

THURSDAY
April 22, 2004

59 77
Scattered Thunder Storms



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In [flash], inside



The university's
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SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 83

Academic schedule undergoes changes for fall

Deadline to drop class shortened; addition of study day before finals

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

MTSU students enrolled for the fall will see some new changes to the academic calendar, creating mixed student opinion.

Under the new Tennessee Board of Regents common calendar, students will only have two weeks to drop a class without a grade instead of the previous calendar's four-week deadline.

According to Connie Pimentel, the assistant director of the scheduling center, the reason for the increased deadline for dropping classes is due in part to the lottery scholarships.

To retain the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship, students must attempt 24 credit hours each year and maintain at least 2.75 grade point average.

Furthermore, most universities already have a two-week deadline for dropping classes,

Pimentel said.

"We've always had a very liberal drop policy with that 4 weeks," Pimentel said.

Lottery scholarship students cannot regain the scholarship if it is lost due to a low GPA or completed hours.

Chutney Carson, a junior social work major, said she has mixed feelings about the new deadline to drop.

"Usually the first week of class is pretty easy, so you really don't know how the class is going to be," Carson said. "But by that second week, the professors usually give out a syllabus and you know what is expected

of you."

"But it may still be hard for students to decide whether or not to take the class," Carson said.

Another change for the fall semester is a study day on Dec. 9 where no classes will be held right before final exams.

"I think it might be beneficial because it's a total day out of the calendar set aside for the student to concentrate on reviewing before the final exam," Pimentel said. "A lot of students do cram."

Carson said that she liked the idea of an extra day to study for final exams, considering a lot of

students have to work besides complete outside schoolwork.

"When you work late and then have to study, it hinders your ability to do well in class," Carson said.

Junior English major Liz Estes said that a study day is respectful to students who have a lot of classes to study for.

"I think the study day would be really beneficial," Estes said. "There are some professors who act like their class is the only one that students are taking."

For more information, the academic calendar can be found at www.mtsu.edu/info/calendar.html. ♦

Important Dates Fall 2004

August 30
Classes begin
September 6
Labor Day
October 16-19
Fall Break
November 25-27
Thanksgiving
December 9
Study Day
December 10-16
Final Exams
December 18
Commencement

Rodeo to be held at Livestock Center

By Maren Minton
Contributor

The 17th Annual Charlie Daniel's Twin Pines Ranch Rodeo will be held at MTSU's Livestock Center on April 23 and 24.

Proceeds from the event will go toward the prevention of child abuse. The fundraiser will begin at 7:30 p.m. and include events such as saddle bronc riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling and bull riding.

Tickets can be bought before the event at the MTSU box office or the night of the event. General admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages five through 12 and children under five get in free.

Saddle bronc riding tests the cowboy's grace and synchronization with an unbroken horse. The rider must hold the rein of the horse with one hand while keeping his free hand from touching both his own body and the body of the horse.

Tie-down roping requires accuracy and teamwork between the cowboy and his horse. The cowboy must keep the calf tied up for the duration of six seconds while the horse keeps the rope taut.

The steer-wrestling event illustrates the speed and strength of the cowboy. The cowboy must pull the steer down by its horns and wrestle the animal to its side while all four feet point in the same direction.

Probably one of the most popular events, bull-riding tests the balance and flexibility of the rider. Similar to saddle bronc riding, the rider must keep his free hand from touching any part of his body or the bull for the duration of eight seconds.

The majority of the proceeds from the rodeo will benefit the Exchange Club Family Center on Heritage Park Drive in Murfreesboro. The Murfreesboro Noon Exchange Club sponsors the event.

Co-chair of the rodeo and member of the Murfreesboro Noon Exchange Club, Lori McCarrall, said that the rodeo is the Exchange Club's biggest fundraiser of the year, and raises anywhere from \$15,000 to \$30,000 for the Family Center.

"We expect it to be even greater than last year," McCarrall said. She is one of many volunteer community members that work with the Murfreesboro Noon Exchange Club. McCarrall says that the

See Rodeo, 2

Oriental flair

Japanese fair honors culture

Japanese calligraphy



Photo by Megan Allendar | Staff Photographer

Yumiko Tainaka demonstrates the art of origami at last Wednesday's Japanese Fair in the Keathley University Center.

By Tim Poland
Staff Writer

Through MTSU's cultural exchange programs, the university is increasing its awareness of the

Japanese culture and more students are traveling to Japanese universities.

Last Wednesday, in the Keathley University Center, MTSU held a Japan Fair with activities such as

origami, calligraphy and a Japanese tea ceremony.

"I really liked it," said Samuel Buchanan, a student in Japanese 1010. "It gives me a better idea of what goes on in their culture."

The existence of a student body of Japanese exchange students and teachers is due to MTSU's relationship with Japanese universities. Much of this can be attributed to Kiyoshi Kawahito, professor of economics and Director of the Japan-U.S. Program at MTSU.

Kawahito has been here since 1971 and is instrumental in keeping good relations between MTSU and several Japanese universities.

The Japan-U.S. Program of MTSU was established in January 2000 by integrating the Japan Center of Tennessee and the U.S.-Japan Economic and Educational Partnership Program.

The Japan-U.S. Program emphasizes academic and educational activities, which include development and promotion of MTSU's academic exchange programs with institutions in Japan and research assistance to MTSU students and faculty.

"When you go abroad you are fascinated about cultures but you realize how little you really know about your own country," Kawahito said.

MTSU participates with three universities through the Japanese exchange programs: Kansai Gaidai University, Yonsei University and Fukushima University.

President Sidney McPhee visited Kansai Gaidai University in 2002 and Fukushima officials visited MTSU in 2001. KGU offers many Japanese language courses and the opportunity to learn the Japanese language through interaction with other Japanese students.

See Japan, 2

Student talks about his DUI experience

By Carrie Hargett
Staff Writer

A MTSU student received a sentence that includes time in jail and speaking at local schools as the result of a drunk driving accident that killed another student last year.

Nineteen-year-old Richard Rico's sentence includes six months in jail and six months of weekends in jail, undergo drug and alcohol assessments and repay for the funeral expenses and lost wages.

Rico must also finish his college degree, speak four times at every public and private middle school and high school in the county and speak at every freshmen orientation for the next eight years.

He will talk to students about how the death of Andrea August, 21, has affected his life. His speeches are to influence students not to drink and drive.

The accident occurred on Halls Hill Pike on April 11, 2003. Andrea August, Rico's passenger, was the only one killed while other passengers suffered minor injuries. Rico had a blood alcohol content of .13.

The sentence Rico received will not be the norm. Rico's situation was unique due to his history. He had no prior arrest and showed remorse about what had happened.

Similar offenses would have different punishments depending on the person's background, Andrea's father, Harold August said.

"We can find a way for him to speak at either orientation or Welcome Week, but we also have Alcohol Awareness Week," Customs Director Gina Poff

See DUI, 2

Blue Raider athletic Hall of Famers will finally find a home

By Brett Smith
Contributor

From the 1900s to 2004 MTSU Hall of Fame athletes have had no place to call home.

Thanks to a \$1 million donation by Emmett Kennon and his wife, the university is building a Hall of Fame, finally providing a home for MTSU's accomplished athletes.

"We have wanted to do this for some time, but the timing was never right," Kennon said. "It's right now, and we want to get it done as soon as possible. We have a great love for this institution and are very happy to assist in making it a reality."

Kennon is a 1938 graduate

who lettered in football and baseball. He's a member of the MTSU Hall of Fame and has been active with the Varsity Club, a program that keeps alumni athletes in contact with the university.

The family involvement does not stop with Kennon and his wife. Kennon's grandson is the architect for the Hall of Fame. He's doing the project because of the understanding he has of his grandfather's love for MTSU and Blue Raider athletics.

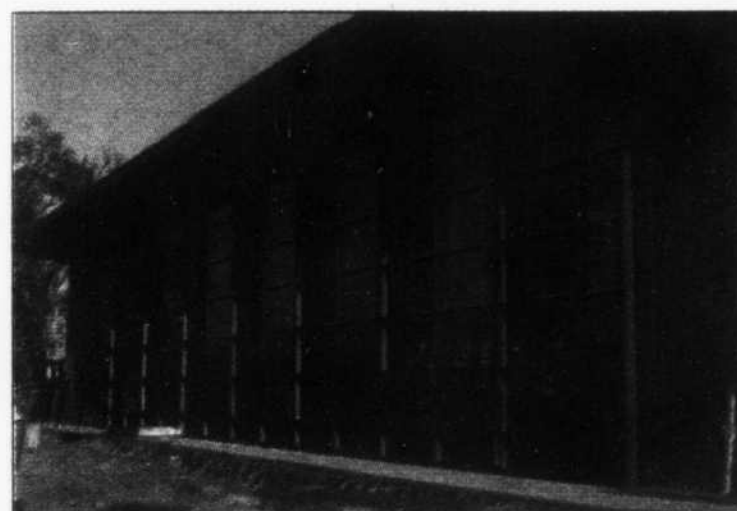
"Out of the goodness of his heart and the love his family has for this university, Emmett and Rose are giving an unbelievable amount of money to allow our athletic program to display the pride and tradition it deserves,"

Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer
The Hall of Fame building is scheduled to open on June 19 after the annual induction of new members. The building is located next to the Murphy Center.

said Boots Donnelly, athletic director.

