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In Spring Break Special, page 5

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

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An editorially
independent
newspaper

Volume 78 No. 76

Students unclear about funding

Technology Access Fee uses misunderstood

By Amanda Maynard
News Editor

Student Government Association President Brandon Robbins was recently prompted to send out an e-mail explaining the SGA's relationship with the allocation of student Technology Access Fee dollars.

Robbins has received numerous phone calls and e-mails concerning control of TAF money primarily from the College of Mass Communication.

Students and faculty, he said, believed that the SGA received all TAF dollars and allocated them as they saw fit.

Department members expressed concern that the lack of funding for their department was due to not having a representative on the SGA, Robbins said.

"We had students that were calling concerned about TAF dollars," Robbins said.

"So, I sat down and came up with how TAF is distributed and I sent out a mass e-mail to all students to clarify any type of miscommunication."

The TAF committee consisted of 20 members, two of which represent the SGA, who vote on whether a department or organization will receive funding through TAF money.

"TAF dollars are charged to all students enrolled in the university and are distributed through set guidelines established by a university committee and are approved by the [university] president," according to Robbins' e-mail.

"SGA does not control or determine who receives the allocations."

The TAF process begins with the Tennessee Board of Regents' approval of various projects.

According to the Office of Vice President's Web site, to meet TBR's request that all TAF funds be spent in the year, MTSU approves more projects than there is funding.

As a result, projects receive funding on a first in, first funded basis.

Because projects are not allocated dollars, any savings through the purchase process are collected in the overall TAF accounts and used to balance the TAF accounts at the end of the year.

Every student taking seven or more hours is required to pay the \$20 fee per semester.

The SGA receives \$3 of that fee per student for programming and operation.

Robbins is successful that his e-mail has successfully corrected any rumors circulating about the fee allocation.

"What we basically got cleared up is that SGA does not control TAF dollars and that was my main concern," Robbins said.

For more information about the fee, contact Robbins at 898-2464. ♦

Protest draws unexpected crowd

Solidarity organizes anti-war activists

By Mealand Ragland
Staff Writer

Nearly 300 colleges and high schools nationwide protested yesterday the impending war against Iraq.

An estimated 500 people were in attendance at the "Books not Bombs" protest held on the Keathley University Center Knoll.

"When we organized this, this was not what we expected," Solidarity leader Ryan Husak said of the turnout.

Anti-war demonstrators held signs with slogans such as "Stop Mad Cowboy Disease" and "Bush, Stop Your Family Feud with Iraq." Not far away, those in favor of the war had their own signs, which read, "America is Worth Fighting

For" and "I'm Taking a Stand on your flyers."

"Most older Americans think that college students aren't involved," said junior Jonathan Long. "This is a good example that shows students are involved and knowledgeable about what's going on around them."

As the protest got underway, Solidarity member Andy Smith said that he was proud to "share dissent with people of all opinions."

Michael Principe, philosophy professor and Solidarity faculty adviser, was the first of 22 speakers and performers in the program.

"Policies being pursued upon by the government undermine the community," Principe said during his speech. "Bush and his cronies are ripping this country apart, regardless of how you feel about

See Protest, 2



Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

Pro-war activist Tim Dempsey argues with an anti-war protester while MTSU adjunct professor Andy Smith kisses his wife Victoria Jackson.



Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

MTSU alumna Fran Brandon, 81, views the rally from the courthouse. She says she worries her grandson will be part of the war.

Media, war to be discussed

Professor will examine media bias

By Christopher Brown
Staff Writer

Columbia University professor Tom Gitlin will address the mainstream bias of media reporting toward the anti-war movement today at MTSU.

Gitlin, a professor of journalism and sociology, is the author of many books analyzing the media. During the 1960s Vietnam era, he was the president of an anti-war movement called Students for a Democratic Society.

According to David Ryfe, a media historian and MTSU professor of journalism, the SDS was considered a radical Socialist group. The original leaders were Ivy League students who pleaded for political change.

"The SDS was not initially a protest group," Ryfe said. "They considered themselves the leaders of their generation."

During the Vietnam conflict, the group escalated to the forefront of the anti-war movement. The group was consid-

ered a "counterculture" to the mainstream movement in Vietnam.

Many SDS protests were downgraded by the national media.

"There's journalistic squeamishness at the unscripted disorder of protest," Gitlin wrote in the March issue of *The American Prospect* magazine. "There's disdain for outsiders, weirdos, out-of-stepniks."

After the Vietnam conflict ended, SDS quickly lost

See Gitlin, 2

President addresses allegations against 'Sidelines' in forum

Issues of racial diversity also on minds of students

By Juanita Thoun
Staff Writer

Sidelines' alleged abuses and the lack of racial diversity at campus events were hot topics at President Sidney McPhee's open forum yesterday.

The forum, held in the Keathley University Center Theatre, offered an opportunity for McPhee to field uncensored questions from students. Around 50 people were in attendance.

Several sorority members voiced concerns that *Sidelines* prints articles based on rumor rather than fact.

"What protections do students have from *Sidelines*?" sophomore public relations major Erica Hinton asked.

McPhee explained that the campus newspaper is editorially independent and operates under the same First Amendment rights as the *Daily News Journal* or *The Tennessean*.



McPhee

McPhee said he expects the newspaper to be responsible and follow good journalistic principles.

"But *Sidelines* is not a mouthpiece of the administration," he said.

McPhee pointed out that students have the same rights as any other individual in regard to printed errors. He suggested that those who feel harmed by the paper pursue a retraction and, when necessary, take legal recourse.

Another sorority member complained that Greek members often write letters asking for retractions, but that those requests are ignored.

Interfraternity Council President Michael Ceccarelli said he realizes *Sidelines* is just doing their job when they print negative stories, but that he hopes the paper and the Greek community can build a better relationship.

Another concern regarding better relationships was raised by senior psychology major Eden

See Forum, 2



Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

After recent nightclub fires in Rhode Island and Chicago, local clubs have increased security measures.

Local nightclubs deemed safe for regular operation

Clubs revamped after tragedies

By Lindsay Palmer
Staff Writer

Murfreesboro's Inferno Bar has revamped its security system in lieu of the recent incidents in the Chicago and Rhode Island nightclubs.

Inferno Bar already complied with required safety standards, according to Rob Fortney, the club's owner.

"We've all seen them a whole lot, but have you ever really pulled them out?" Fortney asked.

Fortney is also in the process of purchasing 5 extra gallons of fire retardant. He said that Inferno shouldn't need to use this, except in emergencies.

"Our policy has always been [that] we don't use pyrotechnics," Fortney said.

According to Fortney, any bands that play at Inferno are required to sign a form stating that they will not use pyrotechnics. In addition, before every show, a stage manager inspects

more of each anyway.

Besides restocking the extinguishers, the Inferno management also decided to conduct an employee training class for proper fire extinguisher usage.

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See Clubs, 2

Protest: Gordon's office final stop after marching to downtown area



Students gather on the Keathley University Center Knoll yesterday afternoon to support and protest the "Books not Bombs" peace rally sponsored by Solidarity.

Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

Continued from 1

war." During various speeches, pro-war demonstrators chanted "U.S.A.! U.S.A.!", which was usually followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. "We support what our country decides to do," said senior Pamela Stewart. Nashville author Molly Secours was another featured speaker. "Some of your classmates were upset because they missed a day of education," Secours told listening students. "Here is your education." Her speech included a description of words' various meanings. According to Webster's Dictionary, definitions for the word "peace" include the absence of war or hostility and freedom from quarrels. Secours also quoted South African writer Eduardo Galliano when she described America as an "upside-down world."

"If Alice in Wonderland was alive today and wanted to see the upside-down world ... she'd only need to grab the remote." At 2 p.m., demonstrators marched downtown to the courthouse. Along the route, there were various reactions from motorists. Some honked their horns in support while others booed or made rude gestures. Pro-war demonstrators didn't have a permit to march, but some of them were parked along the way. While marchers were en route to the courthouse, workers and patrons on the Square came outside to show their support. Cassie Brandon, a mother of two, was taking her children for a walk when she saw the protesters cross Highland Avenue. "I saw all these people, and I asked one of them what was going on," Brandon said. "He told me that they were going downtown to protest the war, so I went with them." After hearing speeches from a few more speakers, protesters hand delivered petitions to

Congressman Bart Gordon's office. Gordon's Chief of Staff Kent Syler greeted demonstrators who entered the office. Gordon has been in Washington, D.C., for congressional session since Feb. 25. The purpose of the march was to deliver petitions to have Gordon co-sponsor a repeal of his vote on a bill that allows President Bush to "deal with Iraq in his own way," Husak said. In the resolution that Gordon voted for gives Bush the authority to do what's necessary while continuing diplomatic process. "We certainly respect everyone's right to express their opinion," Syler said. According to Syler, Gordon's goal is to "force Saddam to resign, be overthrown or go into exile." Before the demonstration was over, Smith told the protesters, "There is nothing bigger than the power of the people, and the power of the people don't stop." ♦ Jason Cox contributed to this article.



