



Single mother realizes dream
of owning clothing store
In Living, page 5

Lady Raiders
extend streak
In Sports, page 6



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SIDELINES

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CAMPUSBRIEFS

MTSU teams win in Mock Trial tournaments

Three MTSU teams placed in the top 10 among 23 teams competing at the Samford University Regional Mock Trial tournament in Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 26 and 27. One team, with an 8-0 record, placed second in the overall competition.

Junior Tiffany Walter and senior Ashley Jones, both political science majors, and Jason Walker, a junior business administration major, won individual honors as attorneys. Maryam Kassaei, junior liberal arts major, Ashley Edgar, junior political science major, and Walter were among the top witnesses.

MTSU won an honorable mention for the American Mock Trial Association's Sportsmanship award.

One team earned a bid to a national tournament in Des Moines, Iowa and a second team will compete in another national tournament at Eastern Kentucky University.

SGA elections start Tuesday on PipelineMT

Voting for Student Government Association executive offices will begin on PipelineMT on Tuesday, March 1 and continue through March 3. Paul Bryant Fulcher and Blake Pearson are running for president. No other executive positions are contested.

Mountain backpacking trip planned

Outdoor Pursuits will sponsor a 4-day backpacking trip in the Smoky Mountains. The trip is scheduled for Saturday, March 5 through Tuesday, March 8. Come to the Campus Recreation Center office March 1 at 5 p.m. for sign-up and a pre-trip meeting. Cost is \$40. Equipment and transportation will be provided. Beginners are welcome.

American Indian festival scheduled

The 2005 American Indian Scholarship Benefit Festival will be held March 5 and 6 at the Tennessee Livestock Center. Doors are open 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sunday. The festival includes American Indian arts and crafts, dancers, music, storytelling, native foods and a silversmith. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 15 and under, no admission charge for toddlers. Adult weekend passes are available for \$10 each. For more information, please call 615-898-5645.

Women in Power event begins Thursday

The Women in Power Conference will be held March 3-5 at the James Union Building, sponsored by the June Anderson Women's Center. The event kicks off Thursday at 7:30 p.m. with a series of performances by students. For more information, call 898-2193. ♦

Gay marriage bill to sail through senate

Constitutional amendment likely to pass in house

By Jason Cox
Capitol Bureau Chief

STATE CAPITOL BUREAU — The Tennessee State Senate will likely pass a joint resolution for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage today by the necessary two-thirds majority.

If this resolution and its House counterpart, sponsored by Bill Dunn, R-Knoxville, pass both chambers by a two-thirds



Miller

vote, the measure would be placed on the November 2006 election ballot. The House version, HJR0024, has passed the Children and Family Affairs committee and is scheduled for debate Tuesday in the Finance, Ways and Means committee. House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh,



Tracy

D-Covington, told the Associated Press he expects it to garner the necessary votes in the House. "Any resolution like this is bad public policy," Naifeh told the AP. "But it has overwhelming support, so I'm not going to stand in the way and get run over by that train."

Sen. Jeff Miller, R-Cleveland, Senate Republican Caucus Chairman and primary sponsor of SJR0031, said the issue of same-sex marriage is important to Tennesseans.

"It's an issue in every Tennessean's mind ... and it's been thrust upon us by activist courts," Miller said.

Miller added that the amendment would not change current Tennessee law — the state has already had a Defense of Marriage act in place since 1996 that defines marriage as

between one man and one woman.

"We're not taking anything away from anyone," Miller said.

And this is precisely why Sen. Joe Haynes, D-Goodlettsville and chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus, said such a constitutional amendment is unnecessary.

"The Republicans are promoting this agenda to further their political cause in Tennessee," Haynes told

See Marriage, 3

EMT shortage blamed on salary

By Dana Owens
Staff Writer

Low salaries are being blamed for a paramedic shortage in Rutherford County.

According to Mike Nunley, the director of Rutherford County Ambulance Service, 19 people have left the department in the past year. Currently, the department is having difficulty filling four full-time positions, he said.

The ambulance service in Rutherford County makes runs to surrounding counties, and it is the busiest in the area. The paramedics are often required to work 24-hour, high-stress shifts, Nunley said.

Jeff Craig, director of Rutherford County Human Resources Department, said part of the problem is that qualified paramedics are taking jobs in other counties that may not pay more but are less stressful.

According to Craig, starting pay for paramedics in Rutherford County is \$30,650. Though this figure is similar to the starting pay of other organizations, the median salary of \$39,000-40,000 in other areas of Tennessee overshadows Rutherford County.

Nunley recently proposed a new budget plan to the Committee for Public Safety in hopes of seeing an increase in paramedics' pay. The committee voted and passed the issue along to the Budget Committee, who will not vote until late June.

See Shortage, 3

Shackin' up



Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

Students from the Wesley Foundation lived in a shack on the Keathley University Knoll last week to raise money for Habitat for Humanity. Some of them will take a mission trip to the Dominican Republic over spring break.

Student elected to regional fraternity council

By Katie Garland
Staff Writer

Junior concrete industry major Tripp Arnold was elected president of the Southeastern Interfraternity Conference.

SEIFC is a regional four-day event established to bring together institutions and individuals with a commitment to fraternity life on college and university campuses.

"It's a huge honor," says Patrick Beeler, president of the Interfraternity Council at MTSU. "He'll be representing us."

Arnold, a Dickson County native, pledged Sigma Phi Epsilon in fall of 2002.

"My parents were Greek," Arnold said. "They didn't push me to go towards their organizations; they just told me to look into what opportunities the organizations up here had, and I chose Sig Ep."

Arnold's involvement with IFC started

early in his college career as he recognized the need for young leaders to get more involved with IFC.

"I was at the time in my chapter where it was time for people my age to step up and take leadership roles, so I got involved every way I could," Arnold said. "I understood IFC and I went in and changed some laws, created a new vice president, redid the judicial system."

Due to his involvement with MTSU's IFC, Arnold was able to get involved with SEIFC.

For the 2005 Conference, Arnold served as the area coordinator for the states of Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia.

"We had a conference we were going to, SEIFC, so I ran for vice president last year, got that," he says. "And this past year, being on the board, I figured I ought to run for president."

Arnold ran against two other candidates, one from the University of New Orleans and another from Winthrop College.

Among the responsibilities for the president of the conference are presiding over all Executive Board meetings, appointing non-elected offices, coordinating annual membership recruitment through area vice-presidents, and planning and developing the leadership academy.

Arnold already has plans for what he wants to do in office.

"I plan to just basically provide a really good leadership and learning opportunity for people who come to the conference, because that's what it's about, providing speakers, making it worth their time, being there and giving them useful information that they can take back to their IFC to make

See Arnold, 2

'Lady' athletic label challenged at Solidarity teach-in

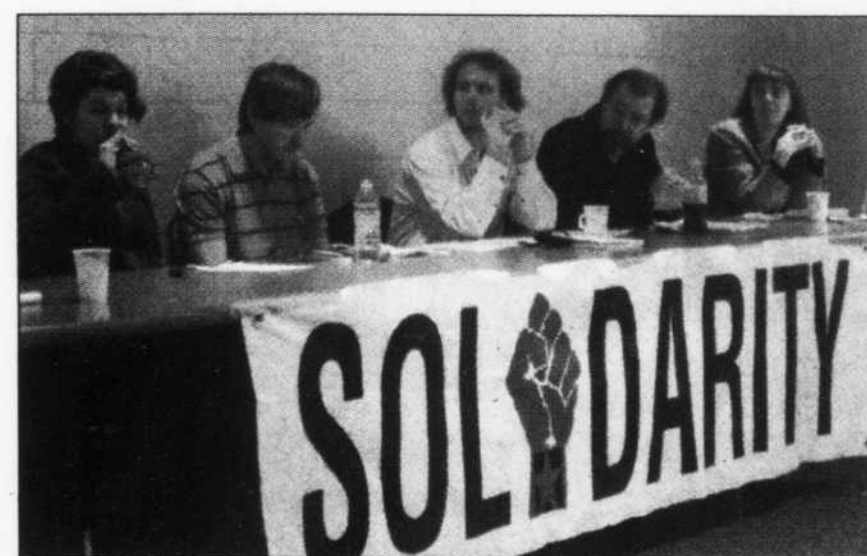


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Sarah Cozort, Josh Linear, Ryan Husak, Michael Principe and Jane Marcellus discussed labeling female athletic teams with "lady."

By Katie Garland
Staff Writer

MT Solidarity held a teach-in Wednesday afternoon concerning the social and political dimensions of using the word "lady" in athletics.

The panel consisted of speakers including students, members of Solidarity and professors in philosophy, journalism and sociology.

The purpose of the teach-in was to inform those in attendance of the somewhat derogatory connotation of the word "lady" when used to specify gender in athletics.

