

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 23, 2003



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com
What's the most effective way to
prepare for finals week?



Broken Word poets speak volumes

In Living, page 4



An editorially
independent
newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 78 No. 92

Campus Briefs

Blood drive in Keathley University Center today

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive in the Keathley University Center today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Earth Week events last through Saturday

MTSU's weeklong celebration of Earth Week continues tomorrow with a symposium from the Students for Environmental Action at 5 p.m. in the KUC Theatre.

On Friday, the KUC Knoll will host an Earth Day celebration featuring Drums and Tuba, Stephen Gaskin, Juan Prophet Organization, Spooky Johnson and Broken Word.

Also planned is a flat rock cleanup Saturday meeting on the KUC Knoll at 8:30 a.m. to caravan. Volunteers are welcome.

For more information on Earth Week and the week's events, contact Tomi Winfree at 898-5184.

Philosophy and art topic of lecture Friday

Columbia University professor and art critic for *The Nation* Arthur Danto will present a lecture titled "The Body in Philosophy and Art" Friday at 3:45 p.m. in the James Union Building, Room 304.

A reception will take place after the lecture, with the location to be announced. The event is sponsored by the philosophy department.

For more event information, contact the philosophy office at 898-2907

University to host Southern Japan seminar

MTSU will host the Southern Japan seminar and conference on Japan-U.S. Exchange and Education tomorrow beginning at 8 a.m. in the Business and Aerospace Building's SunTrust Room. A reception will be held Saturday at the Foundation Reception House beginning at 5 p.m.

For more event information, call 898-2229. For more information on the reception, contact the Japan-U.S. Program at 898-5751.

Tucker Theatre to host orchestra concert

The Tennessee Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. on Monday in Tucker Theatre.

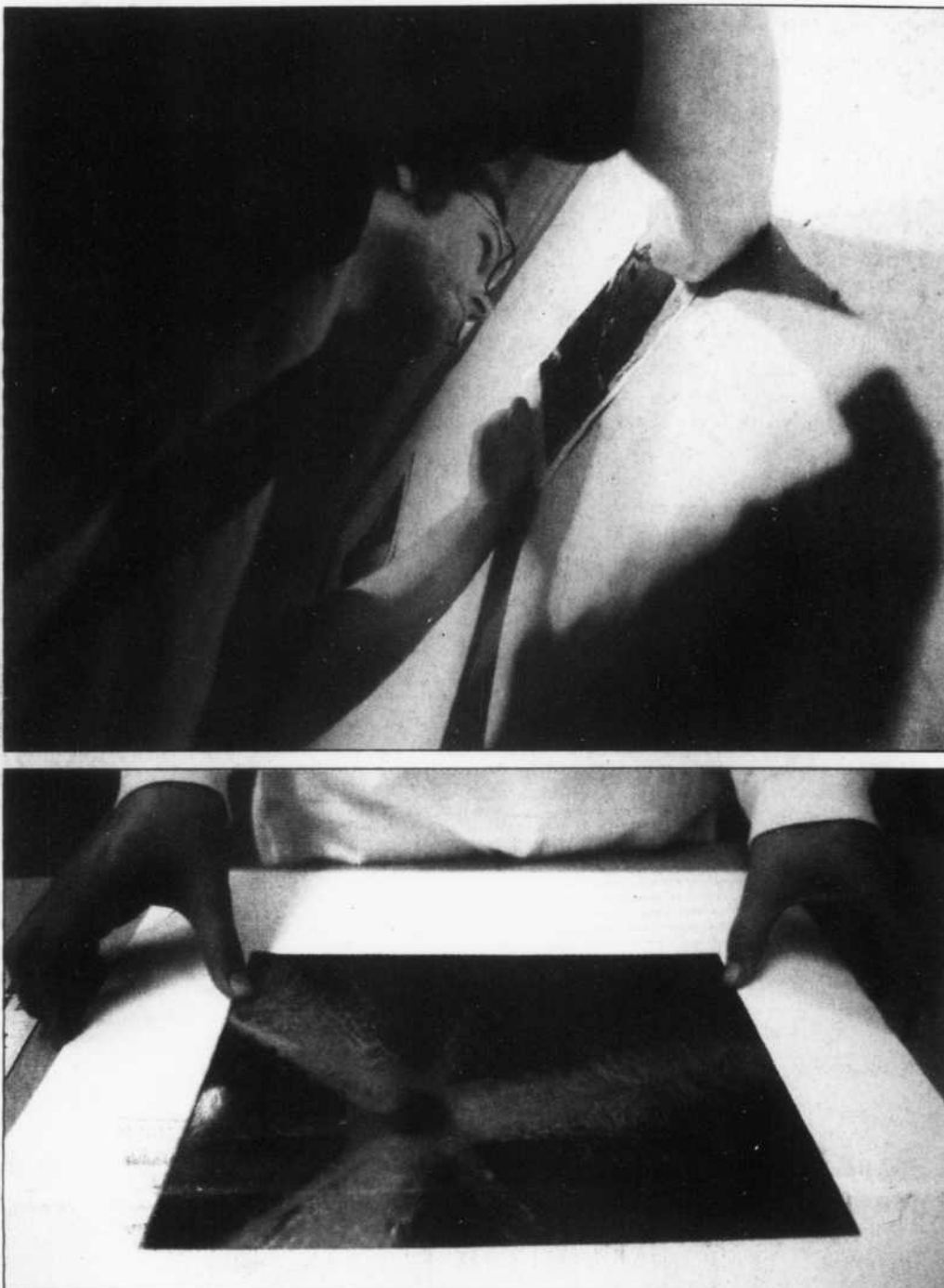
For more information and tickets, call 898-1862. Also performing Tuesday is the University Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. in the Tucker Theatre. The concert is free and open to the public. Contact the School of Music for more information at 898-2493.

Remembrance day for Holocaust Tuesday

Tuesday is Holocaust Remembrance Day.

For more information about the Holocaust and its historical relevance, visit Ben Austin's Web site at www.mtsu.edu/%7Ebaustin/holo.html.

Picture perfect



Photos by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

(Top) Senior photography major Craig Hamilton examines the tones on his print of what he calls the "spooky" house in the photo lab for the Student Photography Show opening Sunday. (Above) Senior Jennifer Jones, also a photography major, mats several flower prints last night for the show.

Rabbi to discuss peace, understanding in religion

By Ian Campbell
Staff Writer

The Chief Rabbi Emeritus of Denmark, Rabbi Bent Melchior, will push for religious understanding and communication Tuesday at 7 p.m. on campus.

His visit, which will be in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the Business and Aerospace Building, commemorates the 60th Anniversary of the rescue of 7,000 Danish Jews during the German occupation of Denmark during World War II.

In the fall of 1943, 13-year-old Melchior narrowly avoided a German plan to deport all

Danish Jews to a concentration camp in Theresienstadt, Czechoslovakia.

Since 1814, Jews were legal citizens of Denmark but after the Nazis invaded Denmark in the spring of 1940, Danish Jews became gravely concerned about their future under German occupation.

Those concerns came to a head during a Rosh Hashanah service on Sept. 29, 1943, when then Chief Rabbi Marcus Melchior, Bent Melchior's father, delivered a stunned announcement to a stunned

See Rabbi, 2



Photo provided by Randy Weiler
Rabbi Melchior will discuss effects of religious turmoil.

Local cave art holds history

Professor talks on importance of conservation

By Andrew Crowley
Contributor

To better understand American Indian cave art and the stories the art tells, archaeologists have mapped caves in Tennessee and surrounding states for the past 25 years.

Professor Jan Simek talked about these stories and the research on cave art as part of the visiting lecture series, "Anthropologica: Anthropology in Action," held Monday.

Simek is currently a profes-

sor of anthropology at the University of Tennessee and an expert on prehistoric cave art. He is also part of a research team that has discovered more than 50 caves in the Southeastern United States containing these endangered works.

Simek told students and faculty that of the more than 50 caves discovered that contain cave art, only 11 have been mapped so far.

He also said the caves are being mapped so archaeologists can compare them and find similarities in the caves' art patterns.

So far, archaeologists found that the art seems to follow a similar pattern in most of the mapped caves.

"Clearly these are journeys," Simek said. "The cave itself tells a story."

Simek notes that, while cave art clearly tells a story, no one knows what that story is.

"It's not simply a static image without reference. I don't know what the story is, but clearly they did," Simek said.

While studying cave art, archaeologists noticed most of it focused on ancestors and death, warriors and warfare or a concern for nature.

In many caves, archaeologists found the three elements in a certain pattern. There would be drawings of warriors and mythological characters

See Cave art, 2

Earth Day celebration to start today

Economic, social issues to be explored

By Juanita Thouin
Staff Writer

The Keathley University Center Knoll will come alive today, tomorrow and Friday with a variety of Earth Day events.