Protesters march to Rep. Bart Gordon's office to deliver anti-war petitions signed by 500 anti-war activists.

Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor



Protesters gather on the Square in downtown Murfreesboro yesterday as they prepare to hear a group of 22 speakers.

Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor



Sophomore Mandy McPherson gives an anti-war petition to Bart Gordon's chief of staff, Kent Syler.

Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

Forum: Members of Greek organizations voice opinions over newspaper content

Continued from 1
Udoumana. She expressed disappointment over the lack of racial diversity at Black History Month events. A third participant in the conversation suggested that stu-

dents of different ethnic groups often wonder if they would be welcome at such events. A suggestion was made that blacks and whites personally invite friends of the opposite race to join them at ethnic-focused events.

McPhee concurred with this suggestion. "It starts with you," McPhee said. "How many of you have a lasting relationship with someone of a different eye or skin color?" Other topics addressed by

students were the Greek system in general and overall student participation at campus events. Jennifer Kirk, student programming chair, commented on sporadic attendance at pep rallies. "We're trying to get more

students to be involved in this university," McPhee assured the audience. "Rather than being a passive observer, you need to be an active participant." Turning his focus to questions and comments about the Greek system, McPhee firmly

stated that he did not think the Greek system was out of control at MTSU and that the Greeks had many positive influences on campus. McPhee said he was pleased with the forum's active dialog. ♦



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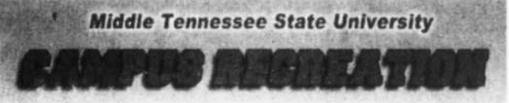
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University looking to improve Internet

By Mike Larkin
Staff Writer

Since MTSU's first connection to the Internet in 1992, the university has improved connection speed by nearly 400 times.

The connection speed, or bandwidth, in 1992 was 64 kilobits per second. The bandwidth is now 25 megabytes per second.

Computer science professor Al Cripps received a grant from the National Science Foundation to connect the university to Southeastern Universities Research Association Network in 1992, which in turn was connected to the larger NSFNet that connected universities across the nation.

MTSU's connection was upgraded to a T1 line in 1995 in order to connect to the Tennessee Board of Regents Network. Also known as TechNet, the network connects all of the TBR schools and the numerous technology centers across the state. A T1 line connects at a speed of 1.544 Mbps and is roughly 25 times faster than the previous connection to SURANet.

Greg Shaffer, MTSU's Network Services director, came on board in August of 1998. During that year, MTSU added a second T1 line to its connection. Three more T1 lines were added during the next two years, bringing the total to five lines and a total bandwidth of 7.5 Mbps.

In 2001, MTSU became the first university to connect to the

Tennessee Information Infrastructure, a network that would go on to connect not only the TBR universities and Tennessee Technology Centers but also state offices and other Tennessee universities like the University of Tennessee and Vanderbilt University.

Shaffer said that MTSU is a trailblazer and the Office of Information Technology spent many nights working with the TNII network administrators.

Last summer, in order to compensate for the expansion of the network to include all of the dorm buildings, MTSU upgraded its connection to a speed of 25 Mbps.

Currently, one-third of all the connections on campus are from the dorms. The rest are spread out across the various buildings as well as for the wireless network.

Recently, computer science chair Richard Detmer applied for a connection to Abilene, a network used by the Internet 2 group. Currently, MTSU is not a full member of the group but is being sponsored as a participant by Vanderbilt.

One of Shaffer's primary responsibilities is monitoring and managing the network's traffic and usage. In order to do so, the IT department purchased a piece of equipment known as PacketShaper. It consists of a seven-layer hardware switch that is connected to the incoming Internet connection and a software package that is used to manage the network's traffic.

Using PacketShaper, Shaffer is able to regulate network usage

and block illegal programs. It provides graphs and charts displaying network traffic as well as allowing him to allocate bandwidth usage for certain types of connections like File Transfer Protocol, person-to-person file sharing and game servers.

By limiting download and upload connection speeds, Shaffer is able to ensure that everyone gets the same connection speed, and no one hogs all the bandwidth.

Besides limiting and blocking, PacketShaper is also used to maximize network usage in an efficient manner. By regulating and prioritizing network usage, MTSU does not need to keep increasing the total bandwidth every year, which is extremely expensive compared to PacketShaper.

"Without it we couldn't run our video-streaming service," Shaffer said.

Currently, university President Sidney McPhee uses the service to hold conferences, and computer science professor Roland Untch uses it to teach an online class.

By guaranteeing a constant amount of bandwidth through PacketShaper, the video streams are rarely interrupted or slowed down.

Shaffer has paid for itself many times over.

"I pretty much know what's going on at all times," Shaffer said of the PacketShaper equipment.

For more information, contact Shaffer at 898-5753 or at schaffer@mtsu.edu. ♦

Schuil survived by two children

Staff Reports

Former MTSU employee, Rem S.P. Schuil, passed away March 2.

A native of the Netherlands, Schuil worked as Special Projects Coordinator for MTSU.

In this position, he aided in the development of a fifth major airport in the United States that would also accom-

modate a high-speed passenger rail system to provide service to 85 percent of the total U.S. population within a 600-mile radius of Nashville, Tenn.

His commitment to this project continued until his death.

Prior to taking his position at MTSU, Mr. Schuil was a practicing dentist in Nashville.

He is survived by his two children, Friesia and Remmie,

two stepsons, Geg and David Keith, and wife Jennifer.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Rem S. P. Schuil Memorial Fund at First Community Bank of Bedford County, P.O. Box 1027, Shelbyville, TN, 37130.

A memorial service will be held at Jennings and Ayers, 820 S. Church St., Murfreesboro, Tenn., March 12 at 4:30 p.m. ♦

Professor leaves scholarship legacy

Staff Reports

Retired history professor Thelma Jennings passed away March 3. Ms. Jennings attended MTSU from 1937 to 1939 and from 1950 to 1962.

She was a member of the his-

tory department from 1967 to 1985.

She funded the Jennings Scholarship Fund that recognizes outstanding academic scholarship of graduate students in history.

The funeral will be held

today at 2 p.m. with visitation beginning at 10 a.m. until services begin.

Burial services will be at Edwards Cemetery in Watertown. For directions, call Hunter Funeral Home at (615) 237-9318. ♦

Clubs: Bars developing new safety plans

Continued from 1

the equipment for pyrotechnics and signs a form as well.

The Inferno staff is also developing an in-house emergency action plan, Fortney said. The employees will be aware of how to respond to an emergency ahead of time.

Fortney also said they are creating a recorded safety reminder for the customers.

"We've got it kind of funny - kind of like an amusement park ride," Fortney said.

Besides Inferno's being revamped, other clubs in town also claim to be up to emergency standards.

Jody Baron, manager of

Faces, claims that the local bar and nightclub has the required number of exits.

"We haven't done anything differently because we've always done it correctly," Baron said.

Other local club managers echoed Baron's sentiment.

"We have three different exits. We didn't really have to change anything," said Kristyn Wilson, manager of Hurricane's Bar and Grill.

"Our establishment is up to fire safety standards," Wilson said. "We adhere to any law that Tennessee goes by as far as safety standards go."

After the fire in the Rhode Island nightclub Feb. 24, the basic attitude is one of caution.

The West Warwick nightclub, known as The Station, was using pyrotechnics in a Great White concert that night, when the roof caught on fire. The club did not have a pyrotechnics permit.

"I think you're going to see a different era in nightclubs with that thing happening," Fortney said. "People are going to jail up there."

Fortney said his nightclub goes to great lengths to prevent a similar accident from occurring locally.

"I don't want people to get hurt," he said.

"There's no reason for something bad to happen when you can avert it." ♦

Gitlin: Media now seeing anti-war movement

Continued from 1

support, and eventually dissolved.

"I found myself a movement leader without a movement," Gitlin said to Ryfe.

Gitlin, in his years of expertise in media relations dating back to his involvement in the SDS, noticed that journalists tend to squelch the coverage of the anti-war movement in a bias to deliver a mainstream nationalistic report.

As the Iraqi conflict unfolds, more and more segments of the population are leading demonstrations in opposition to military action.

