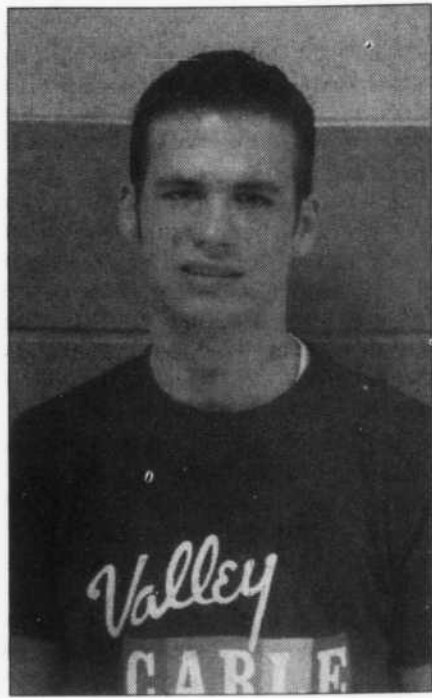
The Pleas award is given by the faculty to a minority faculty member for excellence in teaching, research and public service. ♦



Babbili



## ELECTED OFFICERS



Photos by Seth Holland | Staff Photographer

The MTSU College Democrats held officer elections last week. Christy Holden, left, a political science/pre-law major, was voted president; Bobby Bush, middle, a political science/pre-law major, was voted vice president; and Kayla Henry, a junior elementary education major, was voted secretary. Other elected officers include treasurer Josh Blackwood, communications director Travis Harris, public relations manager Jim McMillan and Webmaster Karry Smith. The group can be reached at [mtsucollegedemocrats@yahoo.com](mailto:mtsucollegedemocrats@yahoo.com).

## Fellowship: Faculty members can apply for fall 2004

Continued from 1

that it is. I'm very impressed with Academic Affairs."

Iriarte-Gross is currently teaching while being a part of the program, but the faculty member needed for fall 2004

will not teach a class, but spend his or her time in Academic Affairs.

Before taking the internship of sorts, the faculty member must notify the chair and the dean in his or her department.

"The faculty knows the basic

things about how things work but are usually too busy or the administration is too busy to explain the specific fine-tuned areas such as how to put a committee together or who to invite to give a speech," Iriarte-Gross said. "That is why I appreciate

this experience in understanding the mechanisms of this institution."

For more information, contact the provost's office at 898-2880. ♦

## Brown: Franklin asserts importance of eliminating poverty

Continued from 1

time can be found in the archives on campus, including some that involve the mayor and police chief urging Gore to reconsider his stance against anti-segregation.

Franklin named presidents

he considers racially offensive, including former Presidents Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan, and even current President George W. Bush, who Franklin said attempted to offset Sen. John McCain in the last presidential election by saying he had fathered a black baby.

Although legislation remains in place to protect civil rights, Franklin said it's important to maintain this freedom and ensure civil liberties by being involved with the community and attempting to eradicate poverty.

"Although Brown has pushed

us forward on education," Rochon said, "we might be backtracking not on race but on issues such as politics or on the act of educating ourselves. Although we have the legislation there, we need the community's help." ♦

## McPhee: Complainant says transfer to different department was involuntary

Continued from 1

taining to his conduct, to portray himself as the victim of false accusations and to intimidate Allen," the complaint alleges.

Allen said she requested a meeting with Manning to discuss the findings of the investigation, but the request was denied.

"We certainly plan to defend our actions," said Mary Morgan, director of communications at TBR.

"We think we did a thorough investigation and we will sort of rest our case on that."

Allen initially withdrew her sexual harassment complaint on Oct. 14 because of McPhee's suicide attempt and because she was under the impression that McPhee would be resigning, according to the current complaint.

She reinstated the complaint

on Oct. 20 because it became clear to her that McPhee did not plan on resigning, the court complaint says.

After the investigation, Allen moved to the Office of Development and University Relations and received a \$4,000 pay raise.

However, Allen says in the complaint that the transfer was involuntary and her new job involves less responsibility, prestige and promotional opportunities.

The lawsuit says the actions of TBR, MTSU and Manning subjected Allen to derogatory remarks and ostracism in her work environment.

Allen and her attorneys, Steven E. Sager and L. Gilbert Anglin, did not return phone calls made by *Sidelines* in regard to the lawsuit.

The state attorney general's office will be defending the case for MTSU and the TBR.

"I believe we got it yesterday," said Sharon Curtis-Flair, communications director for the attorney general's office. "We're still studying it and trying to evaluate it to decide how to proceed from here."

McPhee said he was not in the position to speak on the pending litigation, but he would not be taking any days off as a result of the lawsuit.

"University presidents have to deal with suits all the time," McPhee said.

"We're moving forward with this university and there will be no distractions."

A date has not been set for the preliminary hearing regarding the complaint in the Rutherford County Circuit Court. ♦

Editor in Chief Patrick Chinnery contributed to this article.

## Fight: Fraternity members deny police report's claim that they were intoxicated

Continued from 1

admit to it."

Spencer Rudolph, Sigma Chi president, said he went to Harper's aid after the fight broke out.

"The other guy [Harper] was being helped down the road to his house," Rudolph said. "I went to get a wet rag to wipe up some of the blood."

Public Safety arrived on the scene at 1:56 a.m., and an ambulance was called for Harper.

"He had to get stitches for the cut above his eye," Bouchillon said. "He spent the night in the hospital."

Harper declined to speak to *Sidelines* about the incident. The president of Sigma Nu, Clay Kennedy, said that he just wanted the whole incident to be forgotten.

"It's embarrassing to the entire Greek community," Kennedy said.

Clint Hall, interim assistant dean of Judicial Affairs, said he is currently investigating the fight on Greek Row to determine responsibility.

"We're still in the gathering facts stage of the investigation," Hall said. "Once I've gathered all the facts, I'll be able to see if there is a way to determine responsibility, and if so, then appropriate sanctions on those who are responsible."

Bouchillon said he and Harper received letters from Judicial Affairs charging them with disturbing the peace and alcohol charges.

"I went in and told [Hall] the story, and he took it for what it was," Bouchillon said. "He saw that we were making

peace, and he took all the charges off."

The police report indicated both Harper and Bouchillon were intoxicated, but Bouchillon denied those claims.

"They had no proof of that because we weren't drunk at all," Bouchillon said.

Lt. Darrell Collins, investigations coordinator, said Public Safety is also conducting an investigation into the fight as well as recent acts of vandalism on Greek Row.

"It's not necessarily vandalism, but just boys kicking up their heels," Collins said.

He said the investigation is going slowly because the fraternity members are unwilling to talk about their brothers.

In the past three months, several incidents of vandalism were reported on Greek Row.

According to the police media log, on Dec. 15, 2003, someone tore off part of a sign in the Beta Theta Pi house. On Dec. 21, vandalism more than \$500 occurred at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house. The Pi Kappa Alpha house reported that an individual tried to knock down their fence and then ran toward the Sigma Nu house on Jan. 9.

"There's a lot of younger guys that just got initiated in December or November," Smelcer said. "It could have been them, but considering that there was at least five or six houses vandalized in one night, I would hope it wouldn't be anybody that lived on Greek Row."

"It's usually the young guys that cause 90 percent of the problems between the fraternities," Smelcer said. ♦

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# WORLD BRIEFS

## Kerry challenges Bush on jobs lost overseas

CLEVELAND (AP) — Fresh from three more easy victories in the Democratic presidential race, John Kerry looked to a fight with President Bush over jobs lost to foreign countries.

Kerry defeated Sen. John Edwards by large margins in Utah and Idaho, and also won in Hawaii, where Edwards ran third. That gave Kerry 18 wins in 20 contests.

The two leading candidates bypassed the three states to focus on the huge delegate prizes at stake when 10 states vote next week on Super Tuesday.

Two weeks after the president's chief economic adviser described the shipping of American jobs abroad as "just a new way of doing international trade," Kerry was announcing his plan to address that situation.

Although Kerry frequently tells audiences that no president can stop companies from leaving the country, the Massachusetts senator said he will require companies that ship jobs offshore to disclose their plans to the government.