Members of the panel suggest that rather than using the word "Blue Raiders" in reference to males and then "Lady Raiders" in reference to females, perhaps our teams should be designated as "men's" and "women's" (i.e. men's basketball and women's basketball).

"When we use the word 'lady,' today at least, we recognize it as sort of a sexist remark," said Ryan Husak, a member of Solidarity. "It is used to sort of suggest secondary status."

Because of the connotations of the word "lady," it is demeaning to athletes to

refer to them in this manner, according to Husak.

"There are certainly formal occasions in which one would like to be treated as Mr. or Mrs. Significant, and we say Ladies and Gentlemen ... that's sort of a norm at restaurants and awards ceremonies, but just about everywhere else ... it just isn't really appropriate," he said.

To the people who believe saying Raiders and Lady Raiders to inform spectators of the gender of the team playing, Husak said that MTSU could take

See Teach-in, 2

Panel concerned about medical malpractice

By Courtney Gundry
Staff Writer

The Women in Science and Engineering organization held a "Perspective of Women in Health Care" panel discussion Friday.

The organization, founded in the fall of 2003, is a club geared toward women in any scientific field. The group sponsors panel discussions every spring and hosts the Expand Your Horizon activity in October.

Six panelists were present at the event, all women in a health care related career. The goal of the club is to "try to bring things of interest to women in the sci-

ences," said Caroline Bishop, president of women in science and engineering.

The event began with a self introduction by each participant, including how and why each got into their fields, the path of her career and what she loved about it. The discussion sparked with humor. All the panelists agreed you have to have a sense of humor.

"You never know what you're going to get on your shoes," Leslie Akins, a registered nurse, said. The panelists chimed in "or your shirt, or your face."

The panelists contributed information to the pros and cons of each field, as well as answered questions from the

audience.

Pam Taylor works in one of one of medicine's newest fields, nursing informatics. Nursing informatics combines engineering science, information technology and health care.

The purpose of informatics is to quantify what nurses do. Tracking devices on equipment and plasma screens, for example, would make locating tools more efficient. Getting rid of the superfluous running around helps nurses to focus more on patient care.

"It helps to work smarter, not harder," Taylor said.

"Nursing is wide open. You can do anything you want to," said Amy Molder, a women's

health nurse practitioner. She feels the benefits of her field are that she gets to help women and create her own level of responsibility.

"It's [nursing] one-on-one," Akins said. "It teaches you and educates you to deal with people, where they are not where you are. You go where people need you. Not wait for them to come to you."

Dara Grissom, a nurse at Vanderbilt Hospital, is a 2003 graduate from MTSU. She gave insight into the medical path after graduation and what it's like to be just starting out in medicine.

Melanie Park, a local endodontist, came from a mili-

tary background. She said she felt she learned a lot more in the military than in civilian practice, because it's free hands-on experience. She added, however, that the most important ability is personal skills.

"They don't know if you're doing good dentistry. They just know that they like you," Park said.

Janet Belsky, who has a Ph.D. in psychology, is a professor at MTSU and the author of the textbook, *Psychology of Aging*. She said her field is a lot of work for little money, but she said she loves it.

"I feel good every day. You have to find a career that feels this way."

Though each brought a different element of health care to the event, all agreed that malpractice is an increasingly dangerous risk.

"These days we want our practitioners to have the perfect outcome no matter what we've done to ourselves the past 40 years," Akins said.

Molder noted that it has especially hurt the ob-gyn field. Hospitals, particularly in the rural areas, can't afford the cost of repeated malpractice.

The panelists were excited about their work and felt that they are doing their part to make a difference. Akins noted, "We all have to take care of each other." ♦

Arnold: Planning already underway for 2006 conference

Continued from 1

their universities and Greek life better," he said. "I will spend this whole next year in preparation for this next year's conference."

Though Arnold still has about 11 months left to plan the next conference, the planning has already started.

"We have already got a couple of speakers booked for next year, and we're just going over evaluations for this past year, making changes where necessary," he said.

The SEIFC is held every year

in Atlanta during the month of February.

Arnold says his success wouldn't have been possible without the help of Carrie Smith, the interim director of Greek life at MTSU.

Arnold considers it an honor to represent MTSU in the coming year through his involvement in SEIFC.

"It's just an honor to represent MTSU at a national leadership level," he says. "More people need to look into going Greek because it provides a leadership opportunity." ♦

Teach-in: Renaming teams not deciding factor, Eller says

Continued from 1

out the word "lady" with little or no confusion to the MTSU community.

"There was once the dance team, I think it's called the Lightning Raiders; they were the Raiderettes, and they changed that - not much confusion," he said.

Husak also makes reference to the fact that, at one time, all women's athletic teams were called the Lady Raiders. However, that is no longer the case. Now the only teams that are referred to as Lady Raiders are those those overlapping with a men's team, with the exception of volleyball.

Senior Ciara Gray, who is playing in her fourth season on the women's basketball team, understands both sides of the argument.

"I see that they think if you just say Raiders, it means male, but I think it would be better to change it," she said. "I haven't heard anybody complain, though."

As a matter of fact, Gray is not the only one who hasn't heard athletes complain.

According to Husak, women athletes were not only invited to listen to the talk-in, but they were also invited to come to the event and express their thoughts about being referred to as "lady."

However, there were no athletes who chose to be on the panel or attend the seminar.

Jackie Eller, a professor of sociology, questions whether or not the word "lady" is the deciding factor of equality in sports.

"Words do unfairly categorize and minimize potentiality," Eller said. "Yes, words hurt and limit. Is this the case of the 'Lady Raiders?' Perhaps so."

However, simply using the word "lady" does not necessarily translate into a negative connotation for all sports teams.

"I see what the Lady Vols have been able to do. They have been able to sort of take a potential derogatory in the meaning and uplift it to an identity that they encapsulate," Eller said. "And Pat Summit is recognized as an intimidating and extremely competent coach for the team."

Even so, Eller says that taking out the word "lady" will not create complete equality between teams at MTSU.


"But if we change, as many universities have done, to equity in names such as Raider women and Raider men, will equity occur?" she said.

"Well, I don't think so. Not without more hard work throughout society that continues to point out the evils of inequality and make necessary changes." ♦

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Marriage: Bill faces limited opposition

Continued from 1

Sidelines Jan. 18. "I supported the law that banned gay marriage in Tennessee and I see absolutely no need to try to put this in the constitution."

Haynes was one of only two senators to vote against SJR0031 in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sen. Steve Cohen, D-Memphis, voted nay as well. The measure passed seven to two.

When asked about the joint resolution Wednesday after the Senate passed the measure on first reading, Haynes again said he planned on voting nay, although he said he expected the measure to pass the Senate.

"I'd rather see us be addressing TennCare, education and the real issues facing the state of Tennessee," Haynes said.

Sen. Jim Tracy, R-Murfreesboro, co-sponsored SJR0031 along with nearly every Senate Republican and said that giving the voters a chance to vote on the measure will settle this issue once and for all.

"We just needed to define that marriage is between one man and one woman, period," Tracy said Wednesday.

The Tennessee Equality Project was established in 2004 "to promote and sustain the equality of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in the State of Tennessee." According to the organization's press release, TEP is lobbying against this measure as well as pending bills that would restrict homosexuals from adopting children.

TEP Public Relations Chairman Christopher Sanders said that not only does this measure take attention away from the state's other priorities;

it influences legislation such as the aforementioned adoption restrictions.

"It's influencing legislation, and I think it will encourage discrimination against (homosexuals) in other areas of life," Sanders said.

One bisexual MTSU student, a senior political science major who asked his name be withheld because he will be entering the U.S. Armed Forces upon graduation, said the activist push has come more from the political right than from the gay rights community.

"I don't think it's a pressing issue. I almost think it's become an issue on our part ... because it's been attacked," he said. "I don't think it was something we were pushing for before all the talk of banning it came up."

Despite this, he said, marriage and family are life goals he aspires to reach.

"Yes, I would like to have kids one day, and I would like to do that with someone I love," he said. "I'm actually bisexual, so I could see myself marrying a guy or a girl one day."