Sponsored by Student Programming and Students for Environmental Action, the events include live music, a guest speaker, a symposium and informational booths.

Wisconsin Sen. Gaylord Nelson proclaimed the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. Nelson wanted to set aside a day to celebrate and clean up the environment.

Since then, Earth Day spotlights a variety of issues related to a sustainable lifestyle. These include economic, social and global concerns, including North American Free Trade Agreement, migrant workers, the environmental impact of war, alternate fuels and the vegan diet.

SEA member Tomi Winfree said her organization believes raising awareness is one of the keys to a better tomorrow.

"Most people think, 'Oh I'm just one person. What can I do?' But if the university comes together, we can make a great impact," Winfree said.

Jennifer Kirk, director of Student Programming, agreed with Winfree.

"We think it's important to have an Earth Day event. Students need to be informed," Kirk said.

Today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. MTSU's Career Center, along with area businesses, will present information on the Knoll regarding jobs related to environmental issues. Items such as organic foods will also be for sale.

Tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., SEA will give out vegan food samples, and other organizations will display informational booths. DJs Jolby and Dank will spin records from noon until 3 p.m.

A symposium will take place tomorrow evening at 5 p.m. in the KUC Theatre. Faculty members Jackie Eller and Mark Abolins as well as a member of the American Indian Movement will be among the many speakers. Several students are also slated to speak.

Friday's events get started at noon with guest speaker Stephen Gaskin.

Gaskin, a self-proclaimed hippie, established The Farm, one of the most significant hippie communes in the world, in Summertown, Tenn. He is the author of *Cannabis Spirituality* and *Haight-Ashbury Flashbacks*.

Immediately following Gaskin, students will be entertained by Broken Word, a poetry group that has performed on HBO and PBS; Spooky Johnson's Rock 'n' Roll Band and Juan Prophet Organization, a band featuring an eclectic array of music will also

See Earth Day, 2

War Briefs

France proposes suspending Iraq sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — After staunchly opposing the U.S.-led war against Saddam Hussein, France made a surprise proposal yesterday to meet the United States halfway by calling for the immediate suspension of crippling economic sanctions on Iraq. U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte stuck by President Bush's demand that because of "the dramatically changed circumstances within Iraq," sanctions should be lifted entirely — not just suspended.

Iraqi Shiites worship at Karbala shrine

KARBALA, Iraq (AP) — Swaying and chanting, some bleeding from self-inflicted wounds of ritual mourning, an estimated 1 million Shiite Muslims marched to this city's holy shrine yesterday, celebrating their freedom from years of repression by Saddam Hussein's regime. The large turnout for the pilgrimage, which ends tomorrow, highlighted the power and potential of Iraq's majority Shiite community. Despite bitter internal differences the Shiites, who represent 60 percent of Iraq's 24 million people, were able to pull off the event on short notice and thus far without violence.

Bush gives Greenspan nod for fifth term

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, seeking to calm financial markets in uncertain times, said yesterday he would nominate Alan Greenspan for a fifth term as chairman of the Federal Reserve. Bush's endorsement came 14 months before the end of Greenspan's current four-year term and on the same day the 77-year-old Fed chairman underwent surgery for an enlarged prostate.

Columbia investigators consider wing seal

HOUSTON (AP) — Columbia investigators said yesterday they are growing more certain of what brought down the shuttle: A seal on the left wing was struck by foam during liftoff and fell off the next day, creating a gap that let in enough scorching gases during re-entry to rip the ship apart. A seal from Columbia's left wing is now believed to be the mystery object that floated away in orbit and it was almost certainly struck by something — like a chunk of foam — before it came off, the accident investigators said.

Crime Log

Monday, April 7 – 12:02 a.m.

Burglary Corlew Hall

Complainants claim someone broke into a room at an unknown time and stole money.

Monday, April 7 – 136 p.m.

Traffic Scarlett Commons

A hit and run occurred.

Wednesday, April 9 – 12:20 p.m.

Theft James E. Walker Library

An unattended backpack was stolen from the periodical section.

Wednesday, April 9 – 2:45 p.m.

Theft James E. Walker Library

A calculator and book were stolen.

Wednesday, April 9 – 9:59 p.m.

Vandalism Bell Street parking lot

There was an attempted break in to a vehicle.

Thursday, April 10 – 3:27 a.m.

Drunkenness Bell Street parking lot

Joe T. Martin was arrested for public intoxication.

Thursday, April 10 – 12:48 p.m.

Theft Lyon Hall

Lost checkbook and credit cards in Recreation Center. ♦

To report a crime or emergency, call Public Safety at 898-2424. Report crime-related tips by calling Crime Stoppers at 893-STOP.

Earth Day: Events will conclude with litter cleanup

Continued from I

perform
Around 6:30 p.m., Drums and Tuba will perform. The band gained local fame when they performed at last year's Bonnaroo Music Festival. They are currently touring the South, promoting their newest album, *Mostly Ape*.

In the event of rain, Friday's events will be held at Tucker Theatre.

SEA will wrap up the weekly events with a litter cleanup at Flat Rock Natural Area. Students interested in volunteering can meet on the KUC Knoll at 8 a.m. to caravan.

All Earth Day events are free and open to the public. ♦

Rabbi: Communication between religions focus of lecture

Continued from I

congregation that the Nazis had two German passenger ships harbored in Copenhagen's port, ready to take 5,000 Jews to Germany and later to Czechoslovakia, as well as buses ready to take 2,500 more.

"Subsequently and spontaneously, the Danish population, both the underground and ordinary Danes, organized a nationwide effort to smuggle their fellow citizens out of Denmark to neutral Sweden and safety," said Lon Nuell, an art professor at MTSU.

In perhaps the most daring underground operation of the

war, Danes from all walks of life helped shelter their Jewish neighbors and pass them along to the Danish coast, where they were ferried by fishing boats across a two-mile channel into Sweden.

Sympathetic Swedes supported the refugees, providing food and shelter.

In just a few days, more than 7,000 Jews made their way into Sweden without notice from their German captors, thanks in no small part to the Danish military, who refused to cooperate with Nazi man hunts.

The Germans captured 481 Danish Jews and sent them to Czechoslovakia, but the support

from Danish citizens did not stop there. The Danes frequently sent clothes, food and vitamins to their captive compatriots, and in June 1944 the Danish government insisted the Red Cross be allowed to inspect the conditions of the camp.

Of the 481 people captured, 404 survived – a tribute to the loyalty and compassion of the Danish population.

"During those dark days of war and Holocaust, this act by a sovereign government and its people was unprecedented," Nuell said, in reference to the reluctance of other Nazi-occupied countries in Europe to protect Jews.

Rabbi Melchior will recall the events of the rescue of the Danish Jews in his lecture, titled "Interfaith Dialogue: A Path to Peace and Understanding."

The lecture will highlight the need for communication among different religious groups in this age of religious turmoil.

For more information on the events surrounding the rescue of the Danish Jews, visit www.auschwitz.dk/Denmark.htm, or the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum site at www.ushmm.org/outreach/denmark.htm. For information about Melchior's speech, call Nuell at 898-2505. ♦

Cave art: Cave names unknown to preserve drawings

Continued from I

between drawings of birds at the mouth and end of the cave.

"They were attempting in their cave art to depict not simply characters of the world in which they lived, but mythological characters," Simek said.

The cave art discovered thus far dates back to a time period around 1300 A.D., known as the Mississippian period. Archaeologists determined the age through carbon dating performed on what was left of river cane torches used in the caves by American Indians.

The American Indians present in the Southeast during this period were known for building large mounds for burial grounds and other ceremonial purposes.

Simek believes the building of mounds for ceremonial purposes and the pattern and elements of the cave art reflect the importance of the underworld to the American Indians of this period.

"I believe we're sort of getting a handle here on the role that the underworld played in Mississippian religion," Simek

said.

Simek also said cave art could have been an important tradition passed down through American Indian culture.

The first cave found in the Southeast containing American Indian cave art was discovered in Tennessee in 1978.

The cave was found next to a creek bed after a storm blew over a tree, revealing the entrance to the cave.

Simek said the cave was located between Knoxville and Chattanooga but would not say the actual name of the cave.

Simek also said most of the discoveries were found in the limestone belt of the Appalachian Plateau.

This is a large area covering several states, but many of the discoveries were made in Tennessee.

"I won't use the real names of caves anywhere during this whole presentation," Simek said.

"Most of them are on private land and still open and very vulnerable to looters, so we try to hide – as best we can – the locations."

While saying this, Simek

showed a photo of ancient American Indian cave art with someone's initials written over it.

Simek said that while most land owners want to do everything they can to preserve and protect the caves on their land, they just don't have the money to put a fence up or provide other means of protection.

Simek also pointed out that cave art is extraordinary. Out of approximately 14,000 caves in Tennessee, Georgia and

Alabama, his research team has searched 800 caves and found more than 50 containing cave art.