Kerry said that during the three years Bush has been in office, 270,000 workers have lost their jobs in Ohio, site of one of the 10 nominating contests on Super Tuesday. He is looking for a decisive victory that day to bring an end to the campaign of his last remaining major rival, Edwards.

## Compensation offered for scrapping program

BEIJING (AP) — South Korea on Wednesday offered the North compensation for giving up its nuclear program and the United States said it had "no intention" of invading the reclusive nation as six-country talks on Pyongyang's atomic ambitions convened.

The North's chief delegate, Kim Gye Gwan, said he would be "maintaining our principles" hours after his country issued a last-minute demand for compensation for shutting down the program.

Washington's delegate said nothing but a wholesale elimination of the nuclear activities would do.

"The United States seeks complete, verifiable and irre-

versible dismantlement of all North Korea's nuclear programs, both plutonium and uranium," Assistant U.S. Secretary of State James Kelly said in opening remarks.

At issue are allegations that Pyongyang has a uranium-based weapons program as well as its known plutonium-based one. North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's government has denied having a uranium-based program.

## Gunmen assassinate deputy police chief

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Gunmen assassinated the deputy police chief in the northern city of Mosul on Wednesday, and militants warned of further attacks on Iraqi security forces and Kurdish militiamen, accusing them of protecting "infidel" Americans.

In Baghdad, attackers fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a major Shiite Muslim shrine overnight, officials at the shrine said. The RPG punched a hole in an outer wall of the Kazimiyah shrine in a northern neighborhood of the capital, but caused no injuries.

The attack on the shrine came on the fourth day of the Islamic month of Muharram, a sacred period when thousands of Iraqi Shiites and Iranian pilgrims have converged on Kazimiyah, where two Shiite saints are buried, and other Shiite shrines in cities of southern Iraq.

U.S. officials have said insurgents seek to fan tensions between Iraq's Shiite majority and Sunni minority into a civil war. Guerrillas have stepped up attacks on Iraqi police and security forces, which are due to take a front-line role against the insurgency one the Americans transfer power to the Iraqis on June 30.

Gunmen in a car opened fire on Mosul's deputy police chief Brigadier Hikmat Mohammed as he was headed to his office Wednesday morning, killing him, police Lt. Ziad Mahmoud said.

## Earthquake strikes northeast Morocco

AL HOCEIMA, Morocco (AP) — Rescuers using pick axes and bare hands chipped through the rubble of flattened mud-and-stone houses after a

strong earthquake that killed more than 550 people in northern Morocco.

Survivors used tarps to make tents and shelter themselves in blustery, wet conditions. Some people slept outside in plastic chairs, bundled in blankets. Many were afraid to sleep indoors for fear of aftershocks.

The quake shook areas near the coastal city of Al Hoceima, an isolated but picturesque area between the Rif Mountains and the Mediterranean Sea. The town was largely spared, but surrounding villages were devastated by the 6.5-magnitude quake that struck at about 2:30 a.m., while most residents were asleep.

The official MAP news agency reported that 564 people were killed and some 300 were injured. The toll increased as rescuers made their way to hard-to-reach rural areas, many served by narrow, rough roads, and found more bodies, officials said.

## World court wraps up Israeli barrier hearings

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Arab League delivered a scathing attack Wednesday against Israel's separation barrier, saying the structure is a violation of international law and suggesting its architects be arrested.

The 22-member group's testimony highlighted the third and final day of testimony before the International Court of Justice, which is examining the legality of the barrier.

Israel has avoided the hearings. It says the structure is a matter for negotiations, not a courtroom, and has questioned the fairness of the forum. All of the 15 countries and organizations testifying this week support the Palestinian case.

The Arab League echoed efforts by other participants this week to put the spotlight not only on the West Bank barrier, but on Israel's 37-year occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Michael Bothe, head of the

Arab League's legal team, told the justices that the barrier goes well beyond security concerns. He said the barrier is meant to lead "consolidation of the unlawful Israeli settlements" in the West Bank while making life "burdensome, even impossible" for Palestinians.

## Haiti's opposition rejects U.S.-backed peace plan

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haiti's opposition rejected a U.S.-backed peace plan to avert all-out civil war, demanding that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resign and creating a stalemate that alarmed the international community.

The Democratic Platform coalition, a broad alliance of opposition groups, rejected the plan despite last-ditch efforts by Secretary of State Colin Powell to stem a crisis sparked by a three-week uprising by rebels who have overrun the northern half of the country.

The plan would have kept Aristide as president, but with diminished powers and a shared government.

Even if the opposition coalition had accepted the U.S. peace plan, the rebels still insist they will lay down their arms only when Aristide is out of power.

Aristide appealed to the world for urgent help and warned of a rising death toll and a new exodus of "boat people" if rebels try to take the capital. At least 70 people have been killed in the three-week uprising, about 40 of them police officers.

## Bush urges gay marriage ban in Constitution

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush wants quick election-year enactment of a constitutional amendment prohibiting gays from marrying each other, but Republicans in Congress are not rushing to heed his call.

After Bush's announcement Tuesday, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, said it would take time to gauge the

level of support in Congress for a constitutional amendment. He suggested the difficulty of passing one may cause lawmakers to take a different approach to preserving marriage as a solely man-woman union.

The front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, and his leading rival, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, struggled to make their opposition to Bush's stance clear as they carefully tiptoed around politically sensitive turf.

Meeting long-held expectations of his most conservative supporters, Bush argued that same-sex weddings threaten the institution of marriage and that actions by several local jurisdictions allowing gay marriage make federal intervention the only recourse.

Bush called on Congress "to promptly pass and to send to the states for ratification" an amendment to define marriage as a union of a man and a woman. He had opposed legalizing civil unions as governor of Texas, but Bush left the door open for states to do so now — an alternative gay rights groups find insufficient.

## Gibson's 'Passion' expected to draw large crowds

PLANO, Texas (AP) — It may be subtitled, and it may be staggeringly gory, yet Christians across the country also expect that seeing Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* will be a profoundly moving experience.

So much so that some were willing to rise before dawn Wednesday to catch the film on its opening day before many people had finished breakfast.

That included 6,000 people who planned to fill all 20 auditoriums at a Cinemark theater in this Dallas suburb.

Arch Bonnama, a financial planner and member of Prestonwood Baptist, reserved the entire Cinemark Tinseltown 20 theater in Plano. Bonnama, who spent \$42,000 of his own money on tickets, planned

showings starting at 6:30 a.m. CST.

Popcorn and soft drinks remained on the concession menu.

A cadre of ministers planned to be on hand.

In the central Pennsylvania community of Bellefonte, about 50 people attended a showing after midnight Wednesday. Viewers groaned as Jesus was nailed to the cross, and muffled cries could be heard during more than an hour of Jesus' torture, crucifixion and death. As Jesus rises from the grave, some in the audience quietly celebrated.

## Nigeria's neighbors guard against spreading polio

KANO, Ivory Coast (AP) — Families gathered under the shade of a huge tree in the village square. They looked on cautiously at a half-dozen anti-polio campaigners, who arrived shouting through a loudspeaker: "Bring your children! It will be very quick!"

A crowd quickly developed, as mothers and fathers dragged crying children into the square.

More than 30,000 health workers are taking part in Ivory Coast's anti-polio drive, part of a massive 10-nation emergency effort aimed at blocking a polio outbreak spreading from northern Nigeria.

Three predominantly Islamic states in Nigeria's north have banned door-to-door polio immunization since October, calling it a U.S. plot to spread AIDS or infertility among Muslims.

The World Health Organization says the ban has helped spread polio back into seven African countries where it had been eradicated, and threatens global efforts to wipe out the crippling disease entirely by 2005.

WHO and others launched their drive Monday to inoculate 63 million children across west and central Africa.