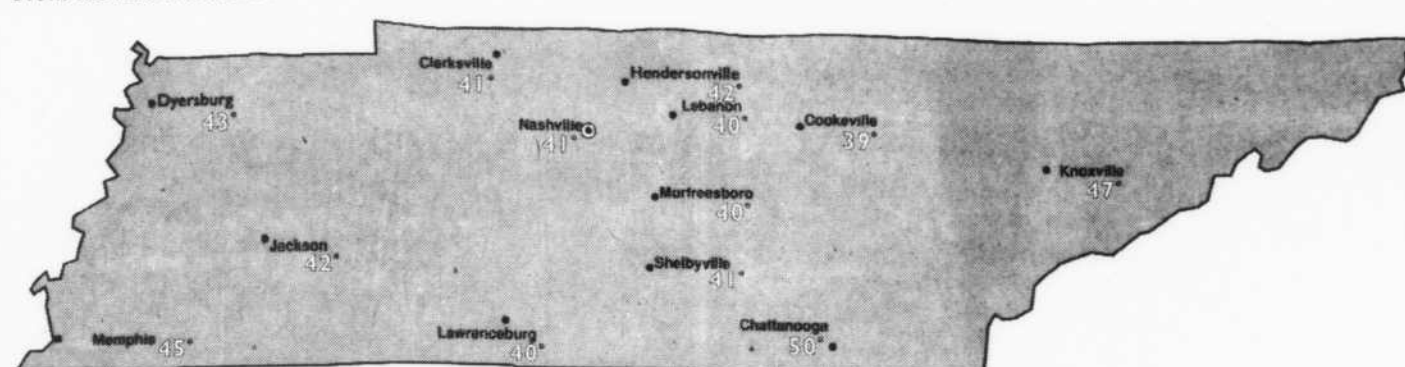
The student added that he did not feel his sexual preferences were a choice, saying that he first had thoughts about men in the second grade, "because I knew what being gay was."

"It's something you're born with, most definitely," he said. "Very few people would choose something this tough in life."

Raider Republicans President Lizzie Miller, a sophomore criminal justice major, said her organization supports the Republican Party on the issue, but "we welcome members of all sexual preferences into the College Republicans." ♦

Tennessee Weather – Monday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Shortage: Director wants budget increase

Continued from 1

Craig said that while the plan is still in the fine-tuning stages, the Rutherford County budget looks "barebones."

According to Gary Farley, chairman of the Committee for Public Safety, it will be impossible to get Nunley's plan passed unless the state legislature votes for tax increases in Tennessee. The committee for Public Safety can see the need for budget increase, Farley said, but it's all a matter of funding.

Farley went on to say the problem is not exclusive to Rutherford County. A study is currently being conducted to find out the exact magnitude of the issue to aid in their decision.

Nunley emphasized he is not satisfied with a mediocre staff, but cannot afford the highly qualified paramedics he wants

to fill the open positions. He said he would rather spend the money, if allotted, on a superior team rather than new equipment.

"It's 95 percent skill and 5 percent equipment," he said.

Rutherford County's current paramedic staff is stretched thin. As the only special rescue team in the area, they are required to take on more calls, travel further distances and remain on call for 24 hours, Nunley said. He made the comment that a larger staff is crucial because there is too much of a time gap for the on-call paramedics to reach their destination.

While most county officials are sympathetic with Nunley's cause, they are not optimistic.

"I hope it goes through, but I don't have a good feeling about it," Craig said. ♦

Governors keep 2008 presidential race in mind

By Robert Tanner
AP National Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) – For governors thinking about running for the White House in 2008, a formal dinner with President Bush at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. provides a glimpse of what the future could hold.

Even for those who dismiss – at least publicly – such talk.

"Presidential talk is way too speculative and way too early," said Republican Mitt Romney of Massachusetts. "Now is the time for policy and progress. Not presidential ambitions."

Presidential pageantry was to be on display Sunday night in the State Dining room as Bush and first lady Laura Bush welcomed the governors, who are in town for their annual winter meetings.

Speculation already has spread about the next White House race, less than four months after the election that narrowly sent Republican Bush to a second term.

"I'd be disingenuous to say, 'Oh, I don't like that kind of talk,'" said Republican Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, who awoke Sunday to find the newspaper outside his hotel room door mentioning him among possible 2008 candidates. "But I need to concentrate and focus on finishing my term as governor."

"My attitude is grow where you're planted," he said.

Pennsylvania Democrat Ed Rendell, former head of the Democratic National Committee, said he and many other governors cannot really pursue a White House bid if they want to be re-elected.

"If I went to New Hampshire, it would become an issue in my 2006 election," he said.

Other governors – Rendell singled out Democrats Bill Richardson of New Mexico, Tom Vilsack of Iowa and Mark Warner of Virginia – already are being closely examined by political donors because they either are term-limited or are so popular at home their re-election is secure.

Some say contenders must start planning now.

"A year-and-a-half from now will be a year too late," said T.J. Rooney, chairman of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party and a state legislator. "People will be called earlier than they ever have been, people will be signed up earlier than they ever have been."

Governors are always in the mix; four of the last five presidents once led their states – Jimmy Carter of Georgia, Ronald Reagan of California, Bill Clinton of Arkansas and Bush of Texas.

More than a dozen governors are quickly mentioned in conversations with political fundraisers, organizers and consult-

ants, but few will acknowledge the jockeying.

Romney visited GOP activists this month in South Carolina, an important primary state, and set up a fund-raising operation to distribute money to Republican candidates outside Massachusetts.

Among other names that come to mind when talk turns to 2008 are:

•Republican Jeb Bush of Florida, which handed his brother the White House in 2000. Doubters wonder whether voters would accept a third Bush presidency. Bush, whose terms ends in January 2007, has said he has no intention of running for the White House in 2008.

•Warner, who is from a solidly GOP state. Some say he has yet to build a national reputation.

•Republican George Pataki, who kept his seat in Democratic New York through three terms. He long has been mentioned for a White House bid.

•Richardson, a Hispanic who was U.N. ambassador, energy secretary under Clinton and a former congressman.

Those are just the obvious names.

First-term Democrat Phil Bredesen of Tennessee was featured on the cover of *The New Republic* as a business-savvy, Southern Democrat. A *Wall Street Journal* op-ed described the former Nashville mayor as "The Next Bubba," echoing Clinton.

Other Democratic names include Vilsack, a candidate for vice president last year; Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas; and Janet Napolitano of Arizona.

Among Republican names are Bill Owens of Colorado, Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota and Mark Sanford of South Carolina.

Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger of California has star appeal and has joked about becoming president. But he said in an interview broadcast Sunday that he never has seriously considered it. Democrats rave about Jennifer Granholm of Michigan.

Because each is foreign born – Schwarzenegger in Austria, Granholm in Canada – it would take a constitutional amendment before they could run.

Nervous laughter greeted former presidential adviser David Gergen when he opened the governors' four-day conference by saying "somewhere in this room is probably a future American president."

"We won't say who," he said, steering the conversation back to education policy.

Governors were returning to the White House on Monday for policy discussions with Bush and his Cabinet. ♦

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From the Editorial Board

Activist legislators define state's political agenda

The Tennessee State Senate will likely pass a joint resolution today banning marriage. Again.

While we're not thrilled that the legislature is spending their time writing hate into the Constitution, it's time to call a spade a spade.

State Senator Jeff Miller, R - Cleveland, claims that this issue has been thrust upon us by activist courts.

Yes, the Massachusetts Supreme Court has ruled gay marriage legal, but it shouldn't take a college newspaper's editorial board to point out that a Massachusetts court decision is not binding in Tennessee.

This issue is being thrust upon us not by activist courts, but by activist legislators.

The senators pushing this legislation have made a choice. Instead of tackling issues that are difficult - TennCare, the budget and higher education - they have chosen to tackle issues which are politically popular.

This isn't about morality or even the economics of giving benefits to gay couples. It has everything to do with 2006. Republicans know they can ride this issue straight to the polls.

House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh, D - Covington, apparently knows it too. He's "not going to stand in the way and get run over by that train."

It seems that an issue's prominence is inversely proportionate to its societal importance. Whether you agree with gay marriage or not, passing a second ban on gay marriage will not affect one person. Not one.

This issue is popular because it's simple and polarizing. It requires no effort to understand. Everyone knows what he or she believes, and no one is budging.

Given that gay marriage is already banned, it is safe to say this is a non-issue. It is an issue, however, that something like this is the legislature's, the citizen's and the media's top priority.

Somewhere below our story about the gay marriage ban, there's a little piece about the lack of funding for paramedics in Rutherford County. It seems they work more for the same pay paramedics in other counties get. Rutherford County citizens may not get emergency care as quickly as they could as a result.

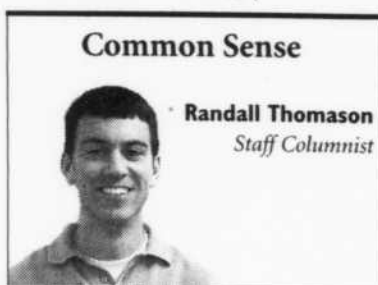
But don't worry yourself with such trifles. Two men might live happily ever after. ♦

Social Security breeds dependency

The U.S. Social Security system usually conjures thoughts of our grandparents or other elderly citizens. That is no longer the case as Washington politicians are talking about reforming the system to stabilize a program that appears ill-prepared to handle the forthcoming mass retirement of baby boomers.

