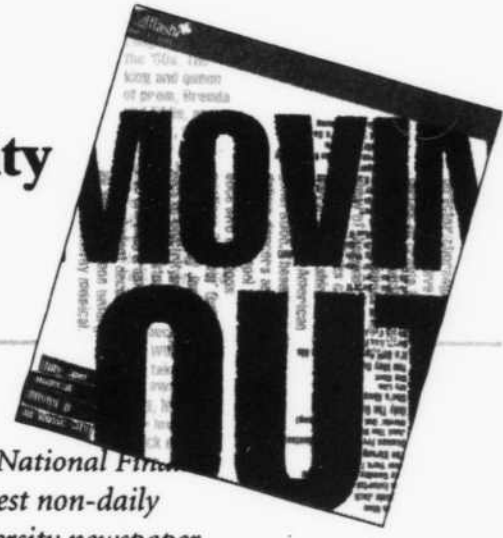


Can the Lady Raiders
do it again?
In Sports, page 6

Billy Joel musical
moves in on Music City
In :Flash, inside



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Volume 80 No. 64

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Paramedic pay increase planned

New taxes proposed to raise revenue

By Dana Owens
Staff Writer

Officials say Rutherford County paramedics are underpaid, but the county mayor is taking measures to increase their salaries.

Mike Nunley, the Rutherford County ambulance director, said low pay is causing the department to lose its senior paramedics.

The Rutherford County Ambulance Service is currently

having difficulties filling four full-time positions, he said.

Nunley has proposed a 2 percent increase in the paramedics' salaries, which would be considered for next year's budget.

Rutherford County Mayor Nancy Allen said she will include an increase in paramedic salaries in the pay plan she will submit in late June. Allen referred to the incentive as her No. 1 priority and said she "will do whatever it takes."

Nolen hopes for the state to "bless" the county with another form of revenue other than property tax.

Allen said the state legislature is not moving anything until a decision is made on TennCare. The county must wait for the legislature to pass the two taxes before they can be implemented.

According to Jeff Craig, director of Rutherford County Human Resources Department, starting pay for paramedics in Rutherford County is \$30,650. Though this figure is similar

to the starting pay of other organizations, the median salary is \$39,000-40,000 for paramedics in other Tennessee counties.

Due to shortages in the current budget, the county is unable to fund an increased salary for the paramedics. According to Allen, the low pay is an issue in other departments as well.

Despite the 1 percent raise county employees received last year, insufficient pay is still a

See Paramedics, 3



Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor
Low pay causes the Rutherford County Ambulance Service to lose paramedics, director Mike Nunley said.

Ambush!



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer
Junior military personnel are practicing squad tactical exercises this week. The students will be evaluated by senior personnel for leadership potential during two mock ambushes using the entire campus as a battlefield.

Red Bull giveaways no longer allowed

Urban Music Society loses backing

By Matt Anderson
and Katie Garland
Campus News Editor
and Staff Writer

MTSU's record label, Scared Rabbit Records, and the Urban Music Society have lost Red Bull's backing for its College Music Week, set for April 10-16.

Furthermore, Red Bull may not be allowed to hand out free product to students on campus in the future, and the energy drink was removed from the Keathley University Center Grille and other dining locations.

Coca-Cola launched its own

energy drink, Full Throttle, last month. Full Throttle is available on campus.

Coca-Cola has an exclusive beverage contract with MTSU, according to John Cothorn, vice president for business and finance.

Urban Music Society President Christina Walatkiewicz said that Coca-Cola threatened to pull its sponsorship if Red Bull products were not removed from campus.

Cothorn said he was unaware of the situation and the fact that Red Bull had been giving away energy drinks on campus.

"If they asked me, the answer

would be no, because of the agreement [with Coca-Cola]," Cothorn said.

Red Bull is sold in Dwight's Mini Mart in the KUC, but the store is considered a separate entity, Cothorn said.

Coca-Cola and Red Bull representatives declined to comment. Red Bull had agreed to loan a speaker truck for College Music Week, Walatkiewicz said. The company did not want to be an official sponsor, she said, but they planned to hand out free products at the event.

Red Bull had also offered financial help for College Music Week, according to Walatkiewicz, but now the Urban Music Society only has \$2,500 in student activity funds

for the semester.

College Music Week will include music industry workshops and performances from several genres. The event will still happen, she said.

"It's not going to be as big as planned," Walatkiewicz said. "We've lost credibility not having Red Bull behind us."

Red Bull is also the official sponsor of Scared Rabbit Records.

The label's president, said Red Bull has been very active with the group and that the sponsorship was on hold.

"Until they figure out what's going on on campus, they won't be sponsoring any of our events," Schneider said. ♦

Committee nixes bill to ban gays from adopting

By Lucas L. Johnson II
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A House committee voted down a bill to ban homosexuals from adopting children, during an emotional debate Wednesday that included the House speaker calling the bill's sponsor a "master at political divisiveness."

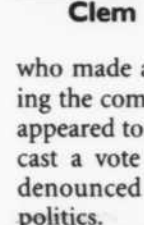
The Children and Family Affairs Committee voted 11-9 to defeat the measure, which had been watered down by a House subcommittee last week to remove references to homosexuals and to instead give preference to heterosexual, married couples over singles.

But the full committee decided Wednesday to vote on the original bill and not include the amendment.

During his opening statement, sponsor Chris Clem told committee members he knew the speaker and governor were "leaning" on them to vote against the bill, but he asked for their support.



on that particular bill, either directly or behind the scenes," Bredeesen said. "That's just flat wrong."



Clem House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh, who made a surprise visit during the committee meeting and appeared to exercise his right to cast a vote in any committee, denounced Clem's tactics as politics.



"This was a show," said Naifeh, D-Covington. "That's all this was."

Chairman John DeBerry, D-Memphis, told Clem his statement was inappropriate and "speaks to the lowest level of political pandering."

"You were totally out of order to call the governor's name, and the governor has not spoken to me at all about this bill," DeBerry said. "And the speaker has not asked me to make any decision other than to conduct this committee with integrity."

Gov. Phil Bredeesen said later in the day that Clem's statement concerning him was "simply not true."

"I cannot recall a single conversation that I have had with any member of the Legislature

earlier told the committee he was simply appealing for the bipartisan support he knew his bill needed to pass.