In Ivory Coast, the aim is to vaccinate 4.6 million children in four days. ◆

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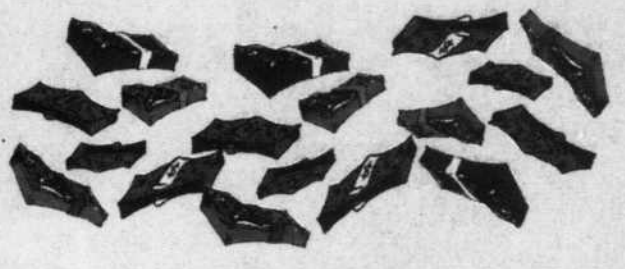


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# STATE AND LOCAL

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## 'Passion' comes to town

By Jason Cox  
State and Local News Editor

The *Passion of the Christ* has officially hit Murfreesboro.

The line of ticketholders waiting to see the show stretched to the front doors at Carmike Wynnsong 16 yesterday afternoon, and signs were posted on the door telling customers that most of the shows through Sunday had already sold out.

Peggy and Jim Holden of Woodbury made it up for an afternoon show. Peggy said they had heard about the movie through the hype and at church, and came to see the movie "because we're Christians," she said.

"Just wanted to see the true story, you know?" said Kevin Taylor, who is a Jacksonville, Fla., native who now resides in Murfreesboro. "I heard it was pretty good, so I'm going to go see it."

Mary Dryden thought the movie painted an accurate picture of the Biblical telling of Jesus Christ's life and death.

"It was great," Dryden said. "Very moving. It was everything I expected it to be."

"It pretty much followed everything biblically that I'd been taught. [It was] very powerful," she said.

Brian Taylor of Murfreesboro said the movie could be hard to watch at times and said he had to force himself to open his eyes during particularly graphic parts of the movie.

"It was very personal to me," Taylor said.

"Seeing the courage of the son of God ... was real to me," he said.

Mike Campbell, who was standing outside the theater afterwards with Taylor, said the movie was "life changing. There's no more excuses."

"You can't make any more excuses about the fact that Jesus died for you," he continued. "It was life-changing to come face to face with and it's a reality we all need to come to," he continued.

Meanwhile, Lori Thomas of Murfreesboro felt the portrayal of Mary in the movie was particularly powerful. She said that, as a mother, seeing the emotions Mary dealt with seeing her son's trials was moving to her.

"They show quite a bit of Mary's perspective," she said. ♦

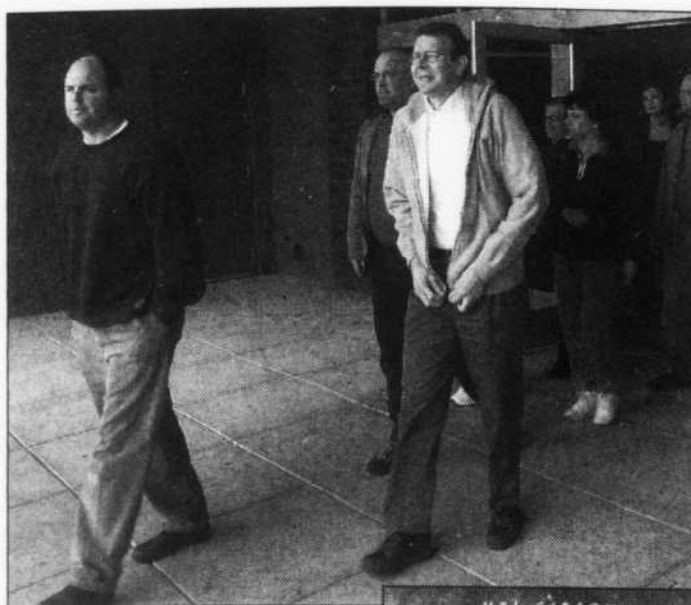
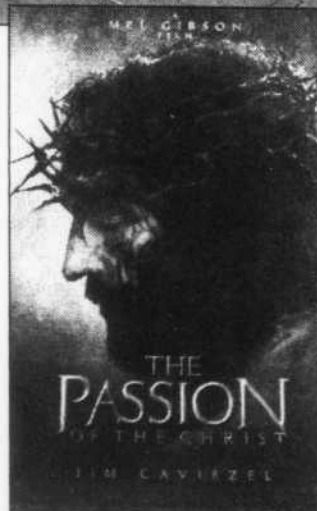


Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

(Above) Moviegoers shuffle out of Carmike Wynnsong 16 on Cason Lane yesterday afternoon. The first and second shows were sold out at that theater, and most of the shows through the weekend were sold out as well.



## Checks stolen from local store

By David Paulson  
Staff Writer

More than \$25,000 was stolen from Jim's Kitchen and Baths on Rutledge Way last weekend. The suspects cashed a total of \$25,599 with 32 forged checks taken from the store.

Officer Terry Spence of the Murfreesboro Police Department spoke to store owner James McNeil. McNeil stated that the store was broken into between Friday afternoon and Monday morning. The suspects took 40 checks from an unlocked filing cabinet.

All of the forged checks were cashed by Suntrust Bank over the weekend.

"The checks were passed at numerous branches in town and out of town," Spence said.

According to police reports, the suspects appear to be Hispanic due to the names marked on each check.

Suntrust Bank was notified of the forgeries. The checks are currently being investigated by the Detective Division.

A vehicle that was not returned to Access Car Rental on Broad Street has now been reported as stolen. The suspect, Franklin Bransford, rented a 2003 Chevrolet Cavalier from the business on Feb. 13.

The car was supposed to be returned on Feb. 16. Both the store owner and the suspect's insurance agent have attempted to reach Bransford by telephone, but no contact has been made.

Bransford told Access Car Rental that he had "totaled" his personal vehicle.

He listed his occupation as "student" on his application. Police checked with MTSU student registry and did not find him listed. An arrest warrant was to be obtained Wednesday. ♦

## Strict policy for UT

By Matt Gouras  
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The University of Tennessee's next president will likely face much stricter policies than the man blamed for lavish spending on travel, entertainment and home furnishings.

Spending rules for the next president will be examined next week by the UT Board of Trustees, part of an ongoing process to replace a president who embarrassed the school and angered state officials with his conduct.

Trustees already have decided that UT's next president must undergo three interviews and numerous background checks, hoping a more public search will produce a president with integrity and enthusiasm.

A new president is expected to be chosen by April 21.

John Shumaker stepped down as UT president in August. Shumaker's actions — which included spending \$97,000 for a walk-in closet and sun room addition, \$4,800 for gas grill and \$7,000 for Persian carpet — came at a time when the school was coping with state budget cuts by raising student tuition.

New spending rules were hammered out at a trustee committee meeting Wednesday, and include restrictions on use of the school airplane and housing upgrades. More comprehensive travel rules are also in the works.

"One thing the Shumaker thing has shown is that there has to be some oversight," said

## Gamblin' fools



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Although the Tennessee lottery is a boon for students, gambling addicts often spend a large portion of their income on tickets.

## Lottery a vice instead of a virtue for some

By B.J. Chaplin  
Staff Writer

Although the Tennessee lottery is still in its infancy — it's only slightly more than one month old — some businesses have already noticed a steady number of ticket-purchasing "regulars."

Lottery opponents argued that the increased risk of gambling addiction was one of the reasons to vote against bringing a lottery to Tennessee. Fifty-eight per-

cent of Tennesseans voting on the issue, however, voted successfully to allow for the lottery.

"The purpose of the Tennessee Lottery is to raise funds for scholarships for Tennessee students," reads a statement on Tennessee's official lottery Web site. "While the lottery is designed to be an affordable form of entertainment, we ask that players enjoy the games responsibly."

"With responsible play,

everybody wins."

The number of compulsive gamblers in Tennessee may be hard to determine at so early a date. Some local businesses, nonetheless, have taken note of some very loyal lottery ticket patrons.

Vernecia Woods, a cashier at Exxon Tiger Market located at 1849 E. Northfield Blvd., said that the number of lottery tickets sold surprises her.

"Everybody's buying like it's going to end tomorrow,"

she said. "I guess because it's so new to Tennessee."

Woods said that the service station can make up to \$1,500 a day in lottery ticket sales. She added that for the most hardcore players — who spend an average of \$30-\$40 regularly on lottery tickets — any winnings are usually channeled right back into purchasing more tickets.

One customer was dismayed because she had to work full-time instead of part-time, conflicting with

her lottery playing time, Woods explained.