When we hear Social Security mentioned on newscasts these days, we need to perk up our ears because it's most likely our financial future being discussed. The original system was designed as part of President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal," which aimed to pull the country out of a deep depression and provide financial security for Americans.

I can't say for sure what Roosevelt's main goal for the program was, but I believe one negative consequence that has resulted from the program is a growing dependency on government-controlled social programs.



Common Sense

Randall Thomason
Staff Columnist

While I haven't explored every angle of President George W. Bush's Social Security plan and therefore can't offer an educated endorsement, I can't help but notice how so many people get upset at the mere mention of the 'P' word - privatization - as if they can't stomach the thought that the government would relinquish its grasp.

Are Americans so dependent on the government for their retirement that they can't even fathom the idea of having individual control and ownership of some of their own social security?

The current structure of the

system is really a farce. It would never succeed in the private marketplace. You don't own your social security; it owns you. Government can at any time increase the amount you pay into it or decrease the amount you get out of it. If you don't live long enough to begin collecting benefits, tough luck. At death, you have no ability to will the money you put into the system to your children.

Incorporating privatization and elements of individual ownership would be welcome changes to the status quo. Being able to invest a portion of what you pay into Social Security certainly carries some inherent risk, but it's a far cry from gambling away your future, which is what some privatization opponents make it out to be.

The biggest advantage to a private account, however, is that it would actually be in your name. Government would not be allowed to dig into your account and you would have the ability to invest it

as you wish and eventually bequeath it to your children.

I am convinced that enacting policies that give Americans more control over their own finances will not only make our individual futures more secure, but will also help grow the country's economy.

Something will eventually have to be done to the system. It simply won't stand up much longer, as fewer and fewer workers pay into the system while more retirees continue to draw out. Amidst all the political bickering that is sure to be prevalent as the issue is discussed, look past the rhetoric and examine the proposals at face value.

Whatever you do, don't be apathetic to the subject. Whatever decision is reached on the issue will have a marked impact on each of our lives. ♦

Randall Thomason is a junior mass communications major and can be reached at rkt2c@mtsu.edu.

Public fails to recognize general's true legacy

By Allen Sullivant
Guest Columnist

On July 13th, 1862, his 41st birthday, troopers under the command of Nathan Bedford Forrest rode hard down the road from Woodbury and swept into the town of Murfreesboro. Fighting their way into the square, the Confederates saved the courthouse from destruction, and numbers of POWs and local citizens from being burned alive. They took the surrender of more than 1,000 Union soldiers, their general, and munitions and supplies valued at more than one million dollars. On that day was born Forrest's eternal link to the city of Murfreesboro, and to the university later established here.

For generations of students, the personification of the MTSU Raider was a Confederate cavalryman resembling Forrest. A talented student in gym uniform led the football team onto the field at home games and the Confederate Battle Flag was prominently displayed by the Band of Blue. Students during my tenure at MTSU entering the new Keathley University Center passed under the Raider Medallion, which depicted the school mascot at near life-size. Such were the now cast-off traditions of MTSU.

In a recent column ("Forrest Underserving of Tribute," Feb. 9), *Sidelines* columnist Brandon Bouchillon questions whether Forrest really deserves the honor of having the ROTC building bear his name. "Only the facts will tell," he states.

Indeed. Unfortunately, the information he attempts to pass off as facts are hardly facts at all.

Bouchillon first asserts that Confederate forces under Forrest "murdered almost every Union soldier" and "were guilty of burying black soldiers alive, and burning tents, which contained immobile Union wounded" at the Battle of Fort Pillow. Stuff and nonsense.

Some Federals having feigned surrender only to pick up their weapons again, wary Confederates doubtless did shoot down some who were actually surrendering. Such is war. In truth, tents and buildings that burned were fired, not by Confederates, but by Unionists attempting to destroy the facilities. Union soldiers buried their own dead. Fort Pillow was a brutal battle, but no massacre. Records

indicate that 226 Union soldiers, 54 of them black, left the fort as prisoners of war, very much alive.

Bouchillon next connects Forrest's connection with the Reconstruction-era Ku Klux Klan, repeating the old fabrication that Forrest was "its founder," and was personally responsible for the violence perpetrated by Klan members. Hardly the real story.

Forrest, who most certainly did not found the Klan, was recruited into it by members who hoped his name would give the organization legitimacy. In a short time, however, Forrest grew troubled by the violence, much of it committed by the Klan, much committed by others and blamed on the Klan. He ordered the Ku Klux Klan in Tennessee disbanded. As one scholar recently noted, Forrest bears about the same level of personal responsibility for the violent acts of the KKK as Michael Jordan does for Nike's use of child labor.

Finally, Bouchillon notes that Forrest made his fortune as a slave trader and plantation master. True enough, and a black mark against Forrest which is acknowledged. Once again, though, the whole story is quite different.

Near the end of his life, Forrest converted to Christianity and made great efforts to reconcile both his friends to Christ and his former enemies to himself. Forrest promoted employment and education rights for freedmen, hiring them to help design, and build the railroad he established. "Go to work, be industrious, live honestly and act truly, and when you are honestly I'll come to your relief," he told new black citizens.

One of his biographers, Jack Hurst, noted that Forrest was "a man whose social attitudes may well have changed farther in the direction of racial enlightenment over the span of his lifetime than those of most American historical figures."

Nathan Bedford Forrest died in 1877 at the age of 56. At the time of his passing he had reconciled with old enemies, lifted up those whom he had once oppressed and was at peace with his God and with himself. We should all be so fortunate. ♦

Allen Sullivant graduated from MTSU in Dec. 1975 with a degree in American history and political science.

Illness might be flu; might be anthrax

Well, it's cold and flu season, and that only means one thing: You'll be dismissing all health issues and not taking the proper precautions against biological warfare.

Luckily for you, I've already mapped out even more ways to avoid becoming terrorized by the terrorists. So instead of just dismissing your cough as an upper-respiratory infection, be sure to read these symptoms to ensure you're not on a slab at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with some scientist leaning over you saying, "That's funny; I could've sworn we'd eradicated smallpox years ago."

First off, know your potential diseases and the symptoms. Here's a breakdown of some things you ought to lose sleep over. If you think you've inhaled anthrax, well, it's almost always fatal, according to the CDC's Web site. Let's not waste our time. If you've come into contact with it (like 95 percent of cases), look for an infectious area that looks like a bug bite. Don't worry, though - after a few days it'll become an ulcer with a black center, but (good news) it's rarely fatal if treated. If you find yourself with severe abdominal pain while vomiting blood, you may have anthrax in your intestines. And even if you don't, you should probably get that checked out anyway, because it's definitely not the flu.

As far as smallpox goes, the United States has among the best vaccines on hand in case of crisis. However, according to bt.cdc.gov, "The vaccine is not recommended for everyone if there is no smallpox disease." That doesn't sound too promising, so let's look at ways to identify if it's lurking in your body.

For the first week to 17 days, you feel fine and can't spread it. That sounds pretty good. But then all the bad stuff comes: high fever, rash, pustules that scab over and the occasional death. You can still get vaccinated as long as the rash hasn't appeared yet, but odds are you won't be showing symptoms.

Just hope you're not the first to get it, because, if an outbreak occurs, the public will be informed via television, radio, Internet and newspaper. Don't worry; I'm sure *Sidelines* is at the top of the information list.

Did you ever read "The Hot Zone"? It's pretty much about how an outbreak of Ebola led to people bleeding out and dying all over the place. You do not want this to happen to you.

There are four types of Ebola, only three of which have occurred in humans: Ebola-Zaire, Ebola-Sudan and Ebola-Ivory Coast. Call your travel agent and cancel any vacations to those destinations, just to be safe. Symptoms can take two to 21 days to appear, and are flu-like (headache, weakness, vomiting) with a few additions: red eyes, internal bleeding and external bleeding.

Not everyone dies from it, but because so little is known about how it occurs, there aren't very many treatment options other than monitoring you while the virus either kills you or you recover.

They have made one notable observation: "Patients who die usually have not developed a significant immune response to the virus at the time of death." So if you die from Ebola, it's because your immune system couldn't fight it. Actually, that could probably go for anything.

No one knows when the bioterrorism could strike, so take a few common sense precautions. Avoid highly public places like shopping malls and other such pillars of capitalism.

Don't take candy, blankets or vials of unidentified substances from strangers. Beware of anything without a return address or with an obviously fake one. Avoid sick people and places that harbor sick people (hospitals, clinics, daycares). It only takes one person to start an outbreak.

Hopefully these tips will help you breathe easier. Be sure to check out bt.cdc.gov, your friendly bioterrorist resource, for even more proof that everything you do is bad for you. ♦

Wendy Caldwell is a junior mathematics major making the world safe, one column at a time. She can be reached at wkc2d@mtsu.edu.