Simek's lecture was co-sponsored by the department of sociology and anthropology and the Middle Tennessee Anthropology Society, with support from student activity fees.

For more information on Simek, visit www.mtsu.edu/~soc/anthropologica.html. ♦

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Middle Tennessee State University

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OPINIONS

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Wednesday, April 23, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board

Potential division status requires better attendance

The new NCAA guidelines for Division I-A schools include issuing 90 percent of 85 football scholarships by August, offering 16 team sports and a total of 200 sports scholarships. MT has already met all of these requirements.

The university must also host at least five other Division I-A teams during the football season. Next year, MT will host Florida Atlantic, Temple University, New Mexico State University, North Texas, Troy State and Louisiana-Lafayette. So far, so good.

But the looming guideline for MT and the rest of the Sun Belt Conference is the attendance issue. The new guidelines state that every school must average a home attendance of 15,000 students per game. Last year's attendance was 13,728 per game.

One of MT's biggest problems with attendance is the complete lack of visiting fans. When teams like New Mexico and North Texas come to town, no opposing fans ever make it to games. The reason why teams like Vanderbilt can fill their stands is because their opponents fill it for them.

For a program as new as MT's, 13,000 isn't that bad, but we could do better.

When the basketball teams needed to increase their fan attendance, they worked on making the fans a bigger part of the games. The games featured giveaways and a better fan atmosphere.

Compare that to the football games, where last year, the biggest draw was watching a fan try to knock a football through a window the size of two cell phones and a piece of gum nine times in a minute. While it would be entertaining to watch someone win, it's not going to draw fans because no one will ever, ever win that prize.

The football team hasn't helped itself, either. During last year's Southeastern Missouri fiasco, the Blue Raiders played in front of about 27,000 fans. Afterward, football fans suddenly found themselves with plenty of shoulder room at games, with attendance averaging about 12,000 fans per game.

If the university wants to stay at Division I-A, it needs to get its act together. ♦

Executives should take cue from crew

Thoughts While Driving



Gary Morrison
Staff Columnist

American Airlines is facing possible bankruptcy. The airline claims to need \$1.8 billion more per year to stay in business.

So, who cares if American Airlines goes belly-up?

Most of the employees care. They care so much, in fact, they voted to cut their own salaries anywhere from 15 to 23 percent in order to meet the annual shortage.

The pilots, flight attendants and ground crews all held votes within their respective unions to try and do what they could to save the troubled airline. After all, a 23 percent cut in pay is bad, but a 100 percent cut is worse.

Don't think the employees were happy about this decision. Two of the votes narrowly passed. But pass they did, and the concessions were approved.

Due to the employees' selfless actions, American Airlines will stay in the air. That is, unless the top executives cause a crash and burn.

Maybe the top brass at American got all choked up when they saw that their employees wanted to continue working and voted to cut their own pay a total of \$10 billion over six years.

Maybe the brass shed tears of joy and were overwhelmed at the show of support that would keep American Airlines in the sky and out of the bankruptcy courts.

Maybe that is why six top executives got together and decided to cut their own hidden bonuses that would have been equal to

twice their annual salaries. But I doubt it.

While the pilots, flight attendants and ground crew, the backbone of the company, were helping to make American stand straight and tall, the greedy executives tried to fatten their own paunches in order to make it through the upcoming lean years. Written into some legal paperwork that wasn't disclosed until after the union voted, were the details of the bonuses for the top executives.

The bonuses were to be twice the annual salary for six executives and a seventh executive would get a bonus equal to his salary. Also included in the late announcement was the funding of supplementary pensions for 45 top executives, which will remain in effect even if bankruptcy occurs.

Chairman and CEO Don Carty had this to say about the bonuses: "Those

executives who have made the personal commitment to remain with American during this financial crisis, myself included, are not here solely for monetary reasons, and we have all agreed to give up these retention payments in order to give our employees confidence in management's ongoing commitment to shared sacrifice."

Carty's annual base salary is reported as \$811,000 and, yes, he was one of the six scheduled to get a double bonus, or should I say "retention payment."

A retention payment is a bonus for not bailing out on a company when times get tough.

Hallelujah! My personal faith in big business is restored.

The big brass at the top do care about the little people. What else but caring could lead to such a magnanimous gesture of goodwill?

When the executives saw their workers were cutting their own pay to save everyone's ass, they got together and said, "What the hell. We'll jump on the bandwagon, too. Let's do our part, tighten our own belts and scrap the latest round of bonuses."

The bonus scrapping may have come too late, though.

When word got out about the underhanded way the brass's bonuses were shuffled into the deck, a couple of the unions called for a revote.

The final outcome remains to be seen, but I heard a rumor about new concessions that the unions are asking for this time around: something about brass balls.

Go figure. ♦

Gary Morrison is a graduate student in English and can be reached via e-mail at gwm2c@mtsu.edu.

Read between lies

By Joey Hood
Staff Columnist

Remember that old adage, "Stick and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me"? Somewhere between "I'm rubber and you're glue," and "catch a tiger by his toe," the sticks and stones proverb lost its meaning.

In reality, words can hurt with varying degrees of damage. Words can also impart love and foster changes in society.

Hopefully, this column will support a change in society, albeit a gradual one.

Using that adage metaphor, stones are being thrown relentlessly by a notorious group of "Christians" - Rev. Fred Phelps and members of his Westboro Baptist Church.

After attending several lectures regarding sexuality and grasping the level of disappointment from the gay community at the dead Nashville city council proposal, this situation behooves a forum.

And every path led back to Fred Phelps.

Unintentionally, Fred Phelps only promotes the gay rights movement by demonstrating the ridiculousness of hating people because of their differences.

Nonetheless, in order to obliterate the seeds of hatred, one must explore the foundation of hatred at its roots.

Westboro is composed mostly of Phelps' immediate family, and the WBC's multiple Web sites (www.god-hatesfags.com) and www.god-hatesamerica.com) are run by relatives with varying levels of sanity.

When Phelps decided to visit Nashville and cast stones at supporters of the gay rights bill, I decided to stop over at the misguided Web sites to ask the pertinent question: Doesn't God love everyone?

Of course, the Westboro Baptist Church does not take too kindly to anyone with an opposing argument.

"Read Romans 8 and 9, and see that God has nothing but hate in His heart," came the response.

Of course, Phelps' references were vague and rarely added much insight into his position.

The Bible provides merely three references directly

addressing homosexuality at all.

The notorious parable of Sodom and Gomorrah is fundamentally interpreted as the Bible's foremost source of condemnation.

However, the tale of Sodom did not portray a loving homosexual relationship. It depicted sex as an act of sheer selfishness between two strangers.

Furthermore, the homosexual men in Sodom implored to rape the visitor as a form of empowerment.

The gist of the biblical passages does portray homosexuality in a negative light, though.

As with the majority of society's tribulations, one must read the book to form a belief system.

Unfortunately, the Bible will repeatedly be taken out of context to support differing political agendas, and it will be interpreted by people with lopsided helpings of intelligence and humanity.

But after reading the book, I have come across a predominant theme: God knows that we are only human. If we truly were perfect beings, we would begin to take on His godly attributes.

However, any conflicting reasoning extracts gaping disbelief and meandering tirades from the Phelps camp.

"You are a Sophist, nothing but a fag-enabler," the messages continued.

After exerting tireless efforts to pinpoint Fred Phelps' hatred, this *Sidelines* writer found no answers.

The bitter truth is that hatred cannot be fully summarized in tidy synopses.

However, it is the conscientious duty of loving human beings to stop hate where it exists.

The following Web sites provide accurate information on hate groups in the local and national area (www.tolerance.org and www.adl.org).

Even if you don't agree with the homosexual lifestyle, both Web sites provide tactical strategies on eradicating hatred at its roots. ♦

Joey Hood is a freshman radio/television major and can be reached via e-mail at crack-aj@hotmail.com.

'Experience' does science fiction justice

Filler



Brandon Morrison
Staff Columnist

Seattle just got a lot nerdier.

With the help of Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, science fiction fans will finally have a gathering place other than crowded Internet chat rooms and noisy convention halls. Allen will open up an exhibit in the summer of 2004 dedicated to all things science fiction, including artwork, literature and films spanning the entire history of sci-fi.

Some of the main features of the show will be autographed first editions of a collection of Isaac Asimov magazines and the original captain's chair from the first *Star Trek* series. Tentatively named the "Science Fiction Experience," the show is expected to draw up to 200,000 people each year to Seattle.

Apparently, Allen feels there's a market for such a museum; he may be right.

Every year, thousands of conventions celebrate many different aspects of the art.

Science fiction earned its place in American lore. Like the tall tales that preceded them, the stories provide anyone who will listen to some entertainment, along with something a little thought-provoking.

Tall tales gave places history and people legacies.