"I won't be coming back," the customer said, according to Woods.

Woods said she asked her why she would not be returning.

"I won't be able to come back here and buy lottery tickets," she replied, according to Woods.

A Smyrna service station cashier said that business

See Lottery, 6

## 'Fuddy Meers' hits Darkhorse theater tonight



Photo provided

*Fuddy Meers*, a contemporary play first performed in 1999, will be in Nashville this weekend.

By Melissa Coker  
Staff Writer

Leaping into Nashville tonight is *Fuddy Meers*, a darkly shaded comedic play hosted by rental space The Darkhorse Theater.

Over its 12-year history, the Darkhorse has played host to such shows as *Julius Caesar*, *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*, and *Que Sera Sera*. Concurrently being produced in England, this tale of amusing mystery spun by *Fuddy Meers* is woven with help from its interesting cast of characters.

Claire, an amnesia-ailed wife, is joined by Millet (an ex-

convict with a foul-mouthed puppet), her husband Richard, mother Gertie (who speaks in gibberish due to a stroke) and more. It is actually from Gertie that the play gets its name.

As audience and play participants alike are guided through a funhouse of mirrors, Gertie can't pronounce the words "funny mirror." Instead what's said is "fuddy meers," and a title is born. And it turns out that the mirror may serve as a metaphor, too.

"I would definitely describe *Fuddy Meers* as dark comedy," says executive producer Susan Howe. "People get shot and puppets get stabbed."

Howe and Artistic Director Jaz Dorsey have teamed together financially and creatively to bring this David Lindsay-Abaire creation to Nashville for a very short time. Through Dorsey, the Southern Writers' Theater is working with the Public Theatre of Kentucky to present the story. Since its premiere at the Manhattan Theater Club in the fall of 1999, it has been performed more than 100 times both nationwide and abroad.

It has been translated into several languages, and is currently being developed into a motion picture produced by Jonathan Weisgal and Sarah Jessica Parker. In addition,

acclaimed author David Lindsay-Abaire is currently adapting his work *Kimberly Akimbo* into a screenplay for Steven Spielberg.

The Public Theatre of Kentucky cast includes Christopher H. Cherry (who directed the production), Joan Needham, Dirk May, Nathaniel Colburn, John Keabler, Tova Shinall and Rebecca Spiers.

"*Fuddy Meers* is one of the most brilliant plays I have ever seen," says Dorsey, a playwright and director who relocated to Nashville in 1999 after a few years on the New York theater

See Play, 6



# high school Basketball ROUND UP

By David Hunter  
Senior Staff Writer

The quarterfinal round of the District 7-AAA tournament took place Monday and Tuesday in White County with eight teams being sent home until next season.

The girls' action began Monday afternoon when No. 1 seed and host White County blew out No. 8 seed Siegel High 73-33.

Four players scored in double figures for the Warriorettes, with Brooke Sunday leading the way with 15 points. Keela Henry added 12, while Molly McFadden and Amanda Lewis had 11 and 10 points respectively.

Tikendra Jones had 10 points for the Lady Stars. Siegel finishes out their first season at 6-22.

White County (23-7) earned a spot to next week's Region 4-AAA tournament.

The No. 2 seed Oakland High defeated No. 7 seed Lebanon for the third time this season. However, this game was closer than the other two contests. In Monday's game the Lady Patriots had to hold off the Blue Devils 50-40. Oakland defeated Lebanon, 64-36 and 53-27 in the first two games between the two teams.

Tara Jones had 15 points to lead Oakland, while Tara Davis added 14 points. Kristin Kirkland had 14 for Lebanon. Lebanon ends the season at 3-26, while Oakland improves to 20-5. The Lady Patriots gained a spot in the Regional Tournament.

The No. 3 seed Cookeville High defeated No. 7 Warren County 64-33. Cookeville improves to 21-10, and plays Oakland tonight at 7 p.m. in the semifinals. Cookeville also earns a spot in the Regional tournament next week.

Warren County is done for the year at 15-10.

The final girls' quarterfinal had No. 5 seed Blackman High defeat No. 4 seed Riverdale High for the first time this season, 70-56.

Nikki Hughes scored 22 points to lead the Lady Blaze, while Anne Marie Lanning had 21 to lead Riverdale.

Riverdale ends the season at 22-8, while Blackman improves to 17-11. The Lady Blaze will take on White County this afternoon at 4 p.m. in the other semifinal.

Blackman has a spot in next week's Regional 4-AAA tournament.

On Tuesday night, the boys' played their quarterfinal

games.

No. 1 seed, Riverdale High took care of No. 8 seed Warren County 72-49.

LaBrian Lyons had 16 points to lead the Warriors, while Reece Bishop had 14 points for Warren County.

Warren County finishes the season at 7-20, while Riverdale improves to 24-6.

No. 2 Oakland got payback with a 66-54 victory over host No. 7 White County. Three weeks earlier, White County defeated Oakland 60-44 on their home floor.

Ro Murray had 16 points tops for the Patriots, while Seth England scored 23 to lead White County.

White County finishes the year at 12-17, while Oakland improves to 19-6. The Patriots also has a spot in next week's Region 4-AAA tournament.

No. 3 Blackman earned a spot in the semifinals with a 30-point blowout of No. 7 Cookeville 70-40.

David Price had 15 points to lead the Blaze, while Kris Lee and Isaiah Phillips each added 14 points. Zac Hennigan had 11 points for Cookeville.

Cookeville is done for the season with a record of 16-14, while Blackman goes to 19-9 with a spot in the region 4-AAA tournament.

The Blazers will face Oakland for the fourth time this season tonight at 8:30 p.m.

The final quarterfinal had No. 4 Lebanon ending No. 5 Siegel High's first season by the score of 71-61.

Andrew Donald had 18 points for the Blue Devils, while Keith Ramsey had 22 to lead the Stars.

Lebanon improves to 18-12, while Siegel finishes their opening season at 15-13. Lebanon earns a berth to the Region 4-AAA tournament.

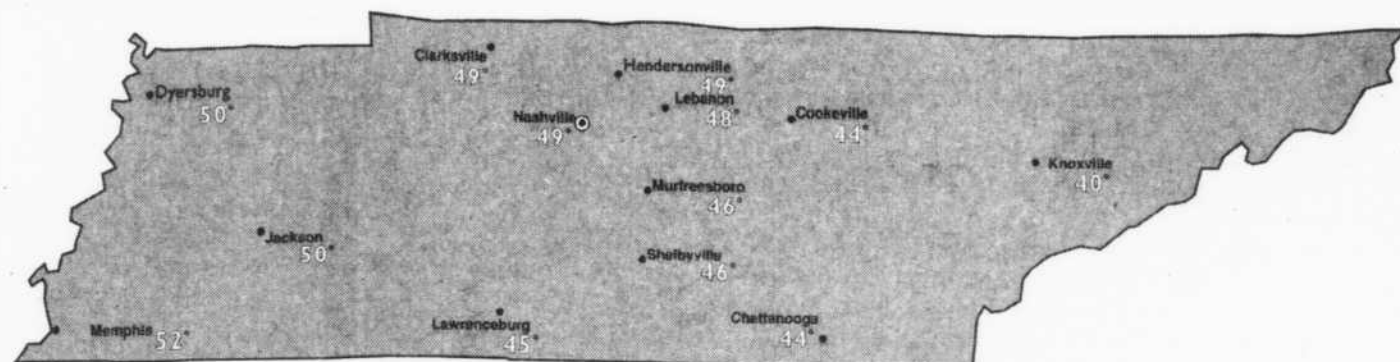
Lebanon plays Riverdale in the other semifinal at 5:30 p.m. today.

The finals and consolation games will be Friday night.

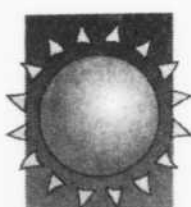
A recap of the semifinals, finals, and a preview of the Region 4-AAA tournament will be in Monday's issue. ♦

## Tennessee Weather – Thursday's Highs

From the Associated Press

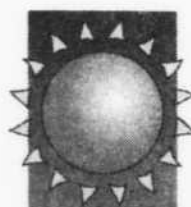


Friday



55° ▲  
28° ▼

Saturday



58° ▲  
37° ▼

Sunday



62° ▲  
50° ▼

Monday



57° ▲  
42° ▼

Tuesday



46° ▲  
30° ▼

## UT: Spending rules for president

Continued from 4

trustee Jim Murphy.