SIDELINES

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Letters Policy

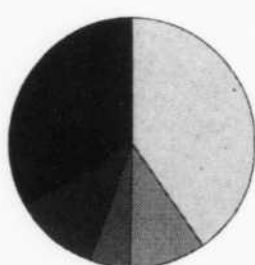
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Sidelines online poll results

Do you think Student Government Association elections are fair?

- Who cares? They have virtually no power anyway. (40 percent)
- I don't vote in those things. (10 percent)
- Yes, the right people always win. (5 percent)
- What? Do you even remember the last SGA election? (11 percent)



It's as fair as it can be, considering the pathetic voter turnout. (33 percent)

Results are not scientific; 149 people voted in this poll.

Letters to the Editor

Who wants revolution? Not most

To the Editor:

Brandon Bouchillon's answer to the question of our nation's current state is outrageous. Yes, it is true that Thomas Jefferson and our forefathers encouraged revolution as a means of keeping our government in check, but Bouchillon misconstrues what he deems "a dire situation." Revolution is a dangerous thing, not to be taken lightly. Not everyone is in agreement that way things are being run by the current administration, and that's understandable. That is democracy in action and lively debate was expected, even encouraged, by our forefathers.

Bouchillon attacks what he calls the "fictional separation of church and state." Does President George W. Bush dictate where you must go to church? Or even demand that you attend? No. We still have a separation of church and state; the Constitution puts forth the notion of freedom of religion, not freedom from religion. Along those lines, Bouchillon expresses irritation that decisions are made based on morals. Isn't that what most rational people base their decisions on, morals? I choose not to plagiarize my work because that would violate not only the university's standards, but my own morals as well. If we do not, as a nation, hold ourselves to some moral code, we have no ground on which to stand.

The leftist media is flooded with lies, but it is our obligation to be critical of the media and challenge what they report. If held responsible for their lies, they buckle under the pressure. Just look at what happened to Dan Rather.

Exercise your freedom of speech, run for a public office, or get involved in the politics you criticize. But it is a little premature and even immature at this point to suggest revolt. Emotional and whiny outbursts only make one look foolish.

Kara Watkins
Junior, College of Mass Communication



Single mother realizes dream of owning clothing store

By Sara McManamy
Staff Writer

Are you tired of waking up at 6 a.m. on a Saturday to find the best clothes at yard sales?

If you're looking for vintage clothes, Staci Higdon, owner of Sugaree's at 113 W. Lytle St. can take care of that for you.

Although there are a few new items, Higdon collected most of the clothing from various garage sales, thrift stores and estate sales over the years.

Higdon, originally from Chattanooga, moved to Murfreesboro to major in English at MTSU.

She stopped attending classes 10 years ago, and since then she has worked various jobs, including waiting tables and cleaning houses.

When her 6-year-old twin daughters Carmen and Marlo entered kindergarten last fall, the single mom left a position in the district attorney's office to finally realize her dream.

"I've been wanting to do this for years," Higdon said. "There are so many creative, unique people drawn to Murfreesboro, and they just needed

this store."

Higdon's support for Murfreesboro's creative community is apparent in the store. Paintings by a local artist hang on the walls. Locally hand-made jewelry, purses and scarves are on display for sale.

"If someone comes in with something [they made] that fits the style of the store, and we can come to an arrangement, I have no problem selling it here," Higdon said.

Although vintage clothing is often associated with consignment shops, Higdon doesn't consider Sugaree's one.

"People have come in to consign things, and I'm willing, but I don't sell the clothes for enough to offer much money," Higdon said.

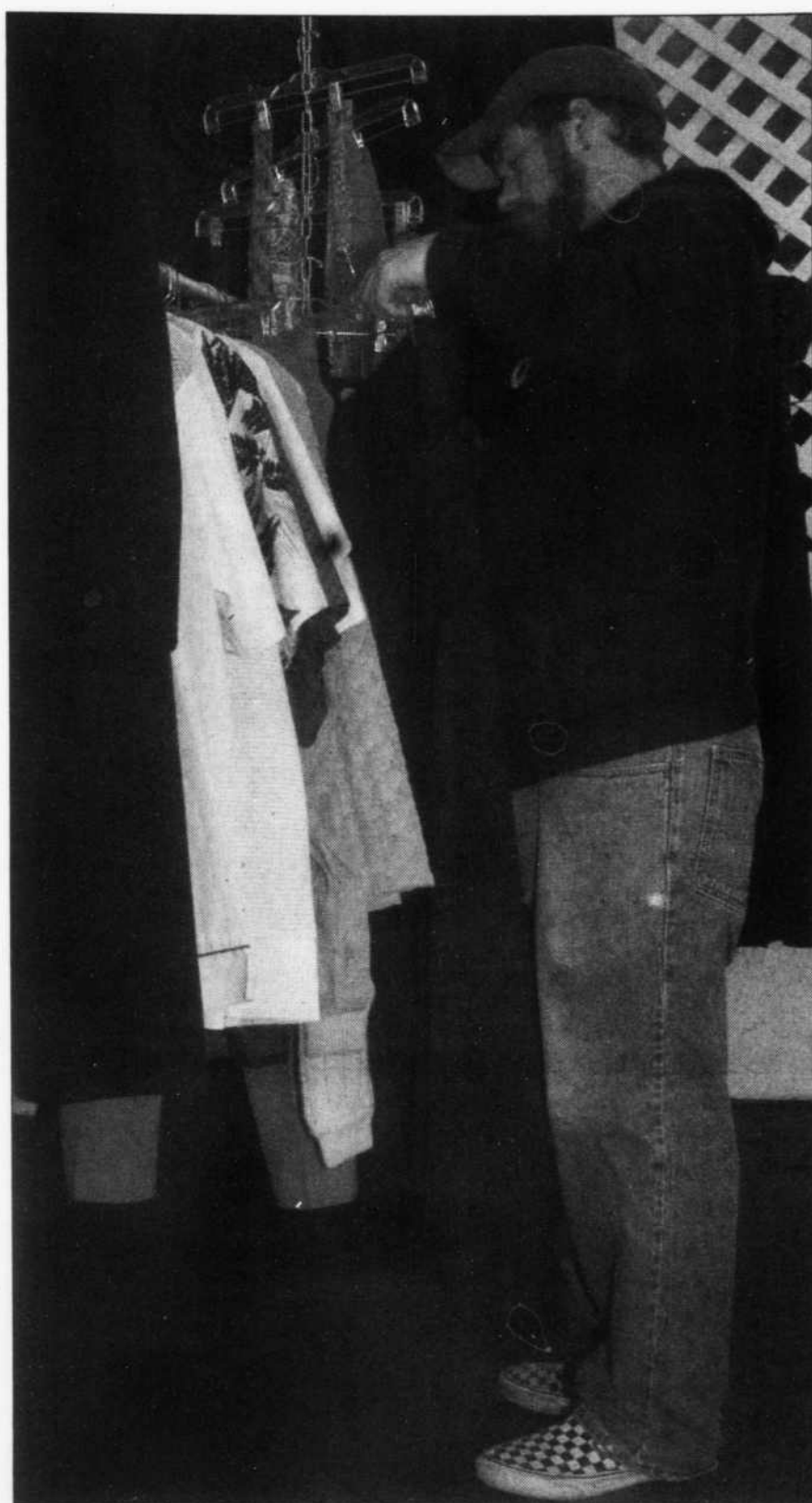
Most of the vintage items sell for under \$10, with the exception of a few dresses that are priced under \$15. The new items cost a little more, but they average between \$25 and \$35 per item.

Although Sugaree's has only been open for about two months, Higdon is already planning to add extra clothing racks for more inventory. She also hopes to increase the selection of

men's items offered.

Higdon credits an advertisement in *Sidelines* and word-of-mouth advertising for the growth of Sugaree's.

"It's been so encouraging with people coming in and telling me that this [store] is what they've been looking for," Higdon said. ♦



Photos by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

(Above) A customer looks through the clothing at Sugaree's.

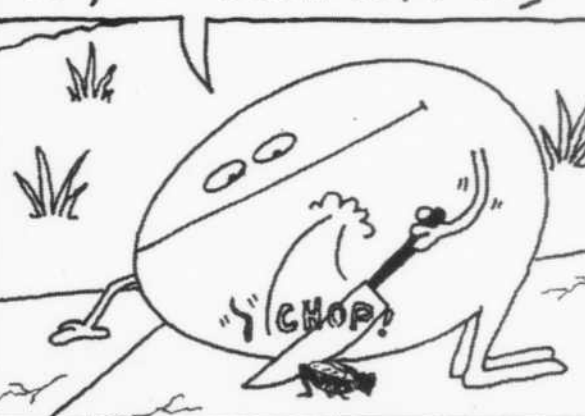
(Left) Staci Higdon is the owner of Sugaree's on Lytle Street. She is a former MTSU student, as well as a mother of twins.