"That's the way it's going to be in the House of Representatives when you have the leadership that runs this House," Clem said.

"The bill is dead," he said and credited its survival "this far because of a couple of Democrats that have stood against the leadership."

One of those lawmakers, Rep. Nathan Vaughn of Kingsport and a member of the committee, said he voted in favor of the bill because he believes allowing homosexuals to adopt goes against the nation's "family structure."

"I see no reason at this point in time to change what we have stood for as a nation," Vaughn said.

"Children are best suited for a family environment that involves a mother and father." ♦



Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

A Honda Accord drives through a puddle on a rainy day. Storm drainage is an ongoing issue for campus planners.

Storm drainage on campus an ongoing issue, Miller says

By Daina Pretzer
Staff Writer

Every MTSU student has probably seen it happen, or has experienced it first hand: on a rainy day a car drives by too fast and splashes up gallons of water onto an unfortunate person on the sidewalk.

It happens nearly every time it rains. All around campus there will be standing pools of rain water on the grass, sidewalks and roads.

"I saw a girl get drenched by the Murphy Center and the car didn't even stop," Jennifer Hurst, a mass communication

major, said. "The worst part is walking in it ... being up to your ankles or the mud it creates."

But the problem isn't with the drainage systems on campus so much as the fact that Murfreesboro has very flat terrain and the water that runs through the south part of campus is part of the Sinking Creek system, according to Patti Miller campus planning director.

Storm drainage from campus eventually makes its way to Sinking Creek.

"Flood water is a result of development on campus," Miller said. "Downstream facil-

ities are not adequate to handle the amount of flood water."

Campus planning is continually working on improving campus drainage with every new building project. Improvements include upsizing drainage structures, pervious parking lots and using sink holes to manage the water, Miller said.

Only the parking lot behind Kirksey Old Main has permeable cement, which allows the water to seep through into the ground.

According to Miller, a significant and noticeable improvement in the drainage system

came about 10 years ago, when the huge storm water detention center was built by Greek Row. This drainage system holds about three-fourths of the water on campus, and eventually drains it back into the Sinking Creek system.

"We need to continue to make improvements to how we're handling storm water management on campus," Miller said.

Whether it's the pools in front of the Learning Resource Center or the mud in the field behind the Business Aerospace

See Drainage, 2



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com
Have you been treated unfairly by a professor for political or religious reasons?

'Sidelines' writers, editors honored in regional contest

By Michaela Jackson
Staff Writer

Sidelines was given top honors as the best all-around non-daily student newspaper in its region by the Society of Professional Journalists.

The region includes Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Western and Middle Tennessee.

The award was presented at a regional SPJ conference in New Orleans earlier this month.

Sidelines garnered several other awards as well.

The *Sidelines* Editorial Board received first place for editorial writing, and sports editor Colby Sledge won first place in the sports writing category.

First place winners will advance to the national competition. National winners will be announced on May 17, 2005.

Kristin Hall, *Sidelines* editor in-chief, won second place for in-depth reporting.

Third place awards went to staff writer Juanita Thoun for general column writing and former chief photographer Steve Cross for photo illustration.

"These awards are a reflection

of the energy and initiative exerted each day by the staff of the newspaper, and the high journalistic standards set by the leadership," said Wendell Rawls, journalism professor and faculty adviser to *Sidelines*.

"Everybody associated with *Sidelines* deserves to be proud of these achievements," he said.

Sledge, who was acknowledged for his achievement in sports writing, was also honored with a scholarship from the NCAA in conjunction with the Freedom Forum.

The one-time \$3,000 scholarship was awarded to eight students of sports journalism from varying parts of the country.

"The program is designed to foster freedoms of speech and press, while also promoting quality sports journalism education at NCAA colleges and universities," according to an NCAA press release.

"I am incredibly humbled by the awards I received," Sledge said. "The honors are a reflection on *Sidelines* as a whole."

"Certainly, Colby deserves high praise for this recognition of his abilities and his dedication to quality sports writing



Photo by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer
Steve Cross, former chief photographer, won third place for this photograph of Tommy Gunn.

and intellectually honest journalism," Rawls said.

Hall was also happy with Sledge's achievement.

"I am very pleased that the NCAA has chosen to recognize Colby and his writing because sports writing is as important to journalism as hard news," she said. ♦

Drainage: Student suggests rainy day detours

Continued from 1

Building, it irritates some students.

Stephanie Ragsdale, an elementary education student, has

a bit of advice.

"Have a detour, because you know where it floods," Ragsdale said.

"If you go to class, you're going to get drenched. You

know there's going to be streams and puddles," Ragsdale said.

"I have to remember to wear two pairs of socks and tennis shoes." ♦

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CRIME LOG

Compiled By
Michaela Jackson - Assistant News Editor

Friday, Mar. 11 - 8:44 a.m.
Tennessee Livestock Center
Theft Under \$500

Subject reported a camera stolen during the Indian Pow Wow.

Saturday, Mar. 12 - 3:05 a.m.
Deere Hall
Harassing/Threatening Phone Call

Subject called, stating that her roommate, Sarah Morgan, had received a threatening phone call. Subject requested an officer to check things out.

Sunday, Mar. 13 - 12:58 a.m.
Faulkinberry at Voorhies

Driving Under the Influence - Third Offense
Richard Tedford was arrested for his third violation of the implied consent law. Brock Downee was arrested for simple possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, and public intoxication.

Sunday, Mar. 13 - 6:53 p.m.
Cummings Lot
Vandalism under \$500
Report to be filed.

Sunday, Mar. 13 - 8:27 p.m.
Reynolds Hall
Harassing/Threatening Phone Call
Caller advised that she received prank phone calls containing profane language.

Sunday, Mar. 13, - 10:47 p.m.
Family Apartment H
Harassing/Threatening Phone Call
Caller advised that Keith Heithcock, a suspect in an earlier domestic situation, violated his order of protection against the caller.

Monday, Mar. 14 - 12:38 p.m.
Corlew Hall
Theft Over \$500
Subject requested an officer in reference to a stolen flute.

Monday, Mar. 14 - 4:18 p.m.
Nicks Hall
Vandalism Under \$500
Two fire extinguisher boxes on the second and third floors were damaged. ♦

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Applications SGA: 2005

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\$20.00 registration fee
\$18.00 weekly additional children
\$7.00 daily additional children

Paramedics: Excise tax has support of other counties

Continued from 1

major problem.