People may not be aware that MTSU has a Hall of Fame for those athletes who have made great accomplishments. It was founded in 1976 and annually inducts new members.

The main goal of the new Hall of Fame building is to make the MTSU community aware of the accomplishments



of those Blue Raider athletes.

"We have had a very rich tradition in sports here at Middle," said Joe Simpson, director of Varsity

Club. "Now we will have a permanent structure to showcase

See Hall of Fame, 2

Japan: Program offers exchange program between Japan, U.S.

Continued from 1

Yonsei University is the oldest private institution in Korea. An academic exchange agreement was signed by McPhee and Chancellor Charles Manning of the Tennessee Board of Regents to allow students from both universities to participate in the programs. Exchange of students started in 2003 with YU.

These exchange programs are not just important for students but help supply faculty members to the universities, which teach college students new languages and new cultural awareness.

Also, many graduate students go on to teach English in Japan to students on a high school level or below. Kawahito has sent three MTSU graduates to work for the boards of educa-

tion in Japanese cities in the last three years.

The benefit of all these programs is a better understanding of Japanese culture and respect for other people.

More often than not, Americans are surrounded by cultural diversity but never take the opportunity to learn about other people and their past.

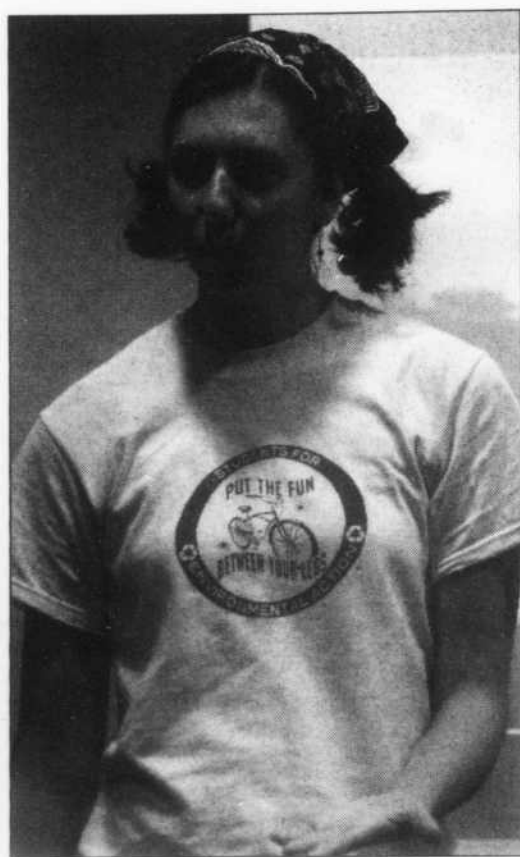
Offering a unique exchange program and the opportunity

to learn new languages from Japanese people is the way that MTSU is giving its students an opportunity to do just that.

"I think the biggest benefit is it will open your mind and give you an opportunity to look at yourself, your own community, and your own country," Kawahito said.

For more information on the Japan-U.S. Program, visit the Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~japan. ♦

SEA presents environmental projects



Photos by Seth Holland | Staff Photographer

Students for Environmental Action held an environmental symposium last night in the Suntrust Room in the Business and Aerospace Building. Melissa Shelby (left) did a presentation on kenaf, a plant that can be made into paper or woven into fabrics. Senior art education major Anna Fitzgerald (right), president of SEA, also spoke during the symposium.

Hall of Fame: First event scheduled in June

Continued from 1

our history. All aspects of sports history will be available to the Blue Raider family."

Locating the artifacts could post a challenge for those involved in filling the walls in the Hall of Fame.

"We have many artifacts that are currently spread throughout campus," said Simpson. "Now we have the pleasure of collecting all the artifacts and showcasing them in our new building."

The Hall of Fame will be located on the northeast side of campus. It's being constructed within the MTSU complex of Floyd Stadium, Murphy Center, the baseball stadium, tennis

courts and the running track.

The building will consist of three major areas: an exhibit area, a meeting hall and exterior gathering porch. The meeting hall, with an 18-foot ceiling, will accommodate 150-250 people for dinners and lectures. Directly to one side of the hall will be the exhibit area with space for the growing collection of artifacts and photographs of MT's sports history.

To the opposite side is a south-facing porch, which can accommodate game-day gatherings and Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. Administrative offices and support spaces comprise the balance of the main floor with a conference room and space for a future archives

area on the upper mezzanine of the 7,400-square-foot building.

June 24 will be the first official event held at the new Hall of Fame. The 2004-2005 Hall of Fame candidates will also be inducted that day.

Simpson looks to the future for the multitude of events that will be available to take place at the Hall of Fame building.

"The future looks bright now for Blue Raider athletics," he noted. "The alumni athletes made bonds with their fellow sportsmen when they were students. Now with the new building these athletes have the ability to rekindle those bonds that they once shared." ♦

DUI: Accident occurred April 11, 2003

Continued from 1

said.

August plans to attend as many speeches as possible with Rico. He wants to show students how the accident not only affected Rico's life but how it affected her family.

Rico or the court system has not tried to contact the Customs Office, Poff said.

Andrea's family had input in Rico's sentence. They did not want him to waste away in jail. They wanted him to help others, August said.

"We strongly felt that in this case a long sentence in jail would do nothing to prevent

this tragedy from reoccurring," August said.

Circuit Court Judge Don Ash could have given Rico a sentence of nine months to eight years in jail. Many people believe Ash just gave Rico a slap on the wrist, but Rico will be serving this sentence for the full eight years, August said.

"I fully support the plan that Judge Ash crafted," August said.

If Rico's story influences just one student not to drink and drive, then it could save another family from experiencing this tragedy, August said.

Rico could not be reached for comment. ♦

Rodeo: Proceeds go to prevention of child abuse

Continued from 1

Family Center is a great cause and the reason why she decided to join the Exchange Club.

"These centers are really family centers because they do parenting classes, and the courts, when parents divorce, will require that they attend classes there which help them from putting the child in the middle of the divorce," McCarrall said.

Charlie Daniel lent his name to the fundraiser and is a vocal advocate for the prevention of child abuse. According to McCarrall, the idea for the rodeo came from Charlie Daniel's ranch manager Thurman Mullins and Sen. Bill Ketron, a member of the Exchange Club.

"Actually Bill and Thurman met on an airplane years ago by chance and starting talking and that's actually how the rodeo came about. We needed a fundraiser and they did rodeos," McCarrall said.

The club is open to any company or individual that wishes to join and meets at noon on Thursdays at the Stones River Country Club on Broad Street.

The meetings are open to the public. ♦

CRIME LOG

April 10

• 2:58 a.m.

Rutherford Boulevard

Carl Foster Jr., 43, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., was charged with driving under the influence, second violation and implied consent.

April 11

• 11:50 p.m.

Baird Lane lot

Darenzo Martin, 21, from Bahalia, Miss., was charged with public intoxication and disorderly

• 1:39 a.m.

Tennessee Boulevard and Bell Street

Ryan King, 21, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., was charged with driving under the influence, first violation and implied consent. He was also charged with a violation of the open container law.

April 17

• 1:47 a.m.

Dennis M. Hearnberger of Birchwood Drive was arrested for driving on a suspended license.

• 1:59 p.m.

Scarlett Commons

Subject complained about noise coming from Room 331. Occupants of Room 331 came to subject's room and harassed her. Housing will handle the situation.

April 18

• 1:30 a.m.

Beta Theta Pi house on Greek Row

A fight broke out during a party at the Beta house. About 600 - 700 individuals were at the party. Assistance was requested from the Murfreesboro Police Department. Kim Godwin, director of Greek Life, and the on-call dean were notified.

• 3:55 a.m.

Family Apartments

Female subject reported that her husband was intoxicated and locked outside of the apartment. Male subject was throwing things at the apartment window. Omar Benton, 22, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., was arrested and charged with assault, disorderly conduct and public intoxication.

April 20

• 11 p.m.

Travarus Taylor, 22, of Rutherford Boulevard was charged with filing a false report.

• 3:44 a.m.

Rutherford Boulevard

Candace Pendergrast, 19, was arrested for possession of alcohol under 21. Amanda Rye, 18, was arrested from consumption of alcohol under 21.

These entries were compiled from Public Safety's media log. To report a crime or emergency, call 898-2424.

jennifer garner



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STATE AND LOCAL

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Thursday, April 22, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 3

County considers taxing frequent movers

By Jason Cox
State and Local News Editor

Homebuilder Denny Hastings defended his proposal for a tax on initiating electric service as one that will help young people accomplish the American dream of owning a home.

Hastings proposed a \$250 general service tax for the privilege of contacting the electric company to have service initiated to the Rutherford County

revenue study task force, which was created to study different methods of bringing more money into county coffers.

According to *The Daily News Journal*, Hastings said the tax would impact primarily "seasonal residents," which include both MTSU students and non-resident workers. Hastings said then that the proposal would raise \$6.3 million in new revenue.