Von

Ha! Let's see you try to fly now!

Say goodbye, Mr. cricket, to your back left leg...



Von, you're such a masochist

No. Insects don't have a central nervous system so they aren't hurt by your tortures. You, on the other hand, have



MICHAEL FLOWERS

©2005

Concert will benefit special needs children

By Brandi Fleck
Staff Writer

Get ready to party Wednesday, March 2, when a benefit concert being thrown for Project HELP, a program for special needs children, features acoustic singer/songwriter Dave Barnes.

Sophomore Brittney Carroll is heading up the arrangements for a service learning internship under English professor Ron Kates. She is also on the concert committee on campus and wanted to combine her two passions. She has booked bands with similar passions.

"We usually just want to make enough to get dinner, but not here because this is a matter of lending our music to a cause and that's very exciting to us," Alex Florez, lead singer of Florez, the opening act, says.

Florez enthusiastically explains that playing this concert will not only empower the Project HELP children, but will also empower the MTSU students who work with the children. He says this is setting up a system where people can continue helping other people over time instead of being just a one-time charity.

Carroll hopes to raise at least \$1,000 and wants the concert to sell out. Profits will all go to supplies for Project HELP.

Debbie Bauder, director of Project HELP since 2000, says

the profits will be specifically going to a new touch screen for the children's computer. The touch screen is very important because toddlers don't have the hand-eye coordination to use a mouse, but they are greatly benefited by the learning programs on the computer.

Teachers and MTSU student volunteers work with the children in areas of speech, language, cognitive, social, adaptive and motor skills.

Project HELP, which was founded in 1983, is the only educational program in Rutherford County that serves infants and toddlers with developmental delays such as mental retardation, blindness, deafness, autism and many other kinds of disabilities.

Teachers work with children either at home or in a preschool classroom setting, and MTSU students help give one-on-one time to the children while "role models," or non-developmentally delayed children, come in to play, learn and unknowingly teach the developmentally delayed children.

Bauder was ecstatic when she heard about the benefit concert for Project HELP and thinks that the opportunity within this project for not only the children, staff and students involved, but also Carroll is "monumental."

Carroll saw Dave Barnes play at Vanderbilt University and

decided to book him because she liked his laid-back acoustic style. Plus, he made a joke on stage saying that he never attended Vanderbilt, but that he is an MTSU alumnus.

Nashville-based Barnes opened for Amy Grant in Atlanta, Ga. about six months ago for a crowd of 2,500 people, but he has also played concerts to help raise money for people traveling to different countries, and has a benefit concert planned for the Children's Hospital in Virginia.

Florez is excited about opening for Barnes and for an MTSU audience.

"[Our music is] spicy - not completely radical - but it has got a little Latin, hip hop or even bluegrass influence. It sounds like Florez no matter what particular genre the song may be," Florez says.

However, for the MTSU crowd, Carroll says Florez will tone down the music with an "unplugged" type performance, since Barnes will only be on the stage with his guitar.

"I'm really into music and needed a service project. I wanted special needs children to benefit at first and then decided to give back to campus," Carroll says.

The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Keathley University Center Theater.

Tickets are \$5, and seating begins at 7 p.m. ♦

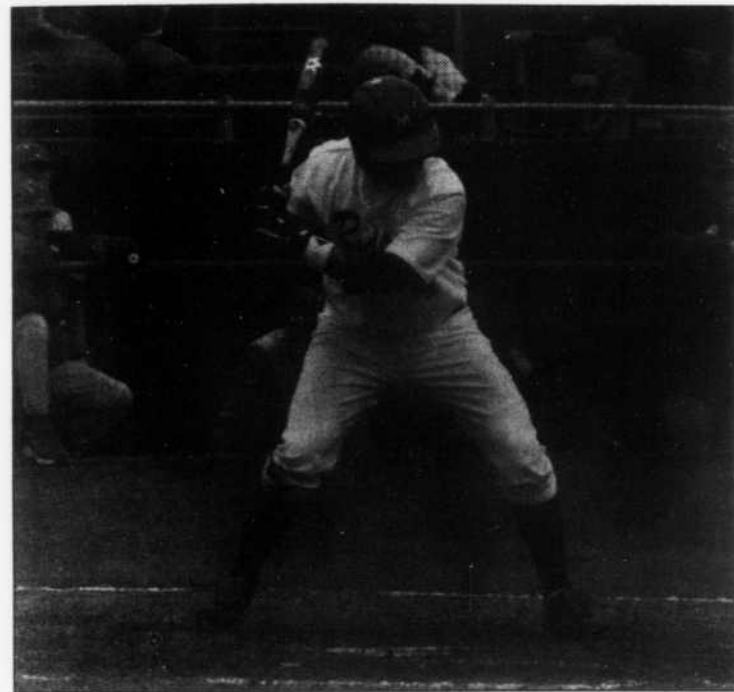
SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, February 28, 2005

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Anderson earns first collegiate win against Iowa



File Photo

MT's Nate Jagers had three runs batted in against Iowa.

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders struggled in their first outing of the ScreenTech Wiregrass Baseball Classic, where Middle Tennessee lost 8-4 after a six-run sixth inning from the Ohio State Buckeyes.

OSU took a 2-1 lead into the sixth, during which Blue Raider pitching walked three batters before two doubles gave the Buckeyes an 8-1 lead. Blue Raider pitcher Eric Blevins (0-2) was credited with the loss, giving up four earned runs on nine hits, striking out two and walking three batters in five innings pitched.

The Blue Raiders committed three errors in the game, coming from seniors Eric McNamee and Josh Archer. MT now has six errors in three games played this season.

"I was disappointed with the way we came out, not having fun and playing baseball," Middle Tennessee head coach Steve Peterson said. "When one thing bad happened, we got down and didn't bounce back."

Ohio State leadoff hitter Jacob Howell got things started in the sixth inning after he hit a

MT	4
OSU	8
Next Game: Tomorrow at Belmont	

triple with one out. Following the three walks, pinch hitter Adam Schneider hit a double, giving OSU a 5-1 lead. Paul Farinacci cleared the bases with another double, and OSU scored six runs on four walks and three hits.

"You have to give Ohio State some credit," Peterson said. "They are a very unselfish team and got big hits when they had runners on base."

One bright spot for MT was center fielder Todd Martin, who went 4-4 with a solo home run in the top of the ninth, his first as a Blue Raider.

Saturday was a brighter day for the team, when on the second day of action the Blue Raiders pulled off an 11-9 victory over Iowa.

Both teams got on the board quick. Iowa scored two runs, one on a passed ball and a

See Baseball, 8

Lady Raiders extend streak

MT defeats FIU in final home game

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team defeated Florida International 67-58 Saturday afternoon at Murphy Center for another Sun Belt Conference victory.

The first time the Lady Raiders played FIU this season, MT struggled in a 66-55 loss that came two days after the loss to Western Kentucky.

"We did not play well in the whole entire game against FIU, but this time around tables were turned," MT head coach Stephany Smith. "After we played as well as we did Thursday night against WKU, I truly felt like this team thought that we were going to come out and basically do the same thing against FIU."

MT (19-6, 11-3 SBC) is currently on a two-game winning streak after beating FIU (17-9, 7-6 SBC). The Lady Raiders jumped out to an early 7-0 lead until Tomova Milena buried a free throw.

"I thought we were very aggressive for the first eight minutes of the half," Smith said. "But Chrissy Givens gets whistled for her first foul, all of the sudden she takes five giant steps backwards, and then there goes our defense. However, I feel fortunate that we came as strong as we did late."

Smith also noticed that the percentages were a little different from the first half to the second half.

"The reason why our percentages were better early was because we were getting fast break opportunities and lay-ups," Smith said.

For the Lady Raiders, three players scored in double figures. Patricia Holmes led the Lady Raiders with 20 points and five assists. Tia Stovall had 14 points and six rebounds, while Krystle Horton added 12 points.

"It was Senior Night and our



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Lady Raider Senior Ciara Gray scored four points in her final home game on Saturday.

last home game," Horton said. "We wanted to come out and fight hard, especially for the seniors."

Holmes played her last final regular season home game and capped off her career with another win.

"The three seniors contributed big factors at different times," Smith said. "They are three players that we are going

to miss an awful great deal in this program."

Ditte Jakobsen and Ciara Gray also played their final game in Murphy Center.

Jakobsen scored seven points and grabbed five rebounds in the win, while Gray contributed with four points and four rebounds.

After the win against FIU, the Lady Raiders will be getting

ready to prepare for the SBC tournament.

"We wanted to finish on a good note for the tournament, so I feel good about going into the tournament," Smith said.

The Lady Raiders will not return to action until the Sun Belt Championships, which will begin on March 4. ♦

Blue Raiders conclude season on road

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

Tonight the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team will take on a red-hot Florida International squad with seeding for the upcoming conference tournament on the line in the last game of the season.