Elementary schools across the nation teach children stories about Pecos Bill's exploits across Texas and Paul Bunyan's travels in the Northwest. The stories are an interesting way to learn about their cultural history.

Rather than giving boring lectures about how people lived their

lives, these stories, told first by early settlers, give an insight to their mindset.

As children grow up, stories change from exciting stories of the past to more insidious tales from today. People tell stories about the escaped prisoner who stowed away in the back seat of somebody's Pinto and killed the driver once they were far enough away from town. We hear how a friend's friend was drugged at a party. When he woke up, he found himself in a tub of ice with one less kidney.

Like the tall tales, not many people really believe that any urban legend really happened. However, the stories are realistic enough that they could happen, and that's what makes them entertaining. Yet, these stories of fiction and fantasy give great insight into a culture's fears, hopes and ambitions.

Science fiction is another form of stories in the vein of tall tales and urban legends.

Even though the stories aren't told like tall tales and urban legends, they fill the same kind of void in people. They express the fears and insecurities of the people who tell them.

Science fiction fills the role it needs to by distracting the audience long enough for them to settle down and gather their thoughts while still allowing the author to insert a thought or moral for the audience to contemplate.

Whether the "Science Fiction Experience" succeeds or bombs, it should be a great time for any fan of the genre, well worth the trip to Seattle.

As for me, I'll stick with my PlayStation. ♦

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

Letter to the Editor

Marquee message non-inclusive

To the Editor:

On my way back to campus, I saw something that made me think about the country we live in - a message on the Bank of Murfreesboro marquee that said "God Bless America."

I have no doubt that I would rather live in this country; however, when one says "God Bless America," are they only referring to the people who actually believe in God? If that's the case, does it stand to reason that, if you don't believe in the God of the Bible Belt, you're just out of luck in the blessings department, even if you're an American citizen?

Maybe it's a kind of blanket statement that includes everyone's God, as long as we're American citizens. Maybe blessings are only extended to you if you were born here.

Even though I appreciate this country beyond measure, it's apparent and sad that we live in a culture with a low tolerance for those who don't look or sound like us. Somehow we're saying, "God Bless America," while shunning our fellow Americans.

If the people putting up the "God Bless America" message believe in the same God, I think they know he wouldn't approve.

Sherita Jackson

SIDELINES

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

Letters Policy

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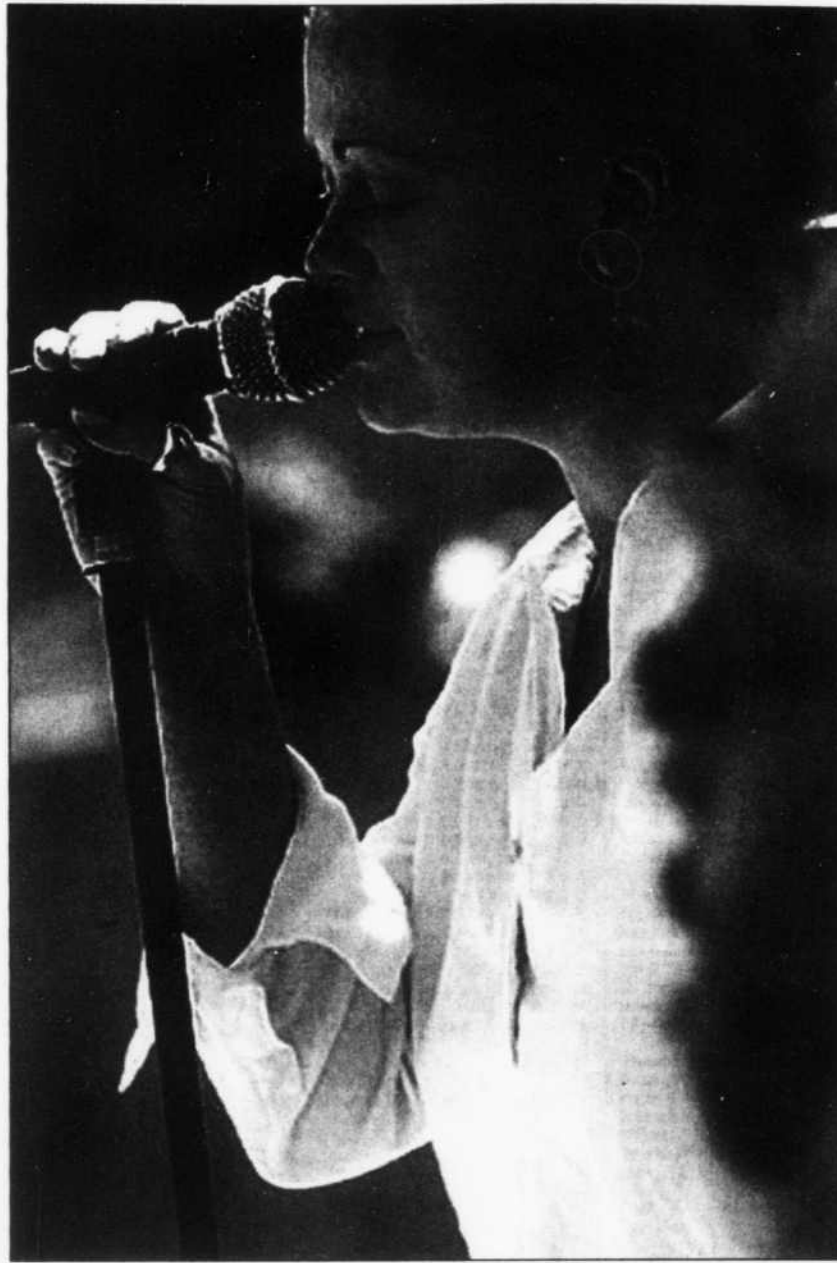
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Broken Word poets to speak volumes



Unique style of poetry places emphasis on energy, rhythm



Photos provided by artists
Matthew John Conley, left, and Desdamona, right will weave spoken word, stand-up comedy and dramatic monologue together to entertain MTSU students Friday.

By Kristin Hall
Staff Reporter

Slam poets Matthew John Conley and Desdamona will perform their unique blend of spoken word, stand-up comedy and dramatic monologue Friday on the Keathley University Center Knoll.

This type of poetry reading puts an emphasis on the performance of the poetry and is characterized by high energy, rhythmic beats and provocative language.

Conley, who has toured with Lollapalooza, is part of the poetry slam duo Broken Word, with Big Poppa E, a.k.a. Eirik Ott, who has been featured on HBO's *Def Poetry*.

"It's like verbal rock 'n' roll," Ott says. "We're a punk band with no instruments."

Conley and Desdamona will perform at 12:15 p.m. as a part of MTSU's Earth Day Festival, which includes Stephen Gaskin from The Farm in Summertown, Tenn., and Drums and Tubas.

Poetry slam started in the early 1980s in jazz nightclubs and open mike nights of downtown Chicago, eventually spreading to New York and San Francisco.

In 1990, the first national poetry slam competition was held in San Francisco, and from then on, many cities have celebrated annual poetry slams.

Conley and Ott met each other in New Mexico at the Taos Poetry Circus in 1996 and found that their styles of performance and poetry meshed well together.

Ott says Matthew is really into character acting and describes him as "over the top, 10-feet tall and bulletproof."

Conley first started writing when he was 11 years old, inspired, he says, by a Ted Nugent music video in the early years of MTV.

"It was one of those videos with all the half-naked girls," Conley says.

Conley tried writing music but found he was a better writer than a musician. He soon began relying on writing to work through his feelings growing up.

"The page was the place where I could discuss my feelings, and no one could say, 'That's wrong,'" Conley says. "I think poetry really saved my life."

Conley used to work for Greenpeace, an envi-

It's like
verbal
rock 'n' roll.
We're
a
punk band
with
no
instruments.

Eirik Ott
Poet

ronmental activist organization, and is excited to be a part of MTSU's Earth Day celebration.

"Our industries put a huge strain on the Earth," Conley says. "We need to actively fight for it."

Environmentalism, war, AIDS, homophobia, racism, feminism and consumerism are some of the topics and themes Conley and Desdamona will be discussing on stage.

Ott, a former journalist, found that poetry allows him to say things he couldn't say as a part of the media.

"There are a lot of issues journalists can't talk about or they will get fired," Ott says.

"But we don't have to worry because we work for ourselves."

The poet filling in for Ott on Friday, Desdamona, is a feminist hip-hop poet from Minneapolis and one of Conley's favorites.

"She has a very positive attitude and she's very

lively," Conley says.

"I think that's why we go well together."

"She discusses issues of body image and feminism, especially feminism in the hip-hop community," Ott says. "She's like Ani DiFranco with a beat."

Neither Conley nor Ott expected to make a living writing and reading poetry, so for them the hardships of touring around the country to visit universities and colleges is a small price to pay.