However, Hastings said this proposal would help young

people accomplish the common American dream, which he said is to own a home.

"All we're trying to do is make sure that people can continue to be able to reach the dream that they have chosen in this country, which is owning their own home," he said. "That's the dream of everybody in this country."

Exemptions would be provided for people in federal housing projects and people on fixed incomes such as senior cit-

izens, but college students would "absolutely not" be exempted "because they can work," he said.

Hastings said that students will not be burdened as much by this tax, should it eventually be enacted, because many new college students will have their tuition paid by the HOPE scholarship.

"You don't have to have as much disposable [income] if the state's paying for [tuition]," he said. "What we have to go

after is who can afford and who can't afford and spread it across the board equally to everyone. If you don't move, you don't pay."

Hastings, who runs Denny Hastings Family Ltd. Partnership — a residential construction company — said people trying to get into newly-built homes face much higher taxes than people moving into pre-existing homes.

"Right now, we're loaded up with the highest percentages of taxes paid on new construction

affecting minorities, the poorest people, the most because they're paying more money in taxes when they purchase a piece of property than the guy who's buying a 1,500 [sq.] ft. home, a 2,000 sq. ft. home ... they're paying 300 percent more in taxes right now than the guy who buys a 3,500 sq. ft. home," he said. "That's not fair."

He cited additional taxes and various permit fees that add up

See Tax, 4

Year's cicadas will not affect Murfreesboro

By B.J. Chaplin
Staff Writer

After a 17-year hiatus, periodical cicadas are headed back to Tennessee, just in time for graduation.

Fortunately for the many students and faculty who are not fans of the insects, this group of cicadas is not expected to swarm Rutherford County, according to the Entomology and Plant Pathology Department at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture projects that the re-emergence of the 17-year cicadas, known as Brood X, will swarm about 40 counties, UTK reported.

Neighboring Wilson County is expected to be hit with cicadas, as well as a large portion of East Tennessee.

Davidson County is expected to be cicada-free for 2004.

The last brood of cicadas to emerge in Rutherford County was Brood XIX in 1998. Those cicadas differ from Brood X in that they appear every 13 years instead of 17.

In all, 15 broods have been described by scientists and are designated by Roman numerals. Three broods appear every 13 years (Broods XIX, XXII and XXIII), and 12 appear every 17 years (I-X, XII and XIV).

The last brood to emerge in Tennessee was Brood XXII, which appeared two years ago in West Tennessee. This year's group, Brood X, according to UTK's Entomology and Plant Pathology Department, has the largest emergence of the 17-

year cicada in the United States. Rutherford County will probably see cicadas again with the re-emergence of 17-year Brood XIV in 2008. In 2011 and 2015, 13-year Broods XIX and XXIII, respectively, are scheduled to make appearances in Rutherford County.

According to Ohio State University's Entomology Department, "Massive brood emergence is believed to overwhelm predators, which are mostly birds ... this ensures that enough survivors will be left behind to reproduce."

After a male cicada has mated with a female, the female deposits her eggs into a twig on a tree.

"They cut or rip into the twig, and they lay a double row of eggs," explained Frank A. Hale, an entomology professor at the UTK Agricultural Extension Service. The eggs, Hale said, take around six weeks to hatch.

The process may harm branches on trees, Hale said.

"It generally doesn't kill a small tree," he said, adding, however, that it can "mess it up."

"It might set you back if you planted an apple orchard," he said.

To attract females for mating, males are the ones that make the infamous buzzing sounds associated with cicadas.

"While the females do the damage," Hale said, "the males make the racket."

Four or five days after emerging, the males start

See Cicadas, 4

That's a lot of blood

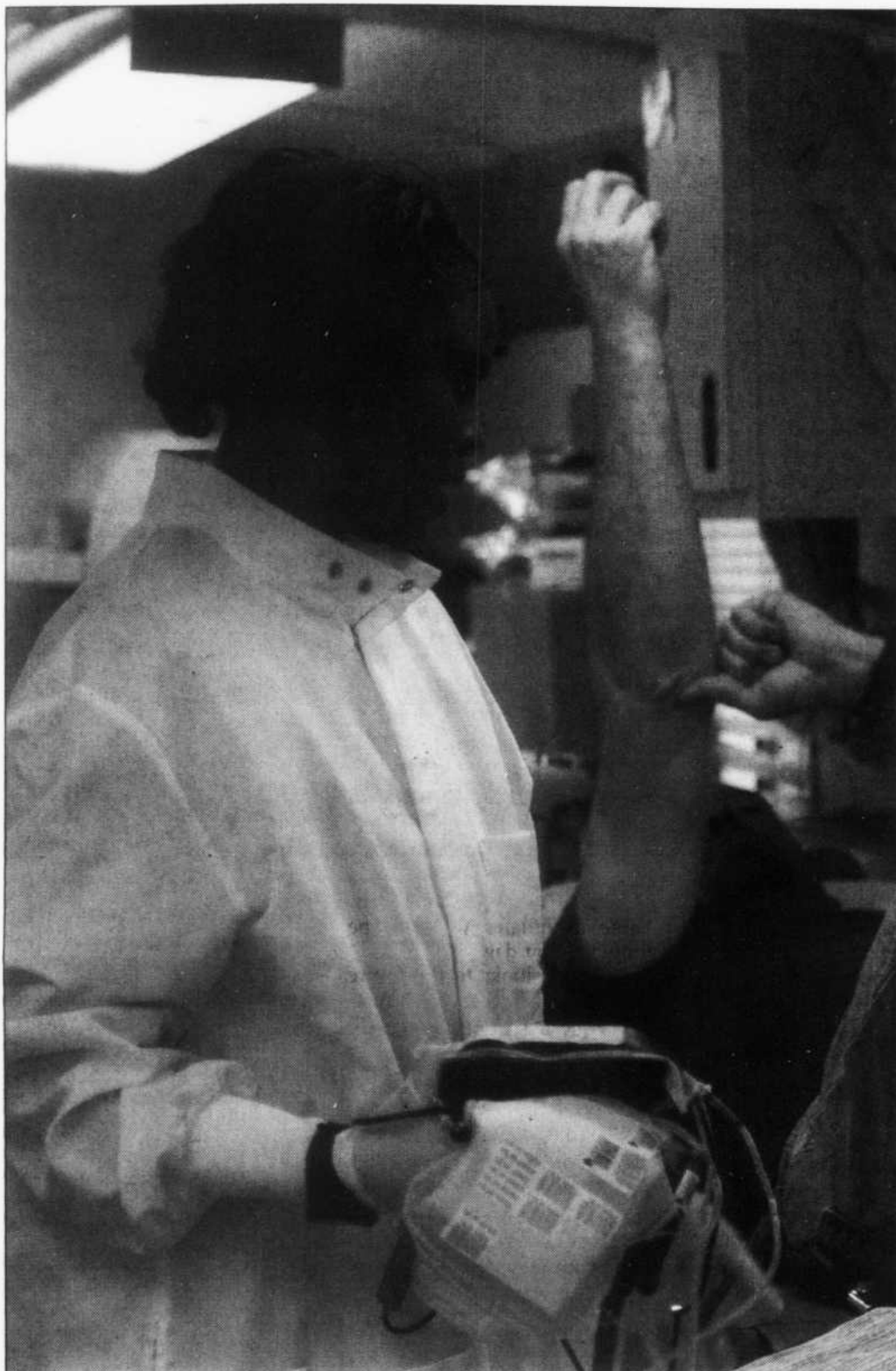


Photo by Tiffany Evetts | Staff Photographer

Linda Jones-Ogbewe, a phlebotomist, collects a donation from Royce Earp, a stay-at-home dad and Smyrna resident, at the Red Cross blood drive at the Murfreesboro YMCA on Monday. Earp is a two-gallon donor.

Car taken during oil change

By Dave Paulson
Staff Writer

A car was stolen during an oil change at Wal-Mart on Old Fort Parkway Monday morning. Joshua Costa, 23, of Murfreesboro was parked at the store, gave the clerk his keys and left the area for approximately one hour. When he returned, his vehicle was missing.

Witness Jeremy Wallace told police he saw a white male in his 20s get into Costa's truck and leave. The driver had blonde hair, was about six feet tall and was wearing a black muscle shirt and black shorts with green trim.

The incident was captured on the store's video surveillance system. At press time, store management was securing the video. Costa has requested a detective to conduct an investigation.

A building shared by local businesses Wheels Plus More and Audiovisions was burglarized Sunday night. The suspects took cash and stereo equipment from Audiovisions. The suspects cut phone lines at a box on the side of the building, disabling the alarm system. A hole was cut into the building's fence with a power saw. A lock on the building's rear gate was also cut off, and its alarm panel was destroyed.

Audiovisions owner Dave Hale reported that the suspects took cash from a register and a significant amount of stereo equipment and tools. Martin Rosa, owner of Wheels Plus More, conducted an inventory but could not find anything missing from his business. ♦

Petersen of UConn picked as new UT president

By Duncan Mansfield
Associated Press Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Showing a flash of humor and a commitment to integrity, John Petersen of the University of Connecticut was selected Wednesday as the 23rd president of the University of Tennessee.