The media, until recently, downplayed anti-war demon-

strations, giving them little coverage. When between 100,000 and 200,000 protesters showed up in Washington Oct. 26, the *Washington Post* didn't even put the event on the front page of the newspaper, according to Gitlin.

"There's deference to Bush, to his policies and his mis-estimated popularity that journalists continue to assume," Gitlin wrote.

The nationalism can be seen on major 24-hour network news channels with fancy slogans such as "The Countdown to War," as the ratings soar.

"Cable stations are reveling in the emotions of war. 'The Countdown to War' assumes there has already been a deci-

sion to go to war," Ryfe said.

During the initial phases of the anti-war movement, networks sought opinions of dissent from celebrities such as Jane Fonda and failed to consult experts.

Now, the media is beginning to recognize a strong anti-war movement, Gitlin wrote.

"They're trying to play catch-up," he wrote.

"The major media are much less major than they used to be, but the coverage of dissent within their circles hasn't changed much since the 1960s," Gitlin wrote.

Gitlin will speak at 3 p.m. today in Room 104 in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building. ♦



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OPINIONS

The Almighty more likely liberal

Four Shots of Espresso



Alan Coulter
Staff Columnist

"God is not a Republican."

I know this comes as a great shock to a large percentage of our campus, but just because the acronym "GOP" ("Grand Old Party") looks like "GOD" doesn't mean conservatives have a monopoly on the Almighty.

When I first heard the opening quote by minister and George W. Bush supporter Rick Joyner in 2000, I finally knew I wasn't some heretic for my more-than-occasional leanings to the left.

It gets annoying when people find out that I'm a Christian, and they automatically say, "Oh, so you're a Republican,

right?" As if the opposite would hurl me into eternal damnation.

All Democrats aren't heathens, and I can assure you that not all Republicans go to Heaven. The latest racial slurs in the media should be proof.

Wait, did I just say that racism in the Republican Party is still around? Paging Mr. Trent Lott. Yes, I think racist go to hell. You put two and two together.

Actually, Democrats have been taking a stand on issues that line up with family values just as much as those held by the GOP.

Take the environment, for example. It seems that conservatives are willing to let, say, trash some Alaskan wildlife for the sake of making a buck and squeezing out a few months' supply of oil. That seems godly.

The last time I checked Genesis, God put man in charge of maintaining the

Earth and, well, if the GOP is so eager to trample on creation and run off to war, then there may not be an Earth left on which to raise a family. Family values don't mean much without a place to rear children.

Federal funding is another issue that gets my blood boiling. Compassion would say, "Kids are starving. Feed them." Hmm, makes sense, right? But cutting federal funding to benefit inner city children is only asking for a cycle of poverty and crime to start over in a new generation. But this means paying more taxes.

Well, I'm willing to sacrifice a few bucks in order to help someone I don't know. I could care less what his or her parents did and why they're on welfare or how much money is wasted. Reform may be needed, but elimination would result in disaster. Plenty of people are being benefited, and I think Jesus

likes it when hungry people get food and sick people get medical attention.

Many Christian Republicans would say, "But that's the church's job, not the taxpayers'." Well, I hate to have to deal out some hard truth, but the churches of America are not being the church. As it is right now, churches that would help the poor can't, and many mega-churches are stuck in building programs and forget about the homeless men in their parking lots.

Churches should help support people, one family at a time. Then, those families can get off federal funding, and we can move on to helping another family. But cutting the root of federal aid will never solve problems, only cause more.

Lately, I've been talking with my pastor about politics because I know he holds views much different than my own.

Yes, he's conservative.

It's healthy, and I respect him even more.

He doesn't talk down to me, and he always takes the time to see my perspective. He doesn't brand me as evil when I go against the sainted Bush, and he knows that when it comes down to it, I will support my country regardless of who holds the White House.

I know I need to be more accepting of conservative views, but at least I admit it and am willing to listen to what intelligent people have to say.

I can only hope that Christians will be loving and compassionate enough to understand that not all God's children wear elephant buttons and that Satan doesn't have an Al Gore sticker on his pickup truck. ♦

Alan Coulter is a junior English major and can be reached via e-mail at ajc2h@mtsu.edu.

From the Editorial Board Some suggestions for president-elect

Though the results of last night's final Student Government Association election vote count aren't contained in today's *Sidelines* (the results weren't available before press time), the *Sidelines* staff still has some concerns to pass along to the president-elect, whoever he or she turns out to be.

Viewing candidate profiles on SGA's Web site, it seems that the biggest issue facing MTSU is parking. While the average student enjoys rattling off epithets about Parking Services on a daily basis, MTSU's parking situation – though not ideal – is still a relative utopia compared to, for instance, our friends in Volunteer Land. They routinely have to park a mile or more from their classes after paying more than \$100 in parking permit costs.

The SGA and some student organizations have fought the parking beast for years and have accomplished little to speak of (in the grand scheme of things, of course). Let's place the parking issue to the side for a second and examine some other issues MTSU's SGA might consider tackling instead.

• When it comes to campus safety, lighting and call boxes are essential, but student awareness and action will be necessary to create an environment in which these crimes will not occur. The SGA should involve itself in making students fully aware of what they can do to prevent criminal activity.

• The SGA should pressure Aramark to become plastic- and check-friendly. It's an inconvenient shame that the campus eateries only accept cash and Raider Funds.

• Speaking of Aramark, the SGA should throw its weight around and relieve on-campus freshmen of the burden known as mandatory meal plans. Forcing a group of students (and their parents) to purchase this over-priced food plan is unfair and should be stopped.

• Convince the administration to make a final, consistent decision that will either install or remove the plus/minus grading system. Discrepancies in grading from course to course can only lead to confusion for students and professors alike.

These suggestions reflect issues this campus has dealt with for semesters, if not years. Hopefully, the new president will prioritize according to the students' needs, and some of these issues can be closer to a resolution by the time the next president is sworn in. ♦

SGA Election results will be posted today on www.mtsusidelines.com.

Cloning inevitable; regulation necessary

Finding Trouble



Audie Sheridan
Staff Columnist

Trying to stop human cloning entirely is wrong.

Technology is too easily come by these days for any American legislation to stop cloning from happening.

The Raelian cloning fiasco aside, there are good reasons to keep it legal (albeit regulated).

No, this isn't an endorsement for making new people. Fully developing a cloned human being presents all kinds of ethical problems, and we should certainly thwart this one specific goal.

However, House Resolution 534 places a ban on all transfers of DNA into human eggs.

The two aren't the same. Trying to grow a genetically identical human being requires something science has yet to replicate – a womb.

Something biologists are learning to do, however, is manipulate reproductive cells and keep them alive for research with high potential for facilitating medical advances. Just because America outlawed it does not mean that it won't happen.

What's going on here is a general misunderstanding of science.

A few years back, the uninformed American public damned irradiated foods. This procedure was without risk, promoted health and could have helped reduce food poisoning problems to near zero.

An irrational fear of radiation (something most people couldn't explain) put a stop to irradiated foods and killed our chances at a new, universal food pasteurization process.

A similar irrational fear drives both this debate and the bill currently in front of Congress.

Despite the inability of most people to explain anything about the scientific process of cloning, it remains widely condemned.

Well, here are a few things to think about: First, our ban on human cloning does not affect other countries, who, upon this ban, will have a head start on medical advances coming from this technology.

On top of this, H.R. 534 makes it illegal to trade in any material resulting from human

cloning (as they broadly define it).

It isn't farfetched to see, 20 years from now, mass-manufactured replacement organs to order with the advent of this technology. But, Americans will have no hand in making them.

Bad idea, America.

Next, there's the simple problem of trying to stop the advance of technology. Think about how computers advanced. These machines are highly advanced technologically, yet any 4-year-old can use one. Many teenagers can write sophisticated programs for them and create new technologies using tools already widely available.

How long do you think it will be before the same sort of widespread sophistication happens in the field of genetics?

People do things just because they can, and it's easy to imagine people running genetics laboratories out of their kitchen sinks.

Here's an underground ad from 2000: "Dirty Mac's Custom Hearts and Lungs: For those who just had to smoke."

So, how do we stop that from happening?

Easy – regulation. Making advances in technology illegal is foolish because they will happen anyway. It's better for them to happen under some sort of control.

If a group of field experts who understand cloning closely monitor advances and keep an eye out for abuse, then at least there's some sort of control.

Potential for misuse is never an argument against technology, especially not when the potential for good is even greater.

Don't make rush judgments on this issue. Cloning is far more complicated than the politicians and fundamentalist Christians make it out to be.

H.R. 534 went to Congress late last month. Take a little time and teach yourself a little about cloning. Look at researchers' points of view and see why they would like to keep doing their research. It isn't because they are evil.

When you can make an informed judgment, do so – then call your senator. ♦

Audie Sheridan is a senior philosophy major and can be reached via e-mail at als3g@mtsu.edu.

Crime, female status related

Wit and Wonder



Callie Elizabeth Butler
Staff Columnist

MTSU Public Safety is becoming undervalued at a time when its importance should be clearly recognized.

This group of officers and students do an excellent job utilizing all their resources in trying to ensure the safety of those wandering along campus sidewalks, in buildings and on other areas of campus. Yet, when a spree of sexual assaults occurs, the campus community turns to this department and asks, "Why?"

Perhaps instead we should look at ourselves. In a society that still doesn't view women as equal socially, economically or politically, why is this surprising? When a woman is defined as "weaker," she is also deemed lesser and becomes a victim in a society working against her. No amount of sidewalk lighting will protect her from that.

It is this fact that explains why sexual assault and rape occur. It's not because a police patrol didn't drive around the block with enough frequency. It's not due to the lack of lighting in a particular area. It's not due to what a woman wears or how she conducts herself.

Sexual assault and rape happen because we live in a world that undervalues women as people and implies that sex is a man's game. Women are told to "please" men, leaving a woman's pleasure as a secondary concern. This morphs a human being into a blow-up doll, and it isn't surprising that some men take that a step further and assume that a woman walking through a darkened parking lot is fair game.

The status of women can be easily compared to that of blacks within America. Historically viewed as a lower race, this group falls victim to brutal attack, frequent rape of black women, less employment opportunity and silencing by a dominant culture that often still views them as inferior.

or. Although the dynamics between men and women do differ in nature and severity when compared to barriers between differing races, there is a comparison to be noted.

To prevent sexual assault and rape, we as a society must elevate the status of women. The dominant group always oppresses the lower. Women, even today, are that lower group, and as a result, they fall victim to numerous acts of violence and oppression – not just rape or sexual assault, but also domestic violence, verbal abuse based on gender, inequalities within the workplace or in academic settings and other such acts.

This society has never shown any problem with exploiting and victimizing that which is deemed lesser – animals, the lower class, blacks and any other race that isn't the right shade of almond, and even women. What do these acts of violence really say? Does creating an employment barrier against Hispanics or raping a woman prove superiority?

When society can truly view women as an equal force in all facets of life, these assaults on women will no longer be such a present problem.

Americans must also step away from the idea that men should be aggressors. Aggression should not be a cornerstone of masculinity. Combine that notion with a view of women as lesser beings and the idea of men as the battleship captains of the bedroom, and sexual violence against women occurs. Our society's constant intermingling of violence with power fosters these types of injustices.

When we breed equality versus ignorance and hate, violence has no power.

So, don't blame Public Safety when you hear a group whispering about a girl groped in a parking lot.

It is the structure of power and the lack of motivation by most to change these problems that allows sexual assault and rape to continue. ♦

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at ceb2k@mtsu.edu.

SIDELINES

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Letters Policy

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



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Letter to the Editor

Online poll choices inappropriate

To the Editor:

Do you think you're funny? The poll question in today's *Sidelines* issue is valid, but the proposed responses online are completely inappropriate.

This is further proof of the anti-Greek sentiments that run rampant throughout *Sidelines* that you so callously deny. Others of us have had our screw-ups in the past, but Alpha Gamma Rho has always behaved as leaders to the Greek community and to the campus as a whole. If you want to bash someone, bring it on. Just make sure that, before you go trying to take the high road, don't even attempt to take it from the guys who built it.

Stephen Clay Delashmitt
Sigma Nu

SPRING BREAK SPECIAL

5 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Plan to be safe traveling near, abroad

By Kristin Hall and Wendy Caldwell
Staff Reporters

Anticipation of a week free from homework, papers and tests is growing, and many college students have decided to take advantage of the free time to travel.

According to the U.S. Department of State, the many students plan to follow the warm weather outside of the United States. More than 200,000 American teenagers and young adults travel to the Bahamas and 100,000 travel to Cancun, Mexico, over Spring Break each year.

However, in the midst of all the excitement, it's important that they know how to stay safe.

Traveling abroad offers an enormous amount of opportunities from visiting the lush climates of the Caribbean to the picturesque beauty of Mexico's beaches. Nevertheless, students should be aware of safety precautions when traveling to foreign countries, especially concerning health concerns and crime.

This year, the Department of State issued press releases con-

cerning travel safety tips directed toward Spring Break travelers.

According to the Bureau of Consular Affairs, more than 2,500 American citizens are arrested abroad each year, half on narcotics charges. Possession of very small amounts of illegal substances can result in severe penalties such as heavy fines or even imprisonment.

In Mexico and the Bahamas, all persons 16 years of age or older are tried as adults, and, if you find yourself in jail, the U.S. Embassy cannot arrange for your release.

Ray Gillispie, the division manager at the American Automobile Association Travel Service in Murfreesboro, recommends that if a student is arrested in a foreign country the first thing he or she should do is contact a lawyer.

"The benefit of traveling with AAA is that you always have someone to come to with a problem," Gillispie said.

Spending a little time doing research on your foreign destination can prevent many accidental mishaps from ruining your Spring Break. The Department of State's Web site

provides detailed tips and advice for travelers as well as background notes on countries worldwide.

For example, the capital city in the Bahamas, Nassau, is a top destination point for Spring Break, which makes crime an increasing problem. Parts of Nassau not usually frequented by tourists, such as areas south of downtown, are where most criminal incidents take place.

The fact sheet on the Bahamas advises that Americans take special precautions on jet-skis and other personal watercraft vehicles, because the water sports industry is not heavily regulated.

"When in Mexico, watch the type of water you drink," Gillispie advises. "I recommend buying bottled water instead of tap water."

The Centers for Disease Control urge travelers not to eat food from street vendors, not to drink beverages with ice and to eat only thoroughly cooked meats and vegetables. They also advise against swimming in fresh water, such as lakes, ponds and rivers, because of waterborne diseases.

These tips can prevent stu-

dents from contracting viruses and common illnesses during their vacation.

According to the CDC, between 20 and 50 percent of international travelers, an estimated 10 million each year, develop diarrhea per year. While a case of the runs may sound like the worst-case scenario for Spring Break, losing your important documents or all your money is much worse.

Gillispie recommends using traveler's checks instead of cash and keeping your documentation from the airlines in a safe place.

"Traveler's checks can be lost or stolen and can be replaced. Cash you won't ever see again," Gillispie said.

Tourists who appear distracted, confused or lost are prime targets for thieves and criminals, so the Department of State has a long list of ways to avoid becoming a victim.

Patricia Forkum, manager of a Local Hot Spot Tan and Travel, stresses staying at an all-inclusive resort. At these resorts, all activities, such as golf and parasailing, are done at the resort. Although it does cost more money, Forkum says it's worth

it. "It is safer at the resorts," she said.

Female students should follow local dress codes as close as possible and should not wear expensive clothing or jewelry. Walking alone or in a small group on a secluded beach is dangerous, and students should not leave belongings on the beach when swimming.

Most Spring Break destinations such as Cancun and the Bahamas rely heavily on tourism and these cities often make many accommodations to students and tourists, but travelers should try to respect local culture and laws.

Making the assumption that just because you are an American you can do as you please can land you in trouble.

In many countries, conduct that would not result in an arrest here in the United States constitutes a violation of local law. This includes acts of public drunkenness, underage drinking, littering or making obscene or insulting remarks.

Travelers should also practice safety while in the sun.

"Get your skin ready for that by getting a tan," Forkum said. She suggests starting at least one

month before the trip to begin slowly building up melanin without burning the skin. However, because the sun in many areas is very strong, she still urges the use of a good sunscreen while on Spring Break.

Safety is also important if traveling somewhere in the United States, such as the popular beaches in Florida.

For students planning to drive, it's important not to pick anybody up, said Public Safety Investigations Coordinator Darrell Collins. He added that, upon arrival, students should be sure somebody at home knows where they are.

"Travel at a safe speed and wear your seatbelt," Collins said.

No matter where you travel, learning a few basic phrases in the native language shows a willingness to adapt to the environment.

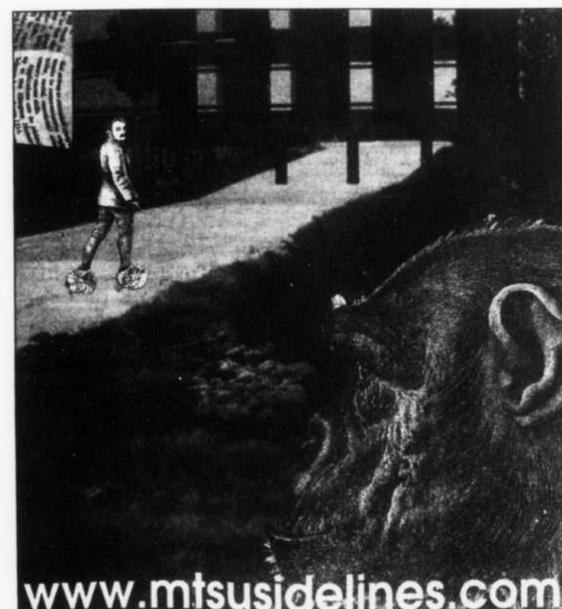
When school starts again, perhaps the addition of the phrases, "Where is the bathroom?" and "Give me another" to your Spanish vocabulary will impress your teachers enough for them to overlook your forgotten homework. ♦

Spring Break best spent alive, knowing where your hotel is



Illustration by Lucas Antoniak | Staff Illustrator

Jason Cox's Spring Break Guide to Health and Happiness Tip No. 6: Smoking crack in front of an elementary school is probably a bad idea, even if one of the students sold it to you.



www.mtsusidelines.com

By Jason Cox
Managing Editor

It's that time of year again, and many of you will escape the cloudy, desolate, sunless place that is Tennessee for beaches, mountains and any other number of vacation destinations (your mom's house doesn't count).

Revisiting my list from last year, "Wear sunscreen and other tips," (March 7, 2002), I saw some pretty good advice, considering I had never actually taken a Spring Break trip in college. My adventures in northern and central Florida last year gave me a few extra nuggets of wisdom (or common sense) to add.

1. Sitting on the side of the road by Busch Gardens at 10 p.m. sucks when your hotel's in Orlando and the tire jack from the van is missing. Check to make sure you've got a jack, a spare tire and a gas can before taking any long trips. It's also a good idea to keep duct tape and plastic sheeting. You can't let the terrorists win.

2. Keep yourself healthy. Drink lots of fluids regardless of whether you forget when you're on vacation and it's a healthy idea either way.

3. Don't drink and drive - it's never a good idea and many Spring Break destinations will have plenty of traffic that requires concentration of a sober driver.

4. If you're road tripping, get off the interstate if you've got the time and see some places you've never seen before. Even if there's nothing entertaining, there's always something to laugh at (i.e. a guns and ammo shop/convenience market, for example). Use your Rand McNally Road Atlas to plan your

trip.

5. Don't have a road atlas? Get one! Mapquest.com may get you to the Exit/In, but it'll likely send you straight to hell if you use it for a long road trip. Time spent in Cleveland, Ohio, Cincinnati, Knoxville and Orlando wandering the streets looking for that damned star is not fun at all. Use Mapquest.com to loosely guide you and the road atlas to back it up.

6. There's no good reason to be outrageously stupid. I want to reiterate that smoking crack in front of an elementary school is always a bad idea, even if an elementary school student sold it to you (and if that is the case, you need to reevaluate your, um, priorities). Don't get a noise complaint - the streets looking for that damned star is not fun at all. Use Mapquest.com to loosely guide you and the road atlas to back it up.

7. Taking care of your friends. Don't let them wander if you know they'd get lost or would not be able to take care of themselves.

8. If you're traveling abroad, know the local laws. A lot of people don't realize that your constitutional rights don't apply on foreign soil (and that goes double for Canadians living in the United States). A drug charge, for example, can equal the death penalty in some countries. Due process is a foreign term to many nations, so watch yourself.

Much of this is common sense, but sense is often overlooked. Follow these tips and hopefully you'll at least be safer, less stressed and healthier. It's nicer to come back from a vacation more relaxed than when you left. ♦

SCHOLARSHIP

The Amy Spain Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$500, will be awarded this spring, to the graduating senior planning on attending law school this fall. Amy Spain was an alumni of Middle Tennessee State University and an active Alpha Delta Pi from 1982-1986. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree she went on to graduate with honors from the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphrey School of Law. Amy obtained a position as an Assistant United States Attorney in Memphis. She held this position until a tragic automobile accident ended her exceptional life.

To continue Amy's legacy, some of her friends and family have established this scholarship. The Memorial fund will be used to further the education of an MTSU Greek female who plans to attend Law School. Candidates must demonstrate the leadership, dedication, commitment, and integrity which characterized and described Amy.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, please obtain an application from Betty Smithson, Associate Vice President and Dean of Student Life Office, Keathley University Center Room 212. Deadline for applications is March 26, 2003.

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SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Blue Raiders face difficulties against Tennessee Tech's potent offense

By Josh Beasley
Staff Reporter

The Tennessee Tech baseball team got the offense they would need in just the second inning of Tuesday's game against the visiting Blue Raiders.

The Golden Eagles plated nine runs off of eight hits, allowing them to cruise to a 13-3 rout MT at Bush Stadium in Cookeville.

The Blue Raiders jumped out to an early lead in the top frame of the second when Derek Phillips doubled to centerfield and later scored on a Cliff Thomas sacrifice fly to right field.

Trailing 1-0 in the bottom half of the second, Ryan Hay led off with a single and scored on Carlos Martin's home run to left field. A free pass and a hit by

pitch set up a two out single by Ben Shannon to score Brent French and Justin Mundt. Shannon went to second on a single by Cole Helms and later scored on a single to right field by Casey Benjamin to make it 5-1.

Hay then singled in Helms, which set the stage for Martin's second homer of the inning, scoring Benjamin and Shay to give the Golden Eagles a 9-1 advantage.

Martin took Blue Raider starter Shay Horseman deep not once, but twice in the bottom half of the second to plate five of TTU's nine-run rally.

Tech posted three more runs in the bottom of the third inning on four hits, showcased by a three-bagger by Britt Clubb.

MT chipped away at the Tech lead in the eighth when Nate

Jagers doubled and later scored following singles from Jerry Knox and Phillips. Chase Eakes armed the first hit of his career with an RBI double.

Tech provided the final 13-3 margin in their frame of the eighth when Phillip Hatch fired a shot off the leg of MT pitcher to score Cole Helms from third.

MT (4-3) was led by Jeff Beachum's three hits.

The Blue Raiders started Shay Horseman. The southpaw went one and two-thirds innings, giving up eight runs on six hits and picking up the loss. He was replaced by Steven Kines, who gave up four runs on six hits.

Fortunate enough to open up the spring with two consecutive home stands, the Blue Raider baseball squad will travel to Springfield to take on a three-game series.

The Bears (4-3) go into the season with their first-ever pre-season national rankings (24th by *Collegiate Baseball* and 27th by *Baseball America*) just one year after winning 43 games and making a return to the NCAA Tournament.

However, MT has already knocked off the 17th ranked Kansas Jayhawks just two weeks after the Jayhawks swept the LSU Tigers down in Cajun Country.

The Blue Raiders would like nothing more than to knock off the Bears as well.

"We've got a lot of experience coming back, and we've added several new players who will contribute," said SMS head coach Keith Guttin. "So, from that standpoint, we feel good about our team going into the spring." ♦



Photo by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer
MT pitcher John Williams has a .450 ERA for the season.

Sun Belt Tournament this weekend

Blue Raiders hoping for March magic

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Reporter

Anything could happen as the Middle Tennessee's men's basketball team prepares for this 2003 Sun Belt Conference tournament.

Coming into this season with new head coach Kermit Davis, the Blue Raiders were picked to finish fourth in the East Division SBC. However, MT surprised everyone in the conference by finishing second behind Western Kentucky (14-13, 9-5 SBC), earning a first-round bye.

"I think it's going to be an exciting tournament. Obviously, Western has the advantage because they're proven as the best team in the league and playing on their home floor," Davis said. "Any team can win any game in each bracket."

This Sunday, MT travels to Diddle Arena on Western Kentucky's campus to begin their quest for the SBC title. Their first game is against the third seed out of the West Division, University of South Alabama (14-13, 7-8 SBC) at 5:30 p.m. In last year's SBC tournament, the Blue Raiders defeated the same USA team in a nail-biter 48-47. It was MT's first win ever in the SBC tournament. MT lost a couple of days later to New Mexico State 63-48.

In the only matchup this season between the two teams, the Jaguars defeated the Blue Raiders 64-53 at the Murphy Center on Jan. 16. In that contest, USA's Chris Young led all scorers with 22 points in the victory. Young comes into this match averaging 16 points per game, which puts him sixth in the SBC in scoring.

However, MT's Tommy Gunn and William Phippen sandwich Young between in the scoring race by averaging 16.2 and 15.6 points per game. That has them positioned in fifth and seventh respectively, in the SBC rankings.

"It would be real fun to play in front of the audience. We know we have a chance to do it. This conference is a real even conference; everybody can beat anybody on any given night. So we are going to take it game by game, and it would be beautiful to play for that conference championship," Gunn said.

Western Kentucky (21-8, 12-2), No. 1 seed in the east, is the favorite two-time defending champion of the tournament.

The championship game is Tuesday night, March 11 at 8 p.m. on ESPN. The conference championship will get an automatic spot into the NCAA tournament. ♦

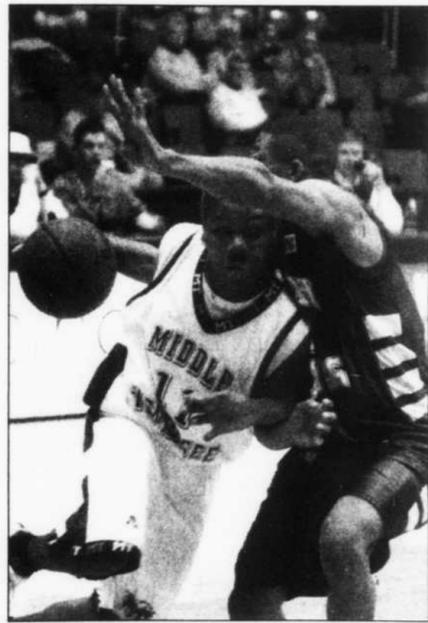


Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor
MT senior guard Eric Parham heads into March madness in the SBC tourney.



Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor
Seniors John Humphrey, left, and William Phippen congratulate each other after a game.

Lady Raiders start tourney at No. 2 seed

By Randall Thompson
Staff Writer

After a 16-11 regular season, the Lady Raider basketball team begins postseason play on Sunday at the Sun Belt Conference Tournament in Bowling Green, Ky.

MT garnered the second seed from the Sun Belt East division, the program's highest finish since joining the Sun Belt in 2000-01.

The Lady Raiders play the University of New Orleans on Sunday at 11 a.m. on the campus of Western Kentucky University at E.A. Diddle Arena. Sunday's game will be the second consecutive game that MT played at Diddle, having finished the regular season there last Saturday in an 84-73 loss to East division champion Western Kentucky.

Lady Raider head coach Stephany Smith said her team's familiarity with the arena will be an advantage as tournament play commences.

"Well, I think that it was our advantage to get to play a game at Western Kentucky in front of that crowd one week before the tournament kicked off

against the East division winner," Smith said.

However, Smith also said the homecourt advantage makes the Lady Hilltoppers the favorite to capture the tournament championship.

"I guess since it's [Western Kentucky's] home court and they won the division, then they're the ones that people expect to win it," Smith said. "They are a very strong team with a lot of talent and a lot of good players."

MT, as the No. 2 seed from the East, is on the opposite side of the bracket from the host Lady Hilltoppers. Therefore, any potential meeting between the two schools would not take place until the championship game on Tuesday.

New Orleans defeated MT in the only regular season meeting between the two teams, a 65-59 decision on Jan. 18 in New Orleans. However, that game was played without Lady Raider freshman Tia Stovall.

Since Stovall's return to the lineup from a foot injury, MT is 5-1. The Lady Raiders were 5-5 in 10 games that Stovall missed.

If MT advances past the quar-

terfinal round against the Lady Privateers, their likely semifinal opponent is New Mexico State, the top seed from the West division. That game would take place on Monday at 11 a.m. Arkansas State and the University of Denver are the two other possible semifinal opponents.

New Mexico State defeated MT during the regular season 73-63, once again without Stovall in the lineup. The Lady Raiders swept the season's two-game series with Arkansas State and also defeated Denver in regular season conference play.

MT's game on Sunday will be just the team's third game in the last 22 days. The Lady Raiders have played each of the last two Saturday games, and Smith said that her team's long rest periods should not be a negative factor in the tournament.

"Normally, [a week off] would be [different], but last week we had one game, which was at Western, the week before that we had one game, which was Florida International coming here, so this is our third straight

See Lady Raiders, 8

FDA, not Ephedra's producers, responsible

Sports commentary



Josh Beasley
Staff Columnist

Last month, Baltimore Orioles pitcher Steve Bechler collapsed and died at training camp. Inside his locker, only feet away from where he fell, a potentially dangerous dietary supplement bottle was found.

The bottle contained Ephedra, a popular weight loss and energy boosting herb. Now, the dietary drug is linked to the death of the young athlete.

Not surprising. Ephedra has been linked to more than 100 deaths and 1,500 reported cases of what the Food and Drug Administration calls adverse effects, including seizures, heat strokes and heart attacks.

Adverse? Deadly is more like it.

Among the victims: Rosanna Porrass, a 15-year-old soccer player who died at practice in 1998; Northwestern safety Rashidi Wheeler, who suffered a fatal collapse during a workout in 2001; and Sean Riggins, a 16-year-old football player who, in September of last year, developed breathing problems and died suddenly.

Banning Ephedra and other risky, unregulated supplements is only the first small step that should be taken to address this growing problem.

The FDA should be required to secure adverse reaction reports received by manufacturers and assert their normal authority over substances with potential for harm.

The NCAA has banned the substance, but the Major League Baseball Players Association and other professional organizations continue to drag their feet.

According to CNNI, Bechler was overweight, had borderline high blood pressure and an enlarged heart. Bechler should have been aware of the potential effects Ephedra would have on his body.

The center of attention should fall heavily on the FDA's lack of research into the consumer drugs.

As consumers, we generally trusted that anything available to us over-the-counter is not harmful to our bodies.

Not true anymore. With drug manufacturers becoming increasingly rich and influential, the business has become more and more competitive.

Instead of fixing the problem, the FDA just warns us of the potential disasters. The FDA no longer looks out for our health. It is up to us to protect our bodies by reading warning labels and educating ourselves on the dangers of taking these drugs. ♦

Coach, player named Sun Belt's best

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team performed beyond everyone's expectations this season, and the man behind the Blue Raiders' 2003 push was given credit yesterday.

MT head coach Kermit Davis received the Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year award yesterday from the league's coaches, media relations directors and various media representatives. Davis is only the third coach to win the award at MT.

Lady Raider Patrice Holmes also earned one of the conference's coveted honors as she was named Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Year. Holmes, the 2002 SBC

Freshman of the Year, was also named to the league's First Team All-Sun Belt.

"As an individual accolade, Patrice certainly deserves this award," said Lady Raider head coach Stephany Smith.

"She brings a lot to this team and the Sun Belt."

Holmes is averaging 16.2 points per game 7.1 rebounds and 4.8 assists per game.

Her 87 steals this season are good for second place in the Lady Raider record book.

She is only five steals away from tying decorated former Lady Raider Kim Webb.

MT junior Tommy Gunn was also selected to the First

Team All-Sun Belt squad on the men's side.

Gunn leads MT in scoring with 16.2 points per game and has scored more than 20 points seven times this season. Gunn received honorable mention All-SBC last year.

"[Tommy] has had an unbelievable season, capped off with perhaps his best game at Western Kentucky on Saturday," Davis said. "With the quality of guards in this league, it tells what kind of a year he had."

Blue Raider senior Tommy Phippen was also honored as he was named to the Third Team All-Sun Belt. Phippen is averaging 15.6 points per game for MT. ♦

Lady Raiders win before darkness falls

By Michael Rutledge
Assistant Sports Editor

Most things you can't do well in the dark. Softball is one of them.

The Middle Tennessee Lady Raiders' trip to Clarksville Tuesday came to an abrupt halt when the second game of a double header against Austin Peay was called due to darkness.

MT (6-5) was able to get enough time in the daylight, though, to slap the winless Lady Gobs with an 8-0 drumming in the opening game.

Austin Peay State University (0-5-1) and the Lady Raiders were scheduled to play two contests with a 30-minute break on the darkened field.

"The first game went a little long and we just ran out of time when we got to the fifth inning [of the second game]," head coach Cindy Connelley said. "The umpire made the call to

halt the game for safety reasons."

Although the first game ran long, it only went six innings because of the eight-run rule.

Senior hurler Stacy Preator found the hot hand pitching in the second game as she tossed four scoreless innings and seven Ks before the contest was canceled in the top of the fifth.

MT did most of their damage to the Lady Gobs early in the form of a five-run explosion in the third frame. Senior Erica Buhl provided the biggest fireworks of the day with a two-run homer during the Lady Raiders scoring spree.

Buhl's over-the-fence shot pushed the Tucson, Ariz., native up to fourth place in the Lady Raider record book.

Dani DeCamino ripped a pair of doubles against the Austin Peay defense. Megan Cherinka added a double to go three for four at the plate to

pace the MT offense. The Lady Raider finished the route with 12 hits.

MT travels to Cape Girardeau, Mo., this weekend to play in the S.E. Missouri Classic. The Lady Raiders will play a grueling two-day schedule with three games scheduled for Saturday and two for Sunday.

"This is a strong tournament field," Connelley said of the five teams MT will face. "It will be a real test for our young team."

Playing on the road hasn't been much of test so far this season, as the Lady Raiders went 3-0 in their last road stretch. MT lost three of four games early this season in Florida on neutral fields.

MT will face Drake University of Iowa, Sienna of New York, Nashville's David Lipscomb University and host state schools S.W. Missouri and S.E. Missouri Saturday and Sunday. ♦

Sports Briefs

From Associated Press Reports

Raider receiving duo stay in Oakland, re-sign contracts

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — Jerry Rice signed a six-year, \$30 million contract extension, giving the Oakland Raiders more salary cap room.

Tim Brown, the longest-tenured Raider with all 15 of his seasons in Oakland, also signed an extension, which means the NFL's oldest receiving tandem will stay together for now.

Wizards' Jordan out of play due to back spasms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michael Jordan left the Washington Wizards' game against Toronto with back spasms and did not return.

Jordan appeared to hurt himself when he twisted his body just before making a pass near the free-throw line in the

second quarter.

He stumbled as he started to run downcourt and left the game during the next stoppage of play, with 4:34 left in the period.

Jordan will be evaluated Wednesday, and coach Doug Collins said it will be a game-time decision to determine whether Jordan will play in that night's home game against the Los Angeles Clippers. Jordan hasn't missed a game this season.

Virginia basketball player stops pregame protest

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — A Virginia basketball player who turned away from the American flag during the national anthem will now face the flag during pregame ceremonies.

Deidra Chatman turned her back to the flag before the

Cavaliers' home game against North Carolina on Sunday, becoming the second women's player to conduct such a protest against U.S. foreign policy.

Toni Smith, a senior forward at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y., turned away from the flag before each of her team's games this season.

Iranian wrestling team boycotts New York event

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's national wrestling team will boycott the world freestyle championships in New York because of a U.S. Defense Department decision to fingerprint all participants.

Iranian Wrestling Federation official Javad Rofougar said his country finds the fingerprinting procedure to be humiliating.

The Iranian federation also sent a letter to FILA, the world wrestling governing body, ask-

ing it to move the venue if the United States wanted to fingerprint athletes.

Fresno State barred from WAC tourney for fraud

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — Fresno State will not be allowed to participate in next week's Western Athletic Conference men's basketball tournament after school officials pulled the team from other possible post-season play amid allegations of academic fraud.

The board adopted a new resolution that prohibits a member school from playing in a conference championship tournament if the school is also ineligible for NCAA postseason play in the same sport.

Florida State quarterback charged for gambling

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) —

Former Florida State quarterback Adrian McPherson was charged with one misdemeanor count of gambling, including on games he played.

McPherson, who started four games for Florida State last season, placed bets over the Internet on college and professional games during the 2002 football season, the school said.

He bet on every Seminoles' game last season, always wagering that they would win, according to the school.

Sources told investigators McPherson bet large amounts and owed a Tallahassee man thousands of dollars, the school said.

Young Nigerian baseball star dies in car accident

PHOENIX (AP) — Brewers minor league pitcher Augustine Ozorede died last weekend in a car accident outside of his home

in Ilorin, Nigeria.

The 18-year-old right-hander signed with the Brewers in May as a free agent. Ozorede, along with catcher Gbenga Olayemi, were both signed the same day, and the two became the first players the Brewers signed from Nigeria.

Ozorede was expected to attend extended spring training in Arizona in April.

St. Bonaventure boycott backfires; play continues

OLEAN, N.Y. (AP) — One day after St. Bonaventure players voted to boycott the remainder of the season, the school backed them and said the final two games would not be played.

The small school was forced to forfeit Monday six Atlantic 10 conference wins for using an ineligible player. The Bonnies then voted to skip the rest of the season. ♦

CLASSIFIEDS

INDEX		
Sales	100	House for rent 155
General	105	House for sale 160
Help Wanted	110	Roommates 165
Internships	115	Subleasing 170
Career	120	Lost & Found 175
Electronics	125	Personals 180
Textbooks	130	Pets 185
Tickets	135	Services 190
Misc.	140	Travel 195
Garage Sales	145	Wanted to buy 200
Apt. for rent	150	Other 205

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615-904-8154

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100 Sales

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stain protectant/ Recliners on ends and massagers. \$350. Call 585-1596. Brand new Mini Fridge & Dirt Devil Vacuum Cleaner for sale. 867-9915. Mongoose bike bought new in 2000 for sale for \$150 or BO. It has hardly been used. If interested, call 217-8813 or email MECB0@aol.com '94 Honda Accord EX, 2dr, Green, Alloy Wheels, CD Changer, Power Sunroof, 195K miles, \$4,750. Call: 615-893-7513. Electric Guitar-Gibson Epiphone, Les Paul style. Black w/gold pickups. One owner, like new condition. Comes with hard case. \$425. 898-3449. Trumpet/Silver Bach Mercedes. Very good condition, sounds great. Comes with hard case. \$550. Call 898-3449. Pontiac Grand Prix, 1994. Great Condition, \$5,000. Call 896-9395. Canon ES8200r 8mm Camcorder w/LCD-Flip-out screen, image stabilizer, 22X optical zoom, 700X digital zoom, remote control,

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OBO. 26" mountain bike with 21 speeds, bike lock and bike rack for car, all for \$150. Full range kick-er subwoofer system, hardly used will sell for \$225 OBO. 540-849-0192. 1995 Mercury Tracer. 73,000 Miles. \$2,800. Call 501-8785. Keyboard case: Anvil ATA Flight Case. Fits KORG T-1, 01/W, Triton Pro-X or similar 88-Key keyboard. \$325, obo. Call 898-2635 or see Dr. Piekarski in Mass Comm, Room 207. Keep the holiday weight off with Total Control! Burn fat, block cravings and boost energy! All natural, ephedra free, 6-week supply \$38.00 with a 30-day MBG. We do accept Visa, MC and Discover. Place your order today, 615-874-8232.

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110 Help Wanted
WRITERS WANTED Get experience and material for your portfolio by writing for a university publication. Apply in JUB 306. Babysitter needed asap. Mon. & Fri. 9-6:30 p.m. 1-year-old boy. Call Courtney 506-7712.

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120 Career

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150 Apt. for rent
Modern Efficiency in Historic Home. Walking distance from campus. \$500 includes utilities and cable. Call 456-3958. Duplex right across from MTSU library, 216 Airport Ave. 2 bedroom, living, dining, kitchen with appliances and hook-ups for washer and dryer. Hardwood floors, no pets. \$500/month. Matt Ward 849-2223 ext 288, leave msg. Apt. for rent @ Univ. Courtyard. Rent \$385. Dep. \$300 but I will pay half. Move in immediately. Lease ends July 31, 2003. Call 907-2261 or call forbreth@comcast.net. Room for rent. Male preferred. 1 bedroom with private bathroom in a 2 bedroom apartment. Move in anytime after exams. \$425 includes, furniture, appliances, shuttle service to school. Ground floor at Sterling Apartments. Call Nick at 423-503-6187 with any questions. Hurry! Hurry! One bedroom for rent in a two bedroom apt. Rent before Dec. and pay only \$385, includes everything-water, phone, cable, and bedroom items. Lease ends July 31st. Call 308-9700.

155 House for rent
1014 N. Maple St. \$700 a month. 2 bedroom with attic. 1 bath. 896-8540.

Large 2-story house 3 miles from campus. 5 spacious rooms for stu-

dents. Female students preferred. \$250 a month + utilities. Discounts available. \$50 off 1st month rent for the first lease. \$300 security deposit. Fully furnished, washer & dryer, dish washer, microwave, central H/A and Culligan drinking water. Call 898-2005.

165 Roommates

Roommate needed for small apt. \$255/month includes all utilities except phone and cable internet. Male or female. Small pets allowed. 896-3226. Looking for 2 female roommates for a nice 3 bed/2 bath house near campus. \$360 a month per person, all util., cable and internet included. Call Ashley at 474-0002. Roommate needed for 3 bedroom apt. at SUH. Available at the end of fall semester. \$420/month includes washer/dryer, all bills (including cable.) I will pay you \$100 on move-in. Call 898-3588 or email jwh2q@mtsu.edu. Roommate wanted: \$100 deposit, \$385 includes all utilities, washer & dryer, fully furnished. Call 615-907-3962 or 931-278-0043.

170 Subleasing

Looking for someone to sublease my beautiful apartment. Must move in immediately because I am graduating. Close to campus and inexpensive rent. Fore a limited time, a \$100 move-in rate. Rent is \$325 there- after. Please call 217-3327, ask for Jason or Kay. Amenities include Central Heat and Air, W/D, Major Appliances, and a great outdoor view, swimming pool and jacuzzi. One bedroom avail. in 3BR apartment at Raider's Crossings. Furnished w/W/D, ethernet hook-up, premium cable. Walking distance to MTSU. Rent is \$420/m. Call Jesse at 615-268-4114. Roommate wanted at Chelsea Place. \$295.00+ 1/2 util.

call 896-3612. 4 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. 1 or 2 male roommates needed at Sterling University Gables, poolside view. Furnished, free rent for February. 2 Excellent Roommates to live with. Lease ends in August. Call 494-3913 or 481-5600 as for Marcus Bell.

190 Services

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195 Travel

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205 Other

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0720 or go by Sterling and ask for 933C. Sublease apartment. Nottingham Apt. Across from campus 2 bedroom 2 bath. email chrispyatl@yahoo.com.

One male and one female needed to sublease 2 bdrms in a 4 bdrm/4bath apartment @ Univ. Courtyards. Will pay 1/2 of 1st months rent and security dep. Call 347-3956 or 347-3954 ask for David or Sarah.

190 Services

Appt. for sublease at University Courtyard for summer. Last 2 weeks of May are discounted. June & July are \$339 a month. Includes all utilities, furnishings, private bedroom, share bath. Call Kelly @ 893-6354. Female needed to take over lease @ Univ. Courtyard. Private bed/bath. \$365 a month, reg. \$385! 5 minutes from campus. Call Leigh (615) 482-3090.

195 Travel

Female wanted to sublease 1 bedroom in 4 bed/2 bath apt. one mile from campus. Fully furnished. \$325 a month/utilities included. Call Amber at 615-758-3333 or 615-430-7333. Male sublesser needed at Sterling University Gables starting in January. Rent is \$330 a month and I will pay you \$100 to move in! Apartment is fully furnished with W/D and has a view of the pool. Call 893-3118. Apt. for sublease at Sterling Univ. Gables on S. Rutherford Blvd. 1 bedroom available out of 4. WD included, \$300 month. Move in after finals. Call Jacob at 931-286-0207. I need a sublesser! \$485 per month includes everything, phone cable - full-size W/D, smoking is fine. Large 2b/2b apt. Male or Female is fine. Call 218-7447. Free 2 months rent. Free refrigerator and freezer w/lease agreement. \$370/month all utilities included. Sterling Gables (male) call 604-7400 or 289-

205 Other

band. Influences are mainly Radiohead, Smashing Pumpkins, Failure, Quicksand, and Hum. Let's see what happens! Call me at 896-3226.

Sun Belt Conference Men's Basketball News & Notes

South Alabama Jaguars

USA had a fantastic week as it finished the regular season with a winning record (14-13). USA closed out its home season in high style, routing William Carey 123-75 on Tuesday and edging out New Orleans 61-58 on Saturday. The win over New Orleans snapped a five-game losing streak to the Privateers.

The victory also gave the Jaguars the No. 3 West seed heading into this week's league tournament. Malerick Bedden had a big week, averaging 18 points and 8.5 rebounds. He shot 54 percent (15-28) from the field and recorded his third double-double of the season (14-points, 14-rebounds) in Tuesday's win over William Carey.

In that same game, he grabbed a career-best 14 rebounds in helping USA to its highest points total since 1994.

In Saturday's home win over New Orleans, he scored a game-high 22 points and hit a pair of free throws in the final minute to seal the win.

Senior guard Demetrice Williams played his final game at the Mitchell Center on Saturday night and was honored prior to the game. ♦

2003 Sun Belt Conference Men's Basketball Records

Final Season Standings

East Division

	Sun Belt Games				All Games					
	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	L5	L10
* (1) Western Kentucky	12	2	.857	W8	21	8	.724	W9	5-0	9-1
(2) Middle Tennessee	9	5	.643	L1	14	13	.519	L1	3-2	7-3
(3) Arkansas-Little Rock	8	6	.571	W1	17	11	.607	W1	3-2	6-4
(4) Arkansas State	5	8	.385	L1	12	14	.462	L1	2-3	5-5
(5) Florida International	1	12	.077	L4	7	19	.269	L4	1-4	1-9

West Division

	Sun Belt Games				All Games					
	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	L5	L10
* (1) Louisiana-Lafayette	9	3	.800	L1	20	8	.714	L1	3-2	8-2
(2) New Mexico State	9	6	.600	W3	19	8	.667	W3	3-2	7-3
(3) South Alabama	7	8	.467	W2	14	13	.519	W3	3-2	5-5
(4) New Orleans	7	8	.467	L2	15	13	.536	L1	2-3	4-6
(5) Denver	7	8	.467	L1	15	14	.517	L1	3-2	3-7
(6) North Texas	2	13	.133	L7	7	20	.259	L7	0-5	1-9

* - Division champion

NOTE: Number in parentheses represents division seed for conference tournament



2002-03 senior
basketball players



Penttila



Parviainen



Pippen



Parham



Watson



Mitchell



Humphrey

By **Trey Porter**
Staff Writer

They come from North Carolina and Tennessee, one is from Arkansas and two hail from Finland. These are the seniors of the Blue Raider men and women's basketball team.

The leadership of a senior player is priceless. These Blue Raiders met the challenge both on and off the court.

With the season almost over, the MT basketball seniors have only one goal left, to keep playing. The seniors travel with their teams to Bowling Green, Ky., this weekend for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

Paula Penttila: Lahti, Finland (Salpausselka High School). Penttila stayed for the senior year even after acceptance to medical school in Finland. She served as the team's leader on and off the floor.

Mia Parviainen: Helsinki, Finland (Makelanrinne High School). The economics major was asked to change positions and move out to the No. 2 spot.

William Pippen: Hamburg, Ark. (Conners State Junior College). Being the nephew of an NBA superstar cannot be easy, but the Blue Raider forward made a name for himself while playing hoops for MT.

Eric Parham: Nashville, Tenn. (Aquinas JC). He left his mark on the team with hustle and good leadership.

Demario Watson: Memphis, Tenn. (NE Mississippi JC). Watson, a center, made an immediate impact when he was a junior and is both a reliable defender and solid post performer.

Bryant Mitchell: Lawrenceburg, Tenn. (North East Oklahoma A&M JC). Mitchell is a secondary education major and struggled through injuries.

John Humphrey: Swansboro, N.C. (Louisburg JC). The criminal justice major tied the team's three-point record with eight in a game against SBC foe Western Kentucky. ♦

Lady Raiders:

Continued from 6

week of only playing one game a week," Smith said.

"We have kind of settled into a rhythm, and we get to keep doing what we have done almost the entire month of February."

The winner of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament receives an automatic spot in the NCAA tournament.

The Lady Raiders last qualified for the NCAA tournament in

1998 when MT competed in the Ohio Valley Conference.

The tournament begins today with three first-round games. First round games include North Texas versus Arkansas-Little Rock, Florida International against Louisiana-Lafayette and Arkansas State taking on Denver.

Western Kentucky, South Alabama, New Mexico State, New Orleans and Middle Tennessee all received first round byes. ♦

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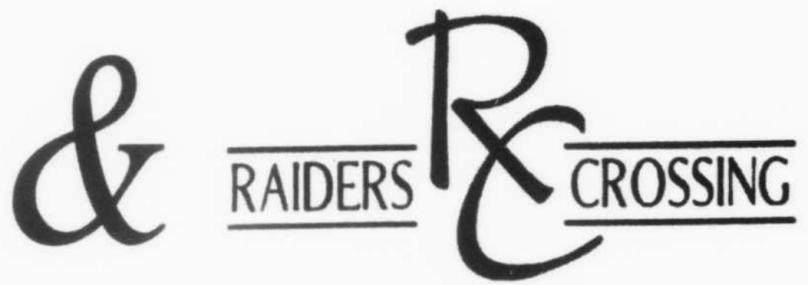
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