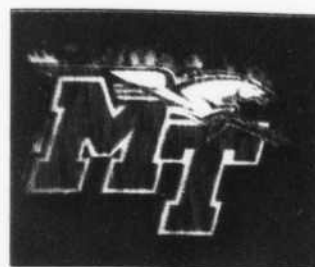




## Student play to take center stage

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## MT basketball heads to Sun Belt Tournament

In Sports Wrap

www.mtsusidelines.com

**ONLINE**

Should international students have to check in with Public Safety?

## INSIDE: Young journalists should stay wary of corporate interests

In Opinions, page 5

An editorially independent newspaper

# SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

## Stucky, traffic committee plan future parking

By Amber Bryant  
Staff Writer

Duane Stucky, vice president for Business and Finance, met with the MTSU Traffic Committee Thursday to discuss plans to improve campus parking.

In the past 10 years, MTSU has averaged more than 2 percent growth in enrollment

despite the decline in the number of high school graduates, Stucky said, adding that the university has to do some planning if it's going to continue growing as it has been.

"We're going to lose significant parking when [the new science] building is built," Stucky said.

Some options being considered are the construction of one

or more parking garages, which would cost approximately \$30 million to \$35 million and supply roughly 2,500 additional parking spaces.

Another option is to build more parking lots at two-thirds the cost of a garage. Potential areas for these extra lots include the grassy area north of Murphy Center, the field next to the Scarlett Commons and the

space east of Rutherford Boulevard.

"We'd obviously have to rely much more on shuttle services," Stucky said.

Because parking revenue comes from student access fees and fines instead of state funding, any major projects would require borrowing funds.

Jim Calder, professor of elementary and special education,

said if Parking Services relied on state funding, any budget cuts would leave the university without a system.

In order to pay back any incurred debts, student access fees, which have been approximately \$23 per semester for the past few years, would need to increase \$30 each semester beginning in 2003. Faculty, staff and graduate fees also would

increase significantly.

The fee would increase for incoming freshman the first year, adding sophomores the next year and then juniors and seniors the following year.

"[These ideas are] subject to a lot more discussion," Stucky said.

The committee is planning to gauge student opinion before a final decision is reached. ♦

### Honors Lecture Preview

## Lecture to focus on survival dynamics

By Lisa Thomason  
Staff Writer

Attendees at today's honors lecture will discover that actions in one area of the world, whether small or large, can have an impact on the well-being and survival of people in all areas of the globe.

Edward Kick, chairman of the department of sociology and anthropology, will present the lecture titled "Survival in its World-System Context."

"Long-term and short-term dynamics around the world exert a significant influence on survival," Kick said. "These dynamics must be understood to change living conditions for a significant segment of the world's population."

Kick noted that humanity's survival often is addressed in its relation to local conditions. As an example, he said that drought within some African countries has been connected to "frighteningly high levels of infant, child and adult mortality."

"High levels of homicide in Central American nations [are] linked to local economic and political conditions," he said in another example.

However, as the world has changed in its structure, becoming smaller, more intimate, and more accessible, Kick said survival and well-being need to be examined in a global context.

"Over the last several centuries, the way the world system is structured has impacted the fate of nations, in turn, determining the life chances of the citizens of those nations," he said.

"An important point is to understand that our own daily actions in America are crucial in constraining the daily quality of life in countries around the world."

Kick plans to conclude his lecture with a question and answer session.

The lecture will be this afternoon from 3 to 3:50 in Peck Hall, Room 109A.

The lecture is free and open to the public. ♦

## Man caught in on-campus harassing phone call scandal

Suspect has history of offenses including sexual battery, drugs

By Laren Anderson  
Staff Writer

A local man, described as a "predator" of MTSU's female student body, is scheduled to appear March 26 in Rutherford County General Sessions Court, Lt. Darrell Collins of campus Public Safety, said Wednesday.

John Jeffery Brown, 37, was served with 13 arrest warrants Feb. 4, alleging he had made sexually harassing phone calls, Collins said.

Brown received these at Rutherford County's "workhouse," where he had been incarcerated since Dec. 7 for violating his probation, according to Magda Rodriguez, a deputy for the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department.

The man allegedly placed 89 sexually explicit phone calls Oct. 30, which were accompanied by 13 complaints filed by female students, according to Sgt. Matt Foster of the MTSU Police Department.

Collins wouldn't release the victims' names or phone numbers.

Brown, who adopted aliases such as John, Opie and Steve, usually blocked his phone number when he made the harassing phone calls, Foster said Wednesday.

Neither caller I.D. nor call-return services can recognize a phone number that has been

blocked.

"Early one morning, he called a young lady and forgot to block his number," Foster said, "which allowed the MTSU Police Department to access phone records and identify Brown as the caller."

But campus police had been wary of the man prior to the stint of harassing phone calls, which began in either March or April, Collins said.

Veteran officers knew to look for him, he said, and added MTSU police arrested Brown on 22 occasions, which included charges of drug possession, sexual battery and carrying a weapon on campus.

Collins said Brown had once been detected while "peeking in the women's shower room." Yet Brown was never apprehended, Collins added.

He "plays the system a lot," Collins said, and added that the sheriff's department continues to "lock him up for 30 days and they'll turn him loose."

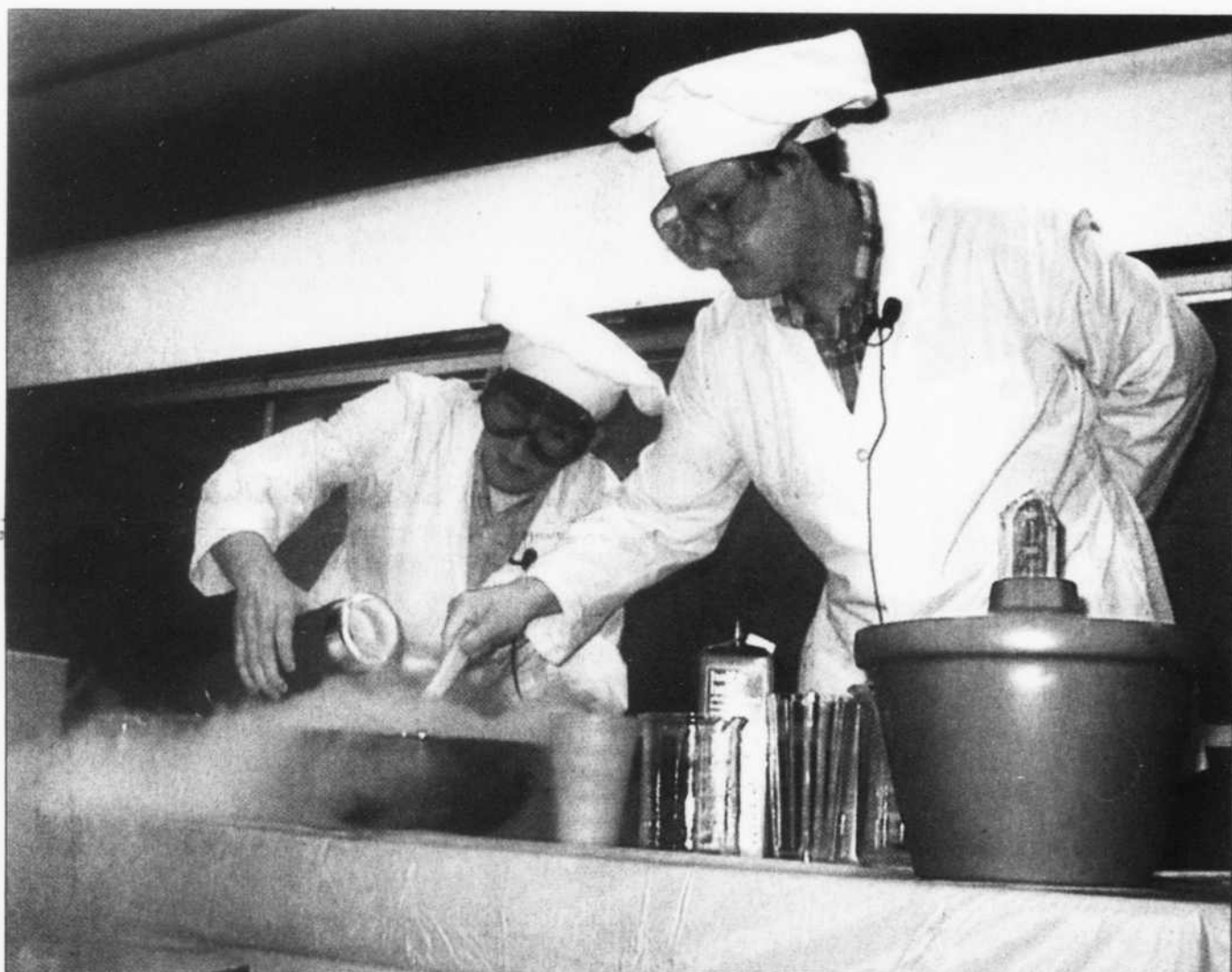
After violating his probation, Collins said, Brown's tango between detention and freedom has cycled.

"Most of his life," Collins said, "has been spent on probation."

"He's always out there in the dark," Collins said, and added that MTSU's female students don't take precautions when outdoors. They should be cognizant of their surroundings, Collins said, and not behave like they would at home.

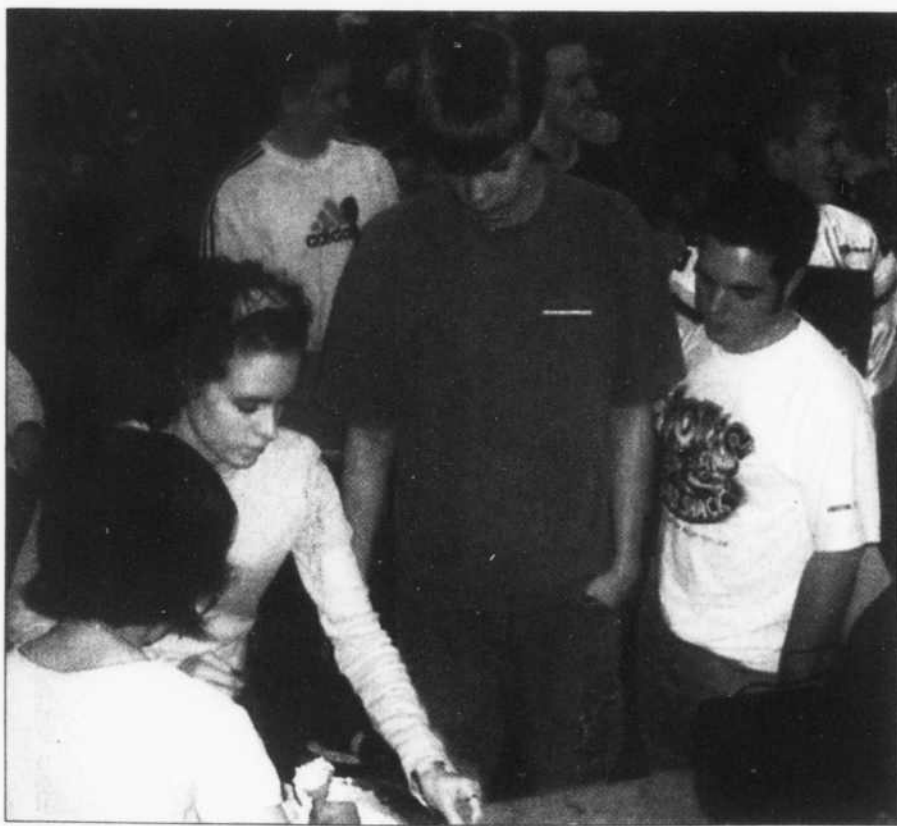
"Brown is an opportunist," Foster said. ♦

## Chemistry heats up at MTSU



Photos by Rebecca Pickering | Staff

(Above) Cameron Gren and Michael Cochran prepare a food mixture at Demomania Thursday. (Left) Megan Klein and Ari Oishi, chemistry students, hand out products to volunteers.



By Jennifer Dotson  
Staff Writer

People who say chemistry is boring have obviously never been to Demomania.

The MTSU Chemistry Club held its annual public outreach program, Demomania, Thursday in the Keathley University Center. The audience, 300 science students from Riverdale, Blackman and Cannon county high schools, was anything but bored.

Members of the Chemistry Club wowed students with five sets of demonstrations. The purpose of the demonstrations was to teach the students some basic principles of chemistry while entertaining them at the same time.

"Overall, the high school students enjoy the demonstrations and at least

learn something about chemistry," said Niger Kaur, graduate student at MTSU and demonstration presenter.

Tim Decha-Umphai, a chemistry and biology major, and Frenka Minter, a chemistry major, did a demonstration titled "Too Cool to be Hot." The main theme of their demonstration was gas properties. During one part of their demo, they filled a balloon with hydrogen and oxygen and lit it on fire, which caused a loud bang and drew an enthusiastic applause from the crowd.

Michael Cochran and Cameron Gren, both professional chemistry majors, presented a demonstration called "Chemistry Cooks." They explained the principles behind egg white whipping and the gelling of Jell-O. They also made ice cream using liquid nitrogen to rapidly freeze the ingredi-

ents, then chose several audience members to test their creation.

Blackman County student Thierrie Patterson was one of the students who got to taste the ice cream. Though she thought the process was interesting, she wasn't impressed with Cochran and Gren's culinary skills.

"I didn't really like it," Patterson said. "It tasted like evaporated milk."

Demonstrations on blue jean dyeing, the effects of acids and bases on cabbage juice and combustion reactions using methane were also presented. Each demonstration included audience participation and drew lots of laughs from the crowd.

Sally Brown coordinated the trip for the Blackman County High School, bringing 100 students. Brown said she was very impressed with the members of the Chemistry Club and Demomania.

"It was wonderful," Brown said. "They all did a great job and were very professional."

For the second year in a row, the Chemistry Club received a ranking of "Outstanding" from the American Chemical Society, of which it is a student affiliate. Only 24 other schools in the nation share this ranking.

Several club members are traveling to the American Chemical Society's national meeting in Orlando, Fla., in April. The club will be presenting a poster describing its activities and accepting an award for its "Outstanding" ranking.