The next president, who will take office by July 1, will earn \$400,000 to \$500,000 annually, substantially less than the more than \$700,000 compensation package Shumaker received.

The proposals adopted by the committee Wednesday would curb the use of the school's airplane, which auditors said Shumaker used for personal trips.

The proposals, going in front

of the full board next Thursday, also would ban the university from making direct payments to a president's university-issued credit card, which Shumaker used for a variety of purchases. And more documentation and justification would be needed for expenditures.

New housing rules would set limits on how much the president could spend on furnishing public areas of the house provided by the university, and would outline the types of living expenses the next president

would have to pay for.

In the past, many of the UT system's expense rules were made by the president – who had authority to make exceptions. Trustees said they want to set policies the next president cannot bend.

"It ought to be as simple as the president can't make exceptions for himself or herself," said retired UT President Joe Johnson, who is working in the job on an interim basis until a successor is chosen.

Johnson said Shumaker did a

number of things he had never seen done before by a school president.

"The best way to deal with that is to make sure you have someone straight forward and honest," he said.

The school has had five presidents in the last four years.

Shumaker's predecessor, J. Wade Gilley, resigned in June 2001 citing health reasons amid allegations of an improper relationship with a female administrator. ♦

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Drink 2 & Go Back 2

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Drink 1

**Did Someone Say Tennis?**  
Drink 1

**Lars The Masseur Says: Some Girls Are Tighter than others**  
Drink 1 & Go Back 1

**S-exercise With Jenny**  
Drink 1

**Caught Playing Cocks & Quarters!**  
Drink 2 & Go Back 2

**Your Mother Is Not Here I Am Your Mother**  
Drink 1

**You Survived! Now Have Another And Hit The Theaters!**  
GO!

**Start Here!**  
Drink 1  
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# OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Thursday, February 26, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 7

From the Editorial Board

## TBR should address Allen's civil claim

With Tammie Allen's civil claim against the Tennessee Board of Regents system, Sidney McPhee both as an individual and as the president of MTSU, Charles Manning as the chancellor of the TBR and the state of Tennessee, we wonder how the sexual harassment claim filed last fall has escalated to this.

It's unfortunate that Allen felt the only way to truly be heard was to file the claim. It's equally unfortunate that Allen must continue to work in such an environment at an institution that appears to have brushed aside her claim. McPhee is an employee at this university, and so is Allen. The TBR should have avoided appearing biased toward one party and should take this opportunity to fully address and investigate Allen's current claim.

The TBR should realize that in trying to protect both their image and the image of this university by attempting to appease the involved parties and minimize public scrutiny, they're only hurting the image. Regardless of their intentions, the way this claim has been handled sends a message that the investigation was anything but unbiased.

Whether or not the investigation was slanted, as Allen claims, we don't know, having not been present during the investigation. However, the TBR should have conducted the investigation in a manner that would not have even raised a question of integrity or thoroughness.

Allowing this potentially biased image to be projected only reflects poorly on both the TBR and the university and shifts the focus away from the importance of Allen's claim.

It's time to consider what's best for the university's future, even if that means a new president.

The job of a university's president is to raise funds and to project a positive image both of oneself and of one's institution. That's hard to do when rumors of sexual harassment persist for five months with no end in sight. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

## Woman wants weed, gets organs instead

After a bizarre turn of events, one must wonder who's dumber: The woman who came to pick up a shipment of marijuana or the airline employees who switched her shipment with transplant organs.

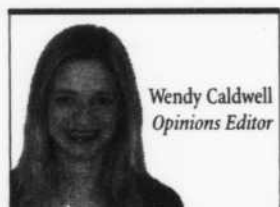
The woman and a man were arrested for attempting to smuggle 140 pounds of the popular drug.

Upon exiting the aircraft, the woman, whom police later identified as Tabatha Bracken, went to pick up her package. At least she was smart enough to use a false ID when picking up the shipment.

Here's the kicker: The airline was also transporting another expensive shipment, this one with organs kept at -275 degrees Fahrenheit. The organs, as one would assume, were set for transplant, the recipients being in Ontario, Canada and Buffalo, N.Y.

What a rude awakening she had when she opened the packages expecting marijuana and instead found a pulmonary valve and a saphenous vein.

Yikes. What a predicament. She really needed the marijuana for busi-



Wendy Caldwell  
Opinions Editor

ness purposes, but she had no need for the organs and no way to get rid of them without returning them to authorities, who would no doubt question her about how she ended up with the transplants.

At some point that night, a person called the airline inquiring about the drug shipment. Definitely the works of a criminal mastermind.

Bracken then went to the Delta ticket counter and attempted to exchange the organs for the drugs.

Naturally, the plan went awry, and Bracken was arrested, in addition to Dalvan Robinson, whom police arrested when he tried to flee the scene.

The organs were successfully delivered to the hospitals for transplant surgery.

In the future, Bracken should think twice about what she checks and what she carries on, if she's released. ♦

## Feminism exists in daily life

When you've finished reading this column, I want you to look around. I'm certain you'll find at least one woman nearby, going about her day as she always does.

She isn't remarkable because of what she's doing, or how; she's remarkable simply because she's doing it. She's a feminist, and, more than likely, she doesn't even know it.

I thought for a long time that feminism was dead, something held onto long past its expiration date. What I didn't realize then is that it's not feminism that's dead; it's that particular brand of feminism.

The war is over. We've proved our rights, and we're here to stay. Now we find ourselves in the reconstruction period, and we're failing miserably.

Feminism is no longer about loud protests, anger and vitriol. Passive discussion and endless reams of informational pamphlets, while good supplements, shouldn't be our focus either. Many "feminists," however, don't seem to understand that.

What we should be doing now is demonstrating that we've



And So It Goes

Sarah Crotzer  
Staff Columnist

earned what our mothers and grandmothers fought so hard for. We accomplish this simply by doing, and doing well. Each and every woman who gets up in the morning, goes out and does what she does best is carrying the standard for real, modern feminism.

For too long we've limited ourselves by separating each other into stereotypes with labels: white, black, rich, poor, old, young, thin, fat, gay, straight, single, married and many more. It happens in casual conversation, in meetings, in literature — and it hurts us all.

We're all women. We're all united by our drive to succeed, and the more we try, no matter how small the step, the more we help ourselves and others around us. Why do we need labels and segregation?

Men shouldn't be excluded either, because a person needn't be

female to be a feminist. Although abusive men (and women) certainly exist, there are also loving and supportive boyfriends, fathers, brothers, sons, friends and neighbors. Yet there are women out in the world who seem completely oblivious to this.

In fact, much of that so-called feminism seems to ride on the idea that men-bashing, and reverse misogyny are good. I've met many "feminists" who demonstrate that their goal is to be better than men or, even worse, "just like" men in their put-downs of the opposite sex.

It's time to give up those ideas. They're getting us nowhere.

Starting Sunday, the June Anderson Women's Center will be having a women's film festival at the Keathley University Center Theater from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. This will be followed by two more days of films on March 7 and March 14. All the films are free, and you can get more information by calling 898-2193.

If you go to the festival (and I highly recommend you do) you'll see films produced, written and even directed by women, with

wonderful actresses who may or may not know. These women are proving themselves through their craft, and in so doing, may motivate other women to do the same.

On a less obvious scale, this true form of empowerment happens all around us every day. Across campus, women continue to touch each other's lives and bring out the best in them.

Every woman has a story; every one has fears she fights, odds she surmounts. Because of that, we should be able to find endless inspiration in each other.

Someone inadvertently inspired me to write this column today, and I hope that, if nothing else, the same column puts a spring in another person's step. Tiny things like that are more powerful than any organized demonstration.