Allen has already proposed two measures to the state legislature in hopes of increasing revenue for Rutherford County.

The adequate facilities tax and an excise tax would increase revenue to the county and add enough to the general funds to increase pay in areas where it is deficient.

Other counties that are also having problems with salaries have joined in efforts to get the excise tax passed, Allen said.

According to Lisa Nolen, the Rutherford County finance director, the excise tax is a new tax that would provide funding for the county by collecting a percentage of what a buyer pays for a house.

The adequate facilities tax would allow the county to tax a home that is being built based on square footage and would replace another tax that is currently in use. There is also a pay plan study underway in Rutherford County to determine what kind of increase in salary is necessary, said Allen.

A large portion of the current budget goes into funding for schools in Rutherford County. The \$172.8 million that is reserved for schools is currently being used toward the building of three new facilities, Allen said.

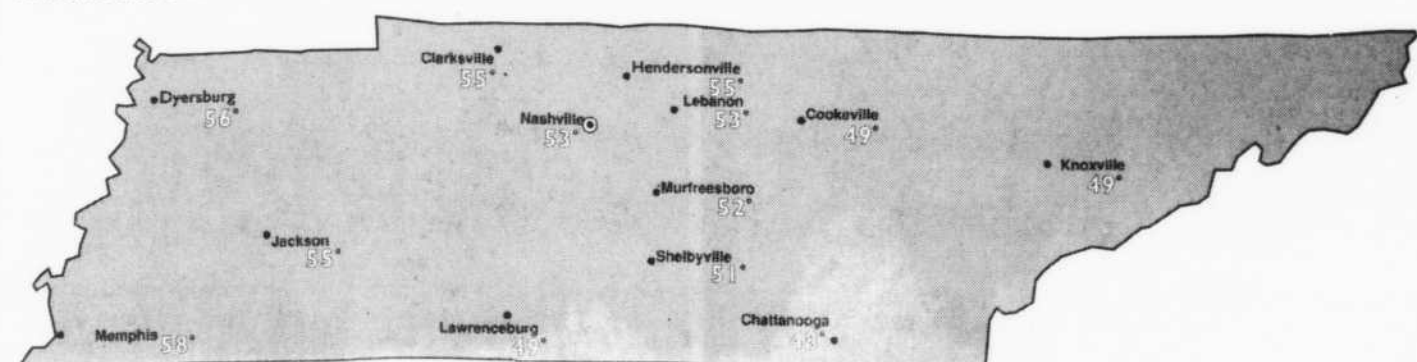
According to Nolen, general funds, which in part is responsible for the salaries of county employees, makes up only \$54.8 million of the total \$269 million county budget.

The county has made other efforts in the past to increase the budget and take away from the ever-growing property tax.

The Wheel Tax, for example, was proposed in Rutherford County and other counties across Tennessee but was voted down. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Thursday's Highs

From the Associated Press



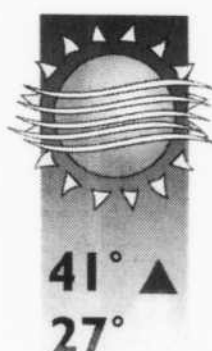
Friday



Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Exchange programs give students new outlook

By Kim Peer
Staff Writer

Two MTSU graduates, Jacob Harper and Jessica Delgado, recently returned from a 10-month exchange with the Universidad Federal Fluminense campus and said the experience resulted in both educational and personal growth.

The Brazil exchange pro-

gram was an integral part of my educational and career plan," Harper said. "As an anthropology major from a school with a department as small and unknown as ours is, Dr. Richard Pace made it clear to several of us that getting out of the country, getting some experience with the culture and beginning to become fluent in the language was very important."

"The year-long exchange enabled two of the students [Harper and Delgado] to get into top-rated graduate programs in their fields of study, anthropology," Pace said.

Delgado said she conducted a study in a large slum, called a favela, in Rio de Janeiro as part of her internship. She said she was absorbed in the rich culture, language and point of view of the Brazilian people.

Delgado called her first successful interview in Portuguese a cool moment.

The food and other students helped Harper feel "very much at home" during his exchange.

"So many individuals were so very curious about me, my country, my life and why ... would leave the United States to come to Brazil," Harper said.

Professors also helped him during and after class while he learned the language.

"I don't think the Brazil exchange is for everyone, but getting out of the country, if possible, is important for every single student, regardless of major, and regardless of where it is. Go to Britain, go to Australia, go to France, go to India, go to China, go to Cuba, go anywhere, just go!" Harper said.

The regional variations and large metropolitan atmosphere of Brazil allows students a variety of options for study.

"Since the university in Brazil is located just across the bay from Rio de Janeiro, there are all kinds of possibilities for students to study music, art, his-

tory, economics, political science, geography, outdoor recreation and tourism," Pace said. "Ecology and biology are potential areas for study – given that the world's largest urban rainforest is located in Rio," he said.

Studies and language enhanced both students' educational prospects, but the individuals they met and conversations they shared truly shaped the experience, they said.

"The Brazil exchange enabled me to develop a broader way of looking at the world," Delgado said.

Harper still maintains contact with a few people he met at a Japanese restaurant when they discussed topics ranging from flaws in the American health-care system to the World Trade Center bombings.

"I was able to expand my mind away from a first-world, United Statesian way of seeing and categorizing myself and my surroundings to see the world as it is for much of [developing countries], as well as understanding why we see the world differently," Harper said.

Jennifer Campbell, coordinator of the International Education and Exchange Office, said an exchange program offers many benefits to students. It allows them to experience a country for a longer period of time than the popular summer study-abroad programs, tuition paying normal MTSU tuition, room, board and meal plan rates for an international institution. ♦

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Where: The Court House in Murfreesboro

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From the Editorial Board

Realtors need to pay cost of county housing growth

Rutherford County needs money to give pay raises to paramedics in the county's Ambulance Service. When governments need money, they usually turn towards their biggest option: taxes.

Nobody likes seeing their taxes go up, and nobody likes having to pay new taxes: the horn-blowing motorcade that drove around the Tennessee State Capitol in 2002 showed just how irate people can become when tax increases become part of a discussion.

However, of all the proposals for new taxes that have passed through the county government, those suggested by Nancy Allen are possibly the fairest methods of funding pay raises for paramedics.