"We make about as much as an assistant manager at Taco Bell, but the benefit is that we don't actually work at Taco Bell," Ott says.

Ott considers his lifestyle a form of protest against the negative attitude toward professional poets in society.

"We refuse to get day jobs and we've found a way to make poetry a living, not a hobby," Ott says. "Society wants us to be drones in cubicles."

Conley considers rap and hip-hop forms of poetry put to music because a lot of songs are memorized and recited.

"Rappers were some of the first poetry that really made it big," Conley says.

This is not the poetry you read in school books, but the kind that has started a revolution from the streets to the coffee houses, and now the nation. ◆

Annie Sellick jazzes, dazzles North to South

By Alex Roach
Contributor

Annie Sellick lived in St. Louis when she decided to go to the Rainbow Gathering, an event in Montreal, Canada, where people get together and pray for peace, according to American Indian legends.

"It was sort of a defining moment where I learned to dream," Sellick, an MTSU graduate, says.

Most people traveling such a long distance might take a train or drive, but not Sellick. After paying her summer's rent, she hooked up with a French-Canadian who taught her the ways of hitchhiking using nothing more than her wits and a backpack.

"The most amazing things happened to me," Sellick says, referring to the people and the weird synchronous things that would happen to her daily.

"You just have to believe the fact that anything at any moment can come around the corner and change your life forever," Sellick says.

Her experience up north ended up being similar to the first time she sang publicly.

"You just have to believe that you can be," Sellick says.

The end of that summer marked the time when Sellick not only finished her international adventure, but began

public was at the Boro Bar and Grill, directly across the street from MTSU, Sellick's alma mater.

She decided to attend MTSU because she didn't want to depend solely on her "artist" income as a main source of support. She graduated from MTSU with a degree in gerontology, the study of aging amongst the human race, and sociology.

She had two main reasons for choosing her major. First, she thought that because the baby boomers made up her parents' generation, finding a job and staying employed would be no problem. The second reason was that gerontology allowed her to dream while focusing on others, a way to temporarily escape from her own problems.

"Life in service is never in vain, but being an artist might be," Sellick says.

It also was a personal choice, because it allowed her to be around the aging process and to become familiar with it.

Sellick had been a regular



blossoming into what most of her fan base knows her as: Annie Sellick – jazz singer.

It has now been eight years – and three or four feet of dreadlock growth – since that fateful trip up north when she went up on stage to sing for the first time. She keeps the dreadlocks as a reminder of her journey.

The first time Sellick sang in

See Sellick, 5

Dear Annie

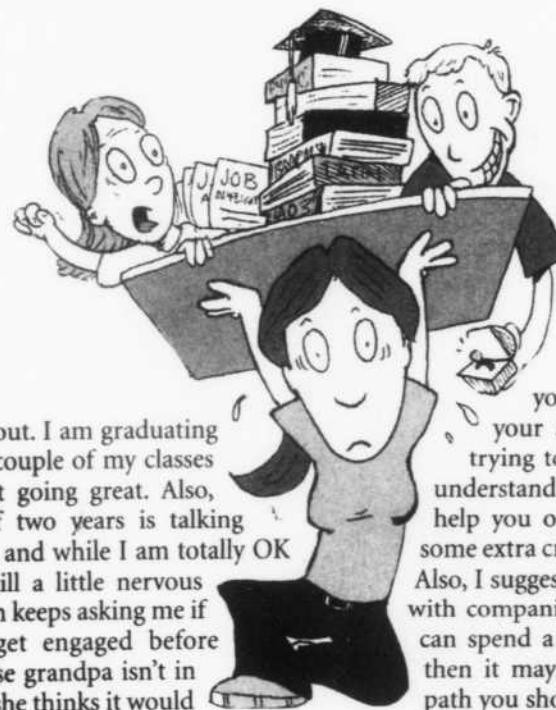


Illustration by Lucas Antoniak

Dear Annie,
I am stressed out. I am graduating in August and a couple of my classes are currently not going great. Also, my boyfriend of two years is talking about the future, and while I am totally OK with that, I'm still a little nervous about it. My mom keeps asking me if I think I will get engaged before Christmas because grandpa isn't in good health and she thinks it would be nice if he could see me get married. I don't even know if I will be able to get a job when I graduate. Actually, I don't even know what I want to do with my life, just writing all this down makes me a little nervous. Can you offer some tips for dealing with stress?
– Stressed Girl

Dear Stressed Girl,
Until I read your letter, I thought I was stressed. I think as school ends everyone gets stressed. I will graduate in December, as long as everything goes as planned, and I'm already wondering what the future will bring. My point is that you are not alone. I do think I can offer some advice on how you can minimize the stress in your life.

Let's start with your classes. I assume you mean your grades are questionable in your classes that "aren't going great." First, talk to

your teachers and tell them your situation and that you are trying to graduate. Teachers can be understanding and may be willing to help you outside of class or give you some extra credit work. All is not lost yet. Also, I suggest you begin making contact with companies that interest you. If you can spend a day in an area of interest, then it may help you to decide which path you should take.

One of the first steps to minimizing stress is eliminating things in your life that are causing stress. You can't eliminate school. However, stress you can stop from pressuring you into something you aren't ready for. Is this her life? No, it's yours and getting married is one of the biggest decisions of your life. Simply ask your mother to stop pressuring you to get married. Tell her how it makes you feel and then tell her she'll be the first to know when you get engaged.

Now as far as your boyfriend – simply tell him what you told me. Be honest and tell him that talking about the future right now makes you more stressed. Give yourself a break and do something fun. Sometimes a dose of play is just what you need. Good luck with finals.

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

SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, April 23, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

MT baseball team loses game, series to South Alabama, 11-3

Jaguars score six times in first three innings of final game

By Osby Martin
Staff Reporter

South Alabama (27-12, 8-4 Sun Belt) scored six times in the first three innings and never looked back in the 11-3 win over Middle Tennessee (19-21, 6-9 SBC) Sunday afternoon at Reese Smith Field.

The Jags' Cole Craig singled home a run for an early 1-0 Jaguar lead. USA got another run in the second. After a walk loaded the bases, Ryan Fillingim plated the run with a sacrifice fly to left for a 2-0 Jaguar advantage.

The Blue Raiders got on the board in the bottom of the second as Kevin Suba, who started at first base for the first time this season, drew a one-out walk and scored on Jeff Beachum's double off the right field wall.

South Alabama opened up the game in the third with four more runs, as Blue Raider starter Chris Mobley had trouble finding the strike zone. A double and a pair of walks loaded the bases for South Alabama.

The Jaguars knocked out a couple of doubles and pushed up their lead, 6-1.

Chad Cooper cut into the lead for the Blue Raiders with a solo home run with one out in the bottom of the third. But the Jags were not to give in this day, as they hit a pair of home runs in the seventh inning to give them an 8-2 lead.

The Blue Raiders had an opportunity to get back in the game in the bottom of the seventh, as Cliff Thomas walked to lead off before Beachum singled and Chuck Akers walked to load the bases.

Middle Tennessee scored just one run in the inning to leave the Jaguars with a five-run advantage. South Alabama added three more runs in the eighth for the final margin of 11-3.

Mobley (1-4) lasted just three innings and allowed six runs on eight hits to take the loss. The sophomore walked four and struck out five. Danny Borne tossed three shutout innings until the solo home runs in the seventh by the Jaguars.

South Alabama's Tommy Major (8-1) got the win with more than six innings of work, giving up three runs on five hits. Major walked six and struck out five. Neal worked the final three innings for the second straight day and his fourth save of the year.

Middle Tennessee finishes its current seven-game home stand with a pair of 7 p.m. contests this week, hosting Austin Peay tomorrow. The results of yesterday's Belmont game were unavailable before press time. ♦



Suba



Mobley



Photo by Jamie Lorange | Staff Photographer

The Blue Raider baseball team gathers together before the USA game Sunday.

Blue Raiders slated to play Austin Peay for second time tonight

By Josh Beasley
Assistant Sports Editor

Austin Peay rides into Blue Raider country tomorrow night to rekindle an old cross-state Ohio Valley Conference rival, with the Blue Raiders under the lights of Reese Smith Field.

The two teams met on April 2 at Raymond C. Hand Park in Clarksville, and the Blue Raider sluggers derailed the Peay Train pitchers for 16 runs off of 19 hits.

The Blue Raiders shelled the Governor middle relievers Adam Muston and Brad Daniel

for 12 runs in the fourth inning. However, a new setting provides a brand new ballgame, and the Govs, having lost three of their last four, will look to get back on track at the expense of the Blue Raiders.

See Austin Peay, 8

Division I-A woes

Football programs across country face difficulties meeting new NCAA requirements

By Jerry Wilkinson
Staff Writer

The National Collegiate Athletic Association has recently set up new guidelines for Division I-A schools.