Feminism is alive and well and everywhere around us. That's worth celebrating in any way we can. ♦

Sarah Crotzer is a junior English major and can be reached via e-mail at saroz@aol.com

## Modern art unattractive

The general public may find much, though not all, of the art on this campus is quite ugly.

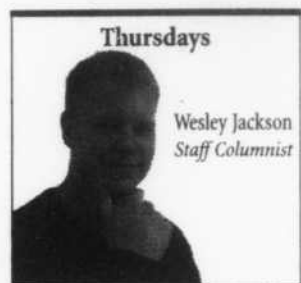
The sculptures around the Art Barn and that hideous, rusted over "Rite of Passage" structure between Kirksey Old Main and Jones Hall might be examples of such repulsive objects.

Few would ever voice this opinion. Most have learned the lesson to keep quiet, punished by the sniggling, snickering elitist crowds of artists and academics who gather in dark corners (coffee shops) and point at the masses of people who "don't get it," who don't understand why art has to be so ugly and distorted.

One of my chief complaints about modern art and the eyesores displayed on campus is the apparent lack of understanding of art. We don't seem to know what to do with it. It's as if all the arguments for the purpose and nature of art have all collapsed into a void of uncertainty such that anything can be considered a worthy museum piece. Art is what an artist does, and no one is prepared to say otherwise.

Many of our sculptures around campus aren't bad, but anyone could have produced them. Anybody who has taken enough classes to be an art major could make the same thing.

There's nothing uniquely skillful or remarkable about it, noth-



Thursdays

Wesley Jackson  
Staff Columnist

ing that really stands out.

Another feature of our campus art is that it merely follows the current artistic trends. It's shoddy, postmodern work that feebly grasps at depressing, nihilistic philosophy in the hopes that a long face and a sense of emotional constipation will give it profundity and justification. The sculpture or painting doesn't reflect the beliefs and sincerity of the artist so much as the latest, bleeding edge fashions in the art world.

The artist has sold out.

A criticism like this is as valid for a Robert Rauschenberg and the like trying to catch the next wave of shock-value popularity as it is for Thomas Kinkadee and his mass produced, Hallmark-like landscapes.

A further objection is that a lot of modern art seems to show an ignorance of the connection between the message or content of a work of art and its medium. We don't understand the way we paint something is just as important as the thing painted. An understanding of content and form, of medium and message, are crucial for a great work of

art. It's crucial because art is about expression and communication. Ignorance of medium and message will only produce confusion.

Certain artists may claim their art merely echoes the confusion and meaninglessness of the world and a philosophy of hopelessness. In some ways, these artists, like those of the Dada movement, have accurately matched their medium and message. In other ways, they've missed the boat. If life is so meaningless, there's no point in creating any kind of art to begin with.

The very nature of art rests on the idea that certain things are important and deserve to be expressed, to be called into being. Art exists on the belief that life is meaningful, in spite of the pain and suffering.

As a result, the content of all really great art will be in harmony with the life-affirming values of beauty, goodness and truth. This doesn't mean all great art will be pretty and attractive but that it will ultimately show forth the redemptive quality of life.

So don't despair if you don't "get" modern art. It probably just means you have a deep love for life. ♦

Wesley Jackson is a junior English major and can be reached via e-mail at wtj2b@mtsu.edu.

## New musicians lack originality

Aspiring artists who journey to the Nashville area usually have a distinct look. They're either young, polished girls with stars in their eyes and a twang in their voice or of the breed that's relatively contradictory to Music City's national image.

The number of screaming, writhing rock bands on this scene astounds me.

I came to Music City almost three years ago expecting blues, country and Christian to be so available I'd eventually vomit at the mere sound of a steel guitar. My expectations weren't off-target.

After spending countless evenings in cramped bars comparing the angst of one black-clad band to the startlingly similar angst of the band from the night before, I feel queasy when that first blood-curdling scream announces the beginning of yet another wannabe Limp Bizkit show.

When I see fliers on campus saying, "Female singer needed. Voice must be identical to Amy Lee of Evanescence," I cringe.

The music scene already has an Evanescence. It already has a Limp Bizkit. There's a whole slew of screaming rockers out there getting paid big bucks for being so angry. Why would the industry pay someone else to do the same thing?

There's a difference between the true musicians in this town and the wannabes. True artists can actually sing, write and play. They're versatile, and if they're mimicking a style (such as rap-rock), they sound as good as the originals.

Most true artists don't want to sound like someone else. They have influences, but they use them to come up with their own fresh sound to bring something new to music.

I won't speak for artists and say they don't want success, but not everyone wants to sacrifice quality and true expression for the sake of being mass-produced.

This doesn't only apply to the music world. There are talented writers who'll never be on the bestselling list



Think About It

Lindsay Palmer  
Staff Columnist

because they refuse to follow a publisher's suggested formula.

There are independent filmmakers who'll never break into the Hollywood scene because they'd rather create a living moment on the screen no matter what it costs them.

Their script may be more effective without the clichéd suspense or the hot sex scene that shows up in most blockbusters.

And of course the best visual artists never seem to be discovered until several years after they're dead.

If a true artist does have the need to see his or her expression appreciated by others, there seems to be one thing that publishers, directors and managers all look for.

The book *Confessions of a Record Producer* calls it "the burning desire to create."

"They did not choose music," Moses Avalon, music engineer, said. "Music chose them. It's a dedication that is often underappreciated by labels."

This breed of artist seems rare in Murfreesboro, where, on a simple walk to class, I overheard at least three different people discussing how so-and-so should "get signed" soon.

But it's there. For every thousand howling wannabe rock bands there are a few solid bands that have more passion for the music than money and fame.

They have enough talent to move their audience with the music they create.

There's no reason why true artistry shouldn't or couldn't be marketable. It's just that with true artistry comes true passion and the belief that the art itself takes top priority. ♦

Lindsay Palmer is a senior mass communication major and can be reached via e-mail at lnp2f@mtsu.edu.

## SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee  
State University  
1301 East Main Street  
P.O. Box 8  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editorial: 898-2337  
Advertising: 898-2333  
Fax: 904-8193  
www.mtsusidelines.com

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Campus News Editors

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## MT Men's Basketball

Next Game Feb. 26  
Western Kentucky  
at Murphy Center  
Tipoff at 7 p.m.

# SPORTS

## MT Women's Basketball

Next Game Feb. 26  
Lady Raiders  
at Western Kentucky  
Tipoff at 2 p.m.

8 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## Baseball squad rocks the road this weekend



MT sophomore Jeff Beachum swings and misses in MT's 4-0 win over IPFW Saturday. Blue Raider pitcher John Williams (not pictured) threw MT's first no-hitter for the win.

Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer

By Katy Hamlett  
Staff Writer

After a three-game sweep over Indiana University-Purdue Fort Wayne last weekend, the Blue Raiders begin an eight-game road trip in Jacksonville, Ala., this weekend, facing Jacksonville State University in a three-game series.

Though 2004 marks the Gamecocks' inaugural season in the Ohio Valley Conference, the team is already making an impact in their new league home. A preseason poll picked the Gamecocks to win the OVC title.

"Jacksonville State has a traditionally strong team," Middle Tennessee head coach and JSU alumnus Steve Peterson said. "They are entering the OVC with 10-plus years playing as a great Division I-A ball club."

The Gamecocks ended the 2003 season and Atlantic Sun Conference play with a 32-26 record and begin 2004 with 16 returning lettermen and five returning pitchers.

JSU also boasts three 2003 ABL/NBL draft picks, including Jessie Corn, a sixth-round draft pick for the Boston Red Sox.

Simple statistics show the strength of JSU's lineup. Junior first/third baseman Clint Carroll

finished last season with a .344 batting average, and senior outfielder Matt Ruckdeschel batted .328 with 30 runs batted in last year. The Blue Raiders have some strength in numbers as well, with junior third baseman Brett Carroll batting .330 with 52 RBIs and starting in all 60 games last season. Centerfielder Chuck Akers, one of the team's five returning seniors, batted 32 runs and stole 16 bases in 2003, also joining Carroll in all 60 games of the season.

"Akers has shown he is one of the best defensive outfielders in the league," Peterson said. "He's a great athlete and centerfielder."