See Chemistry, 3



## SGA Candidates Speak

## Questions for Student Government Association candidates

1. What kind of experience do you have that qualifies you for this position?
2. What do you feel are the top five most important issues on campus in need of addressing?
3. What will you do to increase student participation in campus events? How will you tackle the issue of student apathy?
4. What can be done about the lack of parking on campus? How should parking tickets be handled?
5. What changes, if any, should be made to the SGA constitution in the wake of the SGA Investigative Committee's findings?

All candidate profiles are available at [www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com).

## President

## Tracey Johnson

## Brandon Robbins

1. I have served as a senator for one year in the SGA by representing the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. I am currently serving on the Library, Information Technology and Student Activity Fee Committee. I have a full understanding on how the SGA is constantly working to better the student life for each student at MTSU. I feel I have all the experience and knowledge it requires to take SGA to the next level.

2. Student involvement, parking, continuing to better technology on campus and hours of operation of students facilities.

3. Being a very diversified university, I believe we need to have some type of involvement for every type student and every organization, and once that is established, then more students will want to get involved.

4. Parking is a problem that is not going to go away because of the rapid growth on our university, but I do believe some minor adjustment can be made, such as opening all the lots after 5:30 p.m. instead of just a couple of them.

5. Being a senator and finding several areas in the constitution which are not stated clearly, I believe with the hard work of the Senate and the executive office I believe we can fill these areas in that are not stated clearly.

## Vice President for Administration and Public Affairs

1. During high school, I served in various organizations as an executive officer including the Student Council, in which I held the office of president my senior year. I also was the superior commanding officer in the AJROTC program my senior year. Since my arrival at MTSU, I have been a part of the Student Government Association - my freshman year I volunteered, during my sophomore year I became a senator for the College of Liberal Arts and this current year I work as a student worker in the SGA office.

2. I believe the five most important issues on campus are parking, library hours, student involvement/awareness, distribution of school funds and financial aid.

3. In order to get students to become more involved, I believe incentives should be provided for school sponsored events. For example, book scholarships or a small dollar amount awarded to students that participate in a game at a football or basketball game. Making events more fun, increasing advertising that is appealing to the students and incentives will increase not only students but also the faculty involvement and participation at MTSU events.

4. Many students feel that a parking garage should be placed near campus. Also, parking would not be so bad if the Raider Xpress increased the number of shuttles and polished up the current schedule. I personally feel that the current parking policy is too strict in some ways, but I do agree with the way parking tickets are handled because it is division of

power because the same group that issues the tickets do not rule on the outcomes - whether to appeal or not.

5. I feel that the SGA constitution and other governing documents of the SGA need to be more detailed in the description of the duties of the officers, implement amendments that require a balance of power for the officers and ensure that there are no gaps that can cause open interpretations.

## Election Commissioner

## Katy Wansing

1. I have leadership responsibilities on and off campus. I hold offices in two campus organizations. I have held professional positions that instilled in me skills of delegation and the willingness to amend current procedures. My work with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation is testament to my honesty and integrity.

2. Parking reform, quality facilities for all students - we should not be learning in a barn, increased involvement of students in organizations, appropriations of funds and registration of sex offenders on campus.

3. Lack of student awareness about campus events is the problem. An increase in student awareness will result in an increase in student involvement. Events should be advertised more often in areas with high student traffic. Development of student discount days will offer students affordable entertainment and increase student involvement.

See SGA, 3

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Catherine Indiana York



## OWLS encourage MTSU's adult learners

By Ben Chiles  
Staff Writer

Non-traditional students from across the area and as far away as Colorado gathered on MTSU's campus Feb. 21 and 22 for the annual Adult Learning Conference held by Older Wiser Learners.

The theme this year, "Mentoring Adult Learners: Relationships for Retention," offered new insight, skills and enthusiasm to the adult learners and the educational leaders who teach them.

This year's keynote speaker was Susan Ford Wiltshire. Wiltshire is a professor of classics at Vanderbilt University.

In her speech, Wiltshire dis-

cussed the many disguises of the Greek goddess, Athena. Athena's appearances in the form of a helpful companion suggest the first sign of mentoring. Wiltshire used a classical approach to these relationships instead of a utilitarian approach.

She suggested using the relationships to become your self, not like someone else.

Wiltshire went on to tell of her college experience and her mentors there. She said mentors are not always the people we would expect them to be.

"Chance encounters can change our lives," Wiltshire said.

Wiltshire encouraged her audience of non-traditional students to mark one's decision

to return to college as a moment of joy.

"There are no grown ups, only grown-bigs. God is the only grown up, so never let younger people say you are too old," Wiltshire encouraged.

"The gift mentors give us is ourselves," Wiltshire said.

In her time at Vanderbilt, Wiltshire helped to create the Women's Studies Program during the 1970s. In 1992, she received the Mary Jane Werthan Award for extraordinary contributions to the advancement of women at Vanderbilt.

For more information on OWLs, contact Carol Ann Bail at 898-5989 or visit OWLs on the internet at [www.mtsu.edu/~owls](http://www.mtsu.edu/~owls). ♦

## Chemistry: Demomania reaches students

Continued from 1

One of the reasons the Chemistry Club has been so successful lies in activities such as Demomania.

"The public outreach activities have helped the Chemistry Club achieve its ranking of 'Outstanding,'" said Gary White, chemistry professor and co-sponsor of the club. "We reach a large number of elementary school students, typically about 400 in the fall and 250 in the spring."

Andrienne Friedli, also a chemistry professor and club co-sponsor, agrees. "They make 'Outstanding' because of a strong combination of excellent activities performed throughout the year, including Demomania, visits to area elementary schools, meetings, public service, maintenance of a Web page and awarding two scholarships," Friedli said.

Kaur, former treasurer of the Chemistry Club, said she encourages MTSU students to join the club, whether they are

chemistry majors or not.

"Don't think that everyone in the club is supposed to be good at chemistry," she said. "If a student enjoys chemistry and wants to see what being a chemist involves, then they are more than welcome to come see the club."

For more information on the club or its activities, contact Friedli at 898-2071 or White at 898-2072. Information can also be found at [www.mtsu.edu/~chem/cclub](http://www.mtsu.edu/~chem/cclub). ♦

## SGA: Officer candidates speak

Continued from 2

4. Many of the white parking spaces open after 6:30, while the majority of faculty leave at 3. I propose white parking lots open sooner to green permits. This will increase the security of students having evening classes. In addition, the parking ticket appeal process needs reformed. Has it helped you?

5. The MTSU Student Government Association Constitution, like all constitutions, contains gray areas. Some gray areas were made obvious last semester; these need clarified. However, changing the constitution is not as important as developing a unified SGA. No progressions can be made without flexible and compatible officers.

1. Leadership is nothing new to me. From the time I came here, I was president of Freshmen Forum, worked for CUSTOMS and now am treasurer of Urban Music Society and president of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. I was in the SGA House of Representatives and work for many committees here at MTSU.

2. Student apathy, the communication gap between students and school administration, the communication gap between students and the student governing body, the elite who forget that they are in positions to help students (enough said) and parking.

3. We as students need to feel that we are important. I feel many times we feel that our voice is not heard and that no one really cares. We as leaders must be able to relate to stu-


dents and find out what students really want. MTSU is very diverse and everything does not appeal to everyone.

4. We have plenty of parking, it's just not convenient! We pay pennies for parking. At many schools, you can't have a car until your junior year, and then you will pay about \$400 a semester. Utilize the Raider Xpress; the drivers are really nice. Until we can afford a parking garage, we must make do.

5. I think that we must look at how much power we give our officers and make sure our checks and balances are in place. One of the things that I don't like about some aspects of SGA is that people seem to forget that they are elected by the student body to work for the students. Their positions should not be biased and/or for their personal agendas. ♦

Willie Nelson III

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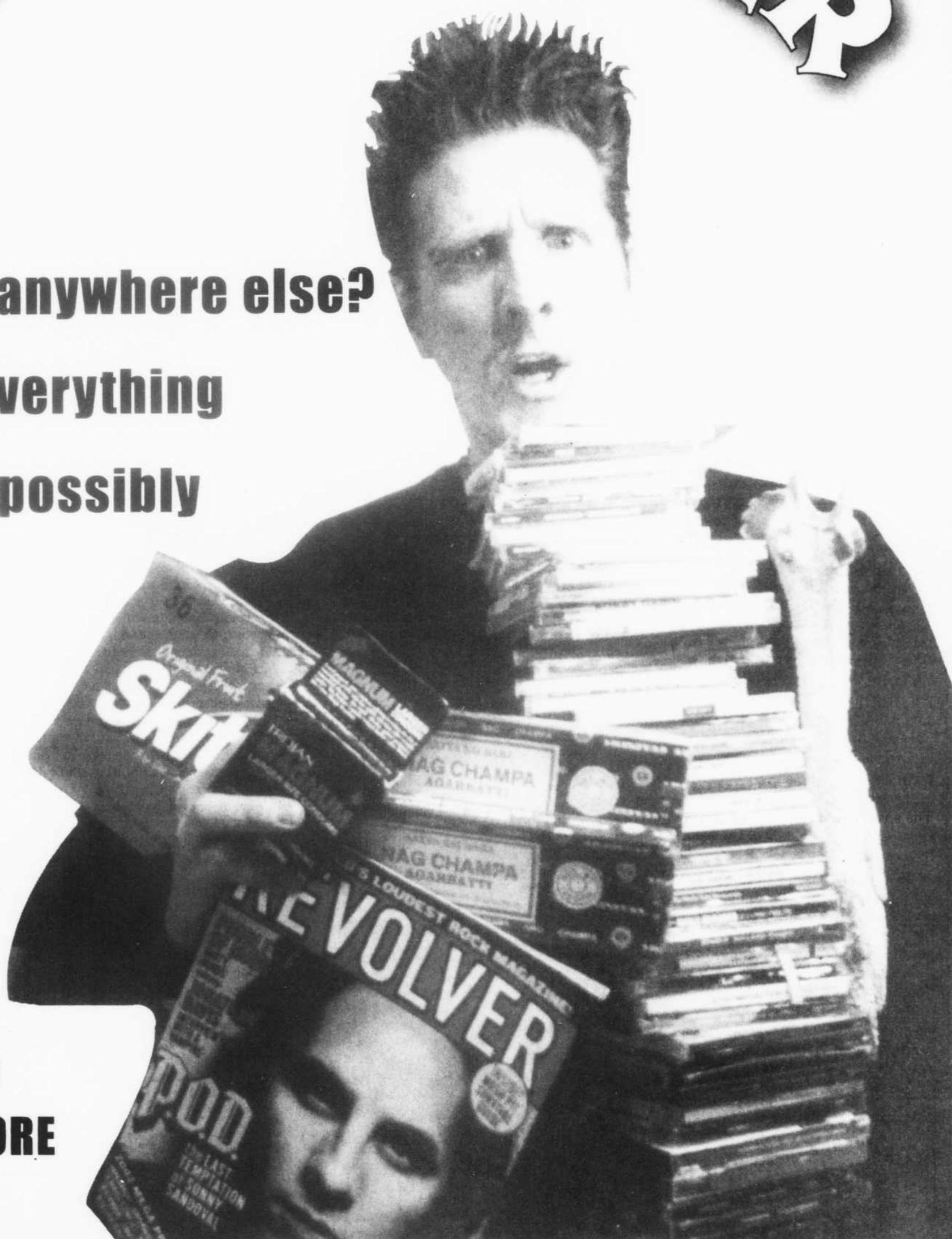
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## Editorial

### Young journalists should stay wary of corporate interests

Journalists are – or at least should be – naturally suspicious of corporate interests, which – if unchecked – can compromise the integrity and democratic nature of news providers.

That's why the members of the *Sidelines* staff who attended this weekend's Southeast Journalism Conference in Clarksville, Tenn. were so surprised when the keynote speaker was Wayne Pace, the chief financial officer for AOL Time Warner.

Pace is not a journalist. He is not even involved in the editorial side of the media corporation for which he works. He oversees all the company's finance functions including taxes, financial planning, mergers and acquisitions, accounting and capital allocation.

Yet Pace spent 30 minutes speaking to a room full of budding journalists about their future professions, and how corporate globalization would benefit them and the rest of the world.

The controversy surrounding the oligopolistic merging of media companies is raging stronger than ever before, and it is crucial for the news media – such as those owned by AOL Time Warner – to be critical of themselves and their parent companies, and how each operates in the interests of the public.

According to media critic Robert McChesney, in his book *Corporate Media and the Threat to Democracy*, democratic news providers exist in a public sphere, "a space independent of both state and business control which permit[s] citizens to interact, study and debate on the public issues of the day without fear or immediate reprisal from the political and economic powers that be."

Yet Pace made it clear that he believes his company should be equally as concerned with public interests as they are with the interests of shareholders.

How can a news provider be truly democratic – and thus reliable, trustworthy and accurate – if the interests of the shareholders rank equally with the interests of the people? The answer is, it can't. Which is why the controversy surrounding media mergers isn't likely to evaporate soon.

It's difficult to express our all-around disappointment and outrage that the coordinators of a journalism conference would have the audacity to invite a non-journalist, a corporate big-wig to do nothing more than act as a cheerleader for his company and globalization.

We can only hope that the rest of the audience listening to Pace's pro-corporate propaganda found it as out-of-place and suspicious as we did. ♦

## Freedom is the eternal bane of terrorists

### How I See It



Nick Teply  
Staff

There is a doctrine circulated among academics and many liberals that goes something like this: "How can you say that one person's idea is better than another's? All people have different beliefs and points of view. No idea is superior to another."

While it is true that people have different viewpoints and beliefs about different subjects, truth is concrete. We simply have to find it.

I will then advance one argument. Freedom is superior.

Freedom gives individuals the right to choose their religious beliefs, government and speech. Freedom allows for free enterprise and free markets.

Freedom does not police thought, but allows it. Being free means individuals can defend themselves.

People have the right to privacy and if they don't want to, they do not have to speak.

Our constitution defends freedom. While our nation is not perfect, we work to form a more perfect union. Our nation is the freest on earth.