The NCAA is clear when rules are set in place for college athletic programs. For example, the NCAA guidelines state that a school is required to give out 90 percent of 85 football scholarships to players. Middle Tennessee does not have this problem.

Also, Division I-A schools are required to offer 16 team sports, another problem MT has under control.

The NCAA requires schools to average 15,000 in the stands during home games. MT has yet to have a season with minimum average attendance.

"Middle Tennessee State University is surrounded by seven counties, and the majority of our sup-

port should come from that area. Do most of the people from Cannon, Bedford, Coffee, Williamson, Davidson, Wilson and Marshall support Blue Raider athletics?" asked Athletic Director James "Boots" Donnelly. "Why don't these communities support MT? What can [we] do to change this?"

MT is not the only school to have NCAA problems. Twenty-seven other NCAA schools are suffering problems from the new requirements.

Potential penalties for failing to meet the requirements are serious. First, a school would be placed on probation for two years and undergo a new category of Division I-A unclassified. While the school would still be able to play as a Division I-A team, they would be under strict guidelines.

After that, the school would most likely be placed in Division I-AA.

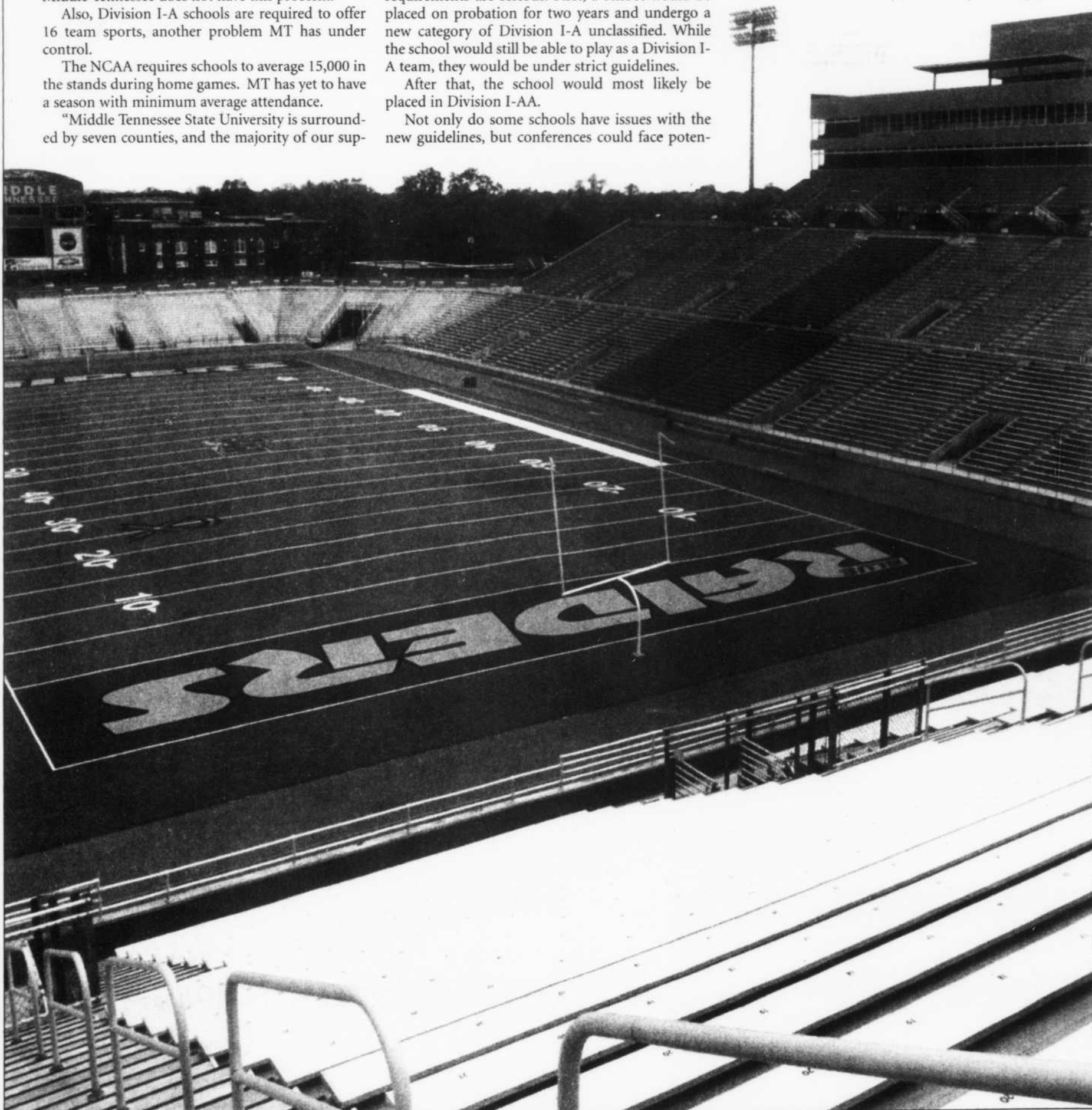
Not only do some schools have issues with the new guidelines, but conferences could face poten-

tial problems as well.

Athletic conferences must have eight participating fall members. The only way a school can be counted as a member is if they have no fewer than six men's and eight women's conference sponsored sports, including men's basketball and football.

In addition, the school must offer three women's sports, one of which must be basketball. ♦

Photo by Jamie Lorange | Staff Photographer



Drug use common in pro baseball

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball players are still using muscle-building drugs and amphetamines despite the sport's new steroid-testing plan, *The New York Times* reported in yesterday's editions.

Players have switched from using steroids to drugs like human growth hormone, the *Times* reported, citing interviews with 40 current or former players, baseball executives and medical officials.

Some players told the newspaper that the union is jeopardizing the health of its members by not allowing mandatory testing of certain drugs.

This spring, 16 members of the Chicago White Sox were ready to refuse a drug test so they could be counted as testing positive for steroids. Their idea was to send a message that more extensive monitoring is needed.

Players on an unidentified National League team also considered refusing to take the test, the *Times* reported.

Former San Diego Padres All-Star Tony Gwynn said that more attention needs to be focused on amphetamines. He estimates that 50 percent of position players use "greenies" routinely.

"People might think there is a steroid problem in baseball, but it's nowhere near the other problem; the other — it's a rampant problem," Gwynn told the paper. "Guys feel like steroids are cheating and greenies aren't."

"Sooner or later, it's going to get out that there's a greenie problem, and it's a huge one," Gwynn said. "Guys feel like they need an edge. It didn't seem like there was a lot of it earlier in my career, but I know that coming down to the end of my career, it was rampant on my club."

Last year, former players Jose Canseco and Ken Caminiti also made claims of widespread steroid use in baseball. New York Mets pitcher Tom Glavine, the NL player representative to the union, called Gwynn's comments "irresponsible."

"I have a problem with all these guys that aren't playing anymore now coming out and saying that all these problems exist," Glavine told the paper. "If the problems were there and they were so prevalent, how come nobody said anything when they were playing?"

"Is there stuff going on? Sure," Glavine said. "Is it 50 percent? I don't think so."

There is no testing for amphetamines in the labor

See Steroids, 8

Blue Raider soccer team releases fall 2003 schedule

Staff Reports

The Blue Raider soccer team announced its fall 2003 schedule yesterday.

The team starts the year with an exhibition match against the University of Louisville on Aug. 23.

The first home match will be on Aug. 31 against Belmont University.

In all, the team faces 10 non-conference matches, including NCAA tournament participant Ole Miss and the Southeastern Conference Western Division champion Mississippi State.

"If we are to be successful in the Sun Belt, we will need to

consistently play non-conference opponents who are as capable as the top teams in our league," said head soccer coach Aston Rhoden.

In what is a first for the Blue Raiders, the soccer team will host the Middle Tennessee Classic.

The participating teams are Louisiana-Monroe, Western Carolina, Alabama A&M and Middle Tennessee.



Rhoden

During the tournament, the Blue Raiders will face ULM on Sept. 5 and Western Carolina Sept. 7.

The soccer team will face up against eight Sun Belt teams this year, kicking off with Florida International on Oct. 3.

"The Sun Belt Conference is getting tougher each year, as all the teams have improved since joining the league," Rhoden said.

In addition, the Blue Raiders will face the University of Denver on Oct. 17 and North Texas on Oct. 19.