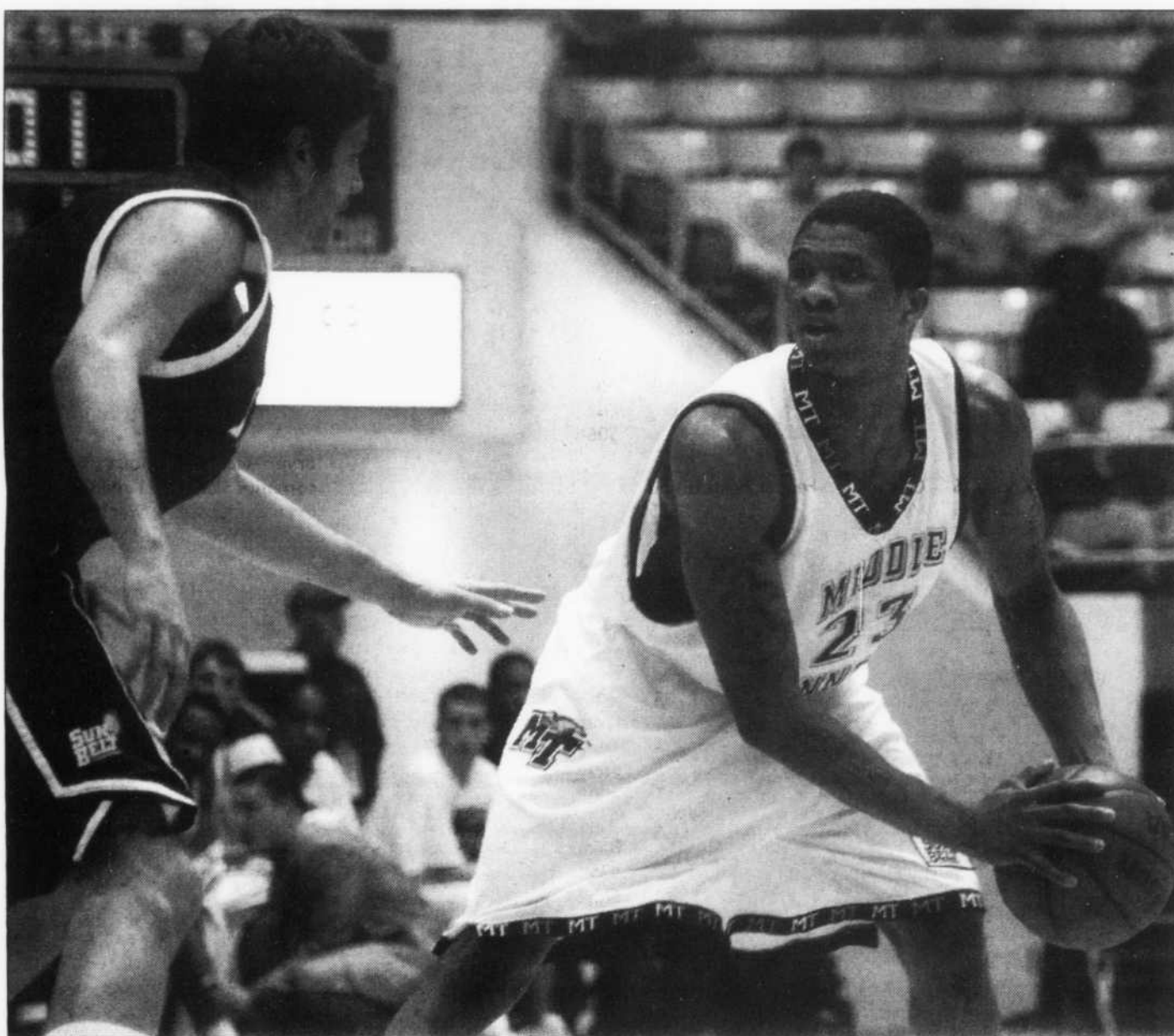
The 4-0 shutout games against IPFW Saturday and Sunday earned Blue Raider pitcher John Williams Sun Belt Conference pitcher of the week Tuesday. The honors came after Collegiate Baseball named Williams National Pitcher of the Week on Monday.

The Gamecocks were swept by baseball powerhouse Louisiana State University last weekend to give JSU a 1-3 record this season.

"They beat Alabama and then to LSU, but I know the team is strong," Peterson said. "But we have a really good start and a good organization. I have a lot of confidence in our boys."

The series is scheduled to start Friday at 3 p.m. at Rudy Abbott Field. ♦

## Blue Raiders ready for WKU, sellout



MT junior Michael Cuffee protects the ball against a University of Denver defender in MT's 65-48 win Feb. 14.

Photo by John Festervand | Staff Photographer

## Operation: Full House close to meeting goal

By Mark Emery  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team faces the biggest game of the season as they take on conference rival Western Kentucky University tonight.

With a victory over the Hilltoppers, the Blue Raiders can move into a tie for second in the Eastern Division of the Sun Belt Conference. More importantly, the Blue Raiders

can improve their conference record to 7-6.

The first game between the two teams was in 1914 and the Hilltoppers lead the all-time series 80-27. They have also won 10 out of the last 11, with the last Blue Raider victory coming at home last year 69-65.

WKU has won six of their last seven games, including a win over Marshall Saturday. Their one loss was to the University of

Arkansas-Little Rock on the road.

The Hilltoppers are led by center Nigel Dixon, a six-foot-11-inch, 320-pound senior. He is coming off career highs of 29 points and 16 rebounds against Marshall. He is fourth in the SBC in scoring, averaging 16 points per game and tied for first in rebounding, averaging 10 a game. Dixon is also first in the conference in field goal percentage at 70 percent.

The Hilltoppers have three other players averaging in double figures in points. Junior Antonio Haynes is averaging 12 points per game and is second in the conference in assists, averaging 4.5 a game. Senior Mike Wells is averaging 16 per game, and sophomore Anthony Winchester is averaging 14 per game.

WKU currently leads the

See Full House, 9

## Women to take on reigning SBC champs

By Jared Hastings  
Staff Writer

There will be more than bragging rights at stake when the Lady Raider basketball team travels to Bowling Green, Ky., Thursday to take on reigning Sun Belt Conference champion Western Kentucky University.

The winner will all but lock up the No. 2 seed in next weekend's SBC tournament. Middle Tennessee (19-6, 9-3 SBC), with a win, could give itself a shot at the top seed in the tournament depending on Arkansas State University's games at home against the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and New Mexico State University.

"Because of the proximity and the rivalry, it's always a big game," head coach Stephany Smith said. "And when you play in Bowling Green, it's always a larger game. I've liked the fact that the last two years we've played in Bowling Green right before the tournament so we can have an

immediate familiarity with the environment."

The Lady Raiders enter today's game as the hottest team in the Sun Belt, having won their previous five games by an average of 15 points per game. But E.A. Diddle Arena is never an easy place to play. The Lady Raiders have won once in Bowling Green since 1981, a span of 11 games. The one win came on Feb. 1, 2001, an 85-83 thriller in Middle Tennessee's first year in the SBC.



Holmes (ranking third) and steals (second behind

teammate Keisha McClinic). Horton leads the league in field goal percentage at 55.7 percent.

The Lady Hilltoppers (14-12, 8-4) boast reigning player of the week and Sun Belt second-leading scorer Tiffany Porter-Talbert. The sophomore post averaged 24.5 points and 9.5 rebounds a game in last weekend's games against Arkansas State and Arkansas-Little Rock.

The Lady Toppers have won the last three in the series including a heartbreaking three-point decision in last year's conference championship game. Lady Raider head coach Stephany Smith says there is some motivation in that, but with the rivalry, along with the importance of this game, there should be no need.

"We want to be the best," Smith said. "Last year we went in there [the conference tournament] playing as well as we ever had and ready to explode. This year, we want to win that. They're the best, and for us to be the best, we're going to have to beat them." ♦

## The Greatest Victory

A month-long tribute

## Consistency, longevity defined Lewis' career

By Matthew Adair  
Staff Writer

Nothing can hold people back from achieving their goals if they pour themselves into their work.