"You can't imagine how excited Carol and I are to have this opportunity," an elated Petersen told the UT Board of Trustees after it selected him over two other finalists.

The 56-year-old Petersen and his wife were presented with orange UT Lady Volunteers basketball team visors and an UT-orange tie.

"I told you it was a pretty good color for me," said Petersen, accustomed to the color when he headed the chemistry department at Clemson University in the 1990s.

"I feel I have found the job I have been working 29 years to find and that is the leadership job of one of the best institutions in the country. One that I think is really going to show the South and the rest of the country what an institution can do."

An unusually open and lengthy search process was organized to try to ensure Tennessee's next president

"I feel I have found the job I have been working 29 years to find ..."

— John Petersen
New University of Tennessee president

would not go down in scandal like the two previous presidents, John Shumaker in August and J. Wade Gilley in 2001.

The character of the next president for the five-campus, 42,000-student system "was the baseline issue," said Gov. Phil Bredesen, who chairs the UT Board of Trustees.

From an original slate of 47 applicants, Petersen was selected after three rounds of public, Webcast interviews before three different university panels. There also were background checks, resume confirmations and home site visits by the search committees.

"There was an enormous scrubbing of candidates. And I promise you that everybody who knew anything negative about these candidates made it known," Bredesen said. "I think this has been a great victory for an open process."

Utah State Professor Kermit Hall, 59, came in a close second in a head-to-head vote against Petersen after the trustees eliminated the third finalist, Jack O. Burns, 51, the No. 2 executive at the University of Colorado system.

In the final tally of the 23-member board, Petersen received 14 votes and Hall had nine.

"Any one of them I would have been delighted to have as the president," Bredesen said, adding, "I am delighted with John and look forward to working with him."

Trustees talked about Petersen's reputation for making academics a priority, his ability to raise money from donors, his ease with legislators and that he seemed the best "fit"

See President, 4

The whole 26,400 yards

Watertown to host 'Mile Long' sale

Bargain hunters can find anything from food to socks to antiques

By Melissa Coker
Staff Writer

It just keeps going, and going ... and going. The semi-annual "Mile Long" yard sale in Watertown hits the streets, or at least the side of them, bright and early this Saturday morning.

Despite its name, non-affiliated vendors often take advantage of the event, too. This turns the stretch of yard sales to a span of something more like 15 miles, according to Jim Amero, vice-president of the Watertown Chamber of Commerce.

In its fifteen-year history, the stretch of sales averages a crowd of about 15,000 bargain hunters each year.

However, it has seen numbers in the 30,000 range.

"We are ready for them with everything from food to socks," Amero says.

Amero also operates Jim's Antiques and will have a booth for his business at the mass marketplace.

Hundreds of exhibitors are expected: from antiques booths to a bicycle vendor, and several food vendors with flavorful fare

such as polish sausage, cotton candy, hamburgers and ice cream.

There are even many repeat customers who come to Watertown just to peruse these yard sale wares.

Joyce Robertson, who assists Amero in organizing the event and has been its main organizer for the past six years, notes that exhibitors aren't limited to locals.

"Out-of-state residents from places such as Georgia and Alabama set up here, too," she says. "In-state, we have sellers from as far east as Knoxville and as far west as Memphis. About 60 to 80 of our spaces aren't local."

At one time during a past sale, a little boy was sleeping in a box besides his grandfather's booth, Robertson recalls.

The sale was conceived as a plan to raise money for the Chamber by Jackie Chitwood and Nell Kane, Chamber affiliates at the time.

It began simply enough at Round Lick Baptist Church and then spilled over into the town square. Since then, it has at least quadrupled in size.

In its current state, the actual Watertown Mile-Long Yard Sale and its affiliates inhabit one mile, which begins at one end of the city, winds its way through the square and stops at the other end of the city.

If you feel like traveling by

train, then get ready to hear the train coming as it rolls round the bend from Nashville to Watertown and back.

Thanks to the Tennessee Central Railway, this unique alternative to an automobile comes courtesy of Excursion Train in Nashville, which takes passengers in air-conditioned style to Watertown for the day of shopping.

Equipped with a baggage car for hauling large purchases, the by-reservation-only ride still has tickets (\$29-\$39) available.

It boards in Nashville at 8:30 Saturday morning and departs at 9.

Whatever your transportation choice, the event is sure to be a day you won't soon forget. Paid parking is available, but there are numerous back street, side street and ballpark options.

Vendor spots for this month have sold out, but anyone interested in October spaces may call Amero.

All event organizers are volunteers.

"Come early and shop late," Amero says.

Rain or shine, the event chugs along from sunup to sundown on Saturday.

For more information contact Jim Amero at 327-1777. For train information, call 244-9001. ♦

Cicadas: Insects actually harmless

Continued from 3

"singing," using two drum-like membranes on the sides of their abdomens, UTK explained. The "song" produced serves as a mating call.

Cicada population rises "easily in the hundreds or thousands per acre," Hale said. Hale recalls having heard of reports as high as one million per acre. After about four or five weeks, Hale explained, the adult cicadas die.

According to UTK, periodical cicada bodies are "black, and legs, eyes and wing veins are reddish-orange." The insects are about one to one and a half inches in length.

One common misconception is that cicadas are locusts. Locusts actually are a species of grasshoppers, not cicadas, UTK said.

Also, some worry that cicadas may bite. According to OSU, "cicadas do not bite or sting and have no known toxic chemicals."

However, OSU added, "cicadas have fluttered into automobiles and frightened drivers, leading to traffic accidents."

"Occasionally people are real scared of them, but for the most part they're pretty fascinating," Hale said. "I think kids will enjoy them." ♦

President: Duties assumed July 1

Continued from 3

of the candidates for Tennessee.

A Los Angeles native with a doctorate in inorganic chemistry from the University of California at Santa Barbara, Petersen was a researcher and professor first at Kansas State University and then at Clemson.

After 13 years at Clemson, Petersen was dean of science for six years at Wayne State University in Detroit, where he led outreach programs in the public schools to increase minority enrollment.

Since 2000, he has been at Connecticut, where he is provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

Petersen was scheduled take a fly-around to UT campuses Thursday and Friday. He is expected to assume his duties by July 1. He will have a base salary of \$380,000, a \$20,000 expense allowance, use of a uni-

versity car and use of the university president's home.

During his interview Wednesday, Petersen talked about academic excellence, involving faculty and students in decision-making and raising Tennessee's national rankings. He also talked about his previous work helping state economic development teams in South Carolina, Michigan and Connecticut.

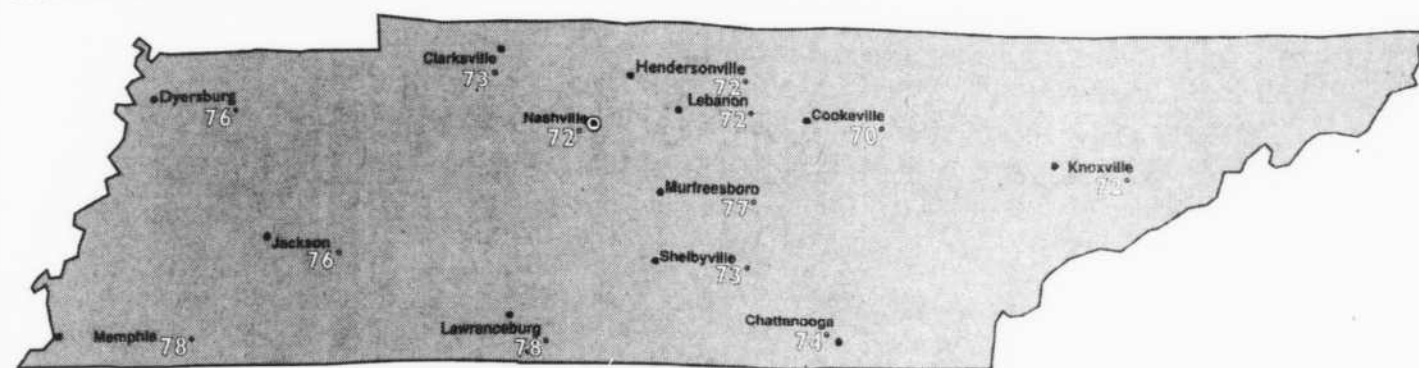
He was asked about his tour of the official president's residence. Lavish spending to renovate the house contributed to the last president's downfall.

"You see any changes you'd like to make in the home?" trustee Susan Williams said in a query that brought anxious laughs from the board.

"No, it is a gorgeous home," Petersen responded as the chuckles continued. "Our furniture matches the decorations quite well." ♦

Tennessee Weather – Thursday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Friday



Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Tax: Hastings: Homeowners better citizens

Continued from 3

to be 300 percent more than what a person who buys a pre-existing home would pay.

Hastings said an 2001 economic study that showed MTSU students spending \$9,993 each per year – for a total of \$190 million – is "a small amount (compared to) what it takes to run a government."

He said that even though renters – such as college students and the other poorest seg-

ments of the community – tend to move more often, that the proposal was not intended to target college students.