"We [have] got to go out and play hard for 40 minutes and be on the top of our game," MT guard Michael Cuffee said.

The Blue Raiders will have to do it without the services of their leading scorer Mike Dean. Dean re-injured his toe after hitting the game-tying jumper with 6.4 seconds to go in regulation in the 85-83 overtime loss to Western Kentucky on Thursday night.

"I think that he is doubtful," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "I think his concern is he's just getting healthy. At Western Kentucky, he was making a lot of progress. Western Kentucky was his best game and will have to kind of see how he is responding to the treatment."

MT (17-11, 6-7) will be facing a dangerous FIU (11-15, 4-9) team that has won three of the last four games, including upsetting WKU 79-77 on Saturday night. The Golden Panthers come in as one of the best rebounding and defensive teams in the Sun Belt Conference. FIU's Ivan Almonte leads the SBC in rebounding with 10 per game.

"They're very physical around the goal. They rebound the ball extremely well. They have been playing much better of late," Davis said.

In the first meeting of the season on Feb. 5, the Blue Raiders took care of FIU 82-69. In the victory, guards Dean, Bryan Smithson and Marcus Morrissey scored 57 of the team's 82 points. For FIU, Junior Mathis scored 30, and Almonte added 15 points and 10 rebounds.

The Blue Raiders will be looking for momentum Friday into the SBC tournament that starts on Friday.

"It's extremely important - we were just

talking about that in the locker room," MT forward Kyle Young said. "Momentum plays a big part in us doing well in the tournament. We need to have momentum going in there."

In addition, SBC tournament seeding is on the line. A victory for MT means a 7-7 record in the SBC. That would tie them with Arkansas State for third place in the Eastern Division. However, because of the season sweep of ASU, MT will clinch the East's No. 3 seed and play the No. 6 West seed, New Mexico State, on Friday. A loss drops them to the No. 4 seed in the East and will result in the team playing No. 5 West seed and tournament host North Texas on Friday.

"A week from Saturday, our season could be over," Davis said. "We [have] got a possibility of five games left. In my opinion, I think the conference tournament starts tonight against Florida International. I think it's critical that your team be playing well going into the whatever tournament."

Tip off for tonight's game is at 6:30 p.m. ♦



File Photo

Michael Cuffee scored 17 points in the loss at WKU.

Softball team finishes third in weekend tournament

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

The first half of the Eagle Classic Tournament on Friday did not go in favor of the Blue Raiders' softball team. Middle Tennessee dropped its first two games of the season against Morehead State (1-0) and Georgia Southern (9-1).

The only run of the game against Morehead State was scored by MSU's Michelle McCrady in the bottom of the first inning. McCrady hit a double to the left field wall, then was sent to third on a sacrifice by Krystle Coleman. McCrady then came home after Ashley Katinas' wild pitch. Katinas, however, struck out the last two batters to end the inning.

With one out in the top of the fifth and runners on second and third, MT failed to score on one their best opportunities of the game. Leah Grothaus bunted the ball in an attempt to send Jennifer Grybash home, but Grybash was thrown out at plate. Grothaus advanced to second, leaving runners in scoring position again. However, Melissa Weiland grounded out to end the inning.

The Blue Raiders had a base runner in six of the seven innings but failed to bring one home. Katinas lasted four innings, allowing just one hit and one earned run. She also gave up one walk and struck out six. Crystal Bobo came in for the final two innings and gave up one hit and one strikeout.

In the contest against Georgia Southern, the Eagles were able to score a run in the bottom of

the first off an MT error.

Nicole Gutierrez was on second when Robyne Sillga hit a ball to the shortstop, and a bad throw allowed her to reach first and Gutierrez to score.

The Blue Raiders opened the second inning with two straight singles. MT scored its first run of the season when sophomore Trish White hit a sacrifice fly to left field to send Jennifer Dorais home and tie the game at one.

In the bottom of the second inning, Southern had six hits with nine players coming to the plate.

Then, Bobo was taken out and replaced by Katinas. She then allowed three walks to load the bases. Southern turned around and scored three more runs in the bottom of the third.

The Blue Raiders redeemed themselves on

Saturday in an 11-0 win over St. Francis University. MT had five players with multiple hits. Kristine Reed led the team with three runs batted in.

However, in bracket play, the Blue Raiders dropped their game against Morehead State. The game was scoreless in the bottom of the seventh inning with two outs when Morehead's left fielder hit a game-winning home run over the left field wall.

Against St. Francis, MT scored the first run of the game in the second inning. Kayla Sparks hit the first double and RBI of her career in the bottom of the fifth inning. Bobo, who picked up the win, allowed six hits and one run and struck out three.

The Blue Raiders return to action on Wednesday when they travel to Nashville to take on instate rival Lipscomb at 1 p.m. ♦

Lady Raiders take early lead, easily defeat Lady Hilltoppers

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders got a taste of sweet revenge when they defeated Western Kentucky 79-55 at Murphy Center Thursday night.

Middle Tennessee lost 71-67 to WKU in overtime on Feb. 3 in Bowling Green, Ky. However, when the Lady Hilltoppers came to Murfreesboro, things were different.

The Lady Raiders jumped out to an early 10-4 lead and led WKU for the entire game.

"WKU is a tough team, which meant we had to come ready to play basketball for the entire game," MT head coach Stephany Smith said. "I also thought it was strong for us to have the lead with the lineup we had in to close out the first half."

Two of MT's starting post players were in foul trouble. Krystle Horton only played five minutes because she had three fouls, and Tia Stovall caught two quick fouls in the first half.

MT's defense also held WKU's leading scorer, Crystal Kelly, who usually averages 19 points, to 15. The Lady Raiders kept her off the boards as Kelly averaged only eight boards, two less than her season average.

In the first half, the Lady Raiders out-scored WKU by seven points, but in the second half, the Lady Hilltoppers cut the lead by two points. However, WKU could not take the lead.

"We wanted to play hard for 40 minutes, and it was accomplished," Smith said. "We took advantage of the opportunities, which we had. We went back in the transition where the defense out-scored our offense."

MT was led by Tia Stovall, who scored 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

"We had it set in our minds that we were not going to lose this basketball game," Stovall said.

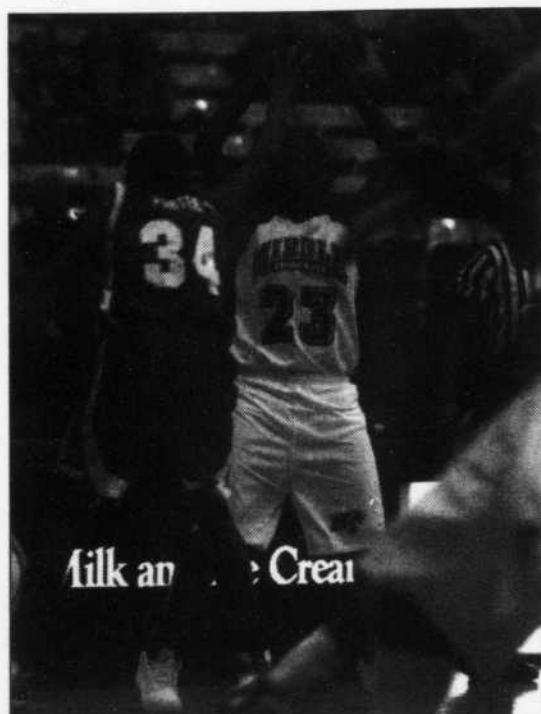


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer
Patrice Holmes tallied 14 points and five assists in the win over Western Kentucky.

"Our team defense led to team offense, and it made us come together."

Patrice Holmes, who poured in 14 points, was the team's second leading scorer.

"When we play WKU, it's a great rivalry," Holmes said. "Whenever we play them, I know I have to bring my 'A' game."

Krystle Horton and Crystal Givens both added 13 points.

WKU led by Kelly, who scored 15 points, and Ashley Butler, who added 11 points. ♦

MT drops heartbreaker at WKU

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

What a great game.

That was the statement heard most around E.A. Diddle Arena after Western Kentucky defeated Middle Tennessee 85-83 in another classic game that went to overtime.

MT point guard Brian Smithson hit a layup while being fouled and converted on the free throw, giving MT an 83-82 advantage with 16 seconds remaining in overtime.

On the following possession, WKU guard Antonio Haynes found freshman guard Courtney Lee, who nailed the game-winning three-pointer with two seconds remaining. A Smithson prayer from half court bounced off the backboard as WKU students stormed the court.

"We told Courtney Lee a long time ago that he wasn't a freshman," WKU coach Darren Horn said. "He had missed one at the end of regulation, and some guys will run from that. I think the fact that he even wanted to take that last shot and stepped up and shot it with confidence, whether it goes in or not, speaks a lot for his character and the fact that he wants the ball in that situation."