The Sun Belt Conference Championships will be held on Nov. 5-8. ♦

2003 Blue Raider Soccer Schedule

Aug 23	#Louisville (N)	Huntsville, Ala.	6 p.m.
Aug 31	Belmont	Blue Raider Field	1 p.m.
Sep 5	*Louisiana-Monroe	Blue Raider Field	4 p.m.
Sep 7	*Western Carolina	Blue Raider Field	3 p.m.
Sep 12	Southern Miss	Hattiesburg, Miss.	4:30 p.m.
Sep 14	Tulane	New Orleans, La.	1 p.m.
Sep 19	Southwest Missouri State	Blue Raider Field	4 p.m.
Sep 21	Birmingham Southern	Blue Raider Field	2 p.m.
Sep 26	Ole Miss	Oxford, Miss.	7 p.m.
Sep 28	Mississippi State	Starkville, Miss.	1 p.m.
Oct 3	Florida International (SB)	Little Rock, Ark.	3 p.m.
Oct 5	Austin Peay	Clarksville, Tenn.	2 p.m.
Oct 10	Arkansas-Little Rock (SB)	Little Rock, Ark.	4 p.m.
Oct 12	Arkansas State (SB)	Jonesboro, Ark.	1 p.m.
Oct 17	Denver (SB)	Blue Raider Field	3 p.m.
Oct 19	North Texas (SB)	Blue Raider Field	1 p.m.
Oct 24	Western Kentucky (SB)	Bowling Green, Ky.	5 p.m.
Oct 26	*Samford	Blue Raider Field	1 p.m.
Oct 31	South Alabama (SB)	Mobile, Ala.	7 p.m.
Nov 2	Louisiana-Lafayette (SB)	Lafayette, La.	1 p.m.
Nov 5-8	Sun Belt Championships	Bowling Green, Ky.	

- Exhibition
* - Middle Tennessee Classic
** - Senior Day

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Large 2-story house 3 miles from campus. 5 spacious rooms for students. Female students preferred. \$250 a month + utilities. Discounts available. \$50 off 1st month rent for the first lease. \$300 security deposit. Fully furnished, washer & dryer, dishwasher, central H/A and Culligan drinking water. Call 898-2005.

165 Roommates

Roommate needed May 15 - Rent \$333. COED house 20 minutes from MTSU, 35 min. from Nashville, fenced backyard, spacious, Murfreesboro. Call Mandy 867-7530 or 243-8802.
Roommate needed to share 3 bedroom house on West St. \$225 per month + 1/4 of utilities. W/D. 494-3670 mshane6@yahoo.com Roommate wanted for

3BD/2BA in attractive apt. complex (W/D, pool, tennis, b-ball, fitness room). Close to MTSU. \$350 month + 1/3 utilities. Call 896-0107.
Roommate needed in 3 br house with 2 musicians a few minutes from campus. Rent is \$212.50 plus 1/3 utilities. ASAP Call 867-6970
Looking for 2 female roommates for a nice 3 bed/2 bath house near campus. \$360 a month per person, all util., cable and internet included. Call Ashley at 474-0002.
Roommate needed for small apartment from April-end of August. \$255/month plus \$250 deposit. Call 896-3612.
Roommate Needed. Duplex. Old Lascosses Hwy. Walking distance from campus. \$250/month. W/D. Single Room. Furnished. Low Utilities. Call 615-305-4098.
Roommate wanted. Four bedroom, two bath house walking distance from campus. \$275 a month plus 1/4 of utilities. Call 828-5227 or 397-2439 to schedule a visit.
Roommate needed for two bedroom apartment. Rent is \$270/mo. and is with-in walking distance to MTSU. Responsibility and respect a must. Call Adam @ 849-3418.
Roommate needed for 3 bedroom apt. at SUH. Available at the end of fall semester. \$420/month includes washer/dryer, all bills (including cable.) I will pay you \$100 on move-in. Call 358-8588 or email jwh2qa@mtsu.edu.
Roommate wanted: \$100 deposit, \$385 includes all utilities, washer & dryer, fully furnished. Call 615-907-3962 or 931-278-0043.
Two male roommates needed to move into 4bd/4ba apt. immediately. Pool, Jacuzzi, fitness center, b-ball and tennis courts, computer lab. W/D in apt. All utilities, phone and cable included. Will give you \$150 to move in. Call 347-

3956 or 907-9563. Ask for David or Michael.
170 Subleasing
Sublessors needed: Empty 2 bedroom apt. University Courtyard Apts. Pay only \$435/month/bedroom. All utilities included: phone cable, water, electricity, W/D. Both rooms have large walk-in closets and private baths. Rooms available in May. Would only be living with one other roommate. Call Jenna @ 351-8863 for more information.
Sublessor needed for one bedroom in a 4bd/4ba apt. at Woods at Greenland. May-Aug. More info call Alexis, 907-7069. Need to sublease! 1 or 2 rooms @Univ. Courtyard. \$339/mo. All utilities included. I pay 1/2 1st months rent! Can move in asap. Call Amanda at 217-1527 or 931-808-7807 for more info! Looking for an apartment this summer? 2 bed, 2 bath, furnished, all utilities, phone & cable included. Avail Mid June. Don't pay until June 1st. \$441 per person per month. Call 867-6582 for more info.
1 Bedroom for rent in 4 bedroom apartment. Fully furnished. 3 awesome female roommates to live with. \$350/mo. Call 218-7313, leave message. Apartment at Raider's Crossing. Backdoor opens to hot tub and pool. Everything included. New. Extra Clean. 893-2956. Present this ad for a discount.
Do you and a friend need a place to stay for the summer? I have a two bedroom two bath apt at Raiders Crossing that will be available for move-in by the middle of May. For more info call LaToya or Jana at 615-849-8006.
Female sublessor needed for 1 bedroom in a 4 bed/2 bath furnished apt. at University Courtyard. \$339/month all utilities included. Move in asap, lease ends

August 1. Will pay application fee. Call Ann, 615-243-7661. Female needed to assume lease May 1-July 31. \$354/month includes all utilities, furnishings, private bed & bath, pool, tennis courts, & work out center! call Ashleigh at 907-9804 or 423-341-0928.
Male sublessor needed for April, May, June & July @ Woods at Greenland. 1 bd/1 ba avail. for \$395/mo. Call now and I'll pay 1/2 of your rent! Call Blake at 706-766-2303 or Mary at 706-291-9452.
One bedroom avail. in 3BR apartment at Raider's Crossing. Furnished w/W/D, ethernet hook-up, premium cable. Walking distance to MTSU. Rent is \$420/m. Call Jesse at 615-268-4114.
Woods at Greenland sublease \$300 until lease ends in August. Contact Ian at 423-1980.
2 br./2ba. 993sq.ft., fireplace, W/D connection, all kitchen appliances. \$660 mo. Please call 896-6163 ASAP.
4 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. 1 or 2 male roommates needed at Sterling University Gables, poolside view. Furnished, free rent for February. 2 Excellent Roommates to live with. Lease ends in August. Call 347-3913 or 481-5600 as for Marcus Bell.
One male and one female needed to sublease 2 bedrooms in a 4 bdrm/4bath apartment @ Univ. Courtyard. Will pay 1/2 of 1st months rent and security dep. Call 347-3956 or 481-5600 ask for David or Sarah.
Apt. for sublease at University Courtyard for summer. Last 2 weeks of May are discounted. June & July are \$339 a month. Includes all utilities, furnishings, private bedroom, share bath. Call Kelly @ 893-6354. Female needed to take over lease @ Univ. Courtyard. Private bed/bath. \$365 a month, reg \$385 5 minutes from campus. Call Leigh [615] 482-3090.
Female wanted to sublease 1 bedroom in 4 bed/2 bath apt. one mile from campus. Fully furnished. \$325 a month/utlities included. Call Amber at 615-758-3333 or 615-430-7333.
Male sublessor needed at Sterling University Gables starting in January. Rent is \$330 a month and I will pay

you \$100 to move in! Apartment is fully furnished with W/D and has a view of the pool. Call 893-3118.
Apt. for sublease at Sterling Univ. Gables on S. Rutherford Blvd. 1 bedroom available out of 4. WD included, \$300 month. Move in after finals. Call Jacob at 931-286-0207.
I need a sublessor! \$485 per month includes everything, phone cable - full-size W/D, smoking is fine. Large 2b/2b apt. Male or Female is fine. Call 218-7447.
Free 2 months rent, freezer w/lease agreement. \$370/month all utilities included. Call Gables (male) at 604-7400 or 289-0720 or go by Sterling and ask for 933C.
Sublease apartment. Nottingham Apt. Across from campus 2 bedroom 2 bath. Email dilaheh@yahoo.com.

190 Services

Need time to study with no time to clean. Call The Minute Maids! 867-3602.
205 Other
Need Cash? Sell your old Nintendo systems. Will buy NES, SNES and N64. Must be complete w/all hookups and controllers. Games and Books a plus \$\$\$.
Email dilaheh@yahoo.com. Leave phone # and description. Get Stuff! For Rutherford Co. Salv. Army's 6th Annual Yard Sale. To benefit Center for Shelter Homeless Hope. Call April 895-9822 or Jennifer 482-0691.
Bring small items to PH 3rd fl. Social Work Dept.
Sidelines last day of publication for the spring semester is this Monday. Publication will resume in June and occur every Wednesday through July. Be sure to catch our Back to School Issue Aug. 18. Have a great summer!