The excise tax would be charged by the county whenever a person purchases property. Real estate is big business in Rutherford County – we're part of one of the "hottest" real estate markets in the United States. If the county government is looking for money to improve matters within its borders, tapping into the money made by buying and selling property is exceedingly wise.

Similarly, the adequate facilities tax would take advantage of the area's housing boom by charging a one-time tax on the sale of a new home, based upon the square footage of the home. By paying the tax, new residents would contribute to paying for expanding services that will aid themselves, as well as those who already live here.

Of course, any attempt by Allen and her government to tax real estate would face strong opposition from the real estate industry. It is attempting to tax. Realtors have strongly defended their profits in the past; when Allen tried to push a realty transfer tax, the county Board of Realtors fought to defeat the measure, eventually succeeding.

However, furthering the wealth of a few businessmen will do little to improve the quality of life in this county. Securing new sources of income for our local government will put more money into services that everyone living here need without driving a particular tax to astronomical levels.

Rutherford County belongs to all of us. As long as houses continue to spread throughout the area like mold growing on bread, those that build them need to contribute to paying for services that the people in those houses need. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Consequences face those who commit crimes online

The next time you feel the urge to destroy someone's computer over the Internet, listen to Nancy Reagan, and just say no.

If not, you might wind up like David Jeansonne, a 44-year-old who was handed a six month jail term and a bill to pay Microsoft \$27,100 for sending malicious programs over the company's MSN TV service in July 2002.

Granted, the users affected by Jeansonne's prank should have known better than to open an e-mail sent from sources unknown, but that's another story.

Jeansonne obviously didn't think of the consequences of what he was doing, and I'm not simply referring to his criminal charges. Jeansonne's program – which used peoples' MSN TV service to dial 911 – could have tied up emergency services, so that a person who needed help would not have gotten it.

Granted, with the number of users who were affected (a mere 20 people), as well as the small overall population of the MSN TV service, the odds that Jeansonne could have brought down the 911 system by himself are very small. But a copycat wanting to do one better than the Louisiana hacker could unleash a program that causes dial-up modems to similarly dial out to whatever number they chose.

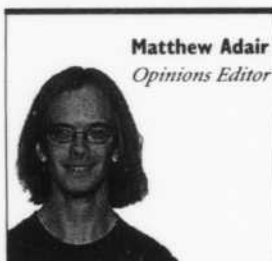
Even in an age where broadband Internet service is beginning to dominate, an attack like Jeansonne's, launched through any major dial-up service provider, could jam important phone lines.

Intentionally trying to cripple computers or other information services is a crime, one that the United States government takes seriously. It might seem like a prank or joke to the person creating it; they might think they're crusading against a corporation they view as evil.

However, damaging property and tying up important services fraudulently is unacceptable, no matter what justification a person tries to use. So know that, if you try to show your "mad skills" in crashing peoples' computers, you might be doing time in the county jail, sitting in a cell with the sort of guys who beat people like you up in high school.

I think most hackers would say "no" to that. ♦

Matthew Adair is a sophomore art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

Leaders' private lives public business

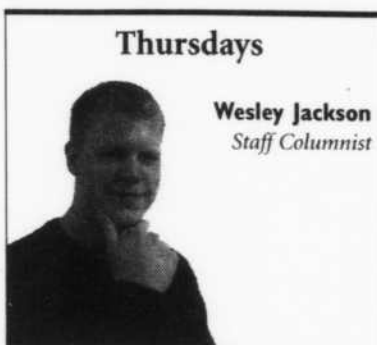
I had a conversation a couple weeks ago with some friends about the division between one's private life and public life.

Perhaps it's unnecessary to mention that former President Bill Clinton came up as an example. Regardless of your political persuasion, please don't let that distract you from the point – the issue of whether private life affects your public life.

Many times, it's easy to think private and public life are separate simply because we're so close to the events themselves and it's hard to step back and see the larger implications or effects of our deeds. We tend to think of our actions as isolated incidents, disconnected from other people because sometimes the effects don't come until later.

It's also easy to think that the private life's only publically influential when the media spills a juicy story all over the newspapers, when they clog the television cables with the latest presidential scandal.

It's hard to think that Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky



Thursdays

Wesley Jackson
Staff Columnist

would have been such a national crisis if it just stayed "private" and off the air.

In other words, what we don't know won't hurt us.

We also wonder, "Why should we punish a competent president, or anyone, for doing something that is totally isolated and separate from his job, for a misdeed which seemed more a lack of etiquette than a federal offense?"

For Clinton or any other public official, the issue is not whether sex has a direct correlation to politics or economics. The issue is that if a man or woman can betray those closest to him or her, how easy is it for he or she to betray the nameless, faceless public?

It's not a complicated matter of where private life ends and public life begins. It's a simple matter of whether or not someone breaks or keeps their promises. And if you're in public office, your trustworthiness is crucial. Betrayal is a big deal. What the public doesn't know can hurt them.

For those still asking why a federal case had to be made out of Clinton's sex life, the point is not that adultery is a national crime. It's that those who are unfaithful to their families may be very likely to be unfaithful with other responsibilities and as such may be disciplined by their employers.

For politicians, sometimes the employer just happens to be the federal government. If the offender happened to be employed by Nissan and was caught in some questionable behavior, Nissan, not the government, may conclude that this person was unworthy of the company's trust.

If the company chooses to discipline the offender in some way it's because it recognizes that personal values and character inevitably have public implica-

tions and tangible effects.

Separating public and private life means establishing a double standard. The moral code shifts with our roles. When we're in professional gear, we act one way. When we throw on the jeans and a T-shirt, we act another way.

This really does become a strange case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. As Robert Louis Stephenson would have argued, when we create a double standard for the private and public life, we turn into monsters.

To separate the private life and the public life often seems a neat and convenient way to organize our experiences, but doing this is ultimately a denial of the reality we're all a part of.

We're all connected. There's no time when our personal, private decisions and values don't affect others' lives, and in light of that, we dare not take our thoughts or actions lightly. ♦

Wesley Jackson is a senior English major and can be reached at wtj2b@mtsu.edu.

U.S. government makes conspiracy theories true

A new slogan for the U.S. government should be "Bringing credibility to paranoia for years and years."