"I'm an advocate for the students," Hastings said. "I'm one of the few people who voted against having credit cards given out ... you're barking up the wrong tree here ... I want you to have the ability to own a home when you get out of school. If this continues to grow all over the country the way they're trying to tax new con-

struction, you'll never be able to own one."

He went on to say that homeownership raises the standard of living and creates a better citizenry.

"The thing that creates the biggest problem in this country right now is financial stress put on individuals," he said.

"It create more divorces and single-parent households ... We have to create a baseline where these people can live in harmony in a home they can be proud

of. When they become a homeowner, they become a better citizen."

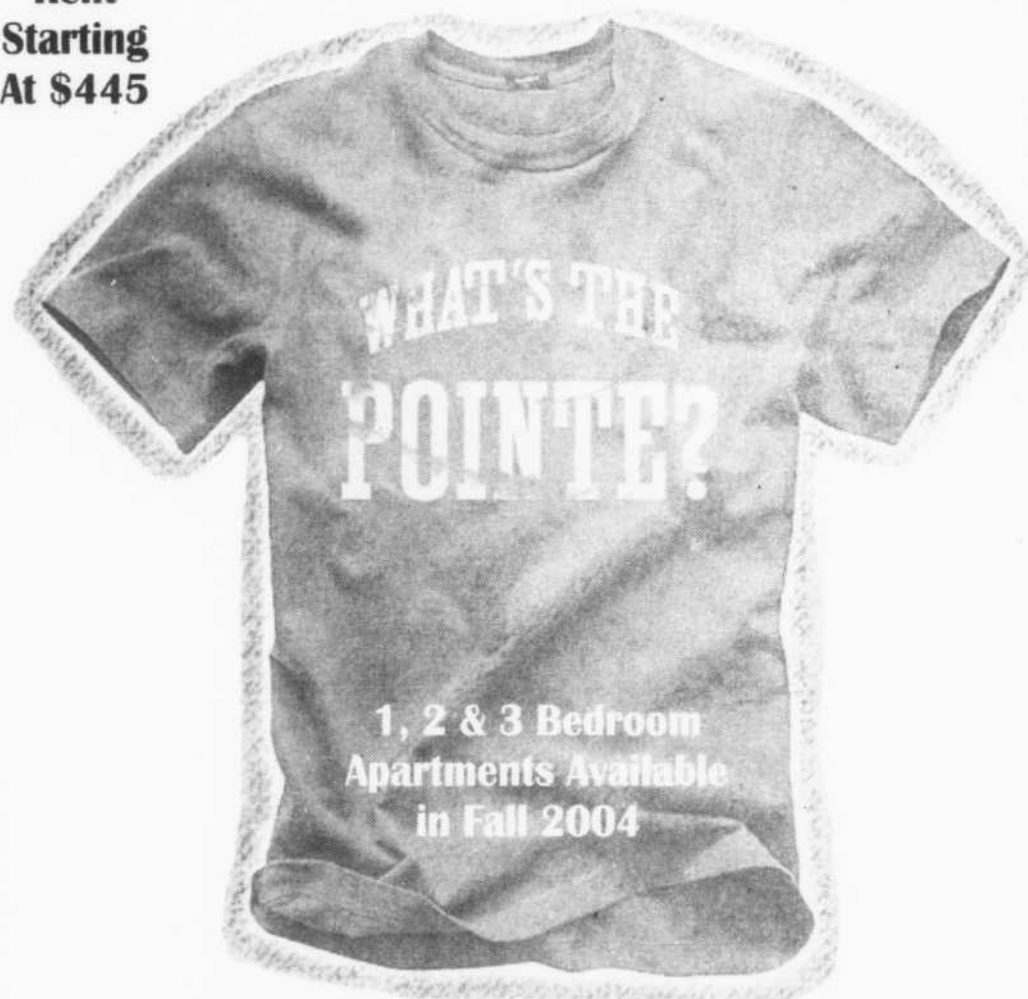
The proposal would have to be approved by the County Commission and likely by the Tennessee General Assembly. Hastings said the \$250 figure is "theoretical" and that it could be lower or higher if it is enacted at all, but he said "we have to think outside the box" when thinking about new revenue sources. ♦

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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Thursday, April 22, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 5

From the Editorial Board

New tax unfairly targets transient residents

A considerate citizen is proposing that Rutherford County should try to suckle on the MTSU student body teat with a new tax designed to punish our nomadic lifestyles.

A new tax proposed by homebuilder Deny Hastings would add a \$250 general service tax to initiate new electric service in apartments or houses. He said in the *Daily News Journal* that the tax was intended to target "seasonal residents" and other people who tend to move often (read: college students, Hispanics and other people without the means to purchase a home).

Hastings apparently has some large misconceptions about the finances of a college student, especially an MTSU college student. He thinks that thanks to the lottery scholarships, we all go around without any debts and would be happy to pump more money into the county.

Well, he's dead wrong, despite being an MTSU alumnus.

Most college students don't have the kind of financial freedom to easily provide an extra \$250 to have the privilege of contacting the electric company to get their lights turned on. As it is, each MTSU student spends almost \$10,000 per year, and the county sees a portion of that money through sales taxes and business receipts from the businesses we support by buying their products. But that's not enough for some.

To propose such a predatory tax on tight budgets is unfair. It's completely natural for college students to move regularly around town, but this tax gouge is going to be a terrible house-warming present. Don't punish students for moving often.

Hastings' self-serving proposal is appalling to college students and his theory that owning a home makes a person a better citizen is illogical.

Sidelines urges the Rutherford County revenue study task force to seek funds elsewhere. Otherwise they might face the ire of thousands of college students who are just trying to find affordable housing close to campus. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Man buying Chevrolet mistaken for terrorist

How many times have you gone to purchase a car and agreed to a credit check only to be mistaken for one of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorists? That's exactly what happened to Ryan Allen, a 19-year-old unsuspecting citizen.

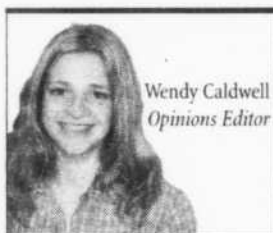
After waiting between an hour and an hour and a half for the credit check to come through, Allen was asked the bizarre question that's always on my mind when I'm thinking of buying a car: "Have you ever been to Yemen?"

The reason for the question was Allen's social security number, which supposedly belonged to Ramzi Bin al-Shibh, a man connected with Osama bin Laden and the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

I've heard of problems with identity theft, but this is a bit outrageous.

Allen didn't get the Chevrolet Cavalier he intended to buy. His birthday is Sept. 11, a fact he believes may have had something to do with his social security number mishap.

At any rate, he's still stuck with the pesky fact



Wendy Caldwell
Opinions Editor

that he's now flagged as a possible terrorist.

If it's any consolation to Allen, being 19 and getting a car on one's own is nearly impossible, so he probably would've been rejected if he wasn't flagged for terrorism, unless he someone cosigned for him.

This brings to light an issue that concerns all American: credit reports.

It's absolutely ridiculous that in order to get a report of one's own credit, it costs money.

Furthermore, applying for credit and having someone check it means a mark against you — more asinine policy.

If Allen had had easier access to his credit history, he probably would've known about his social security number earlier.

Maybe nothing could have been done, but it's possible he could've driven away in a new Cavalier. ♦

Let's get it on, but wear a glove

Most Americans more familiar with the term "safe sex" during their teenage years — some during high school, others during their first year of college.

It's a common term, one that most educated men and women have heard numerous times, read on billboards and fliers, even discussed with friends. So why is there still so much mystery and ignorance surrounding the tools that go along with having sex safely?

For example, the majority of sexually active adults aren't aware of dental dams or their usage. Many who are familiar with the term dismiss this square piece of latex as something that only lesbians should be concerned with, but this device used during cunnilingus is important for all sexually active individuals to be aware of, heterosexuals and lesbians alike.

Oral sex isn't safe sex. A number of diseases can be transmitted through oral contact, and yet the vast majority of folks getting it on just aren't educating themselves. Dental dams are an important component to being sexually active.

Gloves are important parts of



Wit and Wonder

Callie Elizabeth Butler
Staff Columnist

sex safe as well. Any manual sex should involve a latex glove because a little cut on your hand or tissue caught under a fingernail can be a point of exposure to a number of diseases both from vaginal and anal contact.

It's not just the sexually active that seem ignorant of these practices.

Many pharmacies carry numerous brands, colors and textures of condoms but do not offer dental dams and shelf gloves with cleaning or medical supplies. Some doctors offer nothing more than quizzical when a patient asks about dental dam usage. This only furthers the widespread ignorance of what really constitutes safe sexual contact.

Why are so many people unfamiliar with these tools of the sexual trade? This can be rooted in a simple fact: Sex is generally con-

sidered to be vaginal penetration by a penis. As a result, sex education constantly excludes issues associated with oral and manual sex.

This exclusion also leaves homosexual men and women without education on the safe sex practices that apply to their sexual expression.

So, while most people are aware of a condom's usage and availability, most are left with no understanding of the other elements that go along with safely enjoying sex.

Much of the nation's understanding of safe sex has come from television and other media. Why are such outlets failing to move beyond the common condom rhetoric and expanding on what safe sex really entails?

If more media addressed these issues in a more complete way, there would be a greater widespread understanding that you've got to bring more to the bedroom than a tightly wrapped condom.

It's important that these large communication centers of information — television, newspapers, radio, books and magazines — move beyond an old image of what sex really is and begin edu-

cating the public on protection.

It's important when you have sex, particularly when your partner is not a long-standing one, that you consider your safety.

Safe sex is sexy. It's a statement of care and compassion, and whether you're having sex with your lover or hooking up at the bar, thinking about your partner's well being is always a turn-on.

And it's important to know how to adequately protect yourself — using condoms along with gloves and dental dams to ensure that both you and your partner can walk away thinking about the heat between you, not whether a disease could have been transmitted.

Dental dams shouldn't be the sexual mystery of our age. Gloves should be as common to sex as Trojans — and have catchy commercials, too.

In a time when we're supposed to be having sex safely, the tools to do so should be familiar to everyone regardless of sexuality, marriage status or sexual choices. ♦

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a senior mass communication major and can be reached via e-mail at cek2b@mtsu.edu.

Vote this November; make your voice heard

There are seven more months until the election. As the campaign ads begin to tell you who the better candidate is and what's wrong with the other candidate, listen carefully and participate.

It's the right and responsibility of every citizen to be active in the election process.

There have been numerous historic events that have led to each of us having the right to vote, and we owe it to all the people who fought for us to have that right. Make sure to use it.

The process of deciding who to vote for is the most challenging. Between the ads in the presidential election and the ads for the state and federal legislature, it can become a confusing process.

My only tip would be to vote for candidates who have the same ideas as you do the on big issues. Those are different for each of us.

Politics may not interest you that much, but take



Sandi's Logic

Sandi Van Orden
Staff Columnist

enough time to participate in the process.

Find out as much information as you can on the candidates and what each one stands for. It's important to know who you're voting for before you actually vote.

Read as much as you have time for, and talk to other people to get various opinions. Think about those opinions and decide if you think they're valid reasons to vote or not vote for a certain candidate.

It's important to vote. It is a right that some take for granted.

Voting is what makes our government work. Every vote helps to shape the future of the country and the state.

I won't say that it's a perfect system, but it's what we have. It's better to have an imperfect system that allows us to vote than a system that doesn't give citizens a voice.

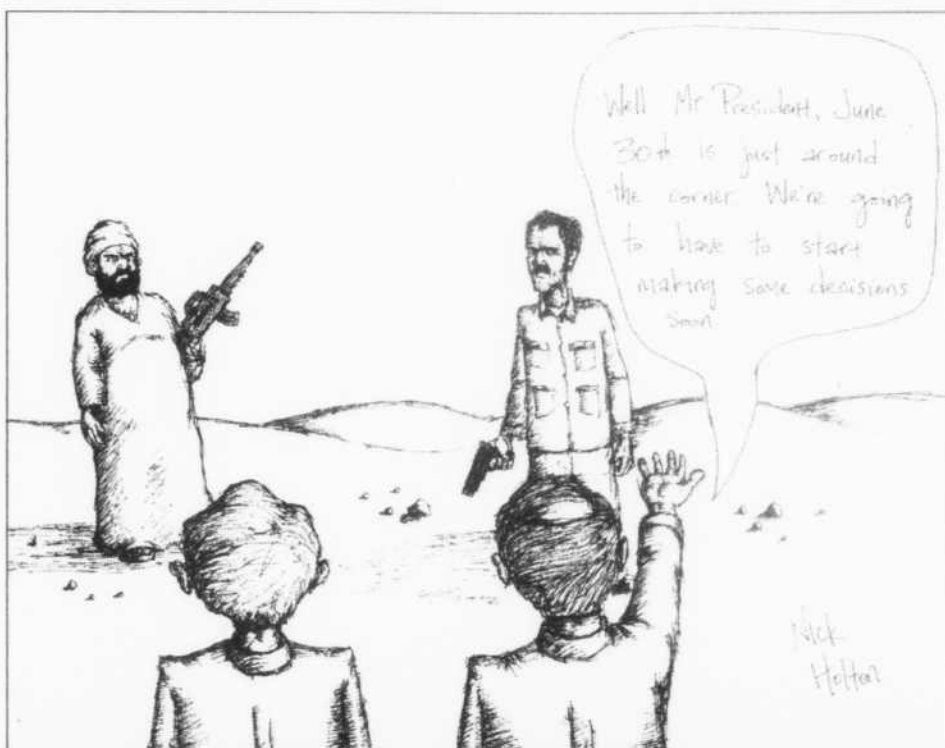
As you go about your daily life, remember that elected officials are making decisions every day that will affect you in some way. Make sure that you're being heard.

Don't allow everyone else to make the decisions for you. You have the ability to help decide the future. Make sure you use it.

In November, go to the polls and vote. It's the most important thing you can do.

We have the ability to choose our leaders, and it's our duty as American citizens to vote. It's a small price to pay to live in a democracy. ♦

Sandi Van Orden is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at slv2e@mtsu.edu.



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Letters to the Editor

Enforce sexual harassment policies

To the editor:

As leaders of organizations concerned with women at MTSU, we write to address the issue of sexual harassment on our campus particularly in response to recent events and allegations.

Although we won't comment on the specifics of the case in litigation, we strongly support the sexual harassment policy in place at MTSU and encourage members of the university community who have been victims to report their circumstances, and we expect those in charge of addressing claims to follow the policy's guidelines.

Over the past 20 years, dedicated individuals at MTSU have worked to develop a strong, clear policy regarding the definition, investigation and prosecution of sexual harassment, a policy by which every MTSU student, staff member, faculty member and administrator is bound. Complete details of MTSU's policy and methods of filing complaints are available at http://mtsu32.mtsu.edu:11091/mtsu_policy.htm

Though not all problems with sexual harassment have been solved at MTSU, the process of redressing sexual harassment allegations can still work. Sexual harassment thrives on silence and in an atmosphere of intimidation.

We must not let the complexity and publicity of the current situation stop us from coming forward and making our voices heard. Sexual harassment is about power. Those with power must use that power wisely, and all of us must work together to make sure that happens. The road to positive change is, and must continue to be, paved with visibility and open discourse.

Ayne Cantrell, June S. Anderson Foundation
Jackie Eller, Previous Director of Women's Studies
Elyce Helford, Director of Women's Studies
Judith Iriarte-Gross, Chair of President's Commission on the Status of Women
Jan Leone, Member, American Association of University Women
Georganne Ross, President of the Association of Faculty and Administrative Women
Nancy Rupprecht, Previous Director of Women's Studies

Columnist uses media to show bias

To the editor:

It's a rare occasion that I find an abundant amount of mistruths represented in your newspaper; however, it's become a much more frequent occurrence due to opinion writer Justin Wax. Although Wax is entitled to his opinion (no matter how wrong he maybe), he should still be accountable for presenting actual facts for the basis of his opinions.

The Internet has given everyone a chance at a wealth of information, but not everything on the Internet is true. Wax probably believes he's representing the truth the "liberal" media wouldn't let out, but he didn't base his information on a Fox News report but on a non-refutable Internet site.

Furthermore, when he listed the stations that didn't cover his bogus story, he certainly didn't include what I can only guess is his beloved Fox. It's disheartening that someone who seems to claim the media is so biased then uses his position in the media to express such an extreme bias.

In one portion he references, "Chirac's alleged nuclear deal with Saddam." Where did this allegation come from but merely one of the Anti-French Web sites Wax bases his columns on?

Wax ostracizes the French because of who they gave weapons to, but I'm sure he's aware the United States has given weapons to both Iraq and Afghanistan. I hope Wax will find more reputable sites for his information and not pass on his biased and absolutist version of facts or history. It's important that journalists above all give a fair and accurate depiction of the truth.

Benjamin R. Cooley
Junior
Political Science major

SIDELINES

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*denotes member of editorial board

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. *Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

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.

MT Baseball
Next Game Friday
at South Alabama
First pitch at 6:00 p.m.

SPORTS

MT Softball
Next Game Thursday
vs. Birmingham Southern
First pitch at 5:00 p.m.

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Softball squad begins six-game homestand



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT catcher Angie Huebner prepares to connect with a pitch in a 6-1 win over Cumberland Feb. 29.

By Jori Rice and Matthew Adair
Staff Writer and Assistant Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee softball team (24-14, 6-2) gets ready to close out a successful month (10-2 since April 6) with matches against Birmingham Southern College (17-27) and New Mexico State (9-37, 0-7).

The Lady Raiders will play BSC for the second time this season this afternoon. MT swept their first doubleheader at Birmingham on April 6 4-0 and 5-1. Senior Courtney Mitchell hit two home runs, and Crystal Bobo picked up both wins from the mound, striking out 11 while allowing just two hits combined.

BSC narrowly avoided being shut out in that series when Dawn Treadwell ran home on a single by Shannon Cantrell in the final at-bat of Game 2.

Birmingham comes into its latest game with MT after losing 8-3 to No. 13 Alabama April 15.

The Crimson Tide came on strong in the first inning, plating five runs for a 5-0 advance

over the Lady Panthers. A double by Jackie McClain and a single by Dominique Accetturo that sent pinch runner Emily Currie over the plate. Currie and Stephanie VanBrakle put Alabama up 7-3 at the end of the fifth.

Ashley Courtney earned Alabama's final run of the game, handing BSC its second defeat in the last two games.

Nikki Rombough went three for four against the Crimson Tide and is the overall leader in hits for the Lady Panthers with 44 this season. Treadwell comes in second for BSC with 33 hits. She went two for four against Alabama.

After facing Birmingham, MT will host the NMSU Aggies at Lady Raider Field for a week-end-long series, their first meeting for the spring 2004 season.

The Aggies lost 6-0 and 6-2 to Western Kentucky Sunday. The Hilltoppers out-hit NMSU 41-19 over the two-game sweep, while the Aggies committed four errors in the doubleheader and eight errors overall in their four

game series with the Hilltoppers.

Stacy Knight attempted to lead her team in a rally in the sixth with a double to center that brought in Breana Bohls and Veronica Owens for the Aggies' only runs of the night. Knight ranks second for NMSU in hits with 29, bested only by Veronica Owens' 46 hits this season.

The Lady Raiders' homestand kicks off against BSC today at 5 p.m. and continues over the weekend against NMSU. Both Saturday's and Sunday's doubleheaders against the Aggies will begin at 1 p.m. ♦

Lady Raiders Upcoming Games

	Today
Birmingham Southern	April 24-25
New Mexico State	May 1-2
Florida-International	May 8-9
Louisiana-Lafayette	May 13-16
SBC Tournament	

Confusion abounds in Clarett draft case

By Mark Emery
Staff Columnist

This year's pre-NFL Draft hoopla has been like watching a circus: Sure, there's all kinds of entertainment, but you can't keep up with everything going on at the same time.

The biggest issue with this year's draft has been the eligibility of running back Maurice Clarett. In February, the U.S. District Court ruled that Clarett should be allowed in the draft. The judge said if he wasn't allowed, then it would violate antitrust laws and keep Clarett from pursuing his livelihood.

Monday, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a stay on the lower-courts ruling, again making Clarett ineligible for the draft.

Clarett's attorney, Alan Milstein, filed for an emergency appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday. In his appeal, he asked for a stay of the federal appeals court's decision.

Yesterday Supreme Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg ordered the NFL to provide her with written arguments in response to the appeal of Clarett's attorneys by 9:30 ET today. Ginsburg is expected to make a decision before the draft after hearing arguments from both sides.

Are you confused yet? I know I am.

This can't be a good thing for the NFL, especially if Ginsburg decides to overturn the federal appeals court's decision. Then the NFL will be in trouble, maybe not this year, but in the years to come, as the league would almost certainly see a greater influx of younger players entering the draft.

What's worse for the NFL is the case of Spencer Haywood, a Detroit high school player who sued the NBA in 1971 and won. Now the NBA is inundated with kids jumping straight from high school to pros.

Clarett is trying to do what he thinks is best for him. The main benefit for him is that he will be on a team next year and earning a pretty good paycheck.

Whether or not Clarett will be successful depends in large part on his maturity. He only played one full season at Ohio State, and even that year he missed two games with a shoulder injury.

Most running backs with three or four years of experience don't even make it in the NFL. A prime example would be Rashaan Salaam, who never had any kind of NFL career.

Salaam was the Heisman Trophy winner in 1994 and after his junior year entered the draft.

He was selected by the Bears in the first round. His career has been marred by injuries, and he never fully measured up to his college career.

Salaam did nothing with three years at Colorado, and Clarett thinks he can have a successful career after only one injury-plagued year at Ohio State. Clarett just needs to go back to college and prove to people that he has the maturity and ability to play in the NFL. ♦

Fans pack field, watch Blue Raiders lose



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT infielder Jeff Beachum takes a swing during the Blue Raider's 6-3 loss to Vanderbilt Tuesday night.

3,020 look on as Vanderbilt hits three out of the park

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

An Eric McNamee three-run homer and a record crowd weren't enough to power the Middle Tennessee baseball team past Vanderbilt Tuesday night at Reese Smith Field as the Blue Raiders fell to the Commodores 6-3.

"It was definitely a different place to play tonight," McNamee said. "It was a lot of fun. Sorry we couldn't get the fans a win, but it was definitely an adrenaline rush to play in front of a record crowd like that."

A record crowd of 3,020 watched the Blue Raiders fall behind 2-0 in the fourth to the No. 24 Commodores. Cesar Nicolas started things off for Vandy with a solo blast deep over the left field wall off of starter Steve Kline. It was Nicolas' team-leading 10th homer of the season.

"The home runs were very big," Blue Raider head coach Steve Peterson said. "They were opportunistic and made up for mistakes, whereas we struck out in some key spots."

Third baseman Tony Mansolino followed up with a single and later scored on Ryan Klosterman's single to left. Things could have gotten worse for the Blue Raiders on the play, but MT third baseman Brett Carroll took left fielder Shane Kemp's relay and was able to throw out Aaron Garza at the plate on the play.

Vandy's lead was short-lived, though. In the bottom of the fifth, Marcus Taylor and Chuck Akers both reached on hard hit singles, followed up by third baseman McNamee's opposite field shot over right field shrubbery.

It was the third home run of the

Fans pull through again: Crowd breaks field record

By Michael Bailey
Staff Writer

As they did in Operation: Full House, Middle Tennessee fans showed up in droves for Tuesday's matchup against Vanderbilt University in a concerted effort to set a new attendance record for Reese Smith Field.

A cool evening welcomed a record 3,020 onlookers to see the game, which resulted in a loss on the scoreboard but created an electric atmosphere that descended onto the playing field.

"Our games are winding down, and this is all you can ask for," senior outfielder Chuck Akers said. "The 3,000 screaming fans were a pick-up. We could definitely feel the roar of the crowd."

Members of the student body, alumni, local fans and even some youthful Blue Raider fans made it out to the event.

"I have been coming to games for three years now, and this is the best time I've ever had by far," said junior advertising major Amy Guillotte. "It's exciting because you can see it affects the players."

Although he graduated more than 40 years ago, MT alumnus Allen Watts ('60) made it out on Tuesday.

"You can see enthusiasm all the way around the ballpark. It's refreshing to see such a turnout," Watts said.

Because of a lack of stadium seating, Danny Farrer parked his 'Hillbilly Hilton,' a converted school bus with seating along the rooftop, along the left field line to take in the game.



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Onlookers packed the stands Tuesday night, breaking an attendance record set in 2001.

"We can see the umpires' mistakes better from out here," said Farrer, who hosted a raucous bunch of some 20 strong atop the bus. "We have seen over 100 sporting events since the bus's maiden voyage in 1996, and this experience ranks up there with the best of them."

Glen Harrison took home two plane tickets in a

drawing before the eighth inning. When asked his plans for the tickets, Harrison, without hesitating, replied, "Vegas. Las Vegas."

MT head coach Steve Peterson wasn't surprised by the crowd, which broke the previous mark of

See Record, 7

Vandy: Shao shuts down MT

Continued from 6

season, all to right field, for the junior transfer from Columbia State Community College.

"It was the biggest rush I've had," McNamee said. "He threw me a fastball outside, and I took it the other way, and that seemed like it really got the crowd up."

With Kline lifted in favor of reliever Chase Swing, the Commodores capitalized in the top of the sixth when right fielder Worth Scott took Swing high and deep to right to tie it up.

One inning later, Vandy took the lead for good after a Mike Baxter leadoff single preceded a Warner Jones' two-run shot over the center field wall off MT reliever Shay Horseman.

Mansolino drove in Nicolas with an infield single in the top of the ninth for the final margin, although MT hit three shots to the outfield wall in the final two innings.

Record: Crowd could grow

Continued from 6

2,733 set in 2001.

"This night was designed for the students, and I knew if we had good weather that they would come out and support us. They always have," Peterson said.

In fact, Peterson remarked he would not be shocked if the fans topped this feat later in the 2004 campaign.

Athletic director Boots Donnelly, equally impressed by the capacity crowd, used the draw as a basis to foster future development.

"I am proud for the university," Donnelly said. "It really shows what students can do. This is a great setting, [and] down the road we want to rebuild and host a NCAA regional and showcase Middle Tennessee." ♦

"They've got a solid ball club," Peterson said. "You can see why they're nationally ranked. We had our opportunities, but we couldn't get runners in, and sometimes we just hit balls right at them. [Antoan] Richardson, their center fielder, ran down two balls that a lot of center fielders just aren't going to get to, so that showed their speed right there."

Horseman took the loss for the Blue Raiders to drop to 0-3. Reliever Stephen Shao got the win for the Commodores to improve to 3-0. Rote picked up his ninth save of the season.

The Blue Raiders and the Commodores play once more this season on May 19 at Hawkins Field in Nashville.

MT travels this weekend to Mobile, Ala., to take on the University of South Alabama for a three-game series. Friday's first pitch is scheduled for 7 p.m. ♦

Women ready for SBC tournament

By Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

As the Middle Tennessee women's tennis team rolls down the highway toward Mobile, Ala., for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, head coach Randy Holden shouldn't have to worry about the bus getting a flat tire.

With all the workouts the Lady Raiders have undergone the last three weeks, they might just be able to lift the bus.

"We have been training extremely hard, just like we would when we first start the year," Holden said. "We've gone back to just tons of conditioning, kind of like you would see with 'Blue Dawn' with football."

The No. 64 Lady Raiders have not played a match since their 4-3 loss at South Alabama April 2.

"Instead of playing to get confidence, we've been training to get confidence," Holden said. "Obviously the practices have been hard as well. Hopefully, everybody feels strong about their game right now, and hopefully we can get through this first day. I know it's going to be a little hard because we'll have to knock some rust off, but hopefully we can get through that and move on."

Like the men's team, the Lady Raiders are also facing an ultimatum: The only likely way MT will go to the NCAA Tournament is to win the SBC Tournament.

"We'd play Denver in the semis if we get that far, and with

a win maybe we jump in the top 50," Holden said. "It would be close, very close. More than likely, we have to win the tournament and get that automatic bid. It would be very lucky if we beat Little Rock and Denver and got in."

Because there are 11 teams in the tournament, the No. 3-seeded Lady Raiders have received a bye in the first round. MT will take on the winner of Arkansas-Little Rock and Western Kentucky. The Lady Raiders defeated UALR 5-2 in Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 20 and did not face WKU this season.

"I'd much rather play Western, but it's not going to happen," Holden said. "Western's just so weak that it will probably be over in about an hour and a half."

For the Lady Raiders, senior Manon Kruse has been the cornerstone of both singles and doubles play. No. 39 Kruse, who broke the school record for career singles victories this season, needs one win with partner Carien Venter to break the career doubles victories record as well.

Kruse is one of three seniors on this year's squad, which features just one underclassman: freshman Jacqui Williams, who has seen limited action this season.

The Lady Raiders' strength lies in Kruse, junior Jennifer Klaschka and Venter. Combined the players have won 39 of the team's 59 singles victories and 31 of MT's 36 doubles wins. Klaschka plays with senior

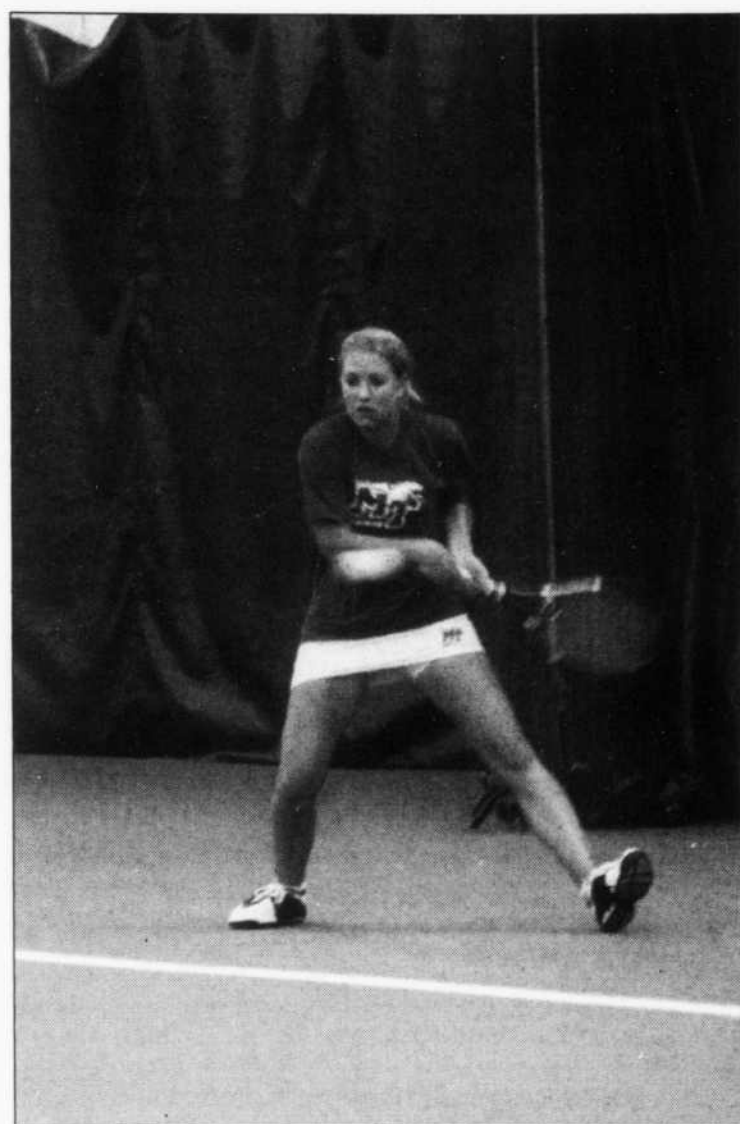


Photo by David Maxwell | Staff Photographer

Jennifer Klaschka draws back her racquet during MT's loss to Marshall on March 29. Klaschka lost in the No. 2 singles position to Alice Sukner 3-6, 6-1, 6-3.

Laura McNamara in doubles.

"Fortunately, we have probably the top three in the conference," Holden said. "If we can

hold on and hopefully win that doubles point, we should have a good chance to actually win the whole thing." ♦

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Blue Raiders in 'do or die' mode for tourney



Photo by Tiffany Evans | Staff Photographer

MT freshman Kai Schledorn prepares to return a volley in the Blue Raiders' 4-3 victory over Louisiana-Lafayette April 2 in Murfreesboro.

By Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

Competition. Money. Revenge. Sounds like the makings of a reality television show, right?

All three factors could also sum up Middle Tennessee's men's tennis trip to the Sun Belt Conference Tournament this weekend.

As the No. 3-seeded Blue Raiders prepare for tomorrow's match against No. 6-seeded New Mexico State, the team faces a "do or die situation" to get into the NCAA Tournament, according to head coach Dale Short.

"We have to win the [SBC] tournament to go on," Short said. "Six of the eight last years, we'd had a good enough ranking to where that wasn't an issue, and we would get straight in."

This year, the Blue Raiders enter the tournament at No. 61. The NCAA Tournament invites 64 teams, but regional considerations often mean teams need a Top 50 ranking to ensure they will make the tournament.

Moving on to the next round isn't the only challenge facing the Blue Raiders.

"A lot is measured on this tournament," Short said. "Kids have scholarships to think about for renewals next year. We're not like most of the other sports where everybody gets a full ride. Most of our kids are on 50 percent because of the way the restrictions are."

Currently, the NCAA allows a maximum of 4.5 scholarships per school in Division I men's tennis. As a result, many players receive partial scholarships.

The pressure doesn't stop there, however. Trevor Short, one of two seniors for the Blue Raiders, is currently sick with the stomach flu. If Short is unable to play, MT will play just three upperclassmen.

"He [Trevor] has been playing great tennis and is one of our hottest players down the stretch," Short said. "He may not be able to play. They think he'll be better within a couple of days, but he hasn't picked up a racket in a week ... and it also may run through other players on the team."

Friday, MT faces the Aggies, who finished the regular season 10-10 with a 6-1 victory over Southern University Wednesday.

"It was exactly what we were looking for going into the conference tournament this weekend," NMSU assistant head coach Carlos Vargas told nmstatesports.com. "I thought we got better and better as the match went on today. We are ready for the championships."

The Aggies are 1-7 this season against ranked opponents, however, with their lone win coming against then-No. 70 Denver Feb. 22.

If the Blue Raiders defeat NMSU, they will face the winner of the Denver-Louisiana-Lafayette matchup. Short thinks the Blue Raiders have an excellent chance to make it into the conference

finals, where he hopes they will face host South Alabama, a team that, according to Short, has a history of bending NCAA rules.

"There's a history of things where they've played illegal players and done some major stacking of their lineups," Short said. "The NCAA had to disqualify them a couple of years ago, and I'm disappointed the Sun Belt didn't reprimand them or fire their coach. It's just a long history of things."

One of those "things" includes current Jaguar Franticek Babej, who is currently No. 37 in the nation in singles.

"Based on what most coaches would say and what most people have seen, there's no way this guy should be legal to play college tennis because he's taken so much money, and he's also 24 or 25 years old," Short said.

The Blue Raiders are 1-14 all-time against South Alabama, with their lone win coming in 1997.

In any case, Short hopes his team's difficult regular-season schedule and constant pressure will help the Blue Raiders instead of hurting them.

"We've got to face our fears and deal with them a little bit better instead of hiding from them," Short said. "Down the stretch, we showed we're starting to face them better and deal with them better. My hope is that we're going to set a statement that we're a very dangerous team, and we're a hot team right now." ♦



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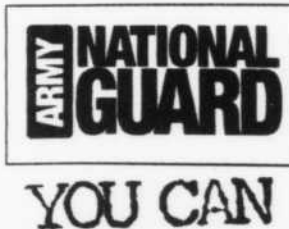
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