For those who don't believe that sentiment, they need look no further than track star Carl Lewis, nine-time Olympic gold medalist.

Lewis, born Fredrick Alcala, was a thin and feeble-bodied child in his youth. Sports, however, were in his blood. Both of Lewis' parents had serious commitments to athletics, especially his mother, who placed sixth in the 80 meter hurdles at the 1951 Pan-American Games, and his sister Carol Lewis, who became one of the nation's high-school stars in the long jump.

The boy also had the company of the world-famous runner Jesse Owens. His family's closeness to the Berlin Olympic gold medalist, as well as Lewis' own awe in watching Bob Beamon jump for 8.90 meters in the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, drove him to pursue track athletics.

"This may sound funny, but my goal is to become the best of all time," Lewis told University of Houston trainer Tom Tellez at the time.

Lewis made no mistake about living up to this goal. His steady improvement in track made him a promising athlete, prompting trainers to invite him to the national track team. Lewis proved his mettle by jumping 8.13 meters at the Pan-American

Games, the same distance Jesse Owens jumped 25 years before him when he set a world record.

The boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics prevented Lewis from displaying his skills on the world stage. When the Olympics came to Los Angeles in 1984, he knew his chance had arrived. Lewis grabbed the win in the 100-meter dash with a time of 9.99 seconds. In the long jump, however, he fell flat on his second jump after scoring a match-winning 28 feet-1/4 inches jump on his first attempt. Lewis passed on his last two jumps to save energy for the remaining two events, much to the anger of the crowd.

Lewis went on to help the American teams sweep the field events, culminating in earning the 400-meter relay gold medal alongside teammates Sam Graddy, Ron Brown and Calvin Smith with a world-record time of 37.83.

Unfortunately for Carl Lewis, Olympic success didn't translate into business success. Lewis' cocky attitude, combined with his agent's comparison of Lewis to Michael Jackson, hurt Lewis in receiving potential endorsements in the United States.

Lewis' hopes were further dashed in the 1988 Seoul Olympics, when he failed to win three gold medals. He did receive one, however, after Canada's Ben Johnson used illegal steroids to achieve his time of 9.79 in the 100 meters. To Lewis, though, the

See Lewis, 9

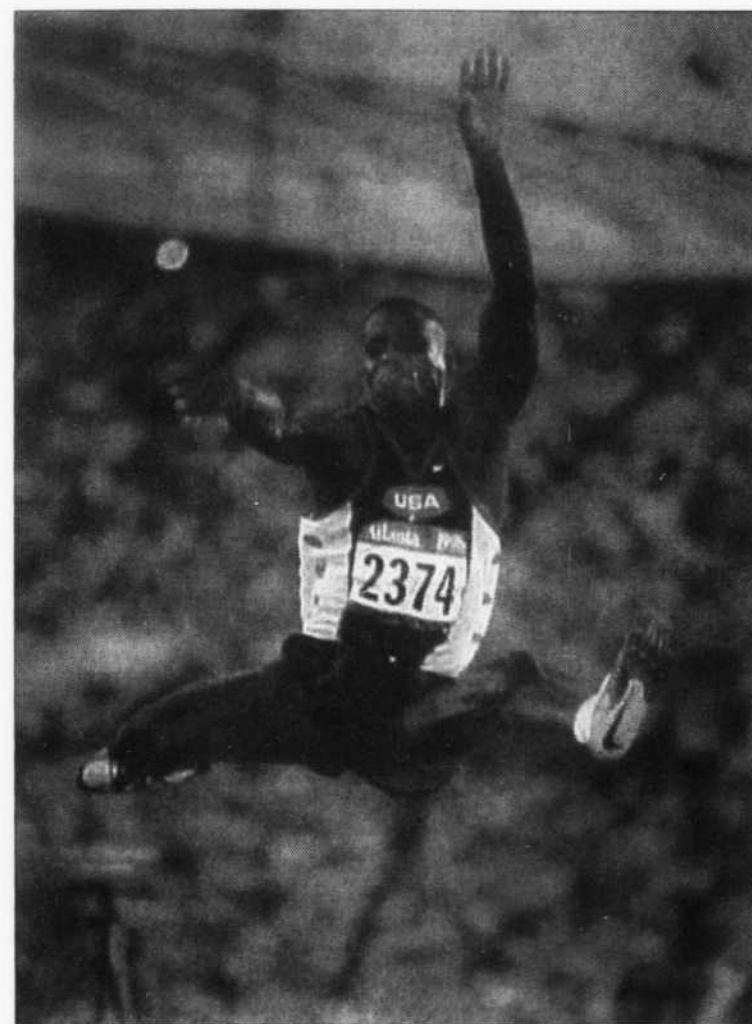


Photo Courtesy of Craigmont.org



# Lady Raiders host Cumberland

By Katy Hamlett  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's softball team begins an intense five-game week with a doubleheader against Cumberland University at home Sunday.

Cumberland's Lady Dawgs finished the 2003 season fifth in the TransSouth Conference and will head into the 2004 season with eight returning starters, including five seniors.

"Cumberland's a good local rivalry for us," MT head coach Cindy Connelley said. "Most of the players on both teams know each other."

The Lady Dawgs open their season tomorrow in Lebanon, Tenn., against Cumberland College and will face Mountain State University Saturday before heading to Murfreesboro to take on the Blue Raiders.

MT heads into the matchup after splitting four games at the South Carolina Invitational. The Lady Raiders claimed two victories against Radford College, 9-4 and 1-0, but fell to the University of South

Carolina 5-2 and the College of Charleston 10-2.

"For the upcoming games one of our main focuses is to be more consistent at the plate and basically to just swing the bat well," Connelley said. "Cortney Mitchell and Brittany Herald are really continuing to perform well in that aspect."

Junior third baseman Dani DeCamino is scheduled to play her first game of the season this Sunday after a three-month recovery period from illness.

The Lady Raiders also hope to see sophomore pitcher Muriel Ledbetter returning after her week-long battle with the flu.

"With Dani and Muriel back in, I think we have some increased confidence," Connelley said.

On the mound, MT boasts University of Tennessee-Knoxville junior transfer Crystal Bobo, who



Bobo

"Crystal will always start, but we hope to get Muriel and Trish White in to pitch in the second game," Connelley said.

The Blue Raiders enter the Cumberland doubleheader with an optimistic attitude, holding a 4-2 record so far this season.

"But at this point, we are really looking ahead to the whole week," Connelley said. "With doubleheaders against Tennessee March 2 and Lipscomb March 4, the team is really going to have some challenges."

The first of the two games against Cumberland is scheduled to start at 1 p.m. Sunday at Lady Raider Field. ♦



Ledbetter

shut out Belmont University in her first game of the season last Wednesday and Radford last Sunday. Bobo will start the first game against Cumberland.

# Full House: Only 600 tickets remain

Continued from 8

SBC in scoring offense, averaging 78 points per game. MT's defense is currently fourth in the SBC in scoring defense, giving up 68 points per game.

Former MTSU professor Aaron Todd is leading Operation: Full House, in which he wants to break the previous Murphy Center attendance record of 11,600 that was set against Austin Peay State University

in 1974.

The school came close to that mark in 1998 against then-No. 3 University of North Carolina, drawing 11,380 fans.

As of 3:15 p.m. yesterday, 600 tickets remained to be sold to the public and 2,700 seats have been set aside for students.

MT officials are advising all fans to arrive by 6:30 p.m. to minimize delays. Tipoff is 7 p.m. ♦

# Lewis: Last gold in '96

Continued from 8

glory of a gold medal win was already gone.

By the time of the next two Olympics, Lewis' age was beginning to catch up to him. He continued to score gold in the long jump, but younger and faster track stars were passing him by in sprints. In the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, he decided to bow out of the sprint events to focus solely on the long jump, which paid off: Lewis earned his ninth and final gold medal in that event.

In the end, Lewis bowed out of his athletic career altogether in 1997 after one final relay competition win in Berlin. He may have been nothing more than a shooting star in the field of track competition, but at his brightest, Carl Lewis lived up to the goal he set years before in his youth to be the greatest track star of all time. ♦

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