Throughout history, organizations and governments have permeated and barred freedom. Stalin rose to power and killed 20 million. Hitler killed millions of others.

Taliban leaders flogged and killed those who did not submit to their doctrine.

Even with all of this horror, freedom won.

Still, there are some who say we have not explored the possibility that forms of government other than democracies and representative democracies may be better for a given country. Some say that socialism or even communism is a viable alternative.

Socialism relies on gov-

ernment redistribution of the wealth that people have achieved. The doctrine of socialism says that one person is not free to choose where their money goes, but the government does. It stifles free enterprise and economic capitalism. Socialism is not freedom.

Communism was tried and communism died. Even Russia is now working toward freedom. In Germany, the wall came tumbling down. Someday all of China, not just Taiwan, will also be free.

Is it any wonder why the citizens of the world flock by the millions to our borders? At the base of the Statue of Liberty are these

words, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Freedom is opportunity, and the United States of America embodies that doctrine.

The United States of America is the city on the mountain beaconing the world to freedom.

Is freedom superior? This is open to debate by the open-minded in our society.

It is possible to be so open minded that your brains fall out. While freedom allows the golden opportunity so many in the world desire, it allows others to be the village idiot. Let freedom ring. ♦

## Defining India's future after a colonized past

By Anil Antony  
The Dartmouth

(U-WIRE) – I'll admit it. I've become something of an Olympics addict over the past week or so. Thursday night, after finding myself hypnotized by Michelle Kwan and giggling childishly at Irena Slutskaya (she's got a funny name), I began to wonder, "Hey, why are there no great Indian Winter Olympians? Moreover, where's the Indian Winter Olympics team?"

India, for having a population of more than a billion, has sent pitifully few athletes (read: one, a luger) to the Winter Olympics.

They did win a bronze medal at the Summer Olympics for women's weight lifting, but I'm not sure that's information Indian males want getting out.

We're already hypo-masculine, as I learned in postcolonial literature. Perhaps it's said class, or just my latent paranoid self, but I'm beginning to see the world in binaries.

Good versus bad, colonizer versus colonized and so forth. At any rate, this is enough to explain, if not excuse, my next few thoughts.

"I know why there's no Indian Winter Olympic team!" I exclaimed, ignoring the possibility that it's due to the climate. "It's the Brits. So typical," I sniffed indignantly.

I suppose the answer could just be that India doesn't have the nec-

essary infrastructure to support their one Summer Olympian as well as curling and bobsled teams, or that when trying to feed a nation of starving people playing games seems a tad less important, but certainly something more devious could be afoot. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if I found the following headline in a newspaper:

"December 17, 1997. A most vile and despicable act of neocolonialism was perpetrated by the Great Britain Olympic team. Under cover of night, British forces invaded the Indian Winter Olympics training hut, annexed the Indian bobsled and made off with a most sacred cow, which they later ate."

Just thinking about this was enough to get me riled. I mean, isn't it enough that those limeys have repressed my people for hundreds of years?

They need to steal our Olympics to be happy? (And when I say "my" and "our" I'm pretending for a second that I'm remotely Indian.) First Dyer and Mountbatten, now this. Shame on them, indeed.

Of course, I'm never going to see such an article, because I'm pretty sure nothing so nefarious could ever occur. The British, for all their bad teeth, effeminate ways and dirty sounding dishes (like bangers and mash) have seemingly left India alone for the last 50-odd years. And we do have a lot to

thank them for – cricket, education, syphilis, Pakistan and Bangladesh, for starters. (Yeah, I know that's a cheap shot. The Bangladeshis are fighting hard to stay above water, literally.)

I'm sorry I've gotten so riled up over nothing. It's just that colonialism always gets my goat. Just like incest and libertarianism, it's one of those things that is good in theory but never in practice. I'm just kidding (I would never support libertarianism).

Then again, who am I to talk? Indians have done some colonizing of their own, as well. And no, I'm not talking about the great Indus River civilization, nor the ... well, I don't know, but I'm not referring to whatever you're thinking.

Here at Dartmouth College, our colonies are full-fledged and thriving. We have a tight grasp on the economics and biology majors and are considered by many to be major players in engineering, as well. Indian immigrant parents seem to be missing the fine print in their immigration contracts. Section 7.2, small print 3.1 clearly states, and I quote, "Any sons procreated shall play tennis until their college years, while daughters rendered shall play piano. Upon reaching college, said offspring may either study economics, engineering or be pre-med."

You see, it's not that we want to dominate these areas; it's just our contractual obligation. Our

"brown man's burden," if you will.

And so scores of Indian parents are forced to send their children off to become rich and successful. However, I think the time has come that we once again expand. Now that my race has a seeming monopoly on Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and medical schools everywhere, it's time to broaden our colonial reach.

Here at Dartmouth, I propose starting with the Environmental Studies department, partly because I'm already there, but mostly because no one else seems to want it.

You think a few crunchy whites are going to put up much resistance? Sure, they'll protest in front of Collis, but big deal. Not even the British Empire could impede our march to independence.

Why stop there? By the time my stay here is complete, I'd like to see Indians in the process of taking over the ART and LIT distributives, as well as the TAS, SOC and QDS that we already have!

I will not rest until there is an Indian in every classroom and a Hindu in every dining hall, and not just in the Pavilion with their Sakahara cuisine.

Manifest destiny beckons, and we must obey. This is the real "diversity" we need.

Anglos, beware. You might think I'm nuts, but I'm warning you that if you let your posterior with my boot. ♦

## From the Opinions Editor

### Students' play should not have been censored by faculty



ed the authors to cut the last scene. A compromise was reached whereby Jesus would be replaced with Ms. Pac-Man.

This solution is pathetic; it reeks of cowardice.

Today's Features section sports an article titled "Student play takes the stage," discussing a new play by MTSU students Bob Roberts and Cory Thomas.

I wish the students the best of luck, and I'm sure it will do well, but I would have loved to see the original last scene.

In that scene, to satirize America's dependence on therapists, Roberts had Jesus going to see a counselor.

The MTSU theatre and dance faculty want-

The faculty in question should be very ashamed that they stifled the student's creativity by corking their imaginative juices. College is supposed to be a place where minds can run free and satire can procreate like rabbits in heat.

Ms. Pac-Man can't advance an idea like Jesus, and the faculty should have recognized that.

Public response be damned, let the students do their work. ♦

## Discussing the first President George

By Dr. Jay Werthmuller  
Guest Columnist

His face is on millions of quarters. His face is on millions of one dollar bills. He's the only guy to have a whole state named after him. Our Capital City and the Navy's 4th newest aircraft carrier are named in his honor.

Ever ask yourself, "is that overkill or what?" Back in high school history class they didn't talk about George Washington that much did they? What stands out was the Civil War, slavery, Martin Luther King Jr., John Fitzgerald Kennedy, et al.

I guess they used to teach a lot about Washington a couple of generations ago, but other "more important stuff" seems to crowd him out of

classrooms today. So, I decided to re-investigate Washington to satisfy myself that it is at least a little overdone.

The record shows that he was a uniter, not a divider. The differing factions of the revolution had but little trust for each other. However, each of the factions did trust Washington. His integrity was their rallying point. He was the linchpin that held the freedom revolution together.

On the battlefields of the revolution, he gave the nation its earliest traditions of heroism, sacrifice and victory (and hard-won victory at that). Most military and political leaders spend their entire careers coveting power and once gained, hoarding it. Not our George.

Amazingly, he relinquished military and political power on numerous occasions, and did it voluntarily. During the war, congress gave him the authority of a dictator on two occasions, yet he never abused that authority to get what he wanted.

He knew that people would be observing his actions and that he was setting a precedent, blazing the course for the new government. He refused the title "His Majesty," preferring instead the more republican, "Mr. President." He brought the words of the constitutional system into everyday practice. He endeavored to bring about a viable legal framework for the country.

He set the foundation (literally setting the cornerstone of the White House) for the government of the federal government. He refused to accept a third term, and ensured the peaceful transfer of power away from himself to John Adams.

He had no children of his own, yet Washington imparted his fatherly influence to many: his two stepchildren, his junior officers and soldiers and to yet unborn millions of Americans.

In his book "Founding Father," Richard Brookhiser said it best: "We tend to speak of founding fathers in the plural. Yet there has been only one father of this country."

I realized anew that the founding generation chose well in having Washington lead the freedom revolution and then elect him the first president.

He really does deserve those honors and remem-

brances. He set a high standard in his public life and in his private life. As a result he held the respect and devotion of his soldiers, officers and countrymen. Dauntless and resolute, courage and guts when it was needed most, he was a real man.

In light of Sept. 11, we need his example now as much as ever. Initiative, self-reliance, tenacity and devotion to duty were embodied by this republic's first president. He is our nation's greatest hero and deserves more than any other American to be remembered and honored. Without Washington, this would be a very different and lesser America. ♦

Dr. Jay Werthmuller is a chiropractor practicing in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## SIDELINES

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



# FEATURES

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Monday, February 25, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## Student play to take the stage

By Beverly Jenkins  
Staff Writer

Sneeze and you just might cause a thunderstorm on the other side of the world in two months.

Well, you couldn't take all of the credit for the downpour, but according to *The Chaos Theory*, the MTSU student play soon to take the stage at the Center for the Arts, even the tiniest "achoo" plays a role in what the weather will be like in the future.

A chaotic system is ever-changing because of small, seemingly insignificant variables that actually have a lot of influence. This is why some phenomena like weather patterns, earthquakes and life are hard, or even impossible, to predict for an extended period of time.

Life and its unpredictability is the main theme of *Badgers and Cheese Whiz* (or *The Chaos Theory* in Detroit), a play directed by MTSU student Bob Roberts.

"People worry so much about 'I've got to plan for the rest of my life,'" Roberts said. "You can't do it. Life will throw you some curveballs."

Roberts, a theater major, co-wrote the play with his best friend Cory Thomas, an English major. Thomas is also the

assistant director.

They both describe the production as a "satirical farce" that focuses on how the Chaos Theory applies to everyday life.

Roberts began writing the play two years ago when he attended the American College Theatre Festival, an annual week-long event where college students see shows put on by other students. He said he wrote the first monologue there after seeing a horrible play, which gave him the idea to write about "a guy watching a bad play."

The first monologue did not make it into the final draft of the play, which is two acts composed of three monologues and nine scenes, but is responsible for prompting a whole play to be written.

Roberts decided to direct the play for his senior project, but initially, he said the play's production was only a "pet dream."

Using his play is "kind of surreal," he said. "Six months ago, I never would have dreamed this would be put on."

Roberts has acted in several MTSU productions, including *Tommy* and *Lysistrata 2411 A.D.*, but had never directed his own play.

When it was time to decide what he would do for his project, he said, "I wanted it to be something that spoke to me."

After hours of perusing for possibilities in the library and finding nothing he wanted to do, he decided to direct *Badgers and Cheese Whiz*.

"This is really the first full-length play I have worked on," he said. "I had done some directing before with one-acts and scenes."

One of the most nerve-racking expe-

riences so far for Roberts was having the play approved. Every permanent member of the faculty from the theater and dance program had to agree to the play's production.

Last December they gave Roberts permission to use his play with one exception.

Roberts and Thomas "were both told unequivocally that MTSU would not sign off on the show if we did not cut the last scene when Jesus was going to visit the psychiatrist," he said. "There was a definite point that we were trying to get across with that [scene]."

In America, Roberts said "everybody wants a house with a two-car garage, three and a half kids and a therapist." The only other source of guidance many people turn to besides psychologists is Jesus. To illustrate the overuse of therapy, even Jesus sought help from a counselor in the play.

Roberts and Thomas compromised by replacing Jesus with Ms. Pac-Man.

"Ms. Pac-Man just doesn't get the same point across," Roberts said.

The project of putting together an entire play has also been a frustrating, yet beneficial experience.

"When these people are doing a show, [they] go to class all day, go to rehearsal all night and sleep for three hours," said Sara Vaughn, publicist for the Center of the Arts.

"It's kept me busy," Roberts said because he has ended up producing the play, too. But he adds that it has been a big learning experience and a lot of fun.

When Roberts is not sure of what he

should do, he said he asks himself, "OK, what did we do before?"

Fortunately, the play's crew has helped enormously.

"They are a very talented cast," Roberts said. "I'm proud of all of them."

Both Roberts and Thomas refer to Jennifer Harmer, the stage manager, as "the backbone of the rehearsals."

"I am completely amazed with the talent that has gone into the writing of this play," Harmer said. "Overall, I am thrilled to be working on this show."

Make-up designer Celia Johnson enjoys working with Roberts because of his openness.

"Bob is really good at listening to ideas," Johnson said.

Cast member Austin Sanders also mentioned that Roberts was really open to suggestions.

"He just wants you to let loose," Sanders said.

Roberts credits Thomas as being an indispensable help since the birth of the play. Although they wrote the play separately and then combined what each had come up with, they would call each other at any time when they had trouble with ideas.

Also, Roberts said Thomas thinks a lot

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## Science gets exciting

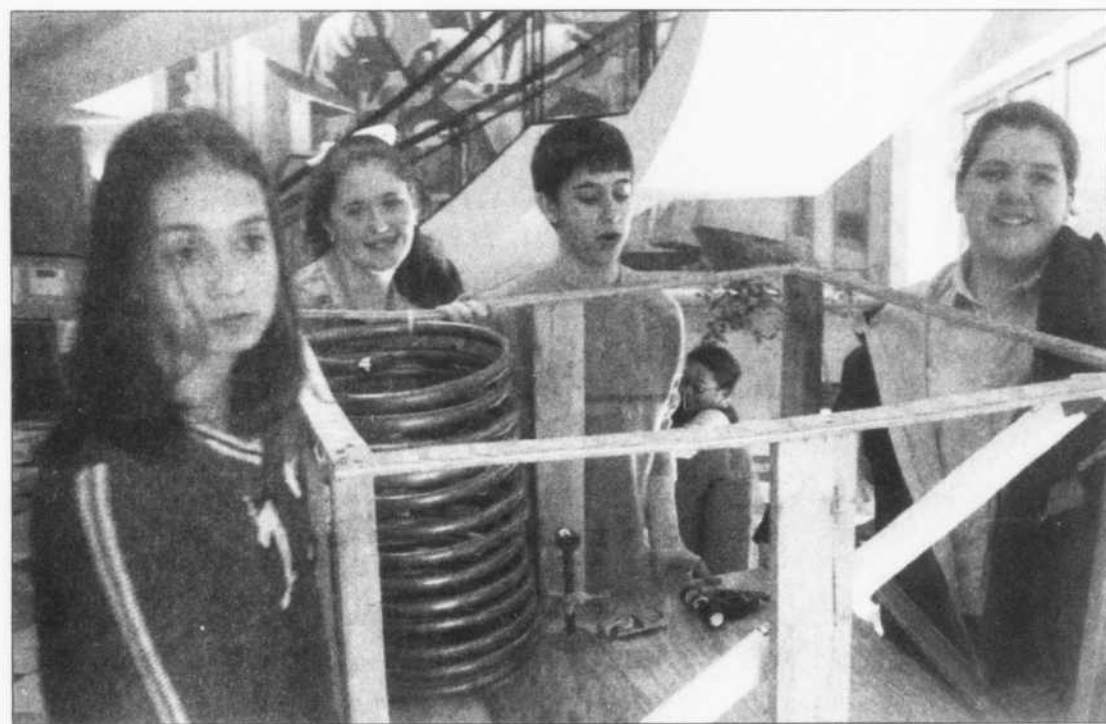


Photo by Alicia Pickett | Staff

Students wait their turn to compete in the Mission Possible event at the Olympiad.

By Alicia Pickett  
Staff Writer

Middle and high school students across Tennessee reached for the stars as they constructed battery buggies and bottle rockets at this year's Regional Science Olympiad competition held at MTSU.

"This is the moment of truth," said Amy Phelps, a professor of chemistry and assistant coordinator of the Olympiad.

From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, 186 students participated in events that tested their critical thinking and problem solving skills, making the complex seem simple.

Phelps said school has a way of taking the fun out of science, but that the Olympiad highlights the interesting, fun parts of science.

"We needed to have something for science and math that's just as important as getting a gold medal in a sporting event," said Patricia Patterson, regional director of the Olympiad and MTSU assistant professor of chemistry.

She agrees that the focus of the Olympiad should enhance students' experience with science and technology.

"Our goal is to have students get involved and stay involved in science, math and technology," she said. "It forces students to study outside of the text-

book."

Area private and public schools participated in the intellectually stimulating festivities, which were divided into two categories: things to build and problems to answer.

Events were spread all over campus and included Mission Possible, a complicated game of Mousetrap, Scrambler, which tests how far an egg can travel in a specialized vehicle without breaking, and the bottle rocket demonstration, which allowed the budding scientists to test the air velocity of their homemade parachute rockets.

"I'm interested in building stuff," said Justin Perkins from Ellis Middle School in Henderson, Tenn. "I took a 1 liter bottle and made the fins out of cardboard."

Ken Allen, of St. Pius in northeast Nashville, said he participated in a bridge building competition because he wants to be an engineer someday.

Cat Lukach, an 18-year-old senior at St. Cecelia's, an all-girl's school, said the competition allows fun outside the classroom.

Ron Gates, a professor at St. Cecelia, said one of the sisters said the school should participate in the Olympiad because it would be a good experience to get the girls involved in science.

"I did reach for the stars, and it goes beyond high school

learning," Lukach said.

No boos or hisses were heard in the Business and Aerospace Building as gold, silver and bronze medals, along with \$150 in prize money for the winners, were given out for jobs well done.

Among the winners were Perkins, Wajih Choudunry, from Martin Luther King Middle, who won first in disease detective, and Saran Raju, from MLK, who won first in life science.

The Olympiad was sponsored by State Farm and MTSU. ♦



Photo by Alicia Pickett | Staff

Justin Perkins won the bronze medal for his bottle rocket invention Saturday.

## Dear Annie

### Confronting a crush

Dear Annie,

I like this guy who works out at the Rec Center. I always see him there, and we say hi or smile, but that's pretty much it. I want to talk to him and start a conversation, but I don't know what to say. I don't even know if he has a girlfriend. He is really cute, so he could have a girlfriend.

Should I ask him out on a date, or is that too forward?

I read in a lot of magazines that girls ask guys out now. My friends say that I should just give him my number and tell him to call me sometime. But I just can't do that. I would be so embarrassed if he never called.

How would I ever work out at the Rec Center again? If I get rejected, it would really suck to keep running into him.

Should I take the risk and ask him out, or should I wait for him to make the first move?

— Crushing

Dear Crushing,

I think you should say, "Oh, I've pulled a hamstring. Could you help me?"

Just kidding! That would be lame.

Your friends' idea has some flaws. What are you going to write your phone number on? And where will he put it? Most workout pants don't have pockets.

I really don't like either of your choices. You could take a risk and just ask him out. It's a bold and gutsy move, but I'm not sure you're ready. Waiting for him to ask you out is one solution, but that's just boring, and chances are you've already been waiting a long time.

So, I've come up with a solution to your problem. I think you should try and start a

conversation. I know it's not easy, but I have faith in my readers.

What kind of workout does this guy like? If he likes to lift weights, lift weights next to him. Start a conversation by saying, "I really don't know what I'm doing, could you give me some pointers?" If he is a runner or walker, ask him if you can keep pace. Then, as you're walking, start up a conversation. "Hi, my name is (your name here), then continue with the old reliable like, "What's your major," and so forth. Or, try and leave the same time he does. On the way out, ask if he wants to join you for a smoothie at Smoothie Bear.

If none of these choices work for you, try and say, "I always see you here. I thought I'd introduce myself."

I've practiced all of these techniques out on unsuspecting guys and they worked for me. I know they will work for you.

Start "working out" your conversational skills. You can do it!

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



Illustration by Lucas Antoniak | Staff



## Play: Theater graduation project to premiere at Center for the Arts

Continued from 6

clearer than he does. Roberts describes himself as a nervous person, and during rehearsals, this is evident. He's hardly ever sitting, and he's always moving around and running his hands through his hair. Thomas, however, goes through rehearsals relaxed and calm.

Despite their different mannerisms, Roberts said they have "the same mind on a lot of stuff."

He is not the only one to notice this. "They are kind of like the same person," Sanders said, comparing them to brothers or twins.

"He's like family," Roberts said.

They met in the gifted program in elementary school and have been friends since.

Roberts initially became interested in theater in the sixth grade.

At first, he wanted to direct movies, but he said his first time performing convinced him to work with the theater.

Upon graduation, he plans to remain in Nashville for a year or two and build a professional resume. After that, he plans to either move to a bigger city in search of work with a professional theater or go to graduate school.

Thomas, on the other hand, has a focus more centered on writing. He said he "auditioned for a whim" for a production in high school and became interested in playwriting then because his drama teacher was also his English teacher.

Recently, Thomas won honorable mention from the National Critics Institute, which is a part of the American College Theatre Festival, for a review he wrote.

Thomas said he plans to move to California or Montreal after graduation. As far as his career goes, Thomas said, "I want to write just every-

thing."

Neither Roberts nor Thomas gave any concrete future plans besides their general ideas and desires for the future, which makes sense considering the subject of their play.

Roberts said it's good to "have some ideas about where you want to go and roll with the punches."

"If you are relaxing," he said, "the order will come to you."

He hopes the people who come to see *Badgers and Cheese Whiz* will adopt the same outlook while viewing the play instead of searching for a deep meaning.

"We're just out to get a couple laughs," he said. "If they do take something philosophical away, that's cool."

Assistant professor of speech and theater Richard Hansen, who is also Roberts' adviser, described the play as "an enormously clever comedy, which covers a lot of territory without being redundant."

Hansen is also the narrator for *Badgers and Cheese Whiz*.

"There are some things that tackle heavier issues in the play," Thomas said.

In a sense, the play suggests that people should reflect on life itself and accept its weirdness instead of trying to fight it.

There can be order to chaos, but it is not clean and clear-cut.

The play "is a very manic, screwball vision of life and just little situations that we don't normally analyze," Sanders said.

Roberts urges that audience members "come with a grain of salt and be ready to use it."

Opening night is March 15 at the Center for the Arts. *Badgers and Cheese Whiz* will run through March 17. ♦

## Learn a native culture

Experience and learn about the Native American culture at MTSU's Native American Festival and Powwow Saturday and Sunday in the Tennessee Livestock Center.

The weekend's events will feature a multi-arrangement of entertainment, such as drum and singing group performances by the Grey Wolf Singers from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Shadow Wolf Singers from the Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama and the Medicine River Singers from West Tennessee. In addition, Dave Trezak (Lakota/Cherokee) will play his contemporary guitar and flute, while Gary Cady (Cherokee) performs on his traditional flute.

The festival will host activities for the adults and children with Fred Bradley telling stories of myth and legend about the Native American life and culture with Falconer Mouse Corral presenting a special session of storytelling with her red-tail hawk. Also, Ron Colombe will recite poetry that delves into the heart of their native land.

Those who attend will gain an educational and social opportunity to learn game and craft skills through demonstrations and participate in Native American dances, including traditional, fancy, shawl, southern and northern cloth, straight, southern and northern buckskin, hoop, grass and jingle.

There will also be vendors and craft exhibits where visitors can view and/or buy weapons, clothing, baskets, blankets, paintings, beadwork and much more. Everyone in attendance also will be able to enjoy various Native American dishes. Fast food will be available for those who prefer not to experience a native dish.

Celebrated Cherokee dancer Vicki Standingdeer, from the Qualla Reservation in North Carolina, is the festival's head lady dancer. She has won first place in dancing and/or been the head lady at more than 300 festivals. Scott Crisp will be the master of ceremonies as he introduces the performances while interacting with the crowd.

Besides educating people on Native American culture, the festival's goal is to raise funds for MTSU's new scholarship for Native American students.

Tickets to the event are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, and free for toddlers. Group rates are also available. Saturday's festivities start at 9 a.m. and end at 9 p.m., and Sunday's events start at 11 a.m. and end at 6 p.m.

For more information, call 898-2551. ♦



# CLASSIFIEDS

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**LIVE FREE FOR A MONTH!** 2 bedrooms available in a 4 bedroom/2bath apt at University Courtyard Apartments. Sub-leaser desperately needed! All utilities, appliances, and furniture included. \$355 each per month. Females preferred. Apartment available in April or May. We will pay the first month's rent. Please call Tiffany or Courtney at 217-0678 or call Tiffany at 584-2895. You may leave a message at either number.

**ROOM FOR RENT.** Two rooms available. Completely furnished including cable TV, HBO, W/D, off street parking. One block from campus. \$350/month. 896-0123

Two rooms for rent. Large House, 4 bedrooms 2 1/2 baths, hardwood floors, central heat & air, washer/dryer. Walking distance from campus. Rent \$250, no deposit, no lease. Need roommates by March 1s. If interested, call Tony at 867-3088

Female Roommate needed ASAP.

Two bedroom apt. Completely furnished. Approx. 5 min from campus. Flat fee \$350 month. Call 867-9831

Roommate wanted \$395/all utilities included/washer, dryer. Females only please. 391-5094 days. Ask for Tom. (615) 824-2264 Nights & Weekends. e-mail [patti0418@aol.com](mailto:patti0418@aol.com). PRIVATE BED ROOM & BATHROOM!

Sterling Gables 2 Br/2 bath apt for rent. Please call 907-3182. 1st floor next to pool (Sublessers Wanted)

1 bedroom in a 4 bedroom Apt. furnished with all utilities included. \$380/month at Sterling University. Sub-lease through August. Need Sub-leaser asap. Call Marla or Rachel @ 867-4376

2 bedroom duplex for \$475 per month, walking distance from campus. Call Tim at 594-3484

3 bedroom townhouse for \$750 per month. 2 miles from campus. Call Tim at 594-3484

**1st Month Free.** Available Now, female Roommate to share 2 bed/2bath, furnished, cable, utilities, phone, washer/dryer incl. Ground floor at pool/walking distance to MTSU. Call collect (865) 435-1381

## Travel

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## Services

FREE INFORMATION is available through the MTSU Placement Office, KUC Room 328. Come by and receive your complimentary copies or catalogs, pamphlets, and guides to learn how to write a resume and cover letter from various samples, gather information about a particular company, and help with interview preparation. Video tapes are also available for you to view in the Career Library.

## Policies

Sidelines will be responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the Student Publications Office in James Union Building room 306, or faxed to 904-8487. For more information call 904-8154 or 898-2815. Ads are not accepted over the phone.

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## Campus Club Spotlight – Circle K

## Circle K offers community service nationwide

By India Stone  
Staff Writer

"We Build" serves as the motto for Circle K International, a club that is growing steadily and is involved in many important humanitarian missions.

"Circle K International is [made up of] college and university students who are responsible citizens and leaders with lifelong commitments to service worldwide," said MTSU chapter President Josh Burlison.

"I love how everyone in the organization is so outgoing and always ready to help those in need," Burlison said. "Being able to help others while having fun is what Circle K is all about."

Just recently, the MTSU chapter was founded by former Key Club President Becky Pickering in the fall of 2000 under the guidance of The Oakland/Stones River Kiwanis Club, Burlison said.

"We are still getting the word out about our organization," he said. "Last semester alone, our club did a total of 522 service hours with a membership of 25. I think that is a great accomplishment."

Throughout the past year, Circle K has performed a number of community services.

"We helped with the American Heart Walk by selling hearts at Kroger," recalls Jessica

Eckart, a member of Circle K who will be the club's president next year.

The MTSU chapter also attends the Veterans Administration Medical Center each month, where the members help with bingo.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, the club helped with the blood drive on campus. Circle K also raised \$1,550 for the Red Cross.

The *Circle K Magazine*, which is distributed throughout the United States and around the world, paid a special tribute in its January/February issue to the Sept. 11 disaster and to the efforts made by the Kiwanis family, highlighting the MTSU clubs efforts.

In addition, the club collected pop-tops for leukemia patients, said Lara James, Circle K's vice president.

For every gallon of tops that were collected, one chemotherapy treatment would be paid. According to James, the MTSU chapter collected 15 to 20 gallons.

Another service Circle K performs in Murfreesboro is helping local kids. James said that about every other month, Circle K visits Reeves-Rodgers Elementary school to hang out with the children.

During the members most recent visit to the school, they made sock puppets with the children. They also make them greeting cards on holidays.

"These kids don't have people who encourage them," James said. "They're always excited to see us. They come up and hug us whenever we go there."

Circle K also has events planned for the future.

"In April, we are going to throw a carnival for the Boys and Girls Club and do the Cystic Fibrosis Walk in Knoxville," Burlison said.

Circle K holds district and international conventions each year where members and officers can attend a formal dinner and network. This year's Kentucky/Tennessee district convention, held Feb. 22-Feb. 24 in Knoxville, offered members a chance to decide on important issues, re-elect district officers and assign district service projects. Circle K also offers training to members on life management and conflict/resolution.

"It helps you build a resume, obtain leadership skills, help others in need, travel and meet new, fun and exciting people," Burlison said when asked how being in Circle K International helps students.

Circle K urges students to become active in the community and welcomes all newcomers.

For additional information regarding MTSU's Circle K Club, e-mail circlek@mtsu.edu. For information on Circle K International, go to www.circlek.org. ♦



Photo by Becky Pickering | Staff

Circle K'ers make sock puppets with students at Reeves-Rodgers Elementary.

### How to join

Students can attend the weekly Monday night meetings at 6 on the third floor of the Keathley University Center or e-mail circlek@mtsu.edu.

## CAMPUS EVENTS

Compiled by Leslie Fike | Features Editor

Monday, Feb. 25

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.

"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 Peck Hall, Room 109A, from 3 to 3:50 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 898-2152.

MTSU Films presents *The Man Who Wasn't There* at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Admission is \$2. For more information, call 898-2551.

The MTSU School of Music presents Valerie Trujillo's Student Vocal Series "American Song Recital" in the Music Hall of the Wright Music Building at 8 p.m. For more information, contact Tim Musselman at 898-2493.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

The Muslim Student Association will host a lecture on the "History of Backlash Against Muslims in the U.S." at 6:30 p.m. in the State Farm Lecture Hall. The lecture will feature Altaf Hussein, doctorate student at Howard University and the president of the U.S. and Canada National Muslim Student Association. For more information, contact Zaid Brifkani at 498-9067.

The Martial Arts Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center's aerobics room. Everyone in the MTSU community is welcome to start or continue training in various martial arts throughout the semester.

Wednesday, Feb. 27

The popular music lecture "Dance as a Narrative Agent in Hollywood Musicals" will be held in Room 241 of the John Bragg Mass Communication Building at 12:30 p.m. The lecture will feature guest speaker Michael Dunne. For more information, contact the Center for Popular Music at 898-2449.

The MTSU Social Work Forum and Phi Alpha is sponsoring a field trip to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. The bus will leave the James Union Building parking lot at 7 a.m. and is scheduled to return at 6:30 p.m. A refundable \$10 deposit is required. All deposits must be in by Feb. 22 and a student ID must be presented when making the deposit and boarding the bus. For more information, contact Margaret Seime at 898-5766.

The Victory Campus Ministries (Champions 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. 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.

There will be a Solo Artist Competition in the Wright Music Hall at 11 a.m. For more information, contact Tim Musselman at 898-2493.

The School of Music presents Michelle Rowlette's junior clarinet recital in the Wright Music Hall at 8 p.m.

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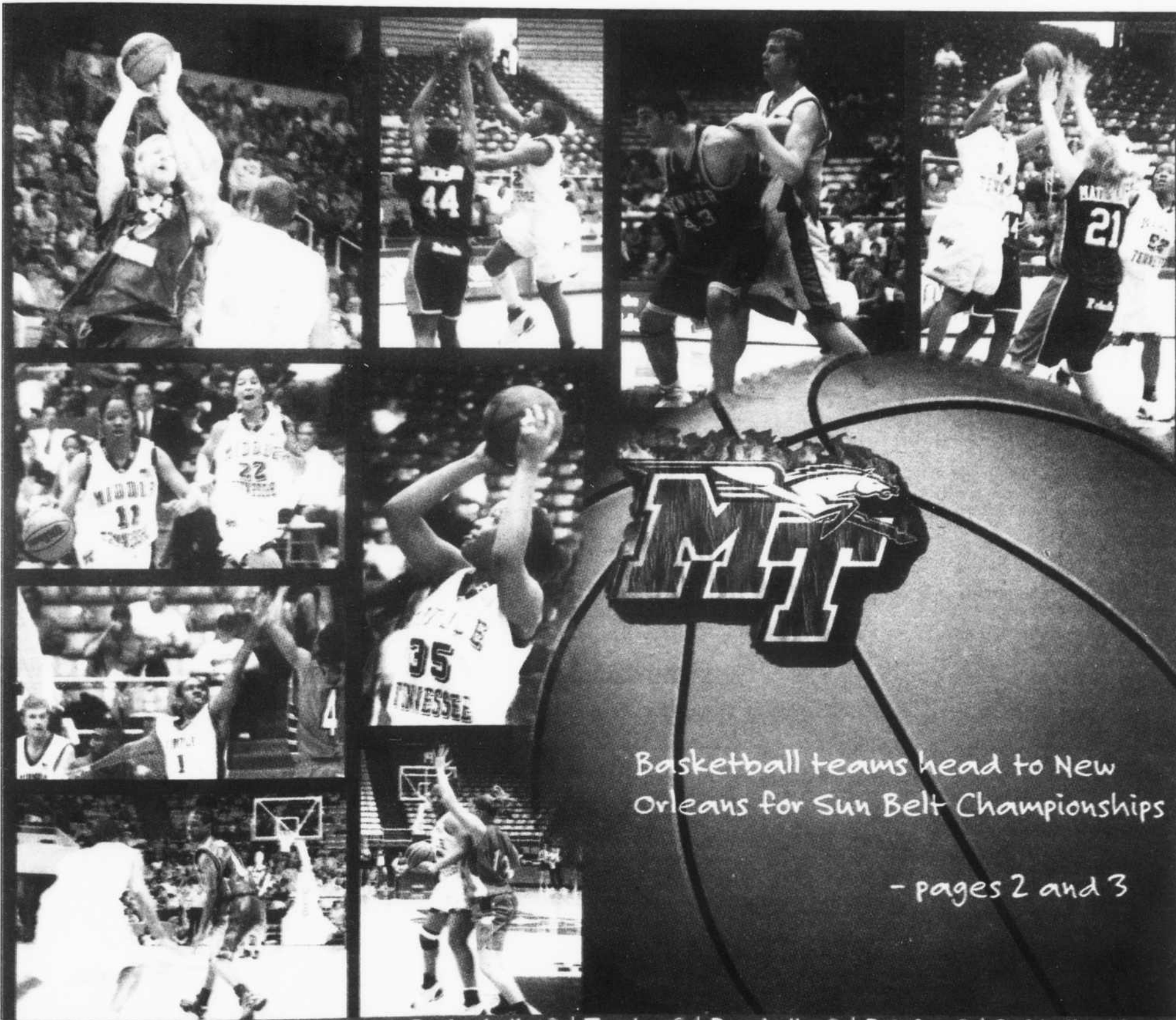
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Sidelines

# SPORTS WRAP

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Blue Raider  
Basketball

# Raiders improve on last season

By Colleen Cox  
Sports Editor

The Blue Raider basketball team (13-14, 6-8) heads into the Sun Belt Conference tournament Friday as the No. 3 seed in the East.

Middle Tennessee missed out on a chance to be the No. 2 seed in the East with a loss to top seed Western Kentucky University (25-3, 13-1) Saturday night. After losing to WKU by 41 points during a 5-win season last year, the Blue Raiders lost by just 4 points Saturday.

By not being the No. 2 seed, MT misses out on a first-round bye. The Blue Raiders play the No. 6 team from the West Division South Alabama Friday.

USA (7-20, 2-13) beat MT and WKU in its only two Sun Belt wins this season. The Jaguars handed the Blue Raiders a 59-51 loss Dec. 28. They then handed the Hilltoppers their only Sun Belt loss 61-58 Dec. 30.

South Alabama leads the Sun Belt in three-point field goal percentage but ranks near the bottom in most other statistical categories. Demetrice Williams leads a Jaguar offense that averages 64.9 points per game. Williams puts up 13.3 points per game. Henry Williams ranks second on the team with 11.5 points per game. Larry Thompson adds 10.7 points per game.

The Jaguars give up 71.4 points per game. Opponents shoot .454 percent from the field against USA compared to .437 percent for the Jaguars.

Should MT beat USA, they would face West Division No. 2 seed New Mexico State University (19-11, 11-4). The Aggies lost their last game 69-67 to the University of Louisiana-Lafayette (18-9, 11-4).

Four players on the Aggie offense average double-digit scoring. Eric Channing leads the way with 15.9 points per game. James Moore also averages 15.9 points per game in Sun Belt action.

As a team, NMSU averages 4.5 points per game more than their opponents. However, the Aggies shoot a slightly lower percentage than their opponents. NMSU

shoots .448 percent, while opponents shoot .473 percent.

Other teams to look out for are the top seeds in each division. The No. 1 seed in the West is UL-Lafayette.

The Ragin Cajuns ended the season on a 4-game winning streak. UL-Lafayette ranks first in field goal percentage and rebounding offense and second in scoring defense. The Ragin Cajuns held their opponents to 66.1 points per game and .391 shooting percent-

age.

Offensively UL-Lafayette puts up 69.3 points per game and shoots .438 percent.

Anthony Johnson leads the offense scoring 15.1 points per game and grabbing 7.1 boards a game. Michael Southall is second on the team with 13 points and 7.6 rebounds.

WKU is definitely the favorite. The Hilltoppers are ranked in the top 25 and are tops in most Sun Belt statistical categories.

Western Kentucky leads the Sun Belt in scoring defense, scoring margin and rebounding defense. The Hilltoppers hold SBC opponents to 62.6 points per game while scoring 71.7. Four players average scoring in double digits.

Chris Marcus and David Boyden lead the offense with 15.7 and 13 points per game, respectively. Marcus adds 9.4 rebounds a game.

Lee Nosse and Tommy Gunn will lead the Blue Raiders charge to

become Sun Belt Tournament champions. Each player averages just under 13 points per game. Nosse also adds senior leadership and 7.7 rebounds a game.

The winner of the Sun Belt Tournament receives an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

Tip-off for MT's game against South Alabama is Friday at 4:30 p.m.

Play continues through Tuesday with the championship game being televised on ESPN. ♦

## 2002 Sun Belt Conference Men's Basketball Tournament

Friday-Tuesday, March 1-March 5 • Lakefront Arena • New Orleans  
Host: University of New Orleans & Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation





## Lady Raider Basketball

# Women's basketball team in search of title

By Colleen Cox  
Sports Editor

The Lady Raider basketball team goes into the Sun Belt Conference Tournament as the No. 3 seed in the East Division.

Middle Tennessee lost to Western Kentucky University Friday in the last game of the regular season. The Lady Raiders had a chance to be the No. 2 seed in the East with a win over the Hilltoppers but fell just short.

MT will face off with the

University of Louisiana-Lafayette, the No. 6 seed in the West, in the first round.

UL-Lafayette (7-19, 1-13) had a rough time in the Sun Belt this season. The Ragin Cajuns scored only 59 points per game and shot just .378 percent from the field. Meanwhile, opponents scored 68.9 points per game and shot .397 percent from the field.

Sarah Richey leads the UL-Lafayette offense, scoring 13.1 points per game. Charlotte Green averages 12.2 points a game.

The Lady Raiders (15-12, 7-7) score almost three points a game more than the Ragin Cajuns. MT shoots .445 percent from the field. Opponents are held to 66.3 points per game on .414 shooting.

Senior Jamie Thomatis leads the Lady Raider squad, averaging 18 points per game and 6.1 rebounds. Patrice Holmes adds 12.7 points a game.

If MT wins its first round game, the Lady Raiders will play Denver in the second round. Denver (15-12, 11-4) is the No. 2 seed in the

West Division. The Pioneers scored 5.7 points more than their opponents and shoot .038 percent better. Nikki Weddle leads the offense with 14.1 points per game. Melissa Garcia and Ashley Atkinson add 10 points per game.

Florida International (23-5, 13-1) should be the favorite for the tournament. The Golden Panthers lead the Sun Belt in scoring offense, scoring margin, field goal percentage, rebounding offense and rebounding defense. FIU also is second in scoring defense.

The Golden Panthers average 74.2 points per game and hold opponents to 61.5. FIU also shoots about .050 percent better than opponents.

Gergana Slavcheva guides the offense with 16.7 points and 7.5 rebounds per game. Mandy Shaffer adds 10.3 points per game.

The Lady Raiders play their first round game against UL-Lafayette Thursday at 4:30 p.m. Their possible second round game is Sunday at 2 p.m. The finals take place Tuesday at 3 p.m. ♦

## 2002 Sun Belt Conference Women's Basketball Tournament

Thursday-Tuesday, Feb. 28-March 5 • Lakefront Arena • New Orleans

Host: University of New Orleans & Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation





Blue Raider

Q&amp;A

# Wiel likes Raiders' chances in SBC tourney

## MT Media Relations

Randy Wiel has coached the Blue Raider basketball team for six seasons. In his five previous seasons, he has had two 19-win seasons. Last season the team suffered through a 5-win slump.

Wiel played and coached basketball internationally and collegiately. He talks about his expectations going into the season and his views on the regular season.

*Where do you think your team's strengths lie right now?*

Wiel: I think we're very athletic, we'll have speed, and I think we have scorers. Last year we struggled to score. We have to take those scorers and hone their skills. We will have to find out things about them, like who's the better shooter, who's the better driver, and hopefully we'll improve our rebounding.

That was the biggest thing from last year. We weren't a good rebounding team, and then we got smaller [when Lee Nosse got injured]. Rebounding will be a focal point of our team this fall. You can control defense. I thought that last year we worked our tail off defensively, but we couldn't score. We just got outscored. A guy like (William) Pippen gives us some flexibility. He's really a small forward, but he stands about 6'8" with long arms. He gives us some size in a spot where we can use it. Derek Glasper is a very aggressive kid, and Steven Jackson has improved drastically, so we feel like we're going to be OK. I really think we'll turn things around this season as long as we can stay healthy.

*What are your impressions of the Sun Belt after playing in it last year, and where do you think you're going to fit into this year's race?*

Wiel: The league is strong, there's no doubt about it. Western Kentucky has about 98 percent of their team back from last year, so they should be the favorite on our side. It has to do with Chris Marcus because he creates problems for everybody. The other teams in the league are kind of in a rebuilding situation. Florida International and

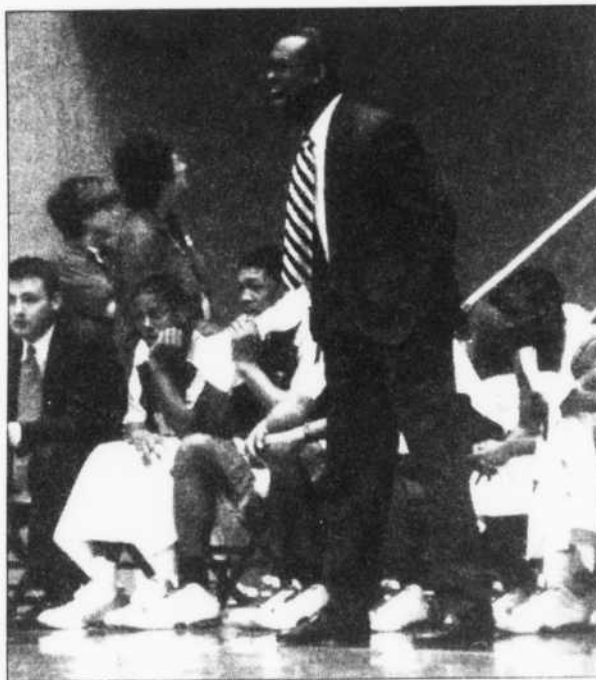


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

**Randy Wiel yells at the referees during a game.**

the two Arkansas schools lost some key players and will be working in some new ones. Even last year we battled and kept scores close in most games. With the improvements I feel we've made, we should be right there competing for the top. I don't know what everybody else has, so you can't say for sure exactly where we fit in, but I feel like we should be able to play with anybody. If we have a full squad heading into the season then I will have the same optimism that I had going into last season.

On the other side, New Mexico State and South Alabama will both be good. New Mexico State signed one of the top big men in junior college last year. There are some teams with new coaches and a lot of new players in that division, so it should be an interesting year. The one thing I do know is that we're better, much better, than we were last year. I think right now you have several teams in our division that look, on paper, to be each other's equals.

*Did the first season in the SBC change your philosophy at all, either in what you do on the floor and/or in recruiting?*

Wiel: The Sun Belt is as athletic

as the OVC, but the SBC has quality big men. Every team has players with size, and those guys can really play. In the OVC, you could get away with a 6'7" center, but in this league you have to go after guys that are like 6'10" or 6'9" with bulk. You have to have size to play in the post in this league. The halfcourt game is more prevalent in this league.

Your offense in the halfcourt has to be really good because the opposition forces you to do that. The league has opened up some doors for us to get in contact with some really good players. The Sun Belt, the Colonial, the Southern Conference – we all vie for the same type of players, but we've been able to get in on some guys that some of the others can't. I know that a lot of the strides we have made in recruiting have been due completely to the league.

*What are your thoughts on the regular season?*

Wiel: At the beginning of the season, and rightfully so, everybody picked us to finish dead last among the 12 teams. Right now, we cannot finish worse than fifth, and third in our division. Of course, Western [Kentucky] and Little Rock are ahead of us, and deservedly so. I think we came a long way from where we were predicted to finish. We played very good at home and struggled on the road, just like a lot of teams.

I think it's maturity that counts on the road when you tighten up and win the close ones. We have won every game at home except for two. One of those was in triple overtime and the other was to the

strongest team in the conference. We have beaten everybody else in the conference. By no means does that mean we are the best team in the conference. It means we have closed the gap, and we can play with anybody. In a tournament, anybody can win.

*How important is senior Lee Nosse to your team?*

Wiel: Lee's leadership off the floor has been the biggest difference this year. He's grown, and he's been here for five years. He's the

guy that calls team meetings and makes sure that the younger guys stay in line. He listens to all of the team's concerns and communicates them to the coaching staff. He is having his best year. We can depend on him because he gives the same effort night in and night out. The only thing that I could say about Lee is that he sometimes is not selfish enough. He is always passing the ball off, but that comes in handy when he gets double-teamed. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

**Randy Wiel instructs his players on their defensive positions during a game at Murphy Center.**



Lady Raider

Q&amp;A

# Coach Smith has team ready for postseason

By Joe Womac -  
Contributor

The Lady Raider basketball team heads into the Sun Belt Conference tournament as the No. 3 seed in the East Division after losing to Western Kentucky Friday night.

Fifth-year head coach Stephany Smith has her team ready to make a

run in the upcoming tournament. Smith posts a 86-58 overall record at MT, including a 30-9 mark in the month of February. She led last year's team to the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

*You have a great record for February throughout your career here at Middle Tennessee. Do you*

*have any special techniques you use to get your team prepared for the end of the season?*

Smith: No, we really didn't know what to expect last year in the conference, so we came together late when we found out that we could compete with the teams in the Sun Belt. It took us a little while to realize that, and conference play doesn't begin until January, so it took us one run-through to figure out that we could compete and once we mentally figured that out, the rest took care of itself in February. This year it's all at it circumstances, being that we have eight new players and it's just taken us this long to get that little crunch time. It's the push, it's the last time of the season, so I get a little more stern and sharper with everyone in the month. I suppose because my expectations for our program are high and always have been.

*Is the team already in preparation for the Sun Belt Tournament?*

Smith: Absolutely. We are preparing for the tournament, but we have been getting better day by day in practice, especially the past two or three weeks. Our rotation has been fruit basket turnover all season long because a different freshman was stepping up on a different night. And the reason that I keep talking about the freshmen is because they are half of our team. We have had some injuries and setbacks with some of our veteran players, which affected our rotation, and people learning at different paces. When you have eight newcomers, seven freshman and Jennifer Justice, who came in as a sophomore, some of them may have known what was going on right off the jump but may not have felt the chemistry, maybe didn't know exactly what her role was. I am speaking mainly about Jennifer Justice who became more of a go-to person when she discovered that she was supposed to score and do other things, and she became more impacting. Trice Holmes picked things up immediately, and she has been a factor all season long. Tiffany Fisher is a player that did not start evolving until January,



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

**Stephany Smith points to the scoreboard while trying to focus her team for the victory.**

and she is building confidence on a daily basis. You also have some other players that show up at different times. For example, Jessica Schlueter was a factor in November and December, where Renee Hall has been more of a factor in January and February. So it's been a little topsy-turvy, which has a lot to do with our late push, but I have high expectations going into the tournament.

*How do you feel about the Lady Raiders' chances in the upcoming tournament?*

Smith: I feel solid about our chances. Obviously I was a little set back with the second half of the Arkansas-Little Rock game, and people wondered why I was so upset when we won by 20 points. Well, at the half we were winning by 31, and in the second half, a team that hasn't won a conference game beat us by 15. We also had 16 turnovers in that half. The look on

our faces said that it was OK, and that's what frustrates me. But I feel like we are playing better basketball now, and we are gearing ourselves toward the tournament. We are a lot more focused now, and we finally realized what it's all about. It's nearing the end, and opportunities for postseason play are close, which is easy to talk about because we've been three out of the four seasons that I've been here. But when half of your team is new, they don't quite understand that concept. So you have to teach that, and now that it's nearing the end of the season, the new players are beginning to grasp that concept that it's not just three more regular season games, it's three or four games and the tournament as well and then postseason play opportunities. So we have a whole other season to play, and that light bulb is beginning to flicker with what still lies ahead. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

**Stephany Smith screams at a referee about a bad call.**



Blue Raiders

Basketball

# Men's basketball loses to Western Kentucky

**By: Justin Ward**  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team (13-14) fell in their last game of the season to Western Kentucky (25-3) 65-61.

The Blue Raiders were up at halftime 29-26 over the Hilltoppers. They came out after halftime and increased that lead to 43-34 with 13 minutes left in the game.

Chris Marcus scored 11 of WKU's next 16 points as they came back to tie the game at 50. Derek

Robinson and Patrick Sparks both made three pointers in the final 2 minutes of the game for the Hilltoppers to put them up 65-61 over the Blue Raiders. This was the Blue Raiders eighth straight loss to WKU.

The Blue Raiders outdid WKU from behind the three-point arc. The Hilltoppers led the nation with 246 three pointers entering the game, but they struggled Saturday night hitting only 5-24. Blue Raider John Humphrey had 8 three pointers by himself for the night, and he made a jumper to finish out his

career-high score of 26 points. He equaled the single game record for made three pointers. His 8 three pointers is the second most ever had in Diddle Arena. He was 8-12 from behind the three-point arc.

Humphrey led the team to their 61-point effort with his 26 points. Senior Lee Nosse led the team in rebounds with 13, his second highest amount for the year.

Chris Marcus led the Hilltoppers with 27 points and 11 rebounds. Sparks added 13 points, and David Boyden had 12 rebounds for the game.

The free throw line was also a determining factor in the game. The Hilltoppers were 16-22 from the free throw line, while the Blue Raiders went only 5-8. MT didn't even see the free throw line in the first half.

The Blue Raiders have improved greatly over last season. Last year, MT lost by 41 points to the Hilltoppers at Diddle Arena. This year they only fell by 4 points and lead for most of the game. The Blue Raiders have an eight game improvement over last season, and they are tied for fourth in the country for improving that much.

The Blue Raiders hold the No. 3 seed in the SBC East after their loss to WKU to finish out the season. They will play South Alabama in the first round of the Sun Belt tournament Friday at 4:30 p.m. WKU are the regular season Sun Belt Champions for the second year in a row. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

**Charles Anderson blocks a Western Kentucky player.**



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

**Lee Nosse avoids the defenders and puts up his shot.**

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## Lady Raider Basketball

# Women fall in final regular season game

By Justin Ward  
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders (15-12) fell to Western Kentucky (15-12) 66-62 Friday, losing their second place bid in the Sun Belt Conference East.

The game didn't take off at first, with the two teams combining for only 6 points in the first 4 minutes of action. Lady Raider Paula Pentilla sunk a three with 15:28 left in the first half to start a 12-2 run against the Lady Toppers, making the score 16-6 with 12:57 to play. All of the Lady Raiders points were behind the arc in the run. WKU came back with their own run 10-2 against the Lady Raiders. They came within one point of MT at 22-

21 with 5:08 to play in the half. The Lady Toppers tied the game up at the half 29-29.

Jamie Thomatis and Keisha McClinic both had 10 points in the first half for the Lady Raiders. Natalie Powers led the Lady Toppers with 12 points on 4-5 shooting.

The Lady Raiders started out strong again at the second half, scoring the first 4 points. WKU soon came back and tied the game up at 35. They took the lead 37-35 with 15:22 left in the game on a jumper by Shala Reese. The game was very close for the rest of the half. It was tied up four times and the lead changed hands 13 times in the final 20 minutes. Thomatis hit a jumper with 1:12 to put the

Lady Raiders up 62-61. Reese put up a lay-up for the Lady Toppers to put them up by 1.

Powers made 2 free throws to make the game 65-62 with 25 seconds left in WKU's favor. A three attempt by Thomatis was blocked, and Camryn Whitaker finished the game for the Lady Toppers by sinking 2 free throws with 8 seconds left for a 66-62 loss to the Lady Raiders.

Thomatis finished her last regular season collegiate game with 22 points and 3 rebounds. McClinic ended with 12 points for the game.

The loss to WKU puts the Lady Raiders in third place in the SBC East. Now, MT will not get a first-round bye in the upcoming Sun Belt Tournament that they would have received had they placed second.

They will have to play the No. 6 seed from the West, Louisiana-Lafayette, in the first game of the Sun Belt Tournament. The Lady Raiders will open the tournament in New Orleans, La., Thursday at 4:30 p.m. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Paula Pentilla makes a drive against a WKU defender.



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Jamie Thomatis reaches for a rebound against WKU.



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MT

## Track/Baseball

# MT women jump to victory

By Angelica Journagin  
Staff Writer

For the jumpers on the Lady Raiders track team, the 2002 Sun Belt Conference Championships was theirs as they took medals in all three jumping events to lead MT to victory.

It started Saturday in the women's long jump when Kim Freeman in her third and final attempt jumped a distance of 5.93 meters to pull ahead of Clarissa Johnson of University of Louisiana-Lafayette's 5.92 meters to come in third. Her teammates Letitia Eady and Stephany Reid had already placed in first and second, respectively, with a 6.09 meters and 6.01 meters.

"I hadn't been jumping well in the long jump," Freeman said. "I was nervous, but I knew I had to get a 5.93 for us to get all three."

Also competing in the long jump was Kiki Dickard, who came in the fourth place with a distance

of 5.86 meters, and Rolanda Howard, whose 5.49 meters placed her in fifth. After sitting out for three weeks with a torn hamstring muscle, Jameka Collins fouled out in her first jumps since the injury.

While the Lady Raiders swept the medals in the long jump, MT's Amanda Forrester took the silver medal in the high jump with her best jump of the season of 1.67 meters. Latoya Brown also competed in the high jump and came in seventh at 1.52 meters.

The next day was even better for the Lady Raiders as they made MT history by completely sweeping the top six positions in the triple jump. Leading the way was Freeman with 12.79 meters. Freeman currently holds the SBC record in the triple jump.

The silver medal went to Eady, and Reid came away with the bronze. Reid's bronze medal was bittersweet after she barely fouled out on a jump that was later measured at more than 14 meters and

would have provisionally qualified her for the NCAA tournament.

"At first, I was very disappointed," Reid said. "That was the farthest I had ever gone, even outdoor. But we have one more meet left, and now I know that I can do it, so I am looking forward to that."

On both days Reid had her best jumps ever. For teammate Eady, she didn't achieve any of her personal goals, but she was satisfied anyway.

"I just wanted to have a good day and have fun," Eady said. "I was so excited when we swept they had to hold me back. We all are very good jumpers, and the team is very talented."

Following behind Reid's third place was Collins in fourth, Deckard in fifth and Howard in sixth.

"I had set goals to get farther," Collins said. "But if I had to get beat by anyone, then I am glad that

See Track, 11



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Stephany Reid won the silver medal in the long jump Saturday at the Sun Belt Championships.

## Baseball team loses two of three games in TSU series

By Kevin Rose  
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider baseball team (2-1) used a strong pitching performance by senior Adam Larson and

a 6-run fourth inning to take an 8-4 win over home standing Troy State Saturday.

The win avenged a 16-6 setback Friday night.

Larson (1-0), making his first

start of the season, allowed 3 runs on 10 hits but was overpowering with 10 strikeouts in 7 innings of work. He did not walk a batter. Freshmen Chris Mobley worked the final 2 innings, giving up 1 run on 1 hit while striking out 1 in his first action of the season.

The Trojans scored first in the second inning. Collin Holder hit a solo home run off Larson to make the score 1-0.

The Blue Raiders got on the board in the fourth. A Justin Sims leadoff single led to 6 Blue Raider runs. Josh Archer followed Sims by being hit by a pitch. Doug Kunicki loaded the bases with a single to right. Chad Cooper singled scoring Sims. Seth Yarbrough doubled scoring Archer and Kunicki. Trojan starter Marcus Bell, the losing pitcher, was pulled.

Jason Howarth greeted reliever Shawn Andrews with a single scoring Cooper and Yarbrough. The Blue Raiders final run of the inning came on a groundout by Marshall Nisbett. Howarth scored on the play after moving to third on a single by Chuck Akers, making the score 6-1 Blue Raiders.

The Trojans scored 2 runs in the bottom of the sixth on a two-run double by Wade Miller but couldn't muster anything else against Larson.

The Blue Raiders added 2 runs in the top of the seventh. Sims led off the inning with another single. Sims came around to score on a home run by Archer, his second of the series, increasing the lead to 8-3. The Trojans added a run in the ninth for the final score of 8-4.

Archer, Yarbrough, and Howarth paced the Blue Raider offense with 2 RBIs apiece. Sims and Cooper added 2 RBIs each. Archer and Sims also scored 2 runs apiece.

The TSU offense pounded out 16 hits off four Blue Raider pitchers and used a 9-run fifth inning to take the win Friday night.

Travis Horschel started for the Blue Raiders and lasted only 2 innings, giving up 6 runs on 5 hits. Horschel, the losing pitcher, was chased after 2 innings of work. Jeremy Armstrong followed and gave up 7 runs, 6 earned on 6 hits in two innings. Stephen Kines didn't fare any better, giving up 3

runs, 2 earned on 3 hits in 1 inning of relief. The lone bright spot for the Blue Raider pitching staff Friday night was freshmen Danny Borne. The lefthander didn't allow a run in 3 innings.

The Blue Raider offense came via the long ball. Kunicki and Archer hit back to back solo home runs in the top of the fourth, the first of their careers.

Nisbett hit a pair of home runs in the fifth and seventh. Both were solo shots. TSU starter Aaron Hunt worked 7 innings for the win. Hunt allowed 5 runs four earned while striking out 6.

The Trojan offense was paced by Lance Newman, who had 6 RBIs to go with 3 hits. Four of Newman's RBIs came from a grand slam home run in the fifth. Chad Howard added 4 hits for the victors.

The Blue Raiders return home for a two-game series against Eastern Michigan tomorrow and Wednesday. Both games start at 3 p.m.

MT lost 10-7 Sunday. Check Wednesday's edition of *Sidelines* for the complete story. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Marshall Nisbett takes a lead off second base and waits for a chance to steal third against Austin Peay Feb. 17.



# SPORTS BRIEFS

Compiled By David Hunter — Staff Writer

## 2002 football schedule announced Friday

The Middle Tennessee football team announced its 2002 schedule Friday.

The schedule includes four away games against Southeastern Conference teams and three home games in a row to end the season. The Blue Raiders will play a record number of games — 12.

MT opens the season against the University of Alabama Aug. 31. They continue the SEC road trip with a game against the University of Tennessee-Knoxville the following week and the University of Kentucky two weeks later.

MT plays their first home game against former Ohio Valley Conference foe Southeast Missouri Sept. 28. The two teams last played at Floyd Stadium in 1997.

The first Sun Belt game will be Oct. 5 at Arkansas State. The next week the Blue Raiders will make a return trip to Vanderbilt University to take on the Commodores. Last season the Blue Raiders defeated the Commodores 37-28 for their first ever SEC win.

MT host Louisiana-Lafayette in their first home Sun Belt game. The last time they met at Floyd Stadium MT pulled out the 41-38 victory in double overtime in 2000.

The Blue Raiders rematch with North Texas is Nov. 23.

You can order season tickets by calling 615-898-2103 or 1-888-YES-MTSU.

Tickets cost \$70.

## Football holds final Blue Dawn Tuesday

The Blue Raiders football team will have their final Blue Dawn Tuesday.

Head coach Andy McCollum is inviting fans, alumni and high school and middle school football teams to watch the action. It starts at 6 a.m. and last 45 minutes.

Blue Dawn is a period of nine days worth of concentration and mental toughness drills that started Feb. 12.

Blue Dawn includes nine stations that include drills by the players on agility, change of direction, footwork, explosion and mental toughness. If a player does not complete a drill or give maximum effort, he is subject to a penalty.

For more information, contact the Middle Tennessee football office at 898-2926.

## Ex-Vanderbilt coach interviewed for position

Former Vanderbilt quarterback coach and Alabama star quarterback Jeff Rutledge interviewed for the open MT offensive coordinator job Wednesday.

The job opened when Larry Fedora left last month to take the running back coach job at the University of Florida.

Head coach Andy McCollum has already interviewed former Auburn offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone, San Jose State offensive coordinator Norm Joseph and

North Carolina receivers coach Gunter Brewer.

Rutledge was at Vandy for the last seven seasons.

While playing at the University of Alabama, Rutledge became an All-American quarterback and led the Crimson Tide to three SEC Championships in 1975 and 1977-78 and the 1978 national championship under coach Bear Bryant.

Last Friday, Toledo offensive coordinator Rob Spence interviewed for the vacant Middle Tennessee offensive coordinator job.

He likes to run the "spread offense" that includes four wide receivers and one running back. He has spent a year as the Toledo offensive coordinator.

Other coaching stops include Louisiana Tech, Maryland, Hofstra, Holy Cross and Iowa. Spence has been an offensive coordinator or running back coach at each of these stops.

He is the fifth coach who has interviewed for the position. Mazzone, who earlier interviewed for the MT job, accepted the running backs coaching job at Oregon State.

## Tennis team jumps to No. 25 in rankings

The Blue Raider tennis moved up to No. 25 in the Omni Hotels Collegiate Tennis Polls this week.

MT leaped three places after beating North Carolina State and No. 54 Indiana last weekend at home. MT also has victories over

then No. 67 Louisville and now No. 22 Indiana State.

## Football coach leaves for University of Arkansas

Kacy Rogers accepted the defensive line coach job at the University of Arkansas Wednesday.

Rogers was the MT assistant head coach and defensive line for the past three seasons. He was a member of the University of Tennessee football team from 1988-1991. He played with the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1992.

In 1994, he played for the Shreveport Pirates of the Canadian Football League.

He coached at UT-Martin and Louisiana-Monroe until becoming part of the Blue Raider staff in 1999.

## Defensive tackles coach leaves for Texas

Due to personal reasons, Middle Tennessee defensive tackles coach Howard McMahan resigned Saturday to take



Rogers

the job of defensive coordinator and assistant athletics director at Copperas Cove High School in Texas.

He was the defensive ends coach at the high school from 1995-99 before coming to MT.

The past two seasons, McMahan coached the linebackers in 2000 and the defensive tackles last season for the Blue Raiders.

He is the second assistant this week and the fourth in two months to leave the Blue Raider program to take another job.

## Women's tennis team splits weekend matches

The Lady Raider tennis team (6-7) lost to No. 24 Alabama 6-1 in Friday.

Manon Kruse and Stacy Varnell took a 9-7 win in the first doubles match. Jennifer Klaschka and Verena Preiss got an 8-4 win to give MT the doubles point.

Alabama won all the singles matches to take the victory over the Lady Raiders.

The No. 74 Lady Raiders upset No. 50 Mississippi State 6-0 Saturday.

MT gained victories in the No. 1 and No. 3 doubles match and took every one of the singles matches in the victory.

The first outdoor match for the Lady Raiders is March 5 against UT-Chattanooga. Doubles start at 2 p.m. ♦



McMahan

## 2002 Middle Tennessee Football Schedule

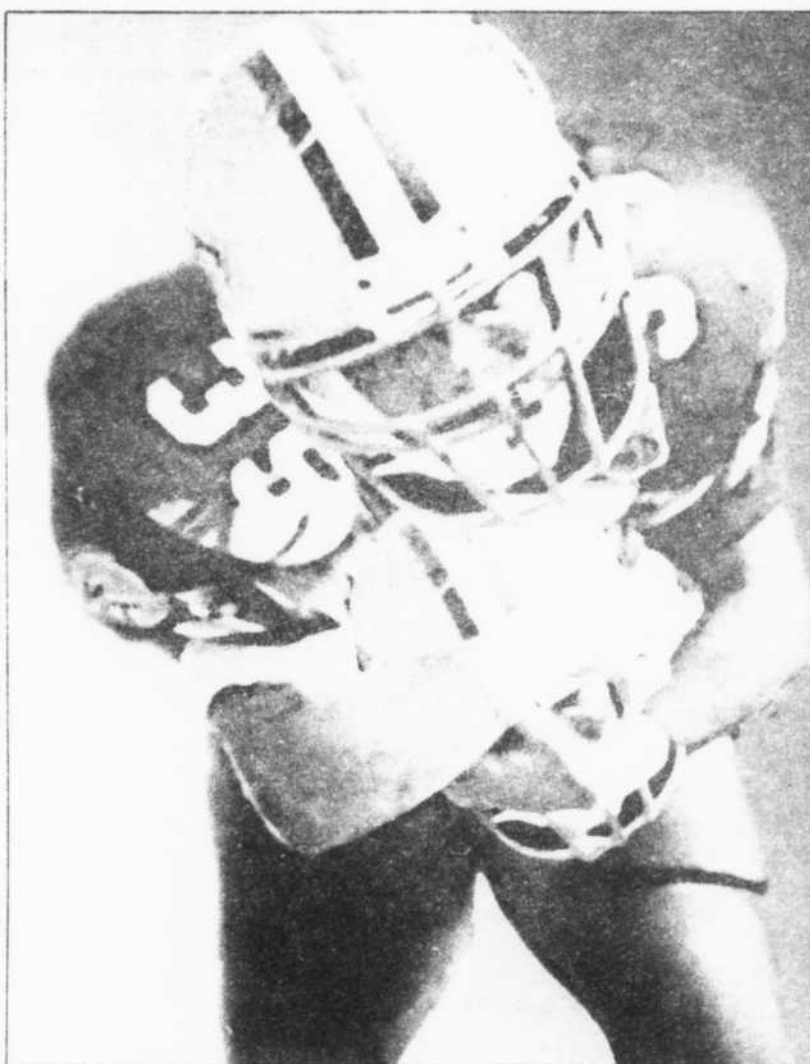
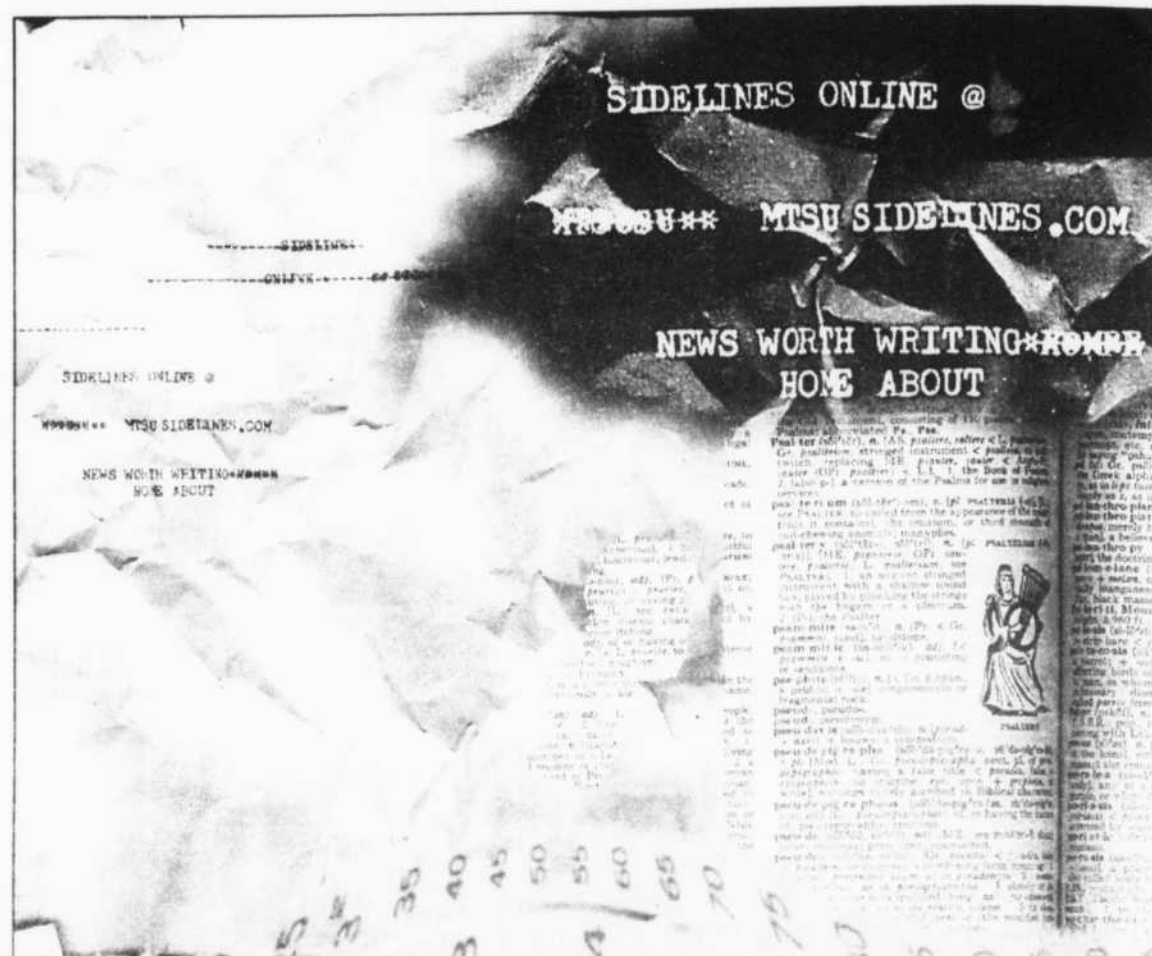
| Date     | Opponent                 | Location                   |
|----------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Aug. 31  | Alabama                  | Birmingham, Ala.           |
| Sept. 7  | Tennessee                | Knoxville, Tenn.           |
| Sept. 21 | Kentucky                 | Lexington, Ky.             |
| Sept. 28 | Southeast Missouri       | Murfreesboro, Tenn. 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 5   | Arkansas State (SB)      | Jonesboro, Ark.            |
| Oct. 12  | Vanderbilt               | Nashville, Tenn.           |
| Oct. 19  | Louisiana-Lafayette (SB) | Murfreesboro, Tenn. 2 p.m. |
| Oct. 26  | Idaho (SB)               | Moscow, Idaho              |
| Nov. 2   | New Mexico State (SB)    | Las Cruces, N.M. 4 p.m.    |
| Nov. 16  | Louisiana-Monroe (SB)    | Murfreesboro, Tenn. 2 p.m. |
| Nov. 23  | North Texas (SB)         | Murfreesboro, Tenn. 2 p.m. |
| Nov. 30  | Utah State (SB)          | Murfreesboro, Tenn. 2 p.m. |





*Sidelines* is hiring staff photographers for pay. Applicants must have own equipment.

Call 898-2816 for more information.



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## Men's tennis team defeats Georgia Tech

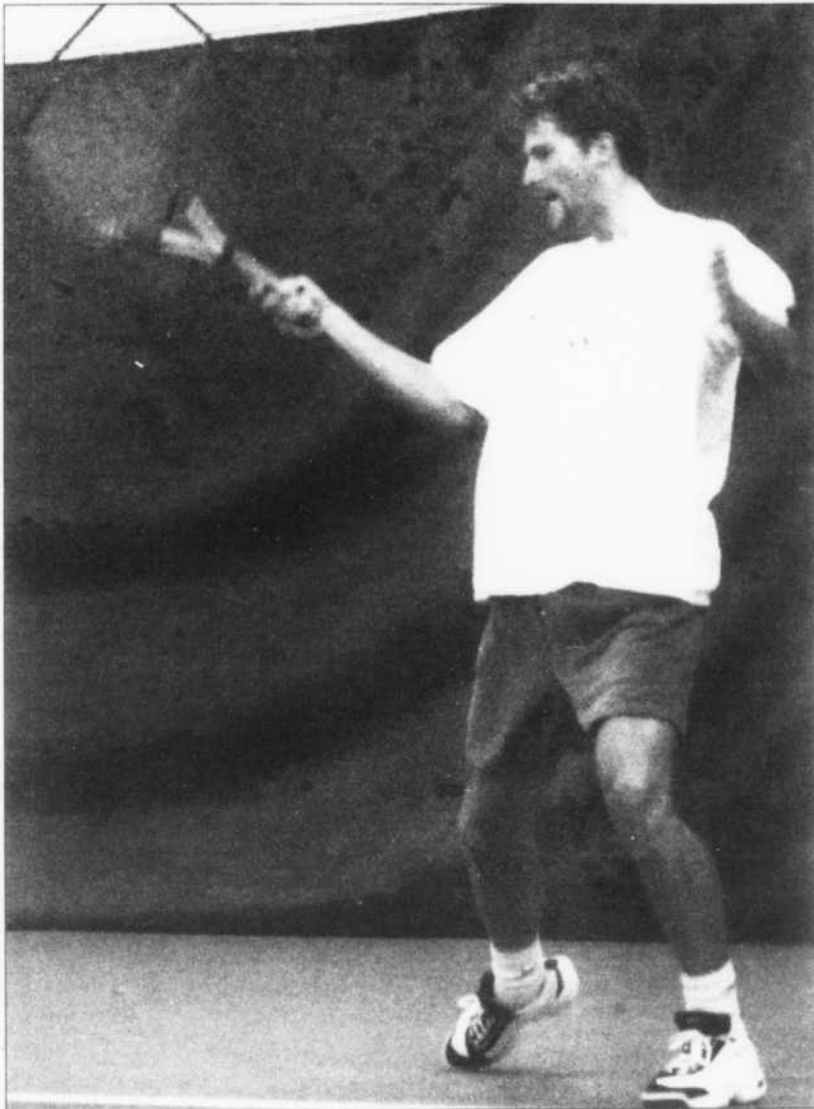


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Playing in the No. 2 position, Robert Gustaffson defeated David Wright of Georgia Tech yesterday, 6-0, 6-4. MT won the match 4-3. See Wednesday's sports section for the complete story.

## Track: Women shine in Sun Belt

Continued from 8

it was my teammates."

"We always said that we wanted to do this," Freeman said. "We had this big talk before the tournament, and we pulled it together as one. I hope that

we all stay together to do the same thing again."

The Lady Raiders last meet is next week at the Last Chance Tournament in Ames Iowa before the NCAA Indoor Championships. ♦

**What do you think about 'Sports Wrap'?**

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—Parking Ticket Appeal Reform—

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## Lady Raider Softball

# Softball team wins three games at Tech

By Colleen Cox  
Sports Editor

The Lady Raider softball team finished with a 3-1 record at the Tennessee Tech tournament this weekend.

In the first game, Middle Tennessee took a 4-1 win over the University of Virginia.

Virginia struck first with a run in the fourth. Lauren Dennis started the Cavalier offense with a single off Jennifer Martinez. Heather Field followed with a bunt single. With two outs, Dennis scored on a wild pitch for the only Virginia run.

MT responded with 4 runs in the top of the fifth to take the win. Laura Brockman reached on an

error by the third baseman to start the inning. Danielle DeCamino reached on a fielder's choice, and Brockman advanced to third on an error.

Leah Groathouse reached on another Virginia error. Steffi Silva hit into a fielder's choice as Brockman was thrown out at home. Lisa Sherman singled to score DeCamino. A Kip Phillips groundout scored Groathouse with the second run.

Martinez doubled to knock in the final two runs.

Five hitters had one hit apiece. Martinez picked up the win, allowing 1 run on 7 hits and striking out 7.

Tennessee Tech used a 7 run fourth inning to take a 7-3 win over

MT in the second game.

The Eaglettes had 5 of their 8 hits in the fourth inning, including a two-run homer by Leanne Mongar.

The Lady Raiders made a comeback in the sixth inning, scoring 3 runs. That was as close as MT would get.

Kristina Heib started the inning with a walk. Sherman doubled. After a groundout, Martinez singled to score Heib and Sherman.

Kelly Cormier reached on a fielder's choice. Lindsay Azevedo singled. With the bases loaded, DeCamino singled to score Cormier.

Steve Preator suffered the loss on the mound, giving up 8 hits and 5 earned runs in 4 innings.

On the second day of play, the Lady Raiders swept their games, starting with an 8-5 win over Louisville.

MT scored in each of the first 4 innings, and Louisville failed to make a late inning comeback.

The Lady Raiders jumped on the scoreboard early with a run in the first.

Phillips doubled. Martinez followed singled, and Phillips scored on the throw.

The Lady Raiders scored three runs in each of the next two innings and added a run in the fourth.

Louisville responded with 4 runs in the top of the fifth. UL scored the 4 runs on 5 hits off of Amanda Kendall, who had come in to pitch for Martinez. Martinez came back into the game to close out the victory for the Lady Raiders.

Martinez gave up 7 hits but allowed no runs in 6.1 innings of work. She also went 2-for-3 at the plate and knocked in 3 runs.

Sherman went 3-for-4 with 4 RBI. In their final game of the tournament, the Lady Raiders beat Bradley 5-2.

Bradley led 2-0 after scoring 2 runs in the bottom of the second. Amy Tubbs hit a solo home run, and Sarah Mancusa smacked an RBI single giving Bradley the lead.

The Lady Raiders used 4 runs on 4 hits in the sixth inning to pull out the victory.

Martinez tied the game at 2 with



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

**Danielle DeCamino rounds second, kicking up dirt after a double in the loss to Tennessee Tech University Saturday.**

a 2 RBI single in the sixth, scoring Sherman and Phillips. Groathouse knocked in DeCamino and pinch runner Jennifer Polsteen with the go ahead runs with a single. MT added a run in the seventh.

Preator picked up her first win of the season on the mound. She tossed a complete game, giving up 7 hits and 2 earned runs while striking out 6.

Martinez went 3-for-4 at the plate and knocked in 3 of MT's 5 runs. DeCamino finished the day 2-for-4 with a run scored. Groathouse went 1-for-3 with 2 RBIs.

The Lady Raider will be back in action Friday when they travel to the Frost

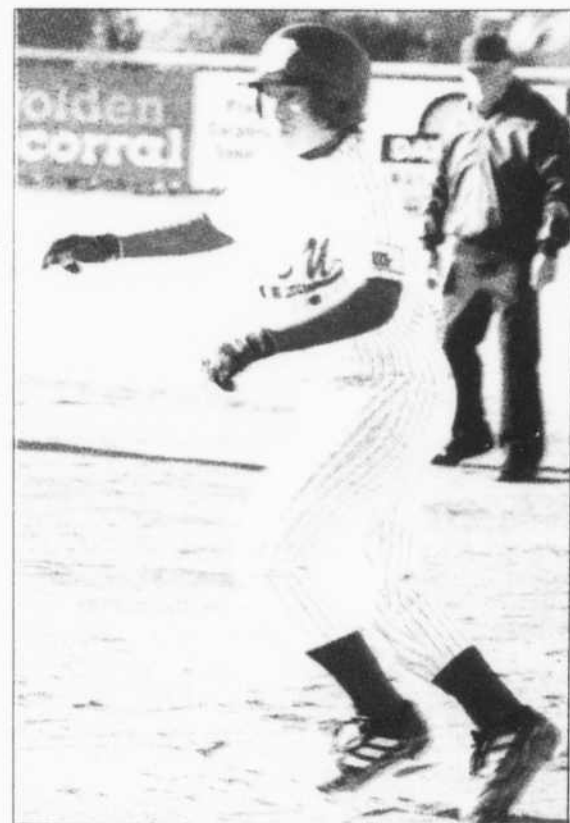


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

**Jennifer Martinez checks the pitch before taking off for the next base.**

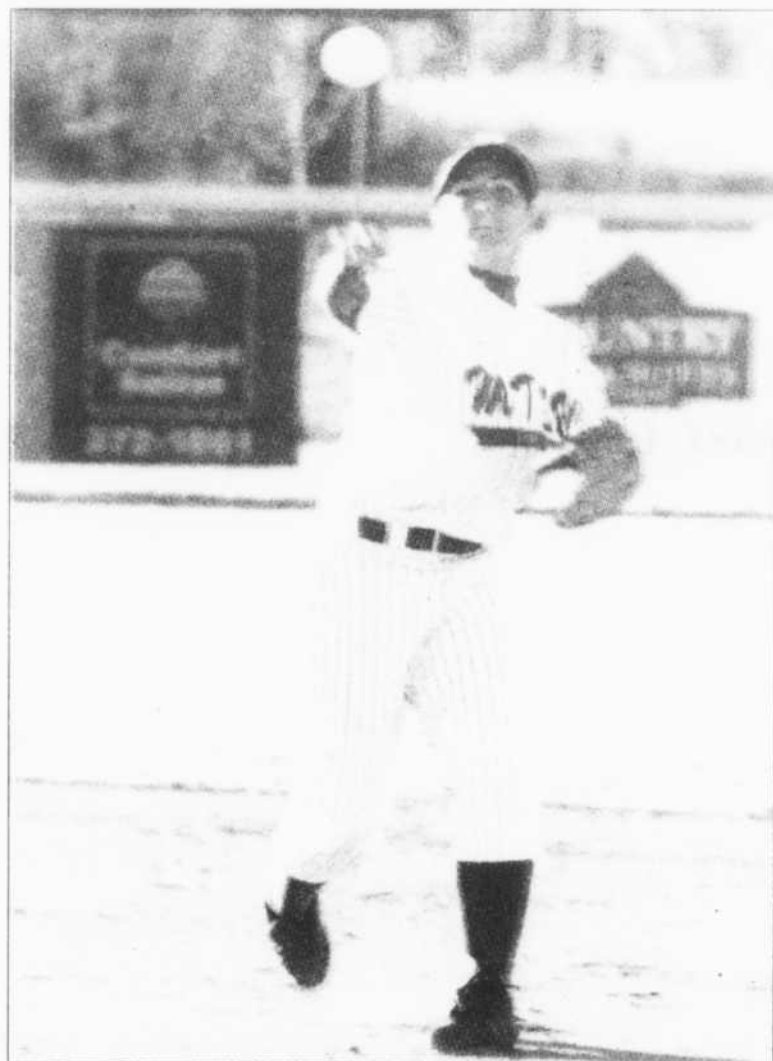


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

**Lisa Sherman releases her throw to the first baseman.**

Classic in Chattanooga, Tenn. ♦