Fraternities*Sororities Clubs*Student Groups Earn \$1,000-\$2,000 this semester with a proven Campus Fundraiser 3 hour fundraising event. Our programs make fundraising easy with no risks. Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so get with the program! It works. Contact CampusFundraiser.com 888-923-3238, or visit www.campusfundraiser.com

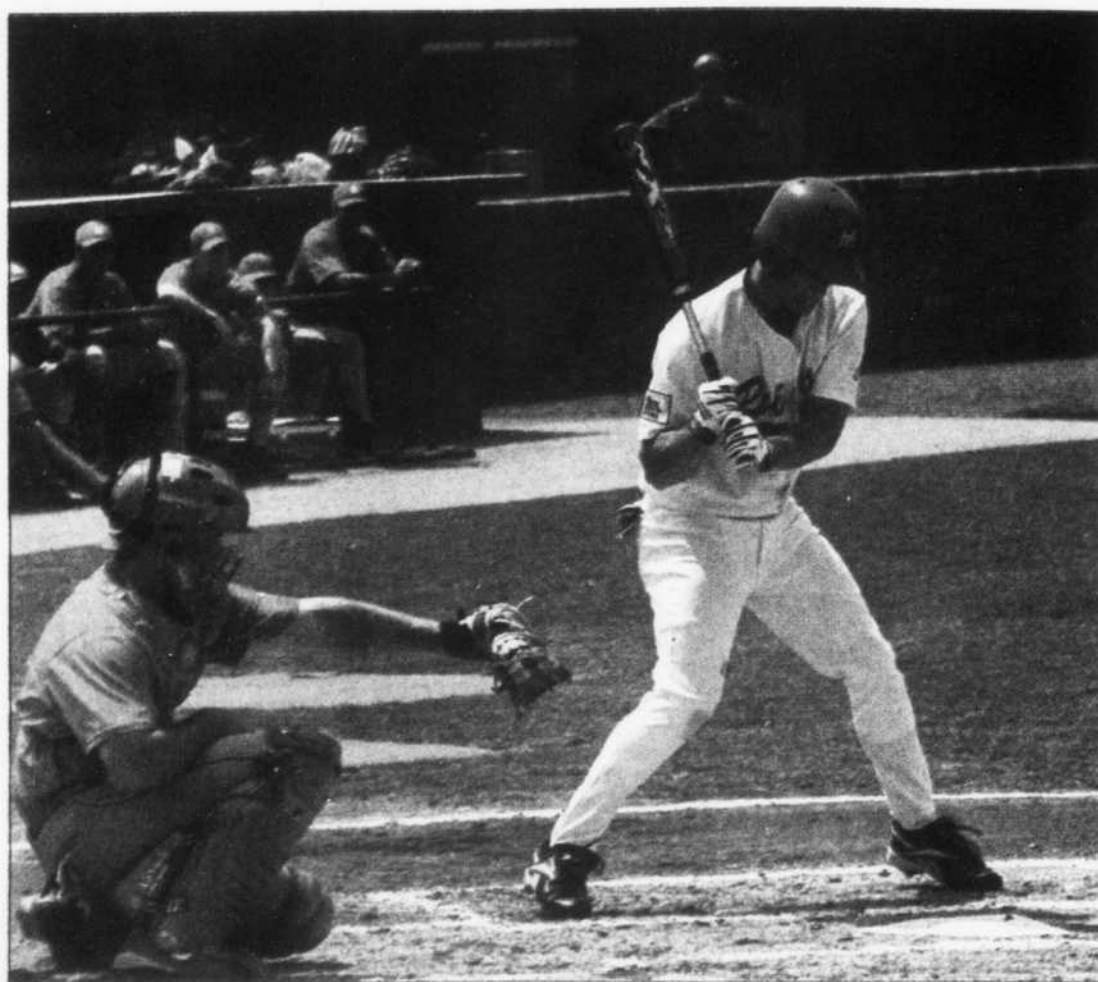
Steroids: Policy weak compared to NFL, NCAA

Continued from 6

agreement reached between players and owners last summer.

The policy calls for all players to be tested for steroids once during the 2003 season and 240 players to be tested at random again. If more than five percent of tests are positive, a second step will go into effect in 2004 in which players could be subject to penalties for testing positive. In 2003, however, players who test positive for steroids will not be penalized – or even identified.

It is a weak drug policy compared to the policies of the NFL, NCAA and International Olympic Committee, all of which test for more than just steroids and have more stringent penalties. ♦



The Blue Raiders have a .294 batting average this season.

Photo by Jamie Lorange | Staff Photographer

Austin Peay: Cooper holds highest team batting average

Continued from 6

Austin Peay (16-19-1, 5-2-1 OVC) is coming off a road series loss at Murray State, and despite being three games under .500, the Govs still hold the top spot in the OVC standings. The Govs also came up short in a 6-5, 11-inning marathon with non-conference opponent Belmont.

Austin Peay batted a paltry .263 as a team last week with only seven extra base hits in four contests compared to the Blue Raiders seven extra base hits in one game versus AP.

Look for AP to throw a number of arms at the Blue Raiders, despite the results of the last meeting. Only a half game up on MSU in the Ohio Valley Conference standings, the Govs will salvage their best arms for the upcoming weekend series with OVC foe Southeast Missouri.

The Blue Raiders, coming off a disappointing series loss with

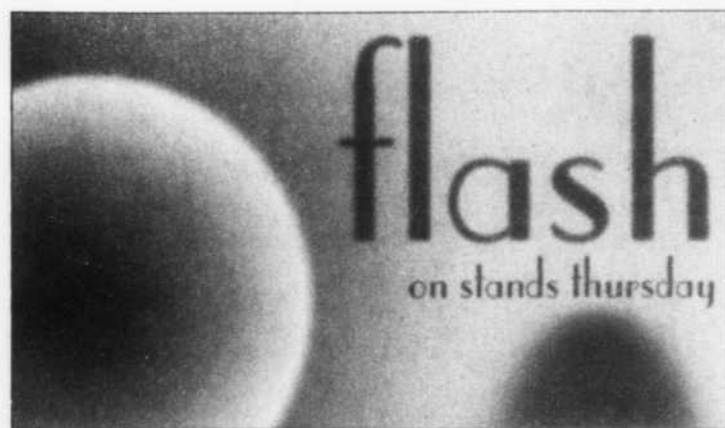
SBC co-leader South Alabama, aim to cap off their seven game home stand with a win over the Govs before taking to the road for an SBC showdown in Bowling Green, Ky., with the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers.

Though the Govs struggled with the bats last week, junior outfielder Ron Bethke and freshman outfielder Marcus Pearson led the AP offense with batting averages .471 and .455, respectively.

MT's Chad Cooper and Nate Jagers continue to swing the bat well.

Cooper is hitting a team high .367 on the season, while Jagers, despite being put on the shelf for an ankle injury earlier in the season, has picked up where he left off, hitting .358, including a three run job last week against Southeast Missouri.

The two teams square off on the diamond tonight, and first pitch is set for 7 p.m. ♦



Got something to shout about?
Sound off!



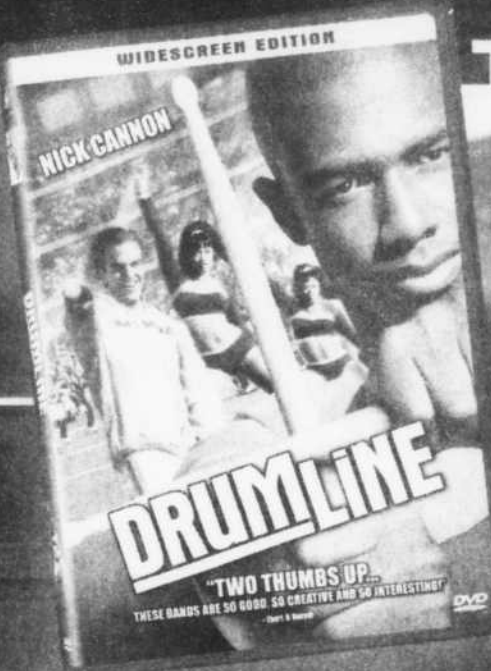
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**WHAT SHOULD WE DO
ABOUT TENNESSEE'S
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SYSTEM?**

**An Organizational and Informational
Meeting of the MTSU chapter of the
Tennessee Coalition to
Abolish State Killing**

CHECK IT OUT -

**MORE THAN 100 RELEASED FROM
DEATH ROW ... WHAT'S A "TIME-OUT" ON
EXECUTIONS? ... PROSECUTORS "USE"
VICTIM'S FAMILIES ... NOT A DETERENT?
WHASSUP WID ALL DAT???**

**April 23rd 6:00 p.m.
Peck Hall 222**