"This was a great college basketball game, and it's one of those that if you were sitting in front of the television watching at home and didn't care who won, you would have loved the game," Middle Tennessee coach Kermit Davis said.

One thing that made the game so great was that it was just as back and forth in regulation as it was in OT.

Fats Cuyler hit a three with 3:08 remaining in the second half, tying the game at 68. Haynes drained a three with 1:09 remaining, but just as soon as the crowd got loud, MT senior Mike Dean netted a trey with 46 seconds remaining, tying the game again at 71.

Haynes drove in for a layup with 21 seconds remaining, giving WKU a 73-71 advantage.

However, Dean, who had 19 points in the loss, hit a clutch 17-foot jump shot on the other end to even the score at 73 with 6.4 seconds on the clock.

Haynes then drained a shot from behind mid-court, sending the WKU crowd into a frenzy as time expired—or so they thought. A clock malfunction forced officials to call off the shot and redo the play. Courtney Lee then missed a game-winning three pointer, sending the nailbiter into overtime.

Haynes, one of three seniors to play their last game at home, had a huge impact on the game, shooting 50 percent from the floor for 20 points.

"[Haynes] really settled down in the second half and got to the rim numerous times," Horn said. "He really was the difference in the second half."

Anthony Winchester, who had five three-pointers, led the Hilltoppers with 25 points and 11 rebounds.

Lee, who hit the game winning shot, added 13. Elgrace Wilborn and Danny Rumph also put up double digits to give WKU five players with more than 10 points.

MT (17-11, 6-7 SBC) was led by senior Steve Thomas, who had a double-double with 20 points and 11 rebounds, his best game as a Blue Raider.

"It was a great game, and we gave a solid effort," Thomas said. "In a game like this, it's about executing, making plays and finishing. We did that for the most part, but we didn't finish the game at the end."

Another senior, Michael Cuffee, went 7-9 from the field and scored 17 points.

With the win, WKU (20-6, 9-4 SBC) picked up a bye in the first round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. The Blue Raiders will hope to take something positive from the heart-breaking loss.

"I'm proud of our players and the way they fought hard and battled. Maybe our paths will cross again this season," Davis said. ♦

Classifieds

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Female roommates to occupy new 2BR 1BA cottage, private entrance, 2 blocks from MTSU. \$365 each per month includes heat and air, water, electricity, cable and internet. \$500 deposit, 1 year lease, no pets. 615-364-1004.

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Need 2 roommates ASAP for nice 3bdr/2 1/2 bath cottage style apt. Rent is \$366/month, includes everything. Please contact Thomas at 615-653-3328.

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BDRM! Roommate needed ASAP!! 3 BDRM! BATH BRICK house! Needed to take over lease until May with possible Lease Extension. \$217 plus 1/3 utilities. Call Samantha if interested at 931-581-6064.

Responsible female roommate needed to share new house. room has never been lived in! 3 BR, 2 BA w/ garage not far from MTSU campus. For more information, please contact Elyn at 615-419-6696.

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Female looking for a female roommate. 10 min from MTSU in a town house. Private bath, and walk in closet. \$350 including utilities. Needs to be neat. 584-0797, ask for Rachel.

Roommates needed to share 3bd/2ba house in M'boro. Incl. all utilities \$450/mo (furn. rm. & \$400/mo (unfurn.) 615-867-7689.

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and in great condition. Kitchen, dining rm, dining rm, living rm, good size front& back yard, carport & shed. Rent is \$325/mo plus 1/3 utilities. \$200 deposit. No pets. Call 615-419-0802 for appt.

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Female roommate needed. University Gables. 1bd/bath in 4bd apt. Fully furnished, 24 hr internet, pool, fitness room, w/d. Rent is \$5K (utilities included). Will give \$200 or pay half rent. No Deposit. Call Evelyn @ 615-631-6220 or email emm2q@mtsu.edu.

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Blue Raiders lose on road at Ole Miss

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's tennis team made things interesting but fell 6-1 to No. 5 Ole Miss on Saturday at the Salloum Tennis Center in Oxford.

MT began by winning the doubles point against the Rebels.

At No. 1, Brandon Allan and Kai Schledorn defeated Catalin Gard and Eric Claesson of UM 8-2. Marco Born and Andreas Siljeström handled the Rebels' team of Erling Tveit and Fredrik Aarum 8-3 at No. 2.

At No. 6 singles, Allan fell 6-2, 6-3 to Juan Pablo Di Cesare. Soon after, Gard took care of Siljeström 6-4, 7-5. MT's Schledorn was beaten 6-3, 6-4 by Tveit, giving the Rebels a 3-1 advantage.

In the final three matches, Born was defeated by Claesson 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 at No. 2, and 52nd-ranked Klaesson was victorious over Anant Sitaram 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 at No. 4.

Ten Berge claimed the final point of the match with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 win over Greg Pollack.

The women's tennis team

struggled to split a pair of matches this weekend at Marshall University.

On Friday, MT was defeated handily by Marshall, as the Blue Raiders fell 7-0 to the Thundering Herd.

"Marshall was a really good team," head coach Neil Stapp told MT Media Relations.

In doubles, MT's Jennifer Klaschka and Ann-Kristin Siljeström defeated Joelle Good and Danielle Hock 8-6.

In singles, MU's Lillie Nzudie defeated Klaschka 7-5, 7-6, Good beat Szabo 6-1, 6-2, and Hock held on against Cibils 0-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Ashley Kroy handed Siljeström her second loss, 6-1, 7-6 at No. 4. Jeanne Schwartz won over Williams 6-0, 6-1, and Alizee Paradis defeated Vest 6-3, 6-0.

MT defeated Penn State on Saturday, 4-3.

MT swept the doubles to claim the first point, and wins at No. 2 and No. 4 singles propelled MT to a 3-2 lead overall. Cibils clinched the victory with a 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 win over Sasha Abraham. ♦

Baseball: MT defeats Iowa

Continued from 6

groundball error and another on a single from Kris Welker. MT (2-2) scored when Marcus Taylor laid a double to leftfield, scoring Nathan Hines. Jeff Beachum scored on a sacrifice from Nate Jagers, and Taylor scored on a balk to give MT a 3-2 advantage after one inning.

Iowa came back in the top of the second, when Nate Price connected for a grand slam.

MT grabbed five runs on six hits in the fifth. Nate Jagers had two more runs batted in when he hit a double and scored when Chase Eakes hit a ball to right field. Alex Watson doubled to

right-center field, scoring Eakes, and Eric McNamee had a single to plate Watson, giving MT a 9-7 lead.

MT went into the sixth inning tied 9-9, but hits from Todd Martin, Jagers and Eakes scored another run.

Matt Anderson received his first win, striking out three and allowing three hits in the game.

"I was trying to work ahead and make [Iowa] put something in play," Anderson told MT Media Relations.

MT did not play Troy on Sunday due to rain.

The Blue Raiders will play Belmont on Tuesday. ♦

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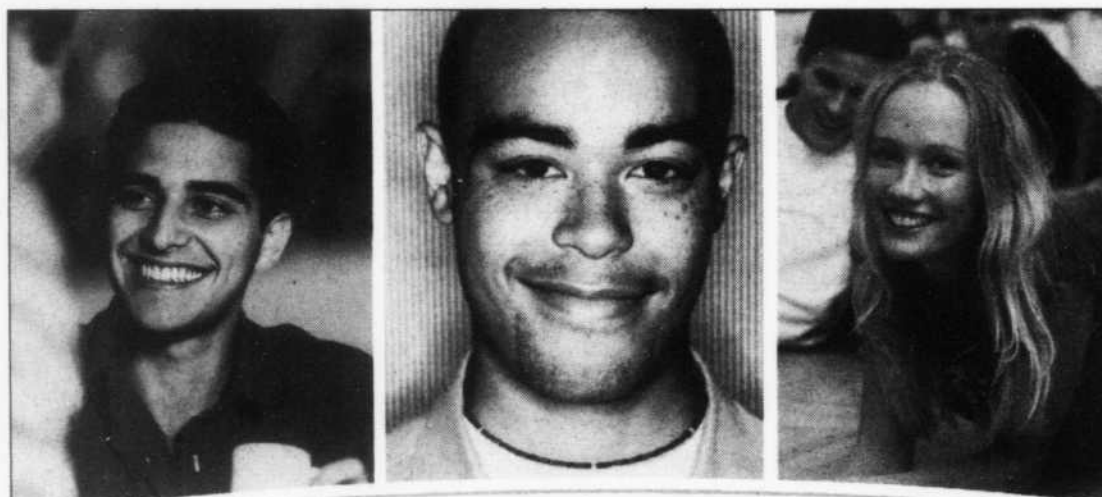
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