One of the latest accusations fired upon the government is that the attack upon freed Italian hostage Guilianna Sgrena was actually an assassination attempt. The claim is that since the United States is opposed to negotiating with terrorists, and she was freed through negotiation, that the government wanted her dead.

It doesn't help matters that she is a left-leaning journalist who wrote vehemently against the war. It also doesn't help that she wrote stories and took pictures of Iraqi children as they were hit by U.S. military cluster bombs.

This may seem far fetched, but our political leaders have done so many crooked things in the past that stories like this seem plausible. Without having to go too far back in history, we could assemble a massive resumé of atrocities committed nationally and internationally by our government.

Under the presidency of the late B actor, Ronald Reagan, U.S. activity in Nicaragua was condemned by the World Court. After the war began to escalate, those crafty Nicaraguans hired a crack team of lawyers to bring the case before the World Court, where the United States was condemned for mining Nicaraguan harbors. The government's reaction to that is no less than jaw dropping. We ignored the order to cease the terrorist activities and actually escalated the war even further. Nicaragua is currently the second-poorest nation in the hemisphere, sitting just above Haiti.

On our own soil, our government has committed a few acts that could be considered less than noble.

Anyone who has a lot of guns, preaches about the end of the world and thinks he is Jesus Christ might not be the sanest person in the world. But was it really necessary for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to invade David Koresh's compound in Waco, Texas?

Koresh wasn't the average suburbanite, but he did go to the mail box, and he did go grocery shopping. This supposed cult leader could have been picked up on many occasions, but the ATF decided to



Gagflex

Jason Johnson
Staff Columnist

go ahead with the raid. Koresh was already paranoid of the government, so it was just fantastic of the ATF and the FBI to fulfill his paranoid apocalyptic fantasy.

The tragic outcome to this was the 51-day standoff followed by the FBI's own raid, in which they smashed Bradley tanks into the compound, and shot in over 400 canisters of CS gas. For anyone who doesn't know the rest of the story, the compound mysteriously caught fire, and 80 people, including 22 children, were burned, crushed and shot to death. So, basically, you could say that, like Saddam Hussein, we gassed and murdered our own people.

This may seem like a harsh comparison, but consider that for six hours straight we used a gas on American citizens that was banned in combat in 1975 by ex-President Gerald Ford.

We are living in an age where people are willing to shuck their freedoms to save their free country from terrorism. The government is using the guise of patriotism to market these corrupt agendas. It must be working, because we still have the un-American Patriot Act still intact. Who would have guessed 10 years ago that secret trials and the holding of prisoners without due process would be considered just fine by the American people?

This doesn't mean that we should all shack up in the mountains of Montana awaiting a revolution. It just means we need to pay closer attention to what acts are committed on our behalf.

In the words of Kurt Cobain, just because you are paranoid, doesn't mean they are not after you. ♦

Jason Johnson is a senior journalism major that can be reached via e-mail at jcyj2n@mtsu.edu.

Write to us about stories you see in this newspaper.
Don't write to us about why your girlfriend left you.
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Letters to the Editor

'Bill of Rights' revokes professors' rights

To the Editor:

May I take the liberty of drawing your attention to one of several major flaws vitiating the Student Bill of Rights recently passed by the Student Government Association? ("SGA Passes Student Bill of Rights" Mar. 16) Section 2 (a) informs us that students have the right to "expect that their academic freedom will not be infringed upon by instructors who create a hostile environment toward their political or religious beliefs, or who introduce controversial matter as part of course work that is substantially unrelated to the subject of study."

This is odd for a number of reasons. First of all, the second half of the sentence seems to imply that it is OK to introduce "substantially unrelated" matter as long as it is non-controversial. Can this be the resolution's intention? (Have you ever heard my 75-minute lecture "On the Pleasures of Eating American Pie"? To die for!) This passage also implies that the introduction of controversial material is acceptable if it is substantially related "to the subject of study."

But that introduces a potential conflict with the first half of the sentence. After all, students may believe that this controversial material, even if it is relevant to the subject at hand, creates "a hostile environment toward their political or religious beliefs." What then?

One possible consequence is that the student would simply have to accept the professor's decision to teach that material. In that case, creating a "hostile environment" would not only be unavoidable, it would also be perfectly acceptable. Yet, the SGA resolution tells us that professors must not create a hostile environment.

The other possible consequence of the introduction of controversial material that is related to the subject of study is that the offended student's position would prevail, in which case the professor could no longer teach certain material even if it is demonstrably related to the subject of study. This would mean, and look how odd this is, that one offended student, rather than the professor, would have the final say about course content and, as a consequence, the other students in the class would not have the opportunity to encounter that material.

In addition, professors may actually prevent students from raising controversial points simply because they know that another student might hold them responsible for having "encouraged" these students. Are you paying tuition for that?

I was not born and raised in the United States, so I make no claim to fully understand the American character. Yet, I always thought that Americans were a bit tougher, not so easily offended and willing to give somebody the benefit of the doubt.

I also always assumed that Americans, practical as they are, would be eager to supply evidence for their claims. What is the evidence that this resolution is needed?

Alfred Lutz
Associate Professor, English

Solidarity demands political correctness

To the Editor:

I cannot believe that my university has caved to the PC police. If we are to change the name from Lady Raiders because it is offensive, then shouldn't we also change the name from Raiders, as it is offensive to those who have been "raided?" Where does it end?

Stop the madness!

Matt Woodard
Class of 2001

SIDELINES

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SPORTS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Thursday, March 17, 2005

5 ♦ SIDELINES

Tar Heels, Illini have storylines, skills to win

Sports commentary



Cody Gibson
Staff Columnist

By Cody Gibson
Staff Columnist

Office productivity is down \$1.6 million this week, which can only mean one thing: March Madness.

Yes, it's basketball fans' favorite time of the year. Nothing's better than filling out hundreds of brackets and channel surfing for scores. And of course, when filling out those brackets, looking at the No. 1 seeds is always key.

However, so many interesting stories are behind the eventual champions. The last few champs have had those storylines, including Duke's 2001 run with Mr. College Basketball Shane Battier and Connecticut's men's and women's sweep last season.

When trying to pick a champ, it's best to look at who has the most inspirational story, and more importantly, who is talented enough to win. This year, that leaves basically two teams.

