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Middle Tennessee State University

# SIDELINES

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# Womack drops out of gubernatorial race

By Jason Cox  
News Editor

Andy Womack announced he is dropping out of the race for the Democratic Party's nomination for governor in a press conference Friday morning.

Womack said he reached the decision after deciding it would not be feasible for him to raise the funds to compete for the

duration of the campaign. He said he had reached the conclusion that he could finish no higher than second in the primary race.

Womack has not yet endorsed a candidate but said that he "is proud to be part of the Democratic Party and will continue to work to elect a governor from the Democratic Party."

Womack said he often had



Womack

one that talks about the issues," Womack said. "There were

trouble getting media coverage.

"The media does not appear to be ready to promote any-

one that talks about the issues," Womack said. "There were

trouble getting media coverage. Womack said after a final audit of the campaign funds is done, contributors will be eligible to get back a percentage of their contribution.

Womack said he will continue to operate his real estate agency in Murfreesboro in addition to serving on the Southern Regional Education

Board.

Campaigning on issues such as quality education and better health care, Womack, who announced his plans to run for governor in May of last year, received an endorsement from the Tennessee Professional Firefighters.

Womack was a state senator for 12 years before resigning his position to run for governor, having received awards for his

service from the Tennessee State Employees Association, County Officials Association and Community Mental Retardation Agencies of Tennessee.

He received his Bachelor of Science from MTSU in 1970 after having served in Vietnam. His father, Bob Womack, has taught at MTSU for more than 40 years. ♦

### Honors Lecture Preview

## Dean to talk education

By Lisa Thomason  
Staff Writer

Crucial issues affecting the survival and development of public schools will be the topic of a lecture today presented by the College of University



Bonner

Honors. Gloria Bonner, dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, will present the lecture, which is titled "Shortchanging the Public Education System."

Bonner explained that her presentation will address current initiatives within Tennessee that have been developed in response to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

"Primarily, it will be an overview of response to that legislative document, critical issues in our education system and pending Tennessee initiatives that have yet to be addressed," she said.

The National Education Association's Web site says the ESEA originally was passed in 1965 and since then, has been reauthorized every five years. It describes the document as the "single largest investment in elementary and secondary education," providing "targeted resources to help ensure that disadvantaged students have

access to a quality public education."

According to Bonner, the ESEA is based on the premise that no child is to be "left behind" in the educational system.

"The ESEA addresses the importance of providing quality education to all learners and addresses accountability issues and teacher quality," she said.

Bonner said some of the initiatives she will cover include standard license requirements for teachers, teaching scholarship programs and national board certification. She will also address the issues of teacher supply, recruitment and placement in the state of Tennessee, as well as teacher retention.

Bonner, who is a veteran of the honors lecture circuit, hopes to have much interaction with her audience during her presentation.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to support the [honors] program," she said. "I enjoy the exchange with the students. They are a bright, articulate and knowledgeable group."

Bonner was named dean in 1999 after serving as associate dean of the college for 10 years under Bob Eaker and as interim dean for one year. She is also a full time professor in the Department of Educational Leadership.

Bonner's lecture will be Monday from 3 to 3:50 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 109A. The lecture is free and open to the public. ♦

### Black History Month

## Community Health Fair set for tomorrow

By Amber Bryant  
Staff Writer

As part of African American History Month, the annual Community Health Education and Promotion Fair will be held in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building tomorrow from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

Visitors will have access to free vision, blood pressure and cholesterol screenings, as well as body fat analysis and sickle cell tests. Information will be available on various health-related topics, such as drug and alcohol awareness, mental health, infectious diseases, pregnancy and fitness.

"If you haven't had a physical in a while, this would be a good time to come," said Brad Redmond, MTSU senior and health education intern for Central Tennessee Area Health Education Center.

The fair will feature 20 vendors, including Red Cross Health and Safety Services, MTSU Campus Recreation,

Tennessee Organ Donor Services, Women on Maintaining Education and Nutrition and Nashville CARES, an AIDS service organization.

The American Red Cross will distribute facts on volunteer services and career choices available to students. Schedules will be available for those interested in donating blood or becoming involved in aquatic, babysitting, human and pet first aid or CPR programs.

There are many ways to volunteer, including disaster relief and donating blood, said Belya Smith, health and safety director of the Heart of Tennessee Chapter.

"[Students] can find out what the American Red Cross is about," Smith said.

The ARC will also be demonstrating the Heimlich maneuver using "Choking Charlie," a specially designed mannequin with an obstructing

See Health, 2

## Campus cell phones irk some



Photos by Allison Grammer | Staff

In the past few years, cell phone usage has skyrocketed and the MTSU campus is a ringing cell phone as disruptive to the learning environment. Ed Kimbrell, professor of journalism, said he believes the university's administration needs to take action and ban phones from the classroom.



By Luke J. Schneider and Jassem Almuddaf  
Contributors

Josh Markham, an MTSU senior, has owned a cellular phone his entire college career but has never brought it into a classroom.

"I leave it in the car," Markham said. "I've never brought it into a building at school."

His reasons are simple: He is afraid of the phone ringing during class, causing an embarrassing situation and disrespecting his professors.

"Every class I've taken has had at least one session interrupted by a cell phone ringing," Markham said. "Some classes have had a phone ring every session. I don't want to contribute to that problem."

Markham's concerns are becoming more common among students and faculty at MTSU. The problem even has extended to local high schools.

The Nashville Metro School Board, after a debate Tuesday night, voted to

keep its ban on students' cell phones.

John Wade, an MTSU freshman, echoes Markham's complaints.

"Almost every class meeting this semester has had a phone go off," Wade said. "I'm not totally irate about the problem, but it is disrespectful to the professor."

When a cell phone rings during class, Wade and Markham describe the resulting situation as "embarrassing" for both the culprit and professor. The instructor is forced to stop in the middle of a lecture and wait for the student to find and silence his or her phone.

School of Journalism professor Edward Kimbrell believes ringing cell phones are disruptive to the learning process.

"When my colleagues and I are lecturing, we are carefully bringing students down a path and building to a crucial point," Kimbrell said. "A cell phone ringing is a huge interruption to making that point."

Kimbrell says he understands some students depend on cell phones to keep

in contact with a sick relative or other emergency situations. But he said he believes it is obvious that most phones do not serve that purpose.

As a result, Kimbrell has recommended that the Faculty Senate look into a campuswide policy to discourage students from leaving phones on in class.

"It's time for the faculty to work together to deter this problem," Kimbrell said. "We need to send a message to students that if you are going to ignore decent courtesy, you will pay for it."

Currently, MTSU does not have an official cell phone policy, and most professors adopt their own rules and warnings against ringing disruptions. Some instructors threaten students with an F if their phone rings during a test.

Disrupting the class by bringing cell phones, in a few cases, may result in being removed from the class. Carol Bader, professor and chair of the

See Phone, 3

# WORLD BRIEFS

Compiled By Jason Cox - News Editor

## Obesity becoming problematic in the world's most remote regions, AAAS says

BOSTON (AP) - Obesity is joining and even surpassing malnutrition as a dietary concern in some of the farthest reaches of the planet, experts warned Saturday.

Weight problems have long been recognized as a health hazard in the United States, Europe and other industrialized places, but in recent years the same worries have begun to emerge in many less well-off places.

At the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, biological anthropologists documented this trend, both in people who migrate to wealthy countries and in those who stay put.

"Obesity has penetrated the remotest places on Earth," said Stanley Ulijaszek of the University of Oxford, adding that too little food, however, is still a more important concern than too much.

A recent Vatican conference concluded that about 800 million people worldwide are underfed, while the International Obesity Taskforce estimates that 300 million are obese.

## Peacekeepers fired on for first time in Afghanistan; civilians report shooting death

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Peacekeepers in the Afghan capital came under fire for the first time Saturday, their commander said. Interim Prime Minister Hamid Karzai, speaking at the grave of a slain government minister, prayed for an end to "the culture of the knife and the gun."

The six British peacekeepers returned fire after their observation post was shot at early Saturday, the commander said. Later, a patrol found one person dead in a nearby house, he said.

Also, a group of Afghan civilians in Kabul reported they were shot at about 1 a.m. Saturday near a peacekeepers' post as they were trying to drive a pregnant woman to the hospital. A 19-year-old man was killed.

It was not immediately clear if the two incidents were linked, or if the two posts were the same.

The shooting was the latest in violence this week that has raised security worries in the capital, which has been calm since Karzai's government was inaugurated in December.

## Dozens of bodies found in sheds and woods behind rural crematory, man arrested

NOBLE, Ga. (AP) - Authorities arrested a man Saturday who had been operating a crematory where dozens of decomposing corpses were found stacked in storage sheds and scattered in the woods behind it.

Scores of bodies were found stacked in storage sheds and scattered on a 10-acre site around the crematory in the state's northwest corner.

The owners of Tri-State Crematory, Ray and Clara Marsh, turned over their records to authorities and were cooperating, Walker County chief deputy Hill Morrison said.

The couple's son, Ray Brent Marsh, 28, was arrested Saturday evening and charged with theft by deception, a felony. He was being held without bond.

Officials said the number of bodies could reach the hundreds. Investigators had found at least 80 bodies on the property behind Tri-State Crematory and were still finding others Saturday evening, said John Bankhead, a spokesman for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

## Grenade blasts in southern Philippines as U.S. military steps up presence

TABIWAN, Philippines (AP) - Grenade blasts ripped through a market and a movie theater in the southern Philippines Saturday, killing at least five people as more U.S. troops arrived under tight security to join a growing American force on a new front in the campaign against terrorism.

The blasts - one a few miles from a base where U.S. military personnel are staying - underscored dangers they could face while advising and training Philippine troops fighting the Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim rebel group U.S. officials say has been linked with al-Qaida.

Two C-130 transport planes with about 40 special forces troops aboard flew in from Okinawa, Japan, the second landing on a darkened runway in Zamboanga city with its lights extinguished.

The soldiers are joining 250 Americans already in Zamboanga for a six-month exercise focusing on the Basilan, an island about 20 miles south of Zamboanga where the guerrillas have been holding an American missionary couple captive for months.

## Explosion kills three in West Bank mall; four Palestinian killed in Gaza and West Bank

KARNEI SHOMRON, West Bank (AP) - A suicide bomber blew himself up at a pizzeria in a shopping center crowded with Israeli teen-agers Saturday, killing himself and two others and wounding 27 people, six of them seriously.

In the northern Gaza Strip, a Palestinian rocket hit an Israeli army base, causing some damage but no injuries. In response, Israeli tanks advanced on the nearby Palestinian town of Beit Lahia, and Palestinian witnesses said they heard intense shooting in the area.

The day's violence began earlier Saturday when four Palestinians were killed, three in a gunbattle with Israeli troops and one in a car explosion that Palestinians blamed on Israel.

A radical PLO faction, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, claimed responsibility for the explosion in a call to the Qatar-based satellite TV station Al Jazeera.

## Clock ticks away life of the French franc - out of circulation at midnight Sunday

PARIS (AP) - The first French francs bought freedom for King Jean le Bon, held hostage by the English in 1360. But by midnight Sunday the franc won't even buy a cup of coffee.

Without fanfare or tears, France is preparing to say "adieu" to its old currency and to be fully replaced by the euro on Monday.

The French franc has been circulating side-by-side with the euro since the new currency was introduced Jan. 1 in 12 European countries. On Monday, the franc will cease to be legal tender for purchases.

Those left in the backs of drawers can be cashed in at banks for euros until June 30. Procrastinators can change coins at the Bank of France for another three years, and notes for another 10 years.

More than 95 percent of cash payments are already being made in euros, Finance Minister Laurent Fabius said this past week.

## African-American performers score golden year with high Oscar nomination profile

LOS ANGELES (AP) - It had never happened before, three black performers nominated in the lead-acting categories for the

Academy Awards. Surely, it was a sign that Hollywood's top honors finally were catching up with the nation's cultural diversity.

That was for 1972, though. It took 29 years for it to happen again - with Halle Berry in "Monster's Ball," Will Smith in "Ali" and Denzel Washington in "Training Day" getting nominations for 2001.

Rarely a standard-bearer for racial inclusion, the Oscars offer possibly their highest profile ever for black performers next month. Besides the three acting nominations, Whoopi Goldberg, one of only two black women to win an acting Oscar, returns as host. Sidney Poitier, the only black to earn a lead-acting Oscar, receives an honorary award for lifetime achievement.

Black advocates like the lineup for the Oscars on March 24 but hesitate to say it marks a turning point for an awards ceremony traditionally dominated by white performers.

## Zimbabwe throws out Swedish European Union election mission leader

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) - Zimbabwe's government forced Europe's top election observer to leave the country Saturday, deepening a dispute with the European Union that threatens to further isolate the southern African country.

Zimbabwe had refused to recognize Pierre Schori, Sweden's ambassador to the United Nations, as head of the 150-member European observer mission for March 9-10 presidential elections in which President Robert Mugabe faces the biggest challenge yet to his 22-year hold on power.

Zimbabwean officials only granted Schori a two-week tourist visa when he entered the country on Feb. 10. But Schori said immigration officials canceled his visa as of midnight Saturday after "the government had decided that I must leave today."

## Bush, on three-nation trip to Asia, says US will not let North Korea threaten freedom

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (AP) - In a star-spangled send-off, President Bush told hundreds of fatigue-clad U.S. soldiers Saturday that "America will not blink" in the fight against terrorism and Osama bin Laden. He vowed to bring that message to Asia.

Amid cheers of "USA! USA!", the commander in chief made a quick refueling stop at this snowy Air Force base to rally U.S. troops and headline a \$400,000 fund-raiser for the Alaska Republican Party. He was leaving from here for a three-nation Asian trip to Japan, South Korea and China that ends Friday.

In a cavernous fighter jet hangar, Bush pledged to tell his global counterparts, "Either you're with us or you're against us. Either you stand for freedom or you stand for tyranny. And the good news is many nations have heard that message."

## University of Miami linebacker killed in car accident, passenger in stable condition

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP) - University of Miami linebacker Chris Campbell, a starter on the Hurricanes national championship team, was killed in a car accident early Saturday.

Campbell, 21, apparently lost control of his car and hit a tree, police said. A passenger in the car, Joel Rodriguez, was in stable condition at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. No other car was believed to have been involved in the accident near the school's campus, police said. Campbell, of Mount Pleasant, Texas, was a senior and was projected as a possible NFL draft pick. ♦

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## Health: Organ donor cards available

Continued from I

plastic meatball in the throat.

Tennessee Organ Donor Services will be on hand to provide information and alleviate misconceptions about organ donation. Organ donor cards will be available for interested participants to fill out.

WOMEN will be providing details on sexually transmitted diseases and domestic violence, as well as handing out "safer sex kits" with directions on the proper use of condoms, among other items.

WOMEN is female centered, but focused on the family as a whole, said Catherine Wyatt-Morley, founder and executive director. "Men will be able to benefit as well," she added.

The fair is open to students and the public, and is free of charge. ♦

## Saxual healing



Photo by Allison Grammer | Staff

Saxophone professor Don Aliquo, with the Middle Tennessee Jazz Orchestra, which backed singer Ernestine Anderson during her performance on campus Thursday.

## Project Communicate . . .

- A series of seminars focused on improving students' communication skills.
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For more information or to pre-register for seminars or competitions, e-mail [projcomm@mtsu.edu](mailto:projcomm@mtsu.edu) or call 615-898-2036.

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Department of Business Education, Marketing Education, and Office Management

## Race diversity panel today in BAS

### Staff reports

Journalist Acel Moore will head a panel on race relations in the newsroom today.

The panel, "Race in the New Century: A View From the Newsroom" will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the State Farm Auditorium of the Business and Aerospace Building.

Joining Moore will be Tennessean writer Dwight Lewis, NewsChannel 5

reporter and former MTSU assistant professor Sybrill Bennett and Associated Press writer and MTSU alumna Lucretia Johnson.

While at MTSU, Johnson founded *The Asserter*, a multi-cultural publication that



Moore

remains in print.

Moore, who is currently a columnist and Editorial Board member at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, has been at the *Inquirer* for 40 years. He won a Pulitzer Prize there in the 1970s.

The event is sponsored by the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies and is part of MTSU's Black History Month activities. ♦

## Phone: Some professors want phone ban

Continued from 1

Developmental Studies Department, included a stern warning on cell phones in her syllabus: "The instructor may report such misconduct to the assistant dean for Judicial Affairs for implementation of such disciplinary sanctions as may be appropriate," her Math 070 syllabus read, "including extended or permanent exclusion from the classroom."

Bader said the actions of one student prompted her to add the policy to her syllabus.

"I had one student who continually received calls and then left. He failed the class, and I believe his phone conduct was part of the reason. Since then, I have had no trouble with phone disruptions," Bader added.

The Nashville school policy tries to hit the problem at its source. Any phone found on school grounds — even one found in a locker — turned off — can be confiscated and returned to the student's parents.

Dennis O'Neal, president of the Faculty Senate, acknowledges that "some professors firmly believe there is a need for a unified policy."

"I'm not opposed to a policy," O'Neal said, "but I don't want the faculty to turn into cell phone police, either." He said he'd first like to have an official discussion with students to see what they think a solution might be.

Markham and Wade said they feel it is time for a universi-



Photo by Allison Grammer | Staff

Sophomore Bridget Baggett said a ban on cell phones in the classroom would be impractical due to human error.

ty policy, but both admit that it would be hard to enforce.

Sophomore Bridget Baggett says any policy "probably wouldn't work because you're still going to have a few people who innocently forget to turn their phones off."

Baggett, who carries a cell phone, says she double-checks to make sure her phone is off before class begins.

"Almost all students who carry phones turn them off out of respect for the instructor," Baggett said. "It's the few times that people forget that cause a problem for the rest of us."

Still, Baggett admits that

almost every one of her class meetings have been interrupted by a phone.

Markham says that the possibility of students "forgetting" to turn off their phones can be circumvented by not bringing them to class at all.

"I have a cell phone, and it was nice to have in the dorms and outside of class," Markham said, "but in public forums and the library, a cell phone ringing is intrusive and inappropriate."

In the meantime, Markham is proud that his Nokia will never see the light of an MTSU classroom. ♦

## Graduation fair in KUC this week

By Victoria Cumbow  
Staff Writer

Phillips Bookstore is sponsoring a Grad Fair this week for spring graduates.

The main focus of the fair is for graduating seniors to be fitted for caps and gowns as well as order personalized invitations. The fair also will showcase different departments on campus to assist seniors in the graduation process.

There will be representatives from five other campus offices to help prepare seniors.

Alumni Relations will be present to give out information

on alumni events in the future that students will be able to participate in.

Graduate Studies will be there to inform students on how to pursue further education if they wish.

Institutional Effectiveness will be on hand to make sure students have taken all the tests required to graduate.

The Career and Employment Center will show students how to perfect their resumes and how to effectively look for jobs.

The Records Office will be on hand to take care of students' accounts and transcripts.

In addition to these campus

offices, Student Publications will be there for any senior who wishes to purchase *Midlander*, MTSU's yearbook. Josten's also will have a table for the cap and gown fittings as well as rings and invitations.

The Grad Fair will be today and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Wednesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The tables will be set up in front of Phillips Bookstore on the first floor of the Keathley University Center. For information about the fair, contact Melisa Warner or Phillips Bookstore at 898-2700. ♦

## Jury to hear Yates trial today

By Pam Easton  
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — The fate of Andrea Yates hinges on whether the jurors who start hearing evidence Monday will believe she knew the difference between right and wrong when she drowned her five young children in their bathtub, then called 911 and told police what she had done.

The 37-year-old woman faces two capital murder charges in the June 20 deaths of three of her five children, ranging in age from 7 years, to 6 months.

Defense attorneys say the former nurse turned stay-at-home mom is innocent by reason of insanity. They will try to prove that she suffered from a severe mental disease or defect which prevented her from knowing that holding her children beneath water until they could no longer breathe was wrong.

"We know that drowning children is wrong," defense attorney George Parnham said during jury selection. "Objectively, we could all sit here and say those actions are wrong, but you're going to be asked to view those actions through her eyes."

Legal experts say he could face a difficult job during the trial, which is expected to last three weeks.

"When you have a crime like this that is so heinous, I think the jurors' inclinations are likely going to be somewhat disinclined to find insanity," Baylor University law professor Brian Serr said. "The fact that she was feeling psychological or mental pressure to kill them does not mean she was in some sort of psychotic state or that she — in a twisted fashion — perceived it to be right."

The fact that she called the police right afterward and reported herself in essence really undermines the fact that she thought what she was doing was right."

Before jurors get to hear evidence about Yates' mental state at the time of the drownings, they will hear the details of the case, including the 911 call Yates placed after she drowned the last child, Noah, 7, whose body was discovered face down in a bathtub half full of water.

They also will hear the confession Yates gave to police when they arrived at her door, how the officers found the youngest four children's wet bodies on a bed covered with a sheet, and a taped interview that followed her arrest.

Prosecutors also will likely point to testimony from Yates' competency hearing that she made the decision to drown her children the night before, and that after her husband left for work she drowned her children one at a time before her mother-in-law was to arrive.

"All of this indicates this wasn't a spur of the moment act," trial consultant Stacy Schreiber said. "But again, it goes back to explaining the nature of mental illness and a person's fight to stay in control."

Yates' husband said she suffered from depression after the births of her two youngest children. Medical records detail her bouts with depression, and show that she attempted suicide twice after the birth of her fourth child in 1999 and was warned by a doctor to carefully consider whether she should have any more children.

The doctor who gave that warning is scheduled to testify, along with other medical experts, police officers, detectives, friends and relatives. Among the experts on the case are two of the nation's top forensic psychiatrists, whose experience includes serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer and Susan Smith, who drowned her two children by rolling her car into a lake.

Phillip Resnick, a psychiatry professor at Case Western University's School of Medicine in Ohio, is working for the defense. Park Dietz, who runs a

California-based private forensic consulting firm, is testifying for the prosecution.

"They are both brilliant and gifted and will do the best possible job for their respected sides," said Neil Kaye, a fellow psychiatrist and friend of both.

"Phil would not take the defense side of this case unless he really believed it," Kaye said.

Dietz makes the complicated simplicity and often embrace Bruck, who hired Resnick for Smith's 1994 murder case, knowing that Resnick was an expert on mothers who kill their children — and on Dietz.

"We desperately need to make sense of things like this and Dietz is very good at making sense of things," Bruck said.

One of the capital murder charges is for the deaths of Noah and 5-year-old John. The other is for 6-month-old Mary. Texas law considers a murder a capital offense if more than one person is killed or if the victim is under age 6.

Charges are pending in the deaths of Paul, 3, and Luke, 2. Texas prosecutors typically forgo multiple capital murder charges since only one conviction is generally needed for the maximum penalty.

A person found innocent by reason of insanity in Texas may be committed to a mental institution, then face a series of hearings until the court releases the person from its jurisdiction, which can last as long as the jail time the defendant faced.

If Yates is found guilty, jurors would have to determine whether to sentence her to life in prison, or to death.

Serr believes jurors will opt for a punishment harsher than death — life.

"Given the nature of this crime, it might be a worse punishment for this woman to be locked up forever and to have to think day, after day, after day that she killed her children and they were perfectly aware of who had become their enemy." ♦

Sidelines is seeking a Student Government Association reporter. To apply, come by JUB 310.

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# OPINIONS

SIDELINES ♦ 4

Monday, February 18, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## Editorial

### Womack's departure leaves education with little hope

Just when we were beginning to think Andy Womack had a chance of winning the governor's race so he could focus the state on higher education and MTSU, he drops out of the race completely and leaves us with Phil Bredesen and Van Hilleary, two candidates with higher education barely in the backs of their minds.

Womack's issue of choice was education in Tennessee, and he pledged to continue his grassroots campaign to improve the educational system in the state.

The two major candidates left now – Hilleary and Bredesen – are anti-income tax and don't seem to want to do much with education than return its control to the local and state levels, according to their Web sites.

Here's what Bredesen had to say on his Web site about education: "Every governor since Alexander has had an education reform plan. Education is too complex to change quickly and bend to ideological fixes. As in business, the key is having the right people."

That sounds like a cop-out to us. When all else fails, just skirt around the issue and try your best to ignore it, like almost every other legislator has managed to do thus far.

As for Hilleary and education, his Web site says, "My focus has been to return the power and responsibility for education back to the state and local communities. Too many of our children in Tennessee are falling through the cracks, and we need leadership willing to take on the status quo."

Of course we need people to challenge the status quo, but Hilleary is hardly the candidate to do that. Throughout his legislative career, he has done little more than vote against everything that has ever come across his table and remains one of the least progressive people at the top of our state government.

We are disheartened by Womack's decision to leave the race. It would have been wonderful to have someone with such close ties to MTSU in the governor's mansion. Perhaps then, the thousands of struggling college students could have caught the attention of our lackluster state government. ♦

## From the Opinions Editor

### A legitimate argument for no classes on President's Day



Happy President's Day! At least, I thought it was going to be one. But then I realized that MTSU still had school on this fourth-most patriotic day of the year. That's a crime.

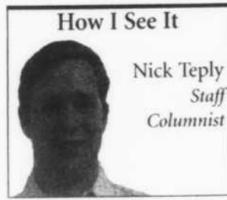
Some simple research on the Web established the fact that not every university in the country has the same unpatriotic policies as MTSU. Georgetown, Stanford and Weber State students and staff all have the day off today. And last time I checked, the Blue Raiders hadn't surpassed those schools in any level of academia. So there can be no argument that we need the extra day of classes.

Even though other universities take the day off, my research revealed that no university calls the third Monday in February by its correct

name. According to the federal Office of Personnel Management, the holiday is still officially known as Washington's Birthday. This is MTSU's big chance for national recognition (other than being the first co-champion of a football conference that sent a team with a losing record to a bowl game, not that I'm bitter or anything). Picture it now – Washington Day on The Knoll. Students can gather and chop down cherry trees, and refuse to tell lies to one another. I'll finally be able to find out from my roommate why he kept 409 cleaner in the fridge and orange juice under the sink last semester...

Well, maybe some things are better left unanswered. But that doesn't change the fact that Washington's Birthday, or President's Day, or whatever you'd like to call it, deserves to have the respect and reflection given to it that only a day of rest can provide. ♦

## Tennessee – stop wasting my money



There's a financial crisis in Tennessee. It seems that there isn't enough money in the state's budget to fund all the whims of the lawmakers.

There are plenty of plans to correct this shortfall. Some would argue for a state income tax. Others say there should be an increase in the sales tax of 1 percent. I offer a simple solution: Stop wasting my money.

There are certain things we need in a state budget. We need well-maintained roads and sufficiently funded education. We need our government to function.

However, the Tennessee legislature gets this money from the very people it was

intended to benefit and spends the revenue in ways which do not.

The numbers tell the truth. From 1990 to 1997, total state expenditures increased 38.4 percent. Tennessee ranked 11th in the nation for state expenditures per capita.

Most of those increases in spending, however, were in areas with little economic benefit, such as health and welfare measures and, of course, government salaries. Significantly less was spent on schools and roads.

Consider for a moment that if TennCare, one of the biggest expenditures the state has, was eliminated or reformed – the entire budget would be mended. TennCare alone cost Tennesseans \$4.33 billion in 2000. That's a 59 percent increase from 1994.

TennCare is Tennessee's version of Medicare, or socialized medicine.

TennCare was created to aid the poor of Tennessee with medical expenses. However, for every 100 poor in Tennessee, 151 people are on TennCare. And while growth in Medicare expenses began to slow, TennCare's rose dramatically.

Part of the problem is that many people are simply dropping private coverage in favor of TennCare. True, many are ineligible, but this is not usually the case. There are even many instances where dead people continue to receive benefits. Even out-of-state residents are receiving Tennessee money.

As for the consequences of a state income tax, we can compare Tennessee to its northern neighbor, Kentucky. In 1980, both states had about the same per capita income, differing by only a few dollars.

In that same year, Kentucky's state and local taxes were about 10 per-

cent higher than Tennessee's. By 1996, however, Kentucky's tax burden was 30 percent higher than Tennessee's. The result: Kentucky had only 35 percent economic growth, while Tennessee had 48 percent. The taxes hindered economic growth.

Did you notice the change? Over a period of 16 years, Kentucky's tax burden tripled over Tennessee's.

That's the problem with even a small income tax. Once the tax laws are in place, the whole system becomes a runaway train of spending. Tax revenues rise faster than the incomes that support them.

An increase in the sales tax is no solution either. Currently in Murfreesboro, the sales tax rate is 8.75 percent, among the highest in the nation. With a proposed increase, the rate would jump to 9.75 percent.

This would make our sales tax rate the highest sales tax rate in the United States.

If the Lord only requires 10 percent, then who do the legislators think they are?

A number of safeguards should be implemented to keep the state out of our pockets.

- The state budget should never grow faster than income.

- Voters should approve any income or sales tax proposal by the legislature.

- A two-thirds supermajority should be required to raise taxes or debt.

- TennCare should be reformed.

- There should be a half-cent state sales tax reduction.

With a little common sense, and a little fiscal restraint, Tennessee can end the financial nightmare it helped to create. Best of all, our state government can stop wasting my money and yours. ♦

## Rick Reilly has had enough of double standards

By Michael Schulz  
Staff Columnist

I am a big fan of Rick Reilly because he has got a real problem with, and doesn't accept, double standards.

In the Jan. 30 posting of *Sports Illustrated* online and the Feb. 4 installment of the magazine, Reilly tackles the rather touchy subject of race issues involving professional athletes.

"White Like Me" is an article that confronts an issue that bothers him head on, and he hits the nail right on the head. Reilly points out the double standard related to race issues in the sports world.

The main theme of the article is that the consequences for a racial comment should be the same for

everyone. Reilly thinks with non-white athletes get away with more in terms of race comments than do their white counterparts.

The outcome of a race comment by a white athlete is often met with protests and could possibly end a career. He offers some examples that get right to the point.

Reilly makes reference to Los Angeles Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal's book *Shaq Talks Back*. In his book, Shaq says, "If you get dunked on by a white boy you have to come home to your friends and hear it." Denver Nuggets center Raef LaFrentz took some real offense to that statement. To LaFrentz, the term is "a negative racial term, just like the 'n' word."

I know you may be shaking your head right now thinking,

that's not so bad. Well, let me put it to you this way. What if NBA Commissioner David Stern wrote in his book "If you get out negotiated by a black boy, you got to go to the country club and hear about it." Instantly there would be people outside his office demanding his resignation and a public apology. "He'd be taped naked to the hood of Jesse Jackson's car," according to Reilly.

You may remember the Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson pre-fight melee about one month ago. You know – the one where Tyson stood on stage and challenged a white reporter to a fight. When the reporter ignored Tyson, the fighter "... accused him of being 'scared like a little white p-!'"

Reilly makes the point that if a white heavyweight stood on the

same stage and said the same things to a black reporter that his career would be ruined.

Remember Dan Issel? The former Denver Nuggets head coach fired for making a racial comment. He even issued a public apology right after the fact. The comment had the Hispanic community of Denver up in arms.

I encourage everyone to take a look at the article online. It can be found at [www.cnsi.com](http://www.cnsi.com), in the "Life of Reilly" archives. In a society that preaches equality, it is necessary that all races be recognized the same.

It is imperative that the consequences for making a race-related comment be the same for everyone also. Shouldn't all races be protected equally and not only a few? ♦

## Murfreesboro: A college town?

By Melanie Blair  
Staff Columnist

Wal-Mart, Stones River Mall, Plotho's, restaurants, Hobby Lobby, a bunch of Johnny and MTSU all find a place in Murfreesboro. Somehow, our precious university seems out of place in Murfreesboro, when really, shouldn't it be the other way around?

Where are the stores? Where are the clubs? Where are all the things all college students want as a part of the college experience? Why isn't there more available to us at 3 a.m., the time of day when we thrive?

It seems that Murfreesboro does not cater to the needs of students attending MTSU as well as it should. Sure, I doubt that any of us will ever go hungry with about nine pizza places, four McDonald's, five Sonics and several sit-down places such as Chili's, Logan's and O'Charley's ready to drain us of what little money we have.

It's unlikely we will ever have reason to complain about missing the hottest movies with two theaters, three Hollywood Videos, two Blockbusters and even a quaint little place called Video Culture.

But these things get old. What do we do when we really want to have some fun? We have a few

places such as The Boro, Bongo Johnny's and Shoeless Joe's, but it's not like there are any real clubs around here.

If you want to dance, you have to either wait for the next big fraternity party or drive out to Nashville. Why can't we have someplace around here? A real dance club would be great.

Would it be so bad to have a dollar movie theater? It would pull in all of us who can't afford \$7.25 every time we want to see a movie.

Typical stereotypes of college students view them as coffee drinkers, but where are the coffeehouses? The Red Rose is a charming little place, and the new Clay Cup has offered more variety. Oh yeah, there's a Starbucks all right, but who can afford that?

We need more places to go hang out, relax, drink coffee and maybe even check out a band or two. Even better would be a 24 hour coffee shop for all our late night needs.

Stones River Mall? What a joke! We have Gap, American Eagle, Victoria's Secret and a bunch of other stores that offer little excitement. This is not enough. If you want to go shopping, you have to drive to at least Hickory Hollow or Opry Mills.

How hard would it be to have some more stores? Don't these people realize they'd make a

## No place for vegetarians to go

By Kelley B. Anderson  
Staff Columnist

The cafeteria workers here must think I'm the only vegetarian on campus, judging by the peculiar looks they give me when I inquire about the contents of the food they are serving.

My favorite is when I ask a student worker, "Is there meat in the beans?" and all I get is a nonchalant "I dunno," and they just stand there like it's my cue to shrug my shoulders and say, "Oh, OK, I wasn't hungry anyway."

And I understand there's probably a million places they'd rather be than there, but if you are working at a place that serves food, you should know what's in the food you are serving.

That's what you get paid for. Sometimes they will ask a supervisor, and the supervisor will disappear momentarily into the kitchen somewhere and come back with a disappointing, "I'm really not sure." And then I wonder, does anyone actually cook the food?

Apparently the cooks will prepare the food and then not be there when it is served, and no one in the entire cafeteria knows what is in the meals.

So I propose that there be ingredient cards so that everyone, not just vegetarians, will know what's in the food they eat on a daily basis.

This would not be such a big deal if it weren't for the fact that my meal plan is not optional, but part of the fascist freshman meal plan that is mandatory for all freshman living on campus – but that policy is the topic for another column. I pay the same amount as everyone else, and I want the same amount of choices.

It's not always bad, and occasionally McCallie has special vegetarian dishes like beans and rice, but I don't eat just once a week. I may not be a football player and consume 3,000 calories a day, but I do eat more than once or twice a week, and salad is not an entree.

I propose there be a vegetarian soup at lunch and dinner, so that there is at least something – warm food – that is always guaranteed to be "safe," especially since there is not one, but two, meat entrees at every meal.

Even the french fries and hash-browns usually have beef fat in them. You would think they are just potatoes, but there are animals in them, which makes no sense to me. The JUB's cooked vegetables are usually guaranteed not to have meat, but you may run into problems if you are vegan because there are sometimes other animal products like butter or egg batter on the fried veggies.

My point here isn't that the

See **Vegetarians**, 5

## SIDELINES

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## You don't make friends with salad

By Tyler Brezler  
The Daily Free Press

(U-WIRE) – I've never understood veganism. I have several friends who are vegans, and it has always baffled me as to why anyone would go to such lengths to avoid eating products that might contain part of an animal.

One of these people goes the easy route and specifically eats only foods that grow out of the ground. This other guy, though, he'll eat snack foods and the like, but he always checks the labels to see if there might be milk or some other non-meat animal product in the ingredients. No cheese, no eggs, no succulent rack of soylent green, no nothing. This is a description of my own private hell.

You see, I believe in the food chain. I'm sure all of the vegans out there have heard this argument before, but I have never personally received a valid counter-argument. Why won't you eat this chicken wing?

Because it's not fair to the chicken? But what about, say, wolves that eat chickens? Are you going to scold a wolf for having a turkey dinner, perhaps with a side of mashed potatoes and a nice white wine? I think not, and for the same exact reason that you should not chide me: superior debating skills. Yes, like myself, wolves are known throughout the animal kingdom for their exceptional argumentative abilities and are second only to the badger.

Which brings me to my second point: It is important we eat the dumber, slower animals, or the smarter, faster animals may beat us to it. It took us millions of years to reach the top of the food chain, and I'm not about to give up now. Wolves may not be able to use guns, but I'm almost dead certain a race of Sasquatch are out there in the woods somewhere, waiting to take over the instant we let down our guard.

Fellow carnivores, we cannot let this happen! Should you see a bigfoot, it is imperative that you slaughter and eat it instantly, stopping only to freshen your drink.

I have no pity for the small (and sometimes big-footed) creatures that hippy-hop through the forests and fields of the world. I take great joy in knowing my meal was violently murdered and occasionally request when dining out that my hamburger come from a cow that was hacked to death by a small hatchet, verbally taunted before

its grisly end.

Are these images disturbing to any of you out there? Certainly not as disturbing as shopping at the grocery store and having to root through every bag of buttered popcorn to find the one that doesn't contain real butter and then later realizing that no, you can't buy the cookie dough because it contains eggs, and eggs come from chickens, and chickens are animals and God hates me.

Why torture yourselves, vegans, when it's so much easier to torture pigs, chickens and the occasional small, delectable kitten? These animals are meant to be consumed in mass quantities or else they wouldn't be so delicious.

You know for a fact that bacon tastes 100 times better than the carrot sticks you're eating, so why fight it? I'm not necessarily telling you to stop eating vegetables. Sure, you can have a salad with your meat. Plants are good for you.

And that's the thing: so are animals. They provide tons of essential vitamins and minerals (particularly when battered and/or deep fried) that can't be replaced by your so-called "nourishment supplements."

When you pass up that bag of Doritos because it contains what appears to be a cheese-like substance, you are depriving yourself of a healthy lifestyle. Like beer, cigarettes and coffee, animal products help to build strong bones and sharp, intelligent minds, and without them, you will never achieve your goal of finally conquering Ireland once and for all.

I applaud your efforts to be different and choose what you think is a healthy way of life, but in the end, people are going to make fun of you and call you names.

Being a vegan means being an outsider, and if you continue the path you have chosen, you will eventually be labeled a communist and a homosexual.

If you are already homosexual, you will be branded heterosexual and Republican. If you are already a Republican, you will be sucked into a timeless void and forced to spend the rest of your life in a purgatory-like state, forced to watch nothing but reruns of *Good Times*.

So vegans, for your own sake, heed my advice, and do not wind up like my friend, whose entire wardrobe has been mysteriously rubbed with beef jerky, so that the tantalizing smell of spicy, dried meat follows him wherever he goes. Like I said before, he was asking for it. ♦

## Virginia ignores constituents' rights

By Preston Lloyd  
Cavalier Daily

(U-WIRE) – Again, the state's lawmakers have found a controversial yet equally insignificant issue that deflects attention from the severe budget crises facing the Commonwealth. Wednesday, legislation requiring public schools to post signs saying "In God We Trust" was passed by the Virginia Senate. This bill, sponsored by Sen. Nick Rerras (R-Norfolk), has raised a debate that begs the question of whether such a motto is appropriate in the modern secular state. Not only should the religious statement be absent from the sphere of public education, it also should be removed from the nation's currency and public edifices altogether.

The motto has appeared on United States coins since 1908 but was not affirmed as the official national motto for another 48 years. While many Americans may find an acknowledgement of the creator an appropriate qualification on the self-important leviathan – i.e. the federal government – the motto is nothing more than a McCarthy-era anachronism. If the phrase were not already the nation's motto, the same legislation to place it in our secular schools would never stand a prayer of passage.

The United States' first declaration in the Bill of Rights is that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion. The ambiguity of the First Amendment leaves more than enough room for a diverse range of interpretation. The rise of the Christian Coalition and religious right within the past 20 years exists as a very tangible example of the relationship between religion and the government point.

However, recent decisions in Virginia point to a trend toward constricting the influence of religion in institutions of learning. The Virginia Military Institute in Lexington recently ceased prayer before meals in a measure to comply with the statutory separation of church and state. Yet Rerras' proposal promotes exposure of even younger children to a motto that is overtly religious in construction.

As the Rerras bill was debated in committee, Sen. R. Edward Houck (D-Spotsylvania) proposed that the notation "In God We Trust" be added after "In God We Trust." This does much to secularize the statement, yet the mere fact that the motto is not

appropriate to stand alone speaks poorly for the legitimacy of the national statement.

Trivial or not, the national motto as it appears on the nation's currency inevitably tramples the rights of the idea of the increasingly diverse population. The theme of religious tolerance has changed since Madison drafted the Bill of Rights. The concept has evolved from referring to non-preference for a particular religion – the likely intent of the motto's ambiguity – in favor of a tolerance for those who recognize no creator altogether. Some may argue that the national government does not have a responsibility to seek to include members of all religious beliefs within the national community, but few would argue that a republic that alienates those who maintain it is dysfunctional at a very fundamental level. For as long as the United States touts a motto that promotes a religious concept, but simultaneously ignores the existence of competing viewpoints, it ceases to be an appropriate maxim to represent the whole of the nation.

Rerras believes this motto to be "very inspirational and an idea that helps [the nation] persevere in difficult times" ("Modified 'In God We Trust' bill advances," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Feb. 11). His first amendment rights ensure that the government may not infringe upon these beliefs. Yet as soon as Rerras advocates that the source of this personal motivation be promulgated throughout the classrooms of the secular Commonwealth, he crosses the line of appropriate discourse and borders on religious indoctrination.

Madison held a strong belief that the best government construction for the United States would be one that pitted faction against faction to preserve the interests of the minority. An individual who finds no faith in a higher power is decidedly a minority in today's culture. This in no way limits, however, that individual's right to be free from rhetorical assault, be it in the classroom or at the bank teller's window.

Not only is "In God We Trust" inappropriate for our nation. In the spirit of the most patriotic era in recent history, our legislators must find symbols that unite and inspire, not latch onto those that discriminate and alienate. The General Assembly should vote down Rerras' bill. It is as wrong for Virginia as the motto is wrong for America. ♦

## Boro: Where's the fun?

Continued from 4

people realize they'd make a killing off of all us college kids? But that would require logic, something of which so many people have none.

The mere setup of Murfreesboro screams that it doesn't care about college students. Has anyone ever noticed how weird the roads are? I always thought the shortest distance from one place to the next was a straight line, but here in Murfreesboro you have to drive around several loopy-loops to get to the place that's standing right in front of you. What's the deal with that? I want the fastest way possible. I want to save my gas.

And there are not enough jobs. Someone I know is always complaining about how no one around here is hiring. This should not be.

Maybe we're just too picky. Maybe we complain too much. Maybe we're easily bored. Regardless, we all want what we want. I wonder if Murfreesboro has ever considered the possibility of opening a theme park. MTSU students could get in half price with their student ID. Wouldn't that be some fun? ♦

## Vegetarians: Got plants?

Continued from 4

cafeteria is a horrible place, but that if we want certain things we have to ask for them.

I noticed a man in McCallie the other day who was wearing a suit and appeared to hold a higher position on the cafeteria corporate ladder, and I asked him if he could possibly suggest that there never be bacon grease or chunks of pork fat in the beans because if anyone needs to eat them, it's the vegetarians, as a source of protein. And he seemed like he had never even thought of it, but in fact was very helpful and said from now on, the beans will be OK!

At least they are for now, but we have to keep lobbying for more options.

I really do think some of the cafeteria workers try to help you and maybe even some of the "higher-ups" have considered the vegetarian question, but honestly, most of the time they are just clueless. And it's not their responsibility to research – if you want something, you have to ask for it.

I can't be the only one who goes through the daily chore of "is there meat in this?" and I know that I am of course the only vegetarian on campus, but we really aren't vocal enough. ♦

## Professor Gore, you're my hero

By Calvin Hennick  
The Daily Iowan

(U-WIRE) – Last week, Al Gore made his most significant public appearance since losing the presidential election more than a year ago. At a speech in Manhattan Tuesday evening, he made his first-ever major policy statements concerning the Bush administration, sounding off mostly about the war in Afghanistan.

"It isn't enough to destroy what is evil and then seek to leave by the nearest door," he said. "We must make the commitment to work with those whom we have rescued until they can stand on their own feet."

Gore's statements may be harmless enough (not to mention vague). However, I think it's more than a little presumptuous for him to be giving unwanted advice to the president of the United States. After all, he's not the vice president anymore, or even a senator or congressman. He's a journalism professor.

It's sort of amusing, really.

Gore was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1976 with virtually no work experience, but he needed 25 years in politics to qualify him as a professor. It's nice to see a regular guy work his way to the top like that, spending years in grueling jobs like senator before finally getting his big break as a journalism professor.

Here's what I don't understand: Gore spent a couple of years of his life, as well as millions of dollars of other people's money, telling people about his vision for the 21st century. And yet, here we are in the 21st century, and Gore appears to have abandoned that vision. Just because he didn't win the election doesn't mean he had to give up on the ideas.

In a campaign speech in Iowa, Gore promised to "move heaven and earth to help family farmers who are struggling right now." He also promised to fight for universal health coverage and to decrease the disparity in education and wealth between the races. Funny, I haven't seen him do any of that as a journalism professor.

Helping the poor, fighting for equality – those are laudable goals. However, they are not goals that you have to be president in order to achieve. Gore could have lost the election, slept in a couple of days and then started his life as a social reformer.

Some may argue that because Gore lost the election, he is not in a position to achieve his goals. This, however, is nonsense. Martin Luther King never held political office. Neither did Mohandas K. Gandhi. Both of them, however, accomplished more than most presidents ever will because they had legitimate vision. Rather than fighting for their own prestige, they sacrificed of themselves in order to bring a little more justice into the world.

Gore's lack of activity since the election leads me to believe that he never really cared in the first place. If his goals aren't worth working for just because he lost, then winning probably wouldn't make them that important, either. In reality, the only thing important to Gore was winning the election.

Still need more evidence that Gore is just another suit who wanted a powerful job? During my senior year of high school, during the 2000 campaign, I attended an environmental conference with my ecology class. We were all surprised when we learned that Al Gore, the environmental choice for president, showed up to speak. We were even more surprised when he incorrectly stated the date of Earth Day.

And don't forget – he did claim to invent the Internet.

Write letters in support of Gore if you must. But before you do, keep in mind that I have the same feelings about Bush. Both he and Gore, much like Carson Daly, are giant tools.

Gore never had a real vision for this country – at least none that didn't include him living in the White House. With as little as he has done for America since he lost the election, one might wonder how much he really would have accomplished if he had won. Perhaps he wouldn't even have grown that stupid beard. I guess we'll never know. ♦

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# FEATURES

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, February 18, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## Experiencing Afghanistan's sleepless war

### Leon Alligood reaps benefits, hardships of America's war

By India Stone  
Staff Writer

Imagine trying to sleep outside next to an airport runway. Now imagine doing this in a distant country ravaged by war and uncertainty. Sounds like a recipe for a sleepless night, right? One of MTSU's journalism professors, Leon Alligood, knows from experience.

On assignment for *The Tennessean*, Alligood was sent to Kandahar International Airport in Afghanistan, where he had to camp on the floor of the terminal. A shelled-out building with no windows, the airport now functions as a U.S. airbase and a detention center for captured Taliban fighters. The building also offered Alligood little shel-

ter from the roar of the incoming planes no more than 200 yards from where he tried to sleep.

"No one has been anywhere like Afghanistan," Alligood said as he recalled the hardships and the reward he faced in the newly liberated land.

But was it worth going there? Alligood thinks the benefits reaped from the experience are greater than the hardships he endured while he was there.

Alligood washed his hair one time (with bottled water) in the two weeks he spent there and had to bathe with baby wipes. Internet and phone communication was "spotty at best," he said. The satellite phone he brought stopped working, so he had to pay large sums to use the only other satellite phone in town. When he was able to talk with folks back home, the threat of disconnection always lingered close by.

"Whenever we could talk to him, we would end the conversation with, 'We'll talk to you when we can,'" said Jennifer Peebles, Alligood's editor at *The*

*Tennessean*.

But these things were nothing compared to the rewards of the trip.

The tired faces of the men who were happy just to be getting paid to work was rewarding to Alligood.

"I had a good bit of contact with Afghan men who worked on the airbase," Alligood said. "All the ones I spoke to were very much anti-Taliban, pro-American."

"Under the Taliban rule these men had to work for free, for absolutely nothing!"

Alligood also said his experience in Afghanistan was beneficial to his outlook on life.

"Here I think I'm sacrificing, but then I look at the people in Afghanistan and realize they don't have running water either," he said. "They don't have electricity. They're suffering. This is their life. This is how they live."

Seeing little girls quake with fear as they exploded cluster bombs and landmines was both rewarding and heart wrenching for Alligood.



Photo provided

Leon Alligood takes in the European atmosphere on a bridge in Frankfurt, Germany.

"They were using a large machine gun and binoculars to explode the active bombs," Alligood explained. "There were these two girls, clad only in thin shawls, who were barefoot. Every time they would fire the machine guns there would be a big boom and the girls would just quiver because they were very, very afraid."

"Of course, there was a language barrier, he added, "So there was nothing I could say to soothe their fear."

"That's the image I come back with. I think about how difficult it's going to be to rebuild their country and infrastructure. Getting rid of landmines is a big part of that."

Alligood pointed out that the average life expectancy for women in Afghanistan is 50 years and the life expectancy for men is 48 years. He also commented that the possibility of the two girls having children of their own by the time Afghanistan is anywhere near reconstruction troubles him.

"The image of the two little girls, to me, sums up the whole of the ills of the country,"

Alligood said. "It's not the adults that are going to have to pay for it. It's the children."

But savoring all of the bitter morsels of history in the making was definitely worth it to Alligood.

"John Walker Lindh [the American Taliban fighter] came through the camp while we were there," Alligood said. "Even though they will neither confirm nor deny that he was there, but we saw what we think was him coming off the plane and being detained at Kandahar."

Alligood also witnessed the gun battle that ended the standoff at a downtown Kandahar hospital between anti-Taliban and al-Qaida fighters.

"We heard that there was a gun battle going on," Alligood said, "and of course, we did exactly what our mothers wouldn't want us to do and hopped onto the nearest truck and headed for downtown."

When the standoff at the hospital was finally over, six al-Qaida members were dead and one anti-Taliban fighter was shot in the abdomen. Alligood watched as they carried the

wounded man to seek medical care.

With almost 23 years of experience in the journalism profession, Alligood specializes in feature stories. Everyone who knows Alligood says he is an extraordinary writer.

Glenn Himebaugh, a journalism professor at MTSU who has known Alligood for many years, said he was not at all surprised that Alligood was because he is one of the best writers in Nashville.

Similarly, Richard Campbell, the director of the MTSU's school of journalism who hired Alligood as a journalism professor, said *The Tennessean* made a good choice by sending him.

Alligood was chosen by Peebles to go to Afghanistan with the 101st Airborne.

His assignment: to give real-life stories of the people of Afghanistan.

Alligood was not that surprised when Peebles told him that the 101st Airborne would be going to the foreign land.

See Alligood, 8



Photo Provided

Leon Alligood reported on the people of Afghanistan from the airport in Kandahar.

## CAMPUS EVENTS

Compiled by Leslie Fike | Features Editor

### Monday, Feb. 18

MTSU Films presents *The Royal Tenenbaums* at 7 and 9:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Keathley University Center Theater. For more information, call 898-2551.



The June Anderson Women's Center has autographed books by African American women authors on display. Other books of interest are available in their free lending library in Room 206 of the James Union Building. For more information, call 898-2193.

### Wednesday, Feb. 20

The Victory Campus Ministries (Champion for Christ) will host a Bible study in Room 104 of the John Bragg Mass Communication Building at 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 898-4281.

### Thursday, Feb. 21

Pi Sigma Epsilon, a national sales and marketing fraternity, will host a informational meeting at 6 p.m. in Room S301 of the Business and Aerospace Building. For more information, call (615) 405-1989 or send e-mail to RussellFurney@bellsouth.net.

### Monday, Feb. 25

"Survival in Its World-System Context" will be the topic discussed at the Survival Honors Lecture Series with speaker Edward Kick, professor of sociology and anthropology, in Room 109A of Peck Hall from 3 to 3:50 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 898-2152.

### Thursday, Feb. 28

The June Anderson Women's Center will host a free legal clinic from 7 to 9 p.m. The clinic is available to all MTSU students, faculty and staff. Appointments to speak with an attorney can be made by calling the JAWC at 898-2193. Space is limited.

## Dear Annie

### Cheating creates sticky situation

Dear Annie,

My roommate's boyfriend and I like each other. We've been sneaking around and spending time with each other for about a month. Sometimes he will sneak into my room in the middle of the night while my roommate is upstairs sleeping.

See, this guy and I have our answer figured out if we ever get caught. He would say that he was hungry and he came downstairs for a snack. I just don't know how this relationship is going to work out. If he breaks up with her, we can't just start suddenly seeing each other. Actually, even if we started seeing each other, things would still be complicated. I don't want my roommate to be mad at me. I know he isn't right for her and that he's really thinking about me. But sometimes it really upsets me to watch them together. He says he's waiting till after Valentine's Day to break up with her. Things are starting to get complicated.

Do you think I should be the one to tell my roommate that I've been seeing her boyfriend? If so, how would I say it? Should I wait for this guy to tell her? What do you think about my situation?

— Sneaky Roommate

Dear Sneaky Roommate,

Well, I wouldn't want to be thought of as a midnight snack. I can see it now — your roommate walks in



Illustration by Lucas Antoniak | Staff

on you and her boyfriend. He turns to her and says, "Oh baby, I got hungry and decided to get some chocolate pudding." I bet that would really go over well.

What are you thinking? Why would you want to be with a guy who would cheat on his girlfriend with her roommate? This guy is good. He has you both fooled. He's bed hopping in the middle of the night. Have you ever heard the phrase, "Have your cake and eat it too?" He's having his cake and a "snack" too.

I think you are caught up in the excitement of sneaking around. I also think he's not going to leave his girlfriend. The next thing you'll be hearing is that he can't break up with his girlfriend yet because he has to go to church with her parents on Easter Sunday. Wake up! It's been a month. Valentine's Day wasn't an issue a month ago.

You think things are complicated now? Wait until you're looking for a new place to live. If she finds out what has been going on, I guarantee you won't want to live with her anymore.

Whatever you do, the friendship is now destroyed. You tell her she has a loser for a boyfriend because he's been cheating on her with you — friendship over. You keep quiet and wait until he tells her — friendship over. I would definitely start looking for a new place to live.

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

## Campus Club Spotlight – Quiz Bowl Team

# MTSU's Intercollegiate Quiz Bowl Team defeats UT-K in opening tournament

By Melissa Coker  
Staff Writer

It's the MTSU 2002 Intercollegiate Quiz Bowl Team, and it's here to play. Like football for the mind, the team plays academic tournaments against one or more schools to test who gets the answers right the quickest.

Other universities they've played so far include Tennessee State, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. And they've won all of these games. In their first season, they've had five wins and seven losses, which could be seen as impressive for a new group of five volunteers that not only had no chance to practice, but some of which had met one another only days before the first competition. Team Captain Dennis Thibodeaux says this made "utterly stomping" UT-Knoxville (in the recent Sword Bowl tournament in Chattanooga) an especially great feeling.

Besides Thibodeaux as captain, the team is made up of four other players: Patrick Chinnery, Wendy Caldwell, Jason Griffas and Shawn Lieving. They don't have official recognition by the university yet, so as of now they are strictly a volunteer team.

They pay their own expenses in order to compete in the competitions, whereas those with official university sponsorship have the funds to worry more than one team and don't have to worry about pulling together as a group

to pay their way.

The team's next competition is in Chattanooga Feb. 23, which is the Southwest Regional Tournament of the Academic Competition Federation, will consist of at least 24 teams (including students from TSU, Georgia, Emory University and maybe Vanderbilt) going head-to-head on a various array of history, literature, science and humanities questions, with a little sports and pop culture sprinkled in.

Thibodeaux says they're bringing a camera along on the trip in case they win so that MTSU will "see our smiling faces, but if not, we'll deny it ever happened."

Most of the questions are considered general knowledge, with 16 of 20 questions usually getting answered by someone, but the trick to winning is in the timing. Much like the popular TV quiz show *Jeopardy*, the first team that thinks it knows the answer must be the first ones to buzz in, and points are deducted from those who buzz in too early and aren't correct.

The current team is MTSU's first and only one this semester. It hopes to have more soon, but by forming a little late in the semester, it wasn't able to file the proper paperwork in order to become official.

Each member should be able to stay on until December, when they begin graduating, but another should form in the meantime to help out.

Membership is open to anyone who has the

desire to compete in the events. Many seem to be out for blood, but those at MTSU want to keep it fun. This isn't to say that the team isn't out to win, though.

Everyone on this semester's group are former high school quiz-bowlers. For most, high school was pretty recent, but for Thibodeaux, it was 20 years ago. Now, after spending 13 years in broadcasting, working as a deejay, program director and station manager, he's a senior, majoring in radio/television with an emphasis in the electronic media management.

His interest in trivia competitions goes back to his childhood, when he was fascinated by TV game shows. He was a champion on the History Channel's quiz show *History IQ* last year, and in 1999 he won \$9,200 on *Jeopardy*.

When he came to MTSU in 2001 at age 36, there wasn't an active academic quiz bowl team, so he played in several of the pop culture quiz tournaments, called "trash" tournaments, at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. These are open to anyone who wants to play, with no academic affiliation needed.

Some of the MTSU faculty and staff are sponsoring a more local event March 5.

The Gamma Iota Sigma Insurance, with Ken Hollman, chair of insurance and adviser, as sponsor, and Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Societies, with Mark E. Brynes, political science and president, PKP, as co-sponsor challenge all clubs and organizations to compete in the 2002 MTSU Quiz Bowl.

Each team can be made up of up to four people, with the cost of \$15 per team to enter. First place prize is \$80, second will win \$40 and third place will get \$20.

Soft drinks and cookies will be available to all contestants and observers. The bowl will be held at 6 p.m. March 5 in the TV studio of the Learning Resource Center.

To enter, call Ken Hollman at 898-2673, Mark Brynes at 898-2708 or stop by the Chair of Insurance Office in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room N330. ♦

## How to join

To inquire about joining the Intercollegiate Quiz Bowl Team, contact Dennis Thibodeaux at [dpt2a@mtsu.edu](mailto:dpt2a@mtsu.edu) or Patrick Chinnery at 496-4058.

# Students shuffle work and class schedules

By Kevin McConville  
Daily Kent Stater

(U-WIRE) KENT, Ohio – College students who hold part-time jobs and live off campus face many similar problems in their daily life, such as lack of time, lack of money and heavy workloads.

For many students, the chance to live in an apartment away from the authority of the dorms is worth paying on a job and the responsibilities of paying for rent, bills and food. Some jobs, however, require many students to choose between their grades and their work schedules, their morals and electricity, and their dignity and a box of cereal.

"I think a lot of employers take advantage of the college population," said Andreas Johansson, the executive director of the Commuter and Off-campus Student Organization. "Look at a business, for example, any fast-food place – do you think they would really be in business if it wasn't for the high school and college population?"

Johansson said the answer would probably be "no" because college and high school students are a large portion of fast-food restaurants' employees, who typically earn minimum wage, and customers, who have neither the time nor money to eat elsewhere.

"I think students need to think about what kind of job they have rather than 'do I have a job' if they are not making enough money," Johansson said.

The biggest problem stu-

dents come to Johansson with are jobs with work schedules that cut into the time needed for homework and even classes.

"Their employer won't understand the need to go to school," Johansson said. "So they will give students a schedule and the students will say 'Hey, I have to go to school' and they will say, 'Too bad.'"

Often retail jobs are the worst with scheduling problems. Johansson said. Retail employees often do not have fixed schedules, which can be hard to work with, especially with a fixed school schedule.

Johansson said he used to work at a retail store in Stow and experienced many scheduling and communication problems while he was there.

"I would turn in a schedule a half-year in advance saying this is when I go to school, this is when I can't work and this is when I have to be in the National Guard," Johansson said. "And I would always be scheduled, and I would be like 'I have to switch,' and my manager would tell me 'Oh, well you didn't tell me.'"

Johansson also said he had trouble reaching his manager to adjust his working times, and even if the times got adjusted, he would receive phone calls from his manager who wanted to know why he wasn't at work.

"If I went back into retail – because it really isn't a bad job – rather than try to negotiate a schedule after you are hired, try to do that in the job interview," Johansson said.

Johansson said anyone going

into a retail job should turn in a written statement of the hours that he or she can and cannot work to avoid any confusion.

Bad customers and employ-

ers Endless hassles and pointless critiques are always a part of part-time jobs, but sometimes it can be the customers, not the employers, who deliver verbal lashings and ruin the working environment.

Joseph Miller, sophomore computer science major, said he works at the deli counter of a Cuyahoga Falls grocery store, a long commute for him, especially because he relies on his roommate for transportation.

"I can't get to and from [work] without walking or getting a ride," Miller said. "I was cut back to only weekends, which is a problem because I have rent and bills, which have accumulated."

Miller said he lives in Kent, about eight miles away from his job, and it was his lack of a car that forced his employer to cut his hours. He is unwilling to quit his deli job because he can't find a decent job closer to where he lives.

The only complaint that Miller has with the job is customers, who often criticize the him because they asked for the wrong meats or proportions.

"I chop meat and cheese for people and put it on sheets of paper, wrap it up and listen to them gripe," Miller said. "I do things like cut meat too thickly. I give them meat that they didn't want because they used a different name, which happens

coincide with the name of another meat which I just cut."

Customers ask Miller for a lot of chipped meats, which is the thinnest of the meat slices and takes the longest to cut, but they often complain about how long the job is taking.

"The thinner and thinner you cut the longer you are standing at the deli counter," Miller said. "And everybody who is waiting is complaining. 'Why is it taking you so long?'"

Sometimes a student can have problems with the work that his or her job requires them to do.

Kristen Zuro, a senior integrated language arts major, said she had an ethical problem with a telemarketing job that she held while attending classes at Kent State University-Stark Campus in North Canton.

It is a sweepstakes company like Publishers Clearinghouse that sells merchandise over the phone, but customers cannot be entered into the sweepstakes by buying anything from the company.

"People who buy the jewelry think that they will win the sweepstakes," Zuro said. "I had a friend who left after two or three days of working there because she had made an older woman cry because [the woman] couldn't afford the jewelry."

Zuro said she was asked to leave the company for refusing to push sales onto people who probably couldn't afford the merchandise, but at the time,

she had already put in her two-week notice.

Options that student work-

ers have Merijeane Benedik, the assistant director for student employment, recommends that students looking for ways to get out of a terrible working environment or situation should consider seeking employment on campus.

Benedik recommends that students who are looking for on-campus employment check the Career Services Web site which can be accessed through the student section of the Kent State Web site's main menu.

"Everything is done online," Benedik said. "This office has never been just a gatekeeper."

Students should avoid jobs that require them to work full time or have inflexible work schedules, because those jobs

often require students to choose between a class or employment, Benedik said.

Benedik said students who are working part-time and have student loans but are still having problems financially often do not know that the can qualify for other student grants and loans. ♦

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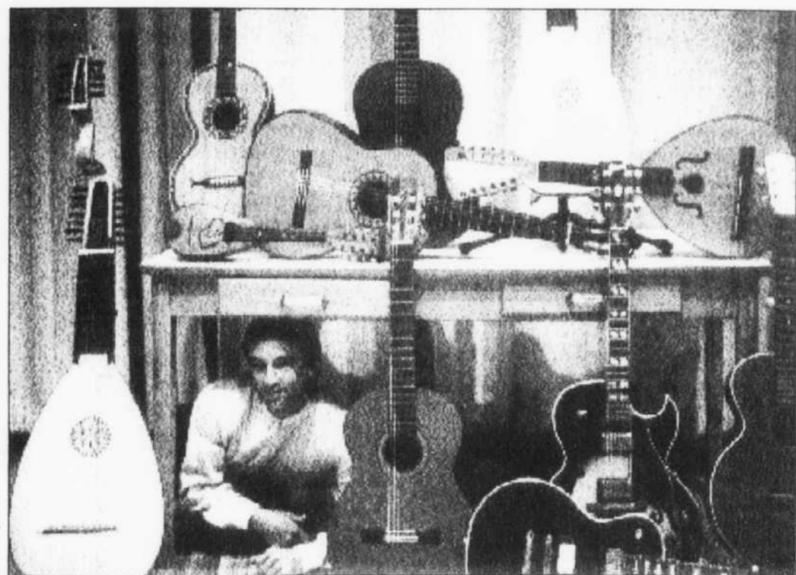


Photo by Steve Cross | Staff

William Yelverton, MTSU music professor, performed Friday at the festival.

### Staff Reports

Roger Hudson, Elliot Frank, Andrew Zohn and William Yelverton were the featured guitarists this weekend at MTSU's 2002 Guitar Festival in the Wright Music Building. The festival will continue with a performance tomorrow by Venezuela's international artist Salome Sandoval and a recital Wednesday by MTSU junior Brent Coleman. Each concert will begin at 8 p.m. and is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Tim Musselman, publicity coordinator for the school of music, at 898-2493. ♦

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Applications due Feb. 28, 2002



# Alligood: MTSU professor travels to Kandahar for 'The Tennessean'

Continued from 6

"When President Bush came to Ft. Campbell in November he told the troops, 'You will have your day with destiny,'" Alligood said. "I knew that at some point the 101st would be involved."

Because he already had a great deal of experience with the 101st airborne division, Peebles said, the editors at *The Tennessean* knew Alligood was the right person for the job. In addition, Alligood was already accustomed to hardships, having been embedded with a training exercise in the woods previously.

"Leon is one of the most talented reporters in the news room," Peebles said. "He wrote his stories under extremely austere conditions."

"Since I have so many responsibilities at home, I probably wouldn't have gone if it were me," Campbell said. "I would be a little afraid, to tell the truth."

According to *The Tennessean*, anti-American protesters opened fire on U.S. positions held alongside the American base at Kandahar on Wednesday of last week. Luckily, no one was injured.

Alligood's wife, Bertie, said she was fine with her husband being assigned to go to Afghanistan.

"My wife was not afraid, and my kids thought it was cool," Alligood, who has two sons, ages 20 and 22, said.

Before Alligood settled into news journalism, he worked as a disc jockey at a small radio station for about six months. He said he had to leave on account of boredom, though.

From there, he tried to break into the film industry but had to take a job as a bus driver in Georgia for 18 months after discovering how difficult it was to



Leon Alligood stands outside the Kandahar airport. Photo provided

enter the film world. Alligood still holds a high regard for the experience, though.

"It taught me to be humble," he said. "I thought that I would just go out into the world and do what I wanted to do, and make my dreams come true, but it wasn't that way."

"I must say my parents were very proud of me having spent then well-earned money getting my journalism degree and there I was driving a bus," he commented.

Alligood said when he finally took a job as a reporter at a newspaper, he found it was a

good outlet for creativity, which was contrary to what he had always believed.

"I never thought newspaper would allow for creativity. I thought it would be boring," Alligood said. "When I came to newspapers, I really felt like I was at home."

Obviously Alligood is correct, as others continue to praise him as a natural feature writer.

"Leon gives great insight into the reality of things," said Ed Kimbrell, professor in the School of Journalism at MTSU. "He paints portraits with words." ♦

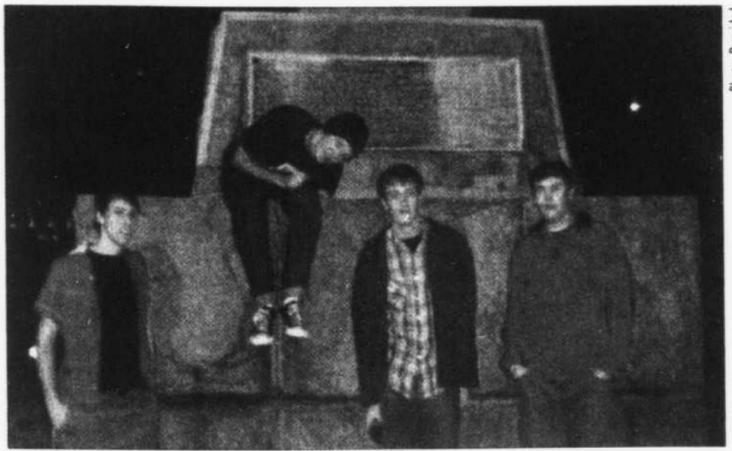


Photo Provided  
Oscar's Downfall consists of band members (left to right) Chad Hafner, Justin Lee, Andrew Goodman and Travis Temples.

## Oscar's Downfall echoes life

By Shawn Whitsell  
Staff Writer

Drummer and senior Justin Lee, and his cohorts Chad Hafner (lead vocals, rhythm guitar), Andrew Goodman (bass guitar) and Travis Temples (lead guitar) make up the "emo" punk-rock outfit, Oscar's Downfall, a name that stemmed from Andrew's dog Oscar and his brush with death.

Although the band doesn't necessarily sing about Oscar's death, they do touch on the pitfalls of life and relationships.

"The music talks a lot about heartache, lost love and the downfalls of relationships," Lee said.

According to him, the band members write about what is going on in their lives and the lives of the people surrounding them. Though they may touch on broken relationships, Lee says the relationship among the band members couldn't be better. He also said he and his fellow bandmates are extremely dedicated to the success of Oscar's Downfall.

Lee is so dedicated to the band that he drives to Cookville, where the band is based, every Saturday. However, when he can't make it to Cookville, the other members have no problem taking a trip to the 'Boro. Even with their grueling schedules that include school (the other three members attend Tennessee Tech) and jobs, Lee and company always make sure they have time to jam

together, despite the sacrifices. "I've lost seven or eight jobs for the band," Lee said. "The band, in my life, is number one. This is what I want to do with my life."

Lee also feels it's important that everyone in the band is on the same page. They sit down and discuss all their issues so that everyone gets their thoughts and feelings out.

"We want to say as close as possible," he said. "Communication is the No. 1 thing."

"If we have a problem with another band member, no matter how trivial, we all four sit down and talk. [We] throw all the cards on the table. We try to do that once every two or three months."

Lee said by doing this, it keeps them close and focused on their goals. He added that the band is determined not to let small things break them up.

According to Lee, the band is also determined to be successful, but in their own way.

"We're looking to have a strong underground scene that will eventually get us somewhere," he added. "We're not looking to be millionaire rock stars. We just want to play and be able to survive and live comfortably."

When it comes to the band's live show, Lee said they just try to have as much fun as possible.

"We have a good time at our shows," he said. "We hope people that hear our music or see us have a good time as well."

He also feels people can connect to their music because of

the real life subject matter they deal with.

Though their shows usually go well, Lee remembered a particular show in Cookeville, where things got a little crazy. Lee said the monitor he was using threw him off track, the microphones went out and the PA system blew out. The band couldn't even finish the song.

However, Lee firmly believes that a band shouldn't panic when things go haywire because in many cases, the audience doesn't even realize it.

"No matter what happens, finish the song," he said.

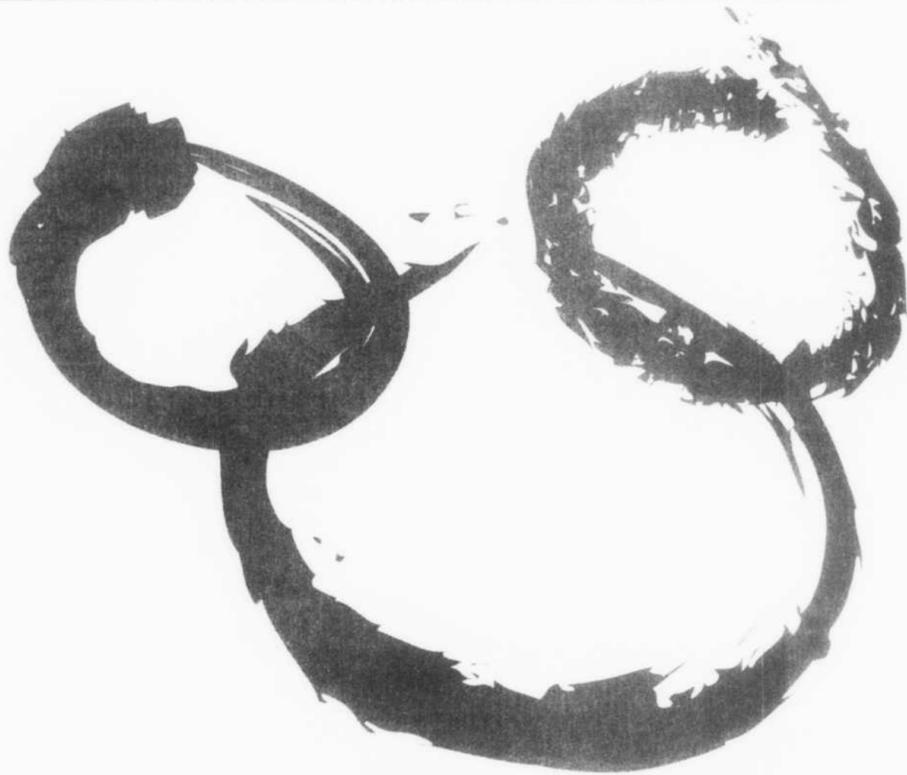
Lee, who practices his drums four hours each day, believes that bands should constantly evaluate themselves. Fans should support the local band scene.

"We're firm believers of band's supporting each other," he said. "If you don't like our music, find another band that you do [like]. Support your local scene."

Lee, who handles all of Oscar's Downfall's business, also assists out-of-town bands that are looking for gigs in the area. Lee even goes as far as housing and feeding them. In return, when Oscar's Downfall hits the road, these bands will do the same for them. Though some of the members are involved in side projects, Oscar's Downfall is their main focus. After everyone graduates from college, they plan to tour for about a year.

Oscar's Downfall will play The End in Nashville March 1 at 10 p.m. ♦

Is there a topic that the features section hasn't covered but you would like to see an article on? If so, contact Leslie Fike, the features editor, at 898-2917 or come by Room 308A of the James Union Building.



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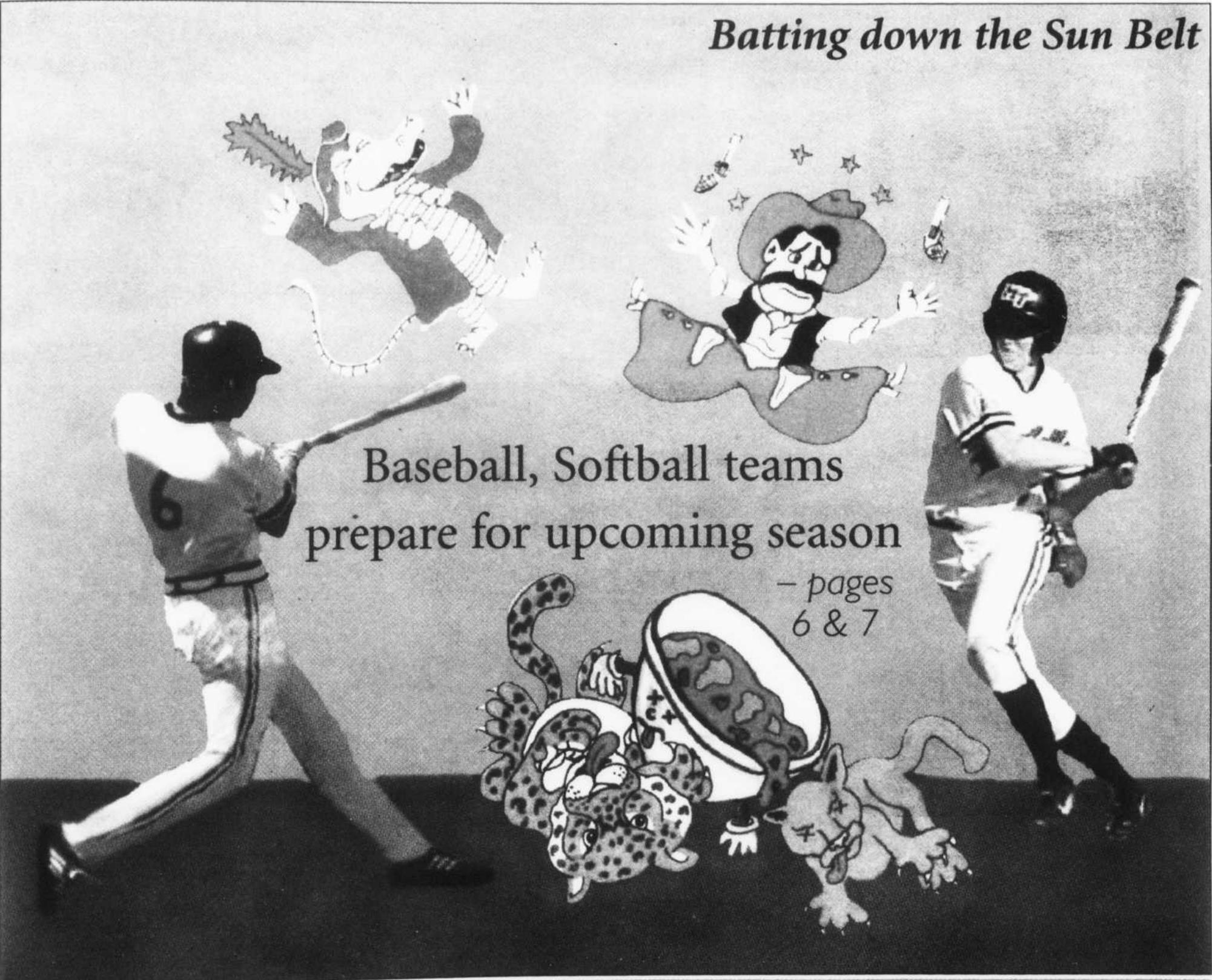
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Sidelines

# SPORTS *MT* WRAP

Monday, February 18, 2002

*Batting down the Sun Belt*



Baseball, Softball teams  
prepare for upcoming season

— pages  
6 & 7

Basketball 3-4 | Tennis • 5 | Briefs • 9

## From the Editors Welcome to 'Sports Wrap'



Cox



Pickering

As Middle Tennessee athletics strive to become prominent in Division I-A, the *Sidelines* sports department introduces 'Sports Wrap,' our way of covering MT sports more completely.

'Sports Wrap' allows us the opportunity to cover all sports, not just the more prestigious ones. It is our goal to cover each sport equally and this gives us the space to do so. Now, our audience can read about tennis, track and golf as well as football, basketball and baseball. No longer will the "lesser" sports be covered in 100 word blurbs.

More in-depth coverage and profiles of the athletes that interest the student body are what can be expected from our new tabloid. The intent is to make sports more interesting for the reader. A deeper look at athletes and the games allows readers the unique opportunity to understand student athletes.

Every time an MT team plays, you can expect *Sidelines* to have full coverage of the game or event. We strive to offer our readers with top-notch stories about the Blue and Lady Raiders. 'Sports Wrap' will only enhance our opportunity to provide readers with this top-notch coverage.

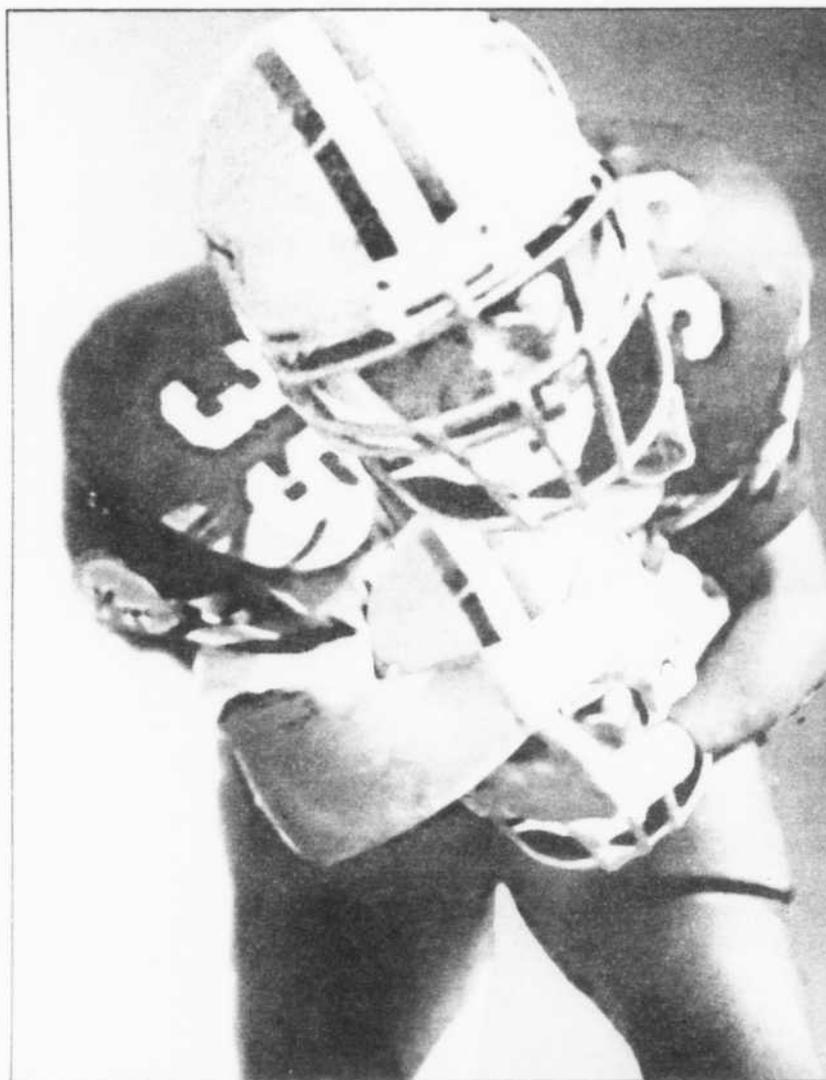
We see this as a unique opportunity that we are extremely excited about. We hope you will enjoy our new tabloid.

Colleen Cox  
Rebecca Pickering

## 'Sports Wrap' staff

Colleen Cox	Sports Editor
Rebecca Pickering	Assistant Sports Editor/Designer
Pam Hudgens	<i>Sidelines</i> Editor in Chief
Lindsey Turner	Managing Editor
Amy Jones	Photo Editor
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## Blue Raider Basketball

# Blue Raiders beat Denver in last home game

By Justin Ward  
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders (13-13) beat Denver (8-17) Saturday night 62-47 coming off a two-game losing streak on the road against Arkansas State and Arkansas-Little Rock to clinch third place in the Sun Belt East Conference.

The game began with 3 turnovers by the Blue Raiders and 2 by the Pioneers without any scoring. With 16:53 left in the first half, Sherman Rochell of the Pioneers scored two points to get the game going. The Blue Raiders trailed for much of the first half before finally taking control of the game with a three pointer by Tommy Gunn with 7:37 left in the first half to make the score 13-11. They finished the first half with 27 to the Pioneers 19.

The Blue Raiders continued to increase their lead in the second half. The closest the Pioneers ever got was within 7 points of the Blue Raiders.

"Coach told us before the game that this was a very big game," John

Humphrey said. "He said 'no ands, ifs or buts.' This is a must-win game. We went out and we played hard. We played as a team. The seniors did a great job and we just came out with the victory."

Gunn led the Blue Raiders with 17 points and 6 rebounds. Gunn scored 18 points against UALR in the previous game improving after a mid-season slump. Humphrey backed him up with 12 points after scoring 15 in the AULR game. Senior Lee Nosse had 12 points in the Blue Raider 62-point effort.

"I've been struggling offensively," Gunn said. "The coach has been urging me to look for my shots and get those opportunities to put the ball up. I did that tonight, and I started against Arkansas-Little Rock. I'm just trying to continue to shoot well."

B.J. Pratt led the Pioneers with 11 points and 6 rebounds. Wahhab Carter added 10 points in the game.

Saturday night was senior night and the last home game for seniors Nosse and D'Marius Wilkes. MT Athletics Director Boots Donnelley

presented Nosse and Wilkes with their framed jerseys in a ceremony before the game.

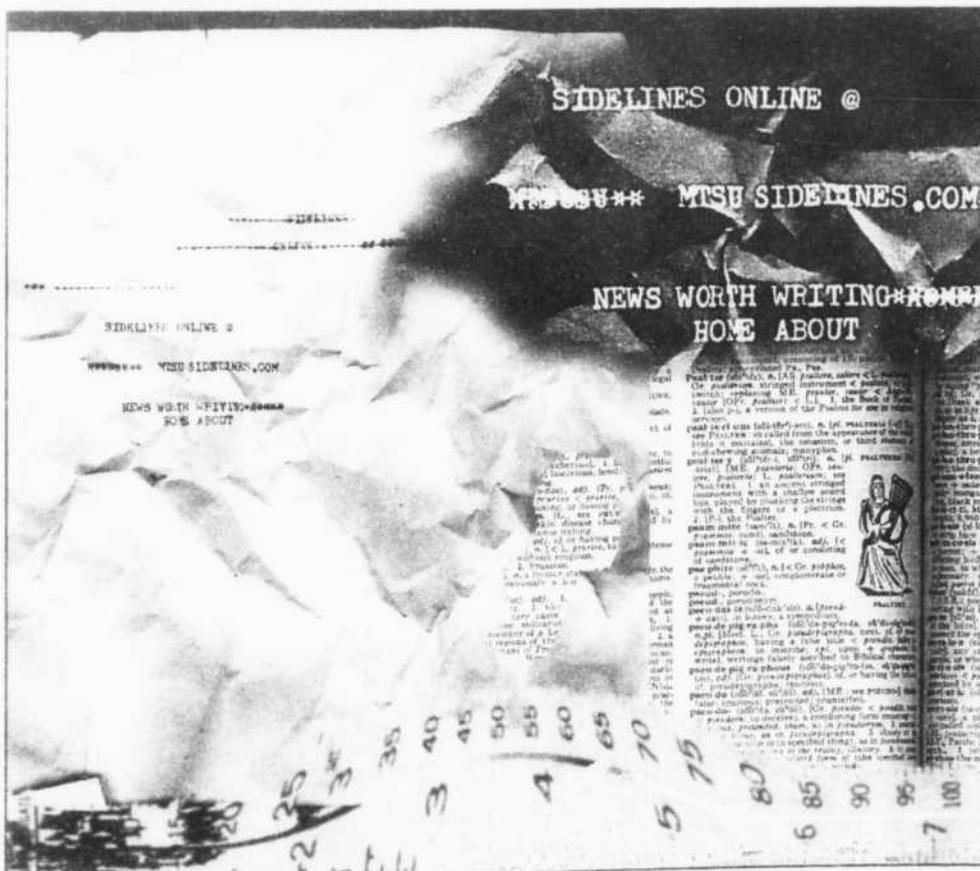
With the win over Denver, the Blue Raiders sealed third place in the East Conference and fifth overall in the SBC. They will face the No. 6 seed in the West Conference, either Denver or South Alabama, for the first Sun Belt Tournament game.

"At the beginning of the season, they predicted us to finish dead last among the 12 teams. Blue Raider head coach Randy Wiel said: "And we're finishing third in our division. Western Kentucky and Arkansas-Little Rock are ahead of us and deservedly so. We came a long way from where we were predicted to finish."

The Blue Raiders play their final game of the season Saturday against Western Kentucky. ♦

Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

John Humphrey goes for the block against a Denver forward Saturday night.





Lady Raider  
Basketball

# Lady Raiders stay in contention for second

By Amy Jones  
Chief Photographer

The Lady Raider basketball team won their final home game of the season Thursday with a 71-66 victory over the University of South Alabama, but lost to Denver on the road Saturday 75-66.

Senior standout Jamie Thomatis had a game-high 24 points against USA in her last home game at the Murphy Center and went 3-for-14 at the charity line and put 2 in with 5.6 seconds

left in the game. Thomatis also sank 3 baskets from the three-point arc and went 9-for-11 from the field.

"I thought that she played really well," coach Stephany Smith said. "She has had some good moments but I thought she had a pretty good 40 minutes and had a lot to do with how successful we were."

Thomatis said, "We have had to overcome a lot struggles, adversity and obstacles throughout the season to get to this point. With all the one-possession losses that we have had in the past, we didn't lose our confidence. We just buckled down and pushed harder, partly due to coach Smith pushing us harder."

The 71-66 win over the Lady Jaguars marks only the second time that the Lady Raiders have defeated the USA squad.

MT held a 34-33 halftime lead and led by as many as 13 in the second half.

Two other Lady Raiders scored in

double digits. Jennifer Justice shot 50 percent from the field and put 12 points on the board.

Freshman Patrice Holmes scored 11 points and went 3-for-3 from the free-throw line.

Holmes led a 17-point second-half Lady Raider comeback scoring 18 points in the second half against Denver.

"We had to come out and play hard in the second half and get our transition defense going," Holmes said. "We had open shots in the first half, but they just weren't falling. I just did what I had to do to get us going."

The Lady Pioneers shot 58.1 percent from the field in the first half. Denver knocked down 8-of-15 threes and held a 46-29 halftime lead.

"Not only did they shoot the ball well in the first half, but they scored 16 points in transition in the first 15 minutes of the first half," Smith said. "We did a poor job coming out of the gate, but I was proud of our effort in the second half."

The Lady Raiders cut Denver's lead to 4 with 5:47 left in the second half. The Lady Pioneers went on a 10-0 run with 3:06 remaining to give them a 69-55 lead.

MT sliced the lead back to 5

See **Women's B-ball**, 10

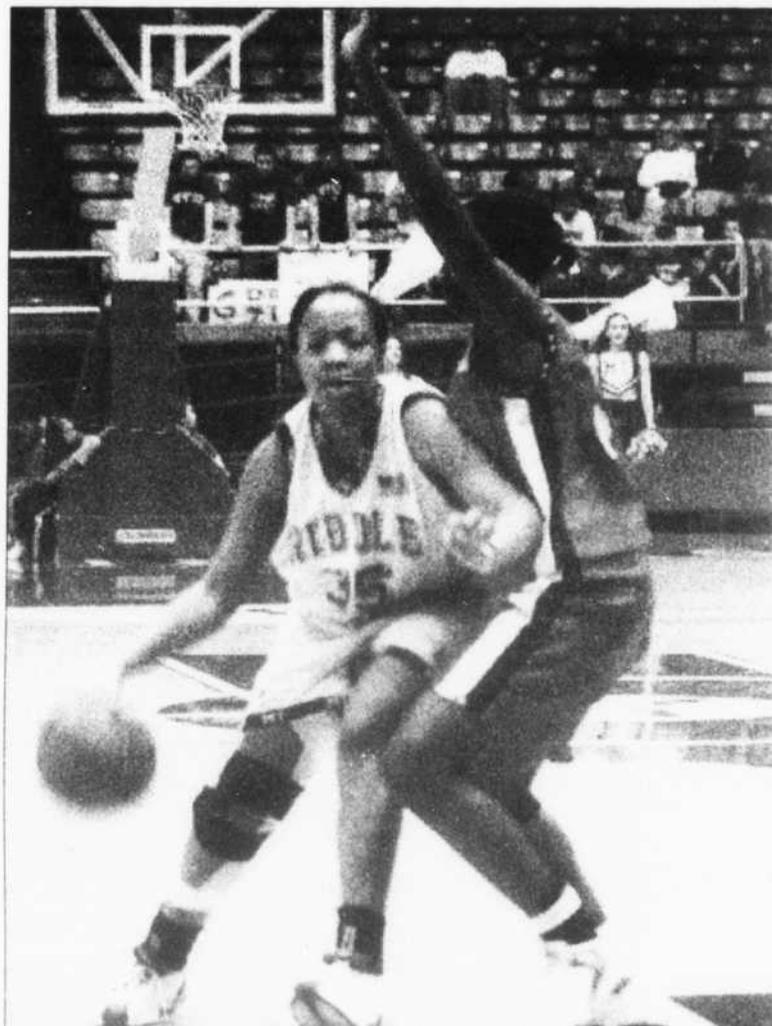


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer  
Jamie Thomatis dribbles past the South Alabama defender.



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer  
Keisha McClinic looks for the pass.

## Sidelines

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## Tennis

# Tennis team 5-0 after victory over NCSU

By Rebecca Pickering  
Assistant Sports Editor

The No. 28-ranked Middle Tennessee men's tennis team beat North Carolina State 6-1 Saturday, with freshman Rishan Kuruppu



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Oliver Foreman clinched the win for the MT.

getting his first collegiate singles victory.

The Blue Raiders took the doubles point winning two matches. The No. 9 nationally ranked duo of Oliver Foreman and Robert Gustafsson defeated Matt Lucas

and Reinaldo Valor 8-4. The No. 24-ranked team of Kirk Jackson and Daniel Klemetz took John Davis and Michael Carducci 6-3. Trevor Short and Rishan Kuruppu were defeated by No. 11 MT Murray and Brent Roward.

In singles, No. 12-

ranked Klemetz had a quick 6-2, 6-1 sweep over Lucas at the No. 1 position. In the No. 3 position, Michael Staniak defeated Valor 6-3, 7-5. Klemetz and Staniak are both undefeated in singles this season.

Falling victim to cramps, Short lost his match at the No. 4 position to Roward 6-1, 4-6, 7-5. Jackson defeated St. 6-1, 6-4. Kuruppu earned his first singles win against Staniak 6-2, 6-2.

"I wasn't really nervous at all," Kuruppu said. "I just kept confident and really relaxed."

In the No. 2 position, Foreman clinched the deciding point for MT with a 6-2, 6-7, 10-8 victory over Carducci.

"I was very happy for the team, but I wasn't very happy with the way I played," Foreman said. "I didn't play particularly well, but as long as the team did well."

The win over NCSU gave MT their sixth victory in a row for the

spring season.

"It was a tougher match than we anticipated," head coach Dale Short said. "I was happy with the way it turned out."

MT took on No. 34 Indiana State University Sunday, but results were not available at press time. Look for results in Wednesday's edition of *Sidelines*.

The Blue Raiders' next match will be February 24 at noon against Georgia State at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Daniel Klemetz is undefeated in singles.

## Women's tennis team beats Georgia State at home

By Angelica Journagin  
Staff Writer

The No. 70 Lady Raiders tennis team improved their record to 5-6 with a 5-0 win over Georgia State University Friday at Buck Bouldin Tennis Center.

After starting the season 0-4, the Lady Raiders won their fourth straight match. MT earned the doubles point, winning all 3 doubles matches and claimed 3 singles points before the No. 3 and No. 4 positions were canceled due to rain and darkness.

The Lady Raiders dominated the doubles matches. The No. 32 ranked team of Manon Kruse and Stacey Varnell defeated the GSU team of Mojca Pavlinic and Nina Jansen at the No. 1 position 8-3. Verena Preiss and Jennifer Klaschka followed with a win at the No. 2 position 8-6 over Klara Miklikdva and Jovana Krsikapa. Michaela Gridling and Carien Venter clinched the MT point, winning 8-4 against Maria Sorensen and

Rebecca Mitchell.

The three singles matches played to completion before the start of the rainfall secured the MT clean sweep. All three matches were won in straight sets. After sitting out against Louisville due to injury Feb. 10, No. 33 nationally ranked Kruse won 6-3, 6-0 in the No. 1 position against Pavlinic. Klaschka followed by defeating Sorensen 6-3, 6-2 in the No. 2 position. Tanja Buchheim was the last of the MT players to secure a point with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Mitchell. Stacy Varnell's default win over GSU's Karine Etienne brought the final score to 5-0.

At No. 3, Preiss was trailing 2-6, 7-5, 3-4 when the match was called off. Gridling was leading Jansen 3-6, 6-4, 5-3.

The Lady Raiders go on the road facing the University of Alabama Friday and Mississippi State Saturday. MT will host the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga March 5. ♦

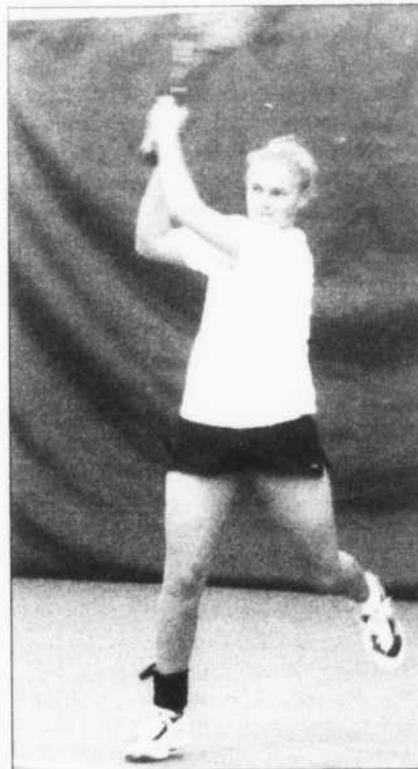


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Manon Kruse returns serve.

### RESULTS

#### MT vs. Georgia State University

##### Singles

1. (33) Manon Kruse (MT) def. Mojca Pavlinic (GSU) 6-3, 6-0
2. Jennifer Klaschka (MT) def. Maria Sorensen (GSU) 6-3, 6-2
3. Verena Preiss (MT) vs. Jovana Krsikapa (GSU) 2-6, 7-5, 3-4, stopped
4. Michaela Gridling (MT) vs. Nina Jansen (GSU) 3-6, 6-4, 5-3, stopped
5. Tanja Buchheim (MT) def. Rebecca Mitchell (GSU) 6-1, 6-4
6. Stacy Varnell (MT) def. Karine Etienne (GSU) default

##### Doubles

1. (32) Kruse/Varnell (MT) def. Pavlinic/Jansen (GSU) 8-3
2. Preiss/Klaschka (MT) def. Klara Miklikdva/Krsikapa (GSU) 8-6
3. Gridling/Venter (MT) def. Sorensen/Mitchell (GSU) 8-4

Blue Raiders  
Baseball

# Baseball team goes for repeat of championship

By Kevin Rose  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee baseball team started its quest for another Sun Belt title yesterday with its first game against Austin Peay.

The Blue Raiders are coming off a season in which they were Sun Belt Co-Champions and participated in an NCAA Regional at Knoxville. But gone from last year's team is Sun Belt Pitcher of the Year Dewon Brazelton, the third pick overall by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and Sun Belt Player of the Year Josh Renick, an 11th round pick of the Minnesota Twins.

The Blue Raiders also lost Jason Moates and Kris Lammers to the draft. Bullpen ace Kevin Davis and four-year starting catcher Kyle Thomas used up their four years of eligibility. With many new faces and some key returnees, here's a look at the 2002 Blue Raider baseball team.

**Pitching:** Pitching and defense have been the philosophy of Peterson for years. This year will be no different.

"I have been coaching baseball in college since 1975 and pitching is always the key," Peterson said.

The pitching staff will have a new leader in 2002, but a familiar face. Sophomore John Williams of Murfreesboro will be the leader of the pitching staff. Williams was 7-1 with a 3.59 ERA last season while being named a freshman All-American. Adam Larson, a senior transfer from Mississippi State will be a key member of the pitching staff.

"Larson has good stuff. He's got a good arm and he's a senior, so he's been around the block," Peterson said.

The Blue Raiders should also benefit from newcomer freshmen Travis Horschel, a transfer from Tennessee Tech. Horschel should join Williams and Larson as week-end conference starters. The bullpen will be lead by another Murfreesboro native, Jeremy Armstrong.

Armstrong had 4 saves last year to go along with a 3.00 ERA. Senior side-arm Jason Kuhn also returns after going 4-3 last year in 18

appearances. Kuhn will be counted on as a leader out of the bullpen. After this five nothing is for sure, but Peterson knows someone will emerge from the pitching staff.

"There will be someone stepping up on this pitching staff that a lot of people don't expect to," Peterson said.

Senior Kyle Sparkman, junior Steven Kines and sophomore Jeff Marcus return after having injury-plagued careers. All three will have the chance to pitch in relief or mid-week starts. The addition of four freshmen: Chase Swing, Chris Mobley, Danny Borne and Chris Kurtz will bolster the pitching staff. Swing and Mobley should be used mostly as starters while Borne and Kurtz should see action out of the pen. Borne could develop into a left-handed specialist out of the pen.

**Infield:** The infield will have some new faces in 2002. Senior shortstop Jason Howarth is the only returning starter. Howarth's new double play partner will be junior Chad Cooper, a transfer from Garrett Community College. Cooper will also fill the role of hitting first for the Blue Raiders.

Junior Doug Kuniccki will start at first base. He has the potential to provide much-needed power from the first base position. A freshman will start at third base. Nathan Jagers and Brett Carroll will get an ample opportunity to prove themselves at the position. The one that hits the best will likely see more action. Both can play second if needed.

At catcher, Derek Phillips will start for injured Troy Harp, who could be back by the middle of the season. Freshmen Josh Archer will also see action at catcher. Archer will also see time at designated hitter or first base and has the ability to hit for power. Freshmen Chris Leguene could also see action at catcher.

**Outfield:** The outfield will be in good hands with the return of all three starters:



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Nathan Jagers prepares for the ball at third base.

outlet hit fielder Justin Sims, senior right fielder Marshall Nisbett, and sophomores center fielder Chael Akers.

Sims is the leading returnee offensively. After being an All-Sun Belt pick in 2000, hitting 13, 40 home runs and 68 RBIs, he looks to do more damage offensively this year.

Nisbett, who hit 346, 21 doubles and 46 RBIs in 2001, possesses lightning quick speed and a rocket of an arm.

Akers should provide more offense after a year's experience while playing solid defensively. All three have the ability to steal 20-30 bases.

The outfield also returns senior reserves Seth Yarbrough and Kris Smith. Yarbrough could see time at DH. Smith, the fastest person on the team, will be used as a late-

inning defensive replacement and pinch runner.

**Final word**

The 2002 season creates an exciting opportunity for Blue Raider baseball. The Blue Raiders have the chance to make school history by going to three consecutive NCAA regionals. The advantage of playing in the always-tough Sun Belt Conference is a boost.

The Blue Raiders don't have to win the conference to advance to regional play. It takes 35-40 wins to gain a regional bid.

While there are many uncertainties this season, there is one certainty - Peterson will get the most out of his team and they will play hard. If the team can mix the new faces with the returnees and develop team chemistry, they will have a chance to make school history. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

John Williams pitches the opening game of the 2002 season.

## Lady Raider Softball

# Softball team looks to new guidance for wins

By Amy Jones  
Chief Photographer

After a 41-23 third place Sun Belt Conference finish, the Middle Tennessee softball team will look to new leadership for guidance to produce a successful 2002 season.

Joining the Lady Raiders as the new head coach is Cindy Connelley. She joins the MT staff after the resignation of former head coach Karen Green. Connelley becomes only the second head coach in Lady Raider softball history. Under Green's tenure, the MT softball team held a 276-217 overall record.

Connelley joins MT from Tennessee State University where she received the honor of 2001 Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year. She coached the Lady Tigers from 1999-2001 and led TSU to a 13-26 season, the most wins in Lady Tiger softball history.

Assisting Connelley on the side-

lines is Ernie Reynolds. Reynolds assisted Connelley at TSU and was hired at MT in December as a full-time staff member. He also assisted the Brentwood High School softball team and helped lead the Lady Bruins to many district and regional championships.

Joining Connelley and Reynolds on the field is a Lady Raider squad of 17 members, including 7 seniors, 3 returning pitchers and 8-of-9 starters from the 2001 season.

"Inheriting experience and a talented senior class is fortunate, but focus and continued hard work means blending old with new and new with old," Connelley said. "We are encouraged with this group's work ethic, talent and receptiveness to additional requirements. They want to be successful, and they will be successful."

Leading the 2001 season for MT was senior standout Jennifer Martinez. She went 18-13 on the mound and posted a 1.22 ERA.

Martinez also led the Lady Raiders in batting with a .329 batting average and .497 slugging percentage. Her stats included 55 hits, 20 doubles, a triple, 2 homeruns and 36 RBIs.

Martinez also received many honors during the 2001 season. She received First Team All-Sun Belt as a pitcher, First Team All-Sun Belt as a designated player, Second Team All-South and Sun Belt Player of the Week during the weeks of April 9 and May 6.

Behind the plate during the 2001 season was senior Lindsey Azevedo. Azevedo, who was one of only three players to start all 64 games, held a .285 batting average, including 49 hits, 15 doubles, 1 triple, 4 homeruns and 35 RBIs.

Amanda Kendall saw limited action last season, but threw a no-hitter against Alabama A&M March 22. She saw action in 7 games, threw 3 shutouts and pitched 4 complete games. Kendall ended the season at 5-1.

Shortstop Steffi Silva has started every game since her freshman season in 1999. Last season she had 20 RBIs and was second on the team in stolen bases with 10.

Lisa Sherman started every game for MT last season. Sherman had 11 doubles and 54 hits. She was a transfer student from Sacramento City Junior College in California.

Restricted by an injury last season, outfielder Laura Brockman saw action in 45 games and only added 2 homeruns to her career total. Brockman had 9 homeruns in 2000 and holds the MT softball homerun record. She also had 6 homeruns in 1999.

Ashlie Way played in all but 8 games for the Lady Raiders and tied Azevedo for the most homeruns last season with 4. Way had a .970



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Lindsay Azevedo slides into third safely against Motlow State Tuesday.



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Kip Phillips waits for the windup and a chance to steal home.

fielding percentage.

Named Second Team All-Sun Belt, junior Kip Phillips finished first on the team in hits with 60, in triples with 3 and second in batting average with a .288 average.

Stacy Preator pitched MT's first perfect game in the school's history after a 7-0 win over Austin Peay. She also threw 11 shutouts last season and ended 2001 with a record of 18-9 and a 1.52 ERA.

Junior Kelly Cormier played in 31 games last season and started 26. The outfielder and first baseman had 2 doubles against Austin Peay on April 17.

Jennifer Polsteen played in 47 games during 2001. Polsteen joined the MT squad from the University of Alabama Birmingham. She finished the season third in stolen bases with 8.

Outfielder Erica Buhl received the Sun Belt Conference Sportmanship Award and played in 60 of 64 games last season.

Junior Megan Cherinka joins MT from Sierra Junior College and is a native of El Dorado Hills, Calif. At Sierra she had a .322 batting average and 31 hits.

Kristina Hieb, a sophomore sec-

ond and third baseman, played in 54 games and started 51 last season. She also had 26 hits and scored 11 runs in 2001.

Sophomore Katie McCraw, one of the two players originally from Tennessee, saw limited action in 2001. She played in 3 games and started 2.

Two freshmen join the MT lineup in 2002. Leah Grothouse is from Naples, Fla. and was named Florida State Player of the Year and Golfer of the Year in 2000. Danielle DeCamino comes from Downey, Calif. where she was named San Gabriel Valley League MVP and to the Press Telegram Dream Team.

"Middle Tennessee softball will be faster, stronger and multi-dimensional this season, with a veteran team and new staff," Connelley said. "In the off-season, we have focused on position play, hitting and special situations. Pitching is the key and we need to support our cast with the total game."

The Sun Belt competition for MT will be tough in 2002. The

See Softball, 11

## Blue Raider Profile

# Justin Sims leads from field, not from the bench

By Kevin Rose  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee junior left fielder Justin Sims arrived on campus in the fall of 1999 just like any other Division I baseball recruit. He had press clippings from head to toe.

His high school achievements included four times All-District,

three times All-Region and two-time All-State. Twice he was named District Player of the Year while also receiving an honorable mention All-American.

The Chicago Cubs thought so highly of Sims they drafted him in the 1999 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft. But once the spring season started, Sims found himself in a very unfamiliar position, on

the bench. During the 2000 season, Sims served as the fourth outfielder behind three seniors. While most people wouldn't improve as a player because of this situation, Sims believed it played a huge role in his development as a player.

"I learned probably more that year," Sims said. "It's probably been better for me during my career and helped me grow as a baseball player. Sitting there beside the coaches you learn you never want to get back there in that seat again. That's when I decided I have to work hard and keep my confidence up."

Confidence would come. Sims benefited from playing every day for the Bethesda Big Train of the Clark Griffith League, an N.Y. wooden bat league. No one noticed that renewed confidence more than Middle Tennessee baseball coach Steve Peterson. When Sims returned in the fall of 2000, Peterson saw a new player.

"I could tell when he came back in the fall," Peterson said. "He had made the mental adjustment that hey 'I'm starting.' He knew the table was set that everything was there for him to be a starter. Now what he had to do is plug in and do the job. So, he knows the toughest position on the field to play is sitting the bench."

Sims did more than just start during the 2001 season. He was a big reason why the Blue Raiders were Sun-Belt Co-Champions. Sims led the Blue Raiders with 10 homeruns, 6 triples, .636 slugging percentage and 66 RBIs. He also was second in batting average with .377, behind Josh Renick.



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Justin Sims breaks in from his left field position yesterday.

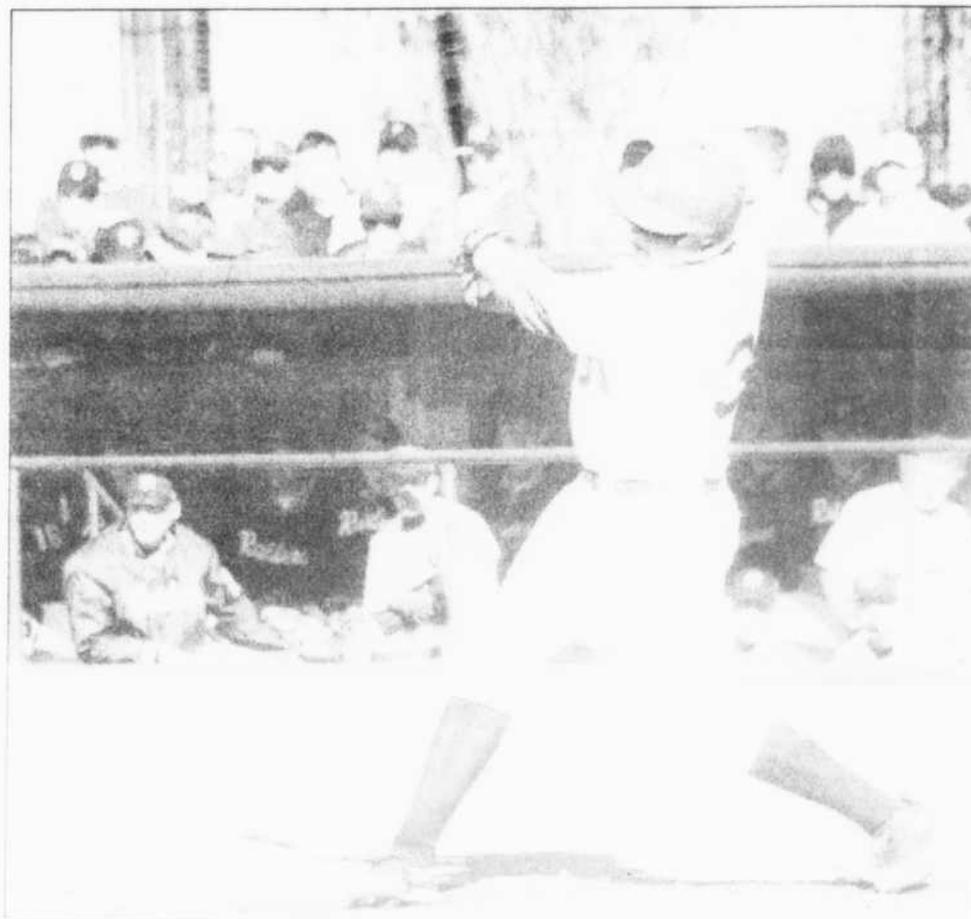


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Justin Sims hits a double during yesterday's game against Austin Peay.

With a solid sophomore season behind him, Sims is primed to follow in the footsteps of great Blue Raider hitters. Peterson believes Sims has the potential to be a great hitter.

"He was an All-American," Peterson said. "He was our 'I call a pure swing.' He can really whip it through the zone. He has got really good bat speed. He fits right into the mold of great hitters that we have had."

Sims had the bench in playing with two of those great hitters, Bryan Peck and Josh Renick.

"Peck was an All-American," Sims says. "Renick, he's a gamer. I learned how you have to respect the game every day. You have to come out love to play and love what you are doing. The biggest thing I learned from Renick is to go out and play hard every day."

Coming into the 2002 season, Sims has already been projected to be the Blue Raiders top gun offensively along with one of the best offensive players in the Sun Belt. Baseball America has predicted Sims to repeat as an All-

Conference outfielder. They also have him rated as the best pure hitter in the conference and the 6th rated pro prospect in the conference. While this may seem like a huge amount of pressure, Sims looks at it in a different way.

"I talked to my trainer back home about having pressure on you and whether I should relax or just go at it," Sims said. "He said 'you got to look at guys like Todd Helton those types of guys. That's when they play their best when they have a lot of pressure on them. I want put pressure on you. I want you to reach those honors that you received earlier. You need the pressure on you to prove that you can play at a higher level than most guys.'"

With the start of the 2002 season, the draft-eligible Sims has the chance to be a leader for the 2002 team. While he is more of a lead-by-example type of player, Sims does realize he will be looked at as a leader this season. It's just that he will do his leading on the field and not the bench. ♦

# SPORTS BRIEFS

Compiled By David Hunter – Staff Writer

## Kendall Newson invited to the NFL combines in Indianapolis

The all-time leading receiver in Middle Tennessee football history, Kendall Newson, has been invited to participate at the 2002 NFL Combines. The Combines will take place at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 28-March 4. Newson will be there from March 2-4.

He is the first MT football player since quarterback Jonathan Quinn in 1998 to be invited to the NFL Combine.

The Combine is designed for the NFL to measure players for the upcoming NFL Draft. The players are measured for their height, weight and hand size.

Players test in events like the 40-yard dash, 20-yard shuttle run, 60-yard shuttle run, three-cone drill, vertical leap and standing broad jump.

However, the receiver position doesn't participate in the bench press.

There is also the Wonderlic Test that measures skill, knowledge and ability.

Right now, Newson is training at the Velocity Sports Performance in Atlanta with training expert Craig Friedman.

He is also training with Cincinnati Bengal quarterback Akili Smith and other NFL hopefuls.

Newson is coming off a trip to the Hula Bowl in which he led the South team with 5 catches for 70 yards and a touchdown.

## McCullum to speak at Boys and Girls Club fund-raiser

Middle Tennessee head football coach Andy McCollum was chosen as the keynote speaker for the Rutherford County Boys and Girls Club steak and burger dinner March 1.

The annual event is a primary fund-raiser for the Boys and Girls Club.

McCullum will focus on "Practicing Winning Everyday." He will also talk about loyalty, teamwork and success.

The dinner begins at 6 p.m.

## Stephany Smith's teams play extra hard in month of February

The Lady Raiders have enjoyed much success during the month of February under the tenure of head coach Stephany Smith.

Smith posts a 30-8 record in February. The Lady Raiders were a perfect 10-0 during that month in 1999-2000. Last season, MT went 6-1. This season they are 3-2.

## Kim Freeman named Sun Belt Field Athlete of the Week

Kim Freeman was chosen Sun Belt Female Field Athlete of the Week after her performance in the triple jump at the MT Invitational last week.

Freeman had a jump at 41 feet, 3 inches in the triple jump. The jump was a team season-best. She is the first person to break the 40 foot

boundary in the Sun Belt this year. Freeman is the conference indoor triple-jump champion from last year. She set a Sun Belt record in the triple jump at last year's championship. Freeman also added All-American honors in the triple jump during last year's outdoor season.

The Middle Tennessee track teams will compete in the Sun Belt Conference Championships Feb. 23-24 at the Murphy Center. This will be the first-ever Sun Belt

Tournament MT has hosted since joining the conference before the 2000-01 academic year.

## Tickets available for Sun Belt Conference basketball tourney

Tickets for the Sun Belt Basketball Tournament in New Orleans, La. are now available.

Both the MT men's and women's basketball teams will be playing in the tournament Feb. 28-March 5 at Lakefront Arena on the campus of the University of New Orleans.

The women's first round games will be held Thursday, Feb. 28 starting at 11:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. The men's first round will follow the same schedule Friday, March 1.

Tickets in the MT section are available for \$60 from the Murphy Center Box Office, or by calling 1-888-YES-MTSU. These tickets include admission to all games in both the men's and women's tournaments. There will be single-session tickets available Feb. 28 for \$15. Student admissions are free with their Sun Belt Conference school identification cards.

## Basketball signee leads team to key District 11-AA victory

Middle Tennessee basketball signee Kyle Young led his Marshall County team past Giles County in three overtimes last week.

The two teams are ranked in the top 10 by the Associated Press and were tied for first in District 11-AA.

Young led his team with 32 points, 14 rebounds and 6 blocked shots.

## Martial Arts Club to offer free self-defense workshop

The Martial Arts Club will have a free self-defense workshop at the Campus Recreation Center Wednesday. For more information, contact Caleb Paschall at mtsumac@mtsu.edu. The Martial Arts Club practices Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15- 10:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center. ♦



File Photo

**Kendall Newson makes his move against New Mexico State University. Newson will participate in the NFL Combine in Indianapolis March 2-4.**

## Womens B-ball: Playing for second place

Continued from 4

with 22 seconds left but couldn't get any closer.

Holmes led the Lady Raiders, registering a double-double with 25 points and 10 rebounds. Thomatis and Justice each added 12 points.

Ashley Atkinson and Nikki Weddle both scored 21 points for the Lady Pioneers.

The Lady Raiders loss, along with a Western Kentucky University loss to the University of

North Texas, set up a match-up for second place in the Sun Belt east Friday.

"We still have to take care of business on Friday and try to finish second and get that bye," Smith said. "If we can do that, then we won't play [in the tournament] until Sunday, which would be a big lift for our basketball team."

MT plays WKU Friday at 7 p.m. The winner will receive a first-round bye in the Sun Belt tournament. ♦

### Women's Basketball Standings

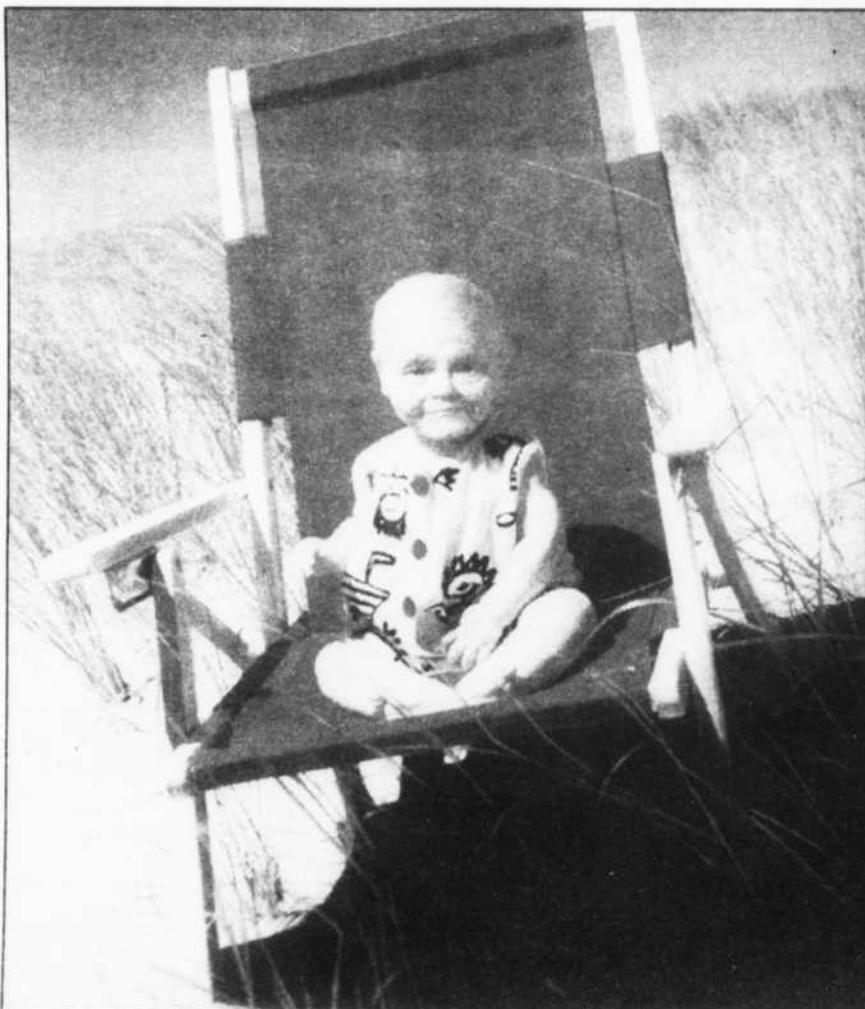
School	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
<b>East Division</b>				
Florida International	11	1	21	5
Western Kentucky	8	5	14	11
Middle Tennessee	7	6	15	11
Arkansas State	6	7	12	14
Arkansas-Little Rock	2	11	8	17
<b>West Division</b>				
North Texas	10	3	17	7
Denver	9	4	13	12
South Alabama	7	6	17	8
New Orleans	6	7	10	15
New Mexico State	5	9	10	15
Louisiana-Lafayette	1	13	6	19



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer  
Renee Hall goes up for two.

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## Softball: Lady Raiders picked second in SBC

Continued from 7

Lady Raiders were placed second on the Sun Belt Preseason Coaches Poll to the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. MT lost to UL-Lafayette 5 times last season.

Behind the Lady Raiders in the poll at No. 3 is Florida International University. FIU went 44-22 last season and held a 2-2 record against MT during the 2001 season.

Coming in at No. 4 is New Mexico State University. The Lady Aggies tied the Lady Raiders in the Sun Belt Conference during the 2001 regular season. NMSU finished 2001 at 25-45 and 11-9 in the SBC.

At No. 5 in the poll is the Western Kentucky University. WKU has started the 2002 season with a 3-1 record and took their first loss of the year to San Diego State University on Feb. 15.

The Lady Raiders will spend a lot of their time this season traveling because there are only eight home dates set for 2002. With only 16 games at home, MT will have to learn to win on the road. In 2001, they went 10-12 on the road, 14-5 at a neutral site and 17-6 at home.

MT softball traveled to Monroe, La. to participate in the Mardi Gras Classic on Feb. 15-17 and will be in Cookeville at the Tennessee Tech Tournament on Feb. 23-24. ♦

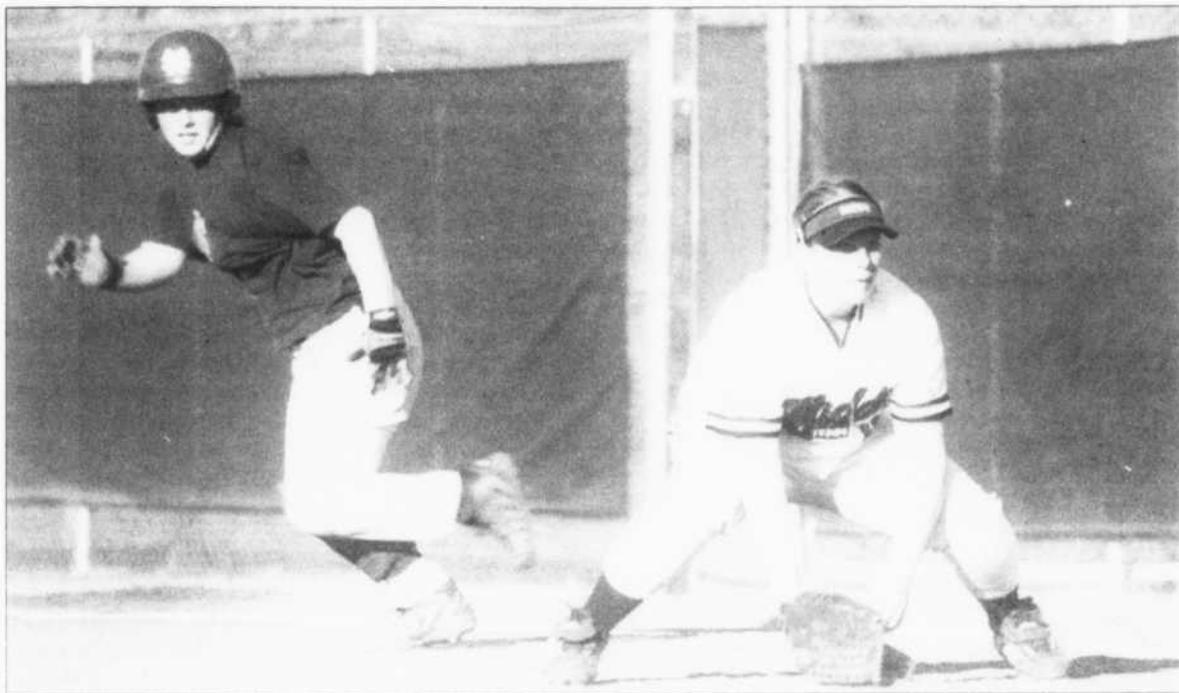


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Kelly Cormier focuses on fielding the ground ball as the runner breaks for second base.

## Softball team splits first four games in Monroe

By Colleen Cox  
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee softball team opened its season, splitting four games at the Mardi Gras Classic in Monroe, La. this weekend.

Jennifer Martinez pitched a complete game as the Lady Raiders won their first game of the tournament 2-1 over Troy State Friday. Martinez allowed just 3 hits and struck out 5.

Lisa Sherman started the offense for MT in the top of the first, with a single. Kip Phillips advanced Sherman to second with a sacrifice bunt. Martinez singled, allowing Sherman to move to third. Lindsay Azevedo picked up the RBI with a single, scoring Sherman.

TSU tied the game in the third on a Sammi Wilkes homerun.

With two outs in the fifth inning, Phillips singled. Martinez followed with a single and Phillips advanced to third. The next pitch went wild allowing Phillips to score the winning run.

The next two games weren't quite as good for the Lady Raiders as they lost to Texas A&M Corpus Christi and the University of Louisiana-Monroe.

Megan Rathkamp took a 3-2

Stayc Preator pitch deep over the left field fence in the third inning to give Corpus Christi the victory. MT managed only two hits in the contest.

UL-Monroe attacked early, scoring 3 runs in the second inning and won 10-1. Amanda Kendall took the loss on the mound, giving up 12 hits, 2 home-runs and 10 earned runs. She also threw 2 wild pitches.

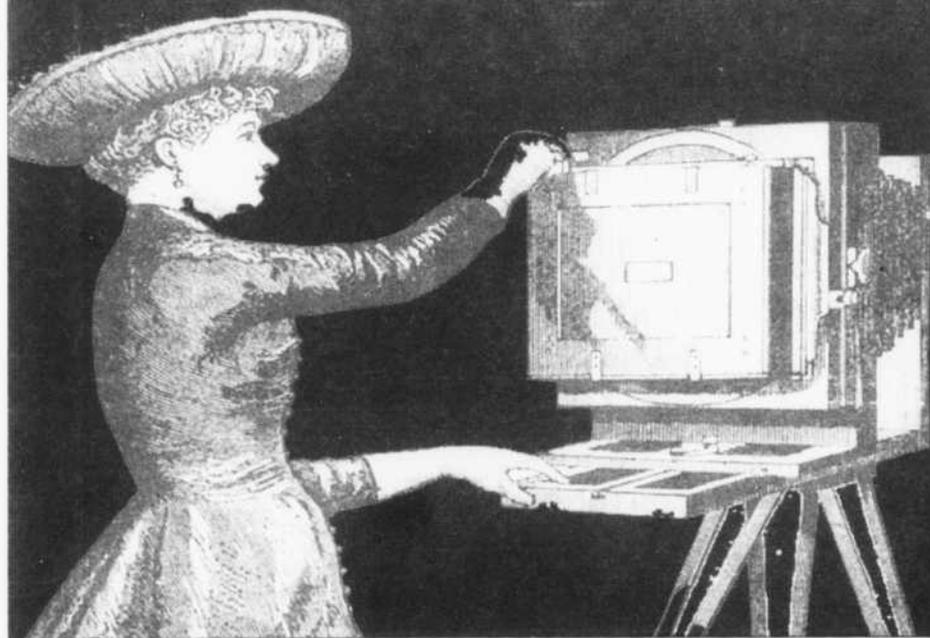
Freshman Danielle DeCamino picked up her first hit and run scored in the loss.

Martinez put the Lady Raiders back on the winning track, tossing her first career no-hitter in a 3-0 win over Tulsa.

MT scored 2 runs in the fifth and added a run in the seventh for the victory. Azevedo started things in the fifth with a leadoff single. Jennifer Polsteen came in to run for Azevedo. Kelly Cormier singled advancing Polsteen to second. The runners moved up a base on a ground out. Leah Grothouse reached on a fielder's choice allowing Polsteen to score. Cormier scored on a throwing error.

The Lady Raiders continued play in the Mardi Gras Invitational Sunday. Results were unavailable at press time. Check Wednesday's edition of *Sidelines* for results. ♦

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Lady Raider  
Profile

# Preator makes mark in Middle Tennessee

By Lindsey Turner  
Managing Editor

A culture change was what junior Stacy Preator was looking for when she graduated from California's Grossmont High School in 1999. What she got was a good dose of southern hospitality and an even bigger taste of success when she joined the Lady Raider softball team.

Though she lettered in softball, cross country and basketball in El Cajon, a small town about 20 minutes east of San Diego, Preator ate, slept and breathed softball.

"My whole life was softball," Preator said. "I did everything softball, basically."

Preator followed her older sister into the world of sports when she was five, and started out as a catcher. When she was nine, she decided she wanted to be a pitcher.

"I ended up getting to the point where I began liking the whole idea of being in the very center - in the middle - and having control of the game," she said.

She began playing ASA travel ball when she was 11. Her team finished fifth in the nation that year.

As a high school senior, Preator went 11-3 with 0.80 ERA and 94 strikeouts. She was All-CIF Player of the Year and was a two-time All-League selection. Unfortunately, she experienced some setbacks, including shoulder surgery, that knocked her out of playing for a year and hindered her selection of a college.

Preator said there were some schools she was excited about attending near the west coast, but eventually east coast schools won out. "I was really looking for a culture change," she said. "I was always OK to go away. I didn't want to stay in San Diego."

Luckily for Preator, many Sun Belt and Ohio Valley Conference schools were recruiting, including MT. However, despite her longing to stray from California, the main reason she set her sights on MTSU was completely coincidental.

"I based my entire decision on signs," she said. The local street signs spoke to Preator. Baird (of Baird Lane) was her grandmother's

maiden name. Clarke (of Clarke Street) was her mother's maiden name. And Preator's American Indian ancestors were Cherokee Court.

When she saw the signs, Preator knew Middle Tennessee would be her new home. The Lady Raider softball team offered her a scholarship and she enrolled in the fall of 1999.

Upon joining the team, she quickly began building her reputation as one of the best pitchers at MT. In 2000, she was 12-7 in 25 appearances with 22 starts, and recorded 134 strikeouts with just 21 walks in 136.1 innings. She pitched the OVC Championship game to send the Lady Raiders to their first NCAA Tournament appearance in school history.

Her biggest moment came in April 2001 when she pitched the first perfect game in school history. The 7-0 win came in the second game of a doubleheader against Austin Peay State University. Preator threw 7 strikeouts in that game.

She said that by the third inning, she knew it was going to be a perfect game. "Usually when you know, it jinxes it," she said. None of her teammates would look at her or even talk to her, she said, for superstitious fear of breaking the three-up, three-down streak the team had held for the first few innings.

"Every single pitch, I was there with it," she said.

With the help of her teammates, who scored 7 runs and played outstanding defense, the Lady Raiders wrapped up the game in style.

"My whole team was there with me," Preator said. "It wasn't just

me; my team helped me out big time."

The remainder of the season more than proved Preator's worth by placing her in the school record books five times. In addition to her perfect game, she threw 11 shutouts, which placed her second in university history for shutouts in a season. She started 28 games and played in 32 and had 172 strikeouts.

She now ranks fifth in school history with more than 30 career wins, and second for career ERA with 1.60. She ranks second in

teams' players by not giving any sign as to how she's feeling or what she has in store.

Preator's life as a college athlete has landed her in newspapers and in record books, but it's not exactly a glamorous life. With 5 a.m. workouts, lots of travel and weekly games, time management is a constant concern, and discipline is paramount for athletes who have to maintain good grades and excellent health.

"Out here, there's not really much time for hobbies," she said.

However, Preator said, playing college athletics has its perks, such as free clothes and a personal trainer, among other things.

"You've got your own fitness trainer, who you want to kill sometimes," she said. "You've got someone who is going to make sure you're in shape ... except for when he makes you do too many squats and you're butt gets a little bit bigger," she said with a laugh.

Preator said she appreciates the network of athletes who support each other.

"The best thing about being on a team is that you have 16 other girls out there that are doing exactly what you're doing," she said.

Preator feels that the recent coaching change was a positive one for the team.

"I think that having our new coach is really helping us a lot," she said. Cindy Connelley, who took over in August 2001, wiped the slate clean, Preator said, and player reputations had to be rebuilt.

Preator has had to make a transition to southern living, which has provided, for the most part, the culture shock she had been craving

while in California.

"The South I've found very friendly," she said. "There are a lot of agitated people that live [in San Diego]."

Preator said San Diego is much more fast-paced, and its residents have agendas that don't allow for leisure time or niceties with strangers.

"When you go to get groceries, it's like, 'I need, this, this and this,'" she said. "You see people and if they look at you and start smiling, you're like, 'Dude, do you want my bag or something?'"

Preator usually journeys back to California only two or three times a year: for Christmas, Thanksgiving and a month during the summer.

"I think I'm going to try and go home more this summer because I picked up surfing last summer and I really want to go back," she said.

Her parents try to attend at least two of her games per season. This year, the Lady Raiders play in Sacramento, so her folks will get to come up for that game, she said, as well as the Sun Belt Tournament in Miami.

The 20-year-old Preator has yet to completely decide on a major.

"I think I'm leaning more toward biology," she said. "I'm kind of between chemistry and biology."

An Animal Planet junkie, Preator is considering marine biology as well as nuclear medicine and psychology for future occupations, but she refuses to pigeonhole her future.

"If I do get a degree in biology and decide to become a salesperson, that's fine," she said.

Preator has high hopes for the team this season.

"I think that we're going to have the best season we've ever had," she said. "We've done very well at coming together."

While she, along with the rest of the team, continues to hope for better facilities and a less-recreational-looking field, she foresees success in the immediate future and hopes the Lady Raiders will make it to the World Series.

"We deserve to be there," she said. "I think that we're going to surprise a lot of people." ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Stacy Preator remains emotionless as she delivers the pitch.

career shutouts with 16.

Preator said that, early in her college career, she was intimidated by Jennifer Martinez, another of Middle Tennessee's leading pitchers.

However, the intimidation melted away, Preator said.

"Just the fact that she's so awesome and that I'm so awesome and that we're coming together and you're going to see a left-hander and a right-hander - I think that's so cool," Preator said.

Preator's trademark emotionless playing style earned her the nickname of "Ice" by her teammates.

"I really enjoy the fact that I don't show any emotion out there," Preator said. She said it allows her to intimidate other