First, the No. 1 team in the country — Illinois. The talent and depth on Illinois team is unquestioned with their almost-perfect record of 29-1. Also, the whole story about Illinois and how their fans have responded to this team is amazing. Head coach Bruce Weber lost his mother after her heart surgery last Friday, which will give the Illini added inspiration from their courageous coach.

The simple fact that Illinois will be playing all of its games in their home state will provide an added boost. The road to the finals will no doubt involve Illinois.

The other team with realistic championship aspirations is the North Carolina Tarheels. The Tarheels without a doubt are the most talented team in the NCAA, but chemistry and attitude issues have plagued the team all season.

If their star-studded lineup can stay together and perform as expected, the champions could be clad in powder blue.

North Carolina's compelling story also involves the team's head coach. Roy Williams was so close to victory many times at Kansas, and if he chokes this season it will be hard to shake the label.

This is Williams' most talented team to date, however, and a championship is certainly not out of the question.

There you have it: the two teams with a legitimate shot at winning a national championship.

There is still hope, however, for five other teams. As the defending champion, UConn has a shot. Thanks to Jim Boeheim and Lute Olsen, two battle-tested coaches who have won national titles, Syracuse and Arizona will be contenders as well.

And there is another coach with loads of experience that hasn't won the big one yet: Eddie Sutton of Oklahoma State. And finally, you have pre-season No. 1 Wake Forest.

If you look at the field, those are the only teams with realistic shots at ruining Illinois' and UNC's runs in the tourney.

The madness begins today. ♦

Cody Gibson is a sophomore mass communication major. He can be reached at twg2g@mtsu.edu.

Late rally can't overcome poor defense in loss



Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

Jeff Beachum hit a two-RBI double in yesterday's loss.

By Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

Kevin Koski's grounder looked like the first out of the game as it skipped toward Middle Tennessee first baseman Josh Archer.

But on the way, the ball found a pebble and rocketed over Archer's shoulder, and Koski was easily safe.

It was that kind of day for the Blue Raiders, who fell 10-8 to Southern Illinois on a bleak and blustery Wednesday at Reese Smith Field.

"We were kind of out of our routine," catcher Michael McKenry said. "We had a long layover coming out of batting practice, and it showed."

Koski eventually scored to

snap a Blue Raider streak of 19 2/3 innings without allowing an earned run, but the Salukis (11-7) didn't stop there. Chris McCulloch and Nathan Emrick followed with RBI singles to put SIU up 3-0.

The Salukis continued the barrage in the second with two more runs off MT starter Jeff Kasser (0-2), who started cold and never warmed up. Kasser lasted just two innings and gave up six runs (five earned) on five hits.

"We got what we wanted out of Jeff," McKenry said. "He kept everything down, he was making good pitches, but [SIU] just made adjustments."

Every Saluki hitther had at least one hit by the sixth inning.

Koski's run in the first on a

SIU	10
MT	8
Next Game: Friday at Southwest Missouri State	

sacrifice by Grant Gerrard also snapped the Blue Raiders' streak of 19 2/3 innings without allowing an unearned run.

Kasser's exit in the top of the third gave way to four Blue Raider relievers, including Aaron Wallus, who plunked two batters on consecutive pitchers to give the Salukis their final run. In all, the MT relievers combined to allow five hits and

See Baseball, 7

NO. 5 NC STATE v. NO. 12 MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Can the Lady Raiders do it again?

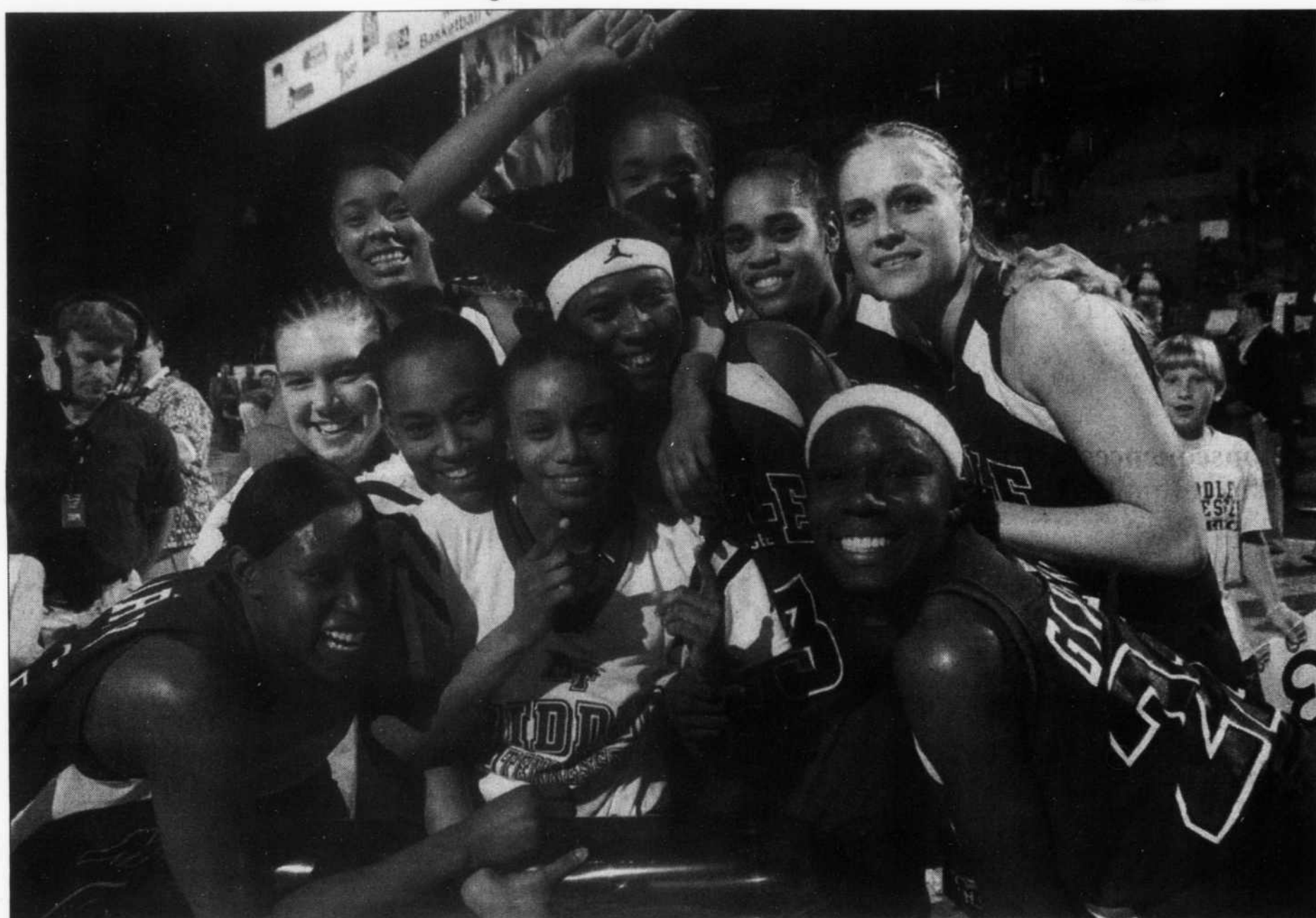


Photo by Nick Yeatts | Courtesy of MT Media Relations

The Lady Raiders will look to pull off another upset in this year's NCAA Tournament, this time against the North Carolina State Lady Wolfpack.

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team will travel to Dallas this weekend for the first round of the NCAA Tournament against North Carolina State.

"I don't know as much about NC State as we knew about North Carolina a year ago," MT head coach Stephany Smith told MT Media Relations. "The

Wolfpack plays in a great league and [they] have some tremendous athletes. Their head coach, Kay Yow, is an icon in our sport. She has meant a great deal to women's basketball, and I respect her a lot."

NC State (21-7) is a No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament, and MT is seeded No. 12. This will be the first time the Lady Wolfpack will face MT.

"I think we are going in with a lot of confidence because of the

way we have finished out the year and the fact we were in the tournament last season," forward Tia Stovall told MT Media Relations. "It's always hard, but we need to treat this like any other game. NC State has a lot of tradition and play in a great conference, so we will have to play our best."

On Saturday the Lady Raiders will take on the Lady Wolfpack at 6 p.m.

The furthest NC State

advanced in the NCAA Tournament was in 1998, when the Wolfpack advanced to the Final Four.

"There are tough teams everywhere, so we are just always happy to be in the big dance," NC State head coach Kay Yow told www.gopack.com. "We take whatever team we are matched up with and do the best we can to get prepared. We are pleased with our bracket matchup, Middle Tennessee.

They have a very athletic team, and we will have to stay really focused and know that we are going up against a top opponent in MTSU."

Smith also feels focusing and executing will be important for Saturday's game.

"I think every experience prepares you, and last year really helped our team," said Smith. "We will not go into this game

See Upset, 7

Struggling softball squad seeks solace at home



File Photo

MT catcher Leah Grothouse leads the team in triples.

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

Overcoming injuries, the loss of starting pitcher Crystal Bobo and putting repetitive losses behind them will be a hard-hitting challenge for Middle Tennessee's softball team.

The Blue Raiders have lost 11 straight games, including a doubleheader sweep at No. 8 Alabama on Tuesday.

The 14 young women who make up the Blue Raiders will get another chance to redeem themselves in two doubleheaders against Mississippi State on Thursday and Dayton on Sunday.

Although the team is struggling at this point in the season, their approach when they step out onto the field stays the

same.

Injuries and having to function with only one pitcher does not give head coach Leigh Podlesny much of a choice to change many things around the field.

"There's not much room to change," Podlesny said. "Defensively, I think we're outstanding. We are lucky to have these kids who can play many different positions."

Pitcher, however, is not one of those positions. Since Bobo quit last week, the team has had to operate with one pitcher, fresh-



Bobo

man Ashley Katinas, who is now 0-10 for the season.

"She's not someone that is going to give up," Podlesny said about Katinas. "She is disappointed in her performance."

Bobo did not return repeated calls from Sidelines.

Podlesny is relying on the seniors to step up and perform to the best of their ability. Adding to the assets of the Blue Raiders are leading hitter Jennifer Dorais and infielder Melissa Weiland, both juniors.

MT faces a challenge in MSU, which is 17-8 on the season. Senior Jennifer Jessup and freshman Courtney Bures lead the Bulldogs in hitting. Bures has 10 home runs and 30 runs batted in for the season.

See Struggles, 6



Leffew's Losers!

By Jon Leffew
Assistant Sports Editor

As I sat searching for this week's winner, I couldn't help but return to those inconsiderate cheaters.

With their names plastered all over the news, I had promised myself that I would not comment on the situation, at least until all of it had been resolved.

Then, I saw the quote.

"If I had to do it again, I'd still play it to try to get away with it, because I know how I got caught."

These words were uttered by one of the biggest buffoons in all of sports, a person stupid enough to get caught for cheating and admit that he would try it again.

Nope, not Jose Canseco, Mark McGwire or even Sammy Sosa.

These words came from someone involved with another sport that found itself in the midst of a cheating scandal last week: NASCAR.

Much like baseball (and every other sport), technology has made it much easier for the NASCAR teams of today to cheat.

While famous drivers of the past used questionable techniques (Is rubbin' really racin?), today's top drivers are doctoring their cars to shave seconds off their times.

On Tuesday, NASCAR suspended the crew chiefs for Jimmie Johnson, Kyle Busch and Kevin Harvick for cheating at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Todd Berrier, Harvick's crew chief, was suspended for four weeks and fined \$25,000 for making Harvick's fuel tank appear full when it actually wasn't during qualifying.

Berrier, who followed his act of cheating with the wonderful quote from above,

received a longer suspension in part because he expressed no remorse and admitted to intentionally rigging the fuel tank.

Johnson, who won the race, was docked 25 points, enough to cost him his top spot in the Nextel Cup standings, for actions taken by his crew chief, Chad Knaus.

Knaus was suspended for two weeks and fined \$35,000 after Johnson's car failed to meet the minimum height requirement in inspections after Sunday's race.

And you thought Barry Bonds and Bret Boone were the only cheaters with alliterative names.

In addition to Berrier and Knaus, Alan Gustafson, Busch's crew chief, was suspended two weeks and fined \$25,000 because Busch's car was too high in the post-race inspection on Sunday.

"Guys have just got to stop playing games with the rules," NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter told The Associated Press. "This is just unacceptable. So maybe the crew chiefs at home will help remedy this issue."

During their suspensions, the chiefs will not be permitted to communicate with their drivers or teams in any way.

Congratulations to Berrier, Knaus and Gustafson on winning this week's award, and kudos to NASCAR for actually punishing cheaters.

Here's hoping Congress will do the same, since Bud Selig obviously won't. ♦

Jon Leffew is a sophomore history major. He can be reached at jal3p@mtsu.edu.

Baseball players begin steroid testimony today

By Ronald Blum
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Mark McGwire will join other past and present stars today before a congressional committee investigating steroids in baseball, a spectacle the sport had hoped to avoid just weeks before opening day.

What the subpoenaed major leaguers might reveal under questioning by members of the House Government Reform Committee won't be clear until the hearing. Jose Canseco's request for immunity from prosecution was denied Wednesday, raising the possibility of players' invoking their Fifth Amendment right to refuse to answer.

"No witnesses have been or will be granted immunity," David Marin, a spokesman for committee chairman Tom Davis, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

But the panel's ranking Democrat, Henry Waxman of California, said: "Not everything's been fully resolved."

The flurry of activity on the eve of the highly anticipated hearing also included the committee's release of baseball's new drug-testing agreement; sharp critiques of that plan from members of Congress; an agreement that two-time AL MVP Frank Thomas can testify via video conference call; and the setting of a Sept. 6 trial date in the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative steroid-distribution case in San Francisco.

The testing agreement, which the commissioner's office turned over to the committee Monday along with other subpoenaed documents, contains a provision that testing would be "suspended immediately" if the government conducts an independent investigation into drug use in baseball. The still-unsigned, 27-page document also retains a provision that allows the commissioner to substitute fines for suspensions, including \$10,000 instead of a 10-day ban for a first offense.

The fines provision drew rebukes from Davis, Waxman, Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla., and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who said he expects changes to the testing policy.

"To do anything less than that would constitute a violation of the public's trust, a blow to the integrity of Major League Baseball, and an invitation to further scrutiny of the league's steroid policy," McCain said.

Baseball executive vice president Rob Manfred, slated to appear with commissioner Bud Selig at the hearing, responded that players would be suspended in all instances for positive tests.

McGwire's decision to attend the hearing was revealed Wednesday by a representative of the slugger who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. McGwire was seen leaving the Government Reform Committee's office Wednesday evening.

Canseco, Sammy Sosa, Curt Schilling and Rafael Palmeiro also were expected to appear Thursday; Thomas had asked that he be allowed

to stay in Arizona because of an ankle injury.

New York Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi, also subpoenaed last week, was excused Tuesday from testifying because of his involvement in the ongoing federal investigation into BALCO.

Never invited to appear was another star who testified before the BALCO grand jury: Barry Bonds, who broke McGwire's season homer record and is approaching Hank Aaron's career mark.

Union head Donald Fehr, baseball executive vice president Sandy Alderson and Padres general manager Kevin Towers will testify.

Canseco, who retired in 2001 with 462 homers, said he used steroids and wrote in a recent best-selling book that he injected McGwire with the drugs. The 1988 AL MVP also accused Sosa and Palmeiro of using steroids. McGwire, Sosa and Palmeiro all have denied taking performance-enhancing substances.

Some players around spring training said they plan to watch the hearings live; others, like Royals first baseman Ken Harvey, will follow news coverage.

"I want to see what questions they're going to ask," Harvey said. "They keep saying it's not a witch hunt, but I think it might be."

Said Colorado Rockies pitcher Jason Jennings: "It's such a weird deal. Nobody really knows what is going to be asked or what the point of it is."

Even a member of the committee wasn't sure what progress might be made Thursday.

"I'm troubled by the way we're proceeding on this - the structure and who we're bringing in," committee member Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y., said in a telephone interview.

"We're bringing in people who have not said they've used drugs. It was just indicated in a book. There are other people, people who've said they took steroids - like the governor of California - and I'm concerned we're not bringing them in."

Canseco's lawyer, Robert Saunooke, said the former slugger will not be able to answer questions that would incriminate him.

"It begs the question as to what they're convening this hearing for," Saunooke said in a telephone interview. "They effectively cut the legs off from underneath us."

As an example of how immunity would limit Canseco, Saunooke brought up McGwire's repeated denials of steroid use.

"If he still holds to that lie, then the only way we can disprove that is to give specific instances and talk openly and freely," Saunooke said. "If we can't do that, then our credibility is undermined."

Witnesses turned in opening statements to the committee, and Palmeiro and Thomas both repeated their denials of steroid use.

In Canseco's statement, he charged Major League Baseball with exploiting players.

"Why did I take steroids? The answer is simple," he said. "Because, myself and others had no choice if we wanted to continue playing. Because MLB did nothing to take it out of the sport." ♦

Alabama crushes Lady Raiders

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider softball team continued its struggles and fell to 3-13 after back-to-back losses 9-1 and 9-2 against No. 8 Alabama in a double-header Tuesday afternoon.

In the first game of the series, MT struck first. Senior Jennifer Grybash hit a leadoff single, then stole second to put herself in scoring position. A ground out to second by Trish White moved Grybash to third, and she scored off an RBI single by Liz Davis.

MT freshman pitcher Ashley Katinas held Alabama scoreless for one inning before allowing three runs in the second. Katinas walked Leah White and gave up a single to Dani Woods before Jordan Prayter drove them home with a triple. Deasy Phillips then brought Prayter home on a squeeze bunt.

The Crimson Tide's Capper Reed began the third inning with a triple, then scored off an error to give Alabama a 4-1 lead.

MT had runners on first and second in the fourth inning, but failed to score when Brandi Boehner's one-out sacrifice bunt attempt failed and Jessica Boyce struck out.

Alabama then continued its scoring barrage with a Staci Ramsey home run in the fifth. Prayter and Phillips also added runs batted in to their totals as MT gave up three runs on five hits in the inning.

Alabama added two more runs in the sixth to account for the final score.

The second game started like the first, with MT getting on the board first. Liz Davis hit her second career home run to give the Blue Raiders a 2-0 lead, but it wouldn't last long.

After MT's only two runs, Alabama took control of the game by hitting three consecutive singles to load the bases in the bottom of the first inning. Prayter scored the first run of the game for Alabama after a wild pitch from Katinas.

VanBrakle scored the second run off an RBI single, and when the dust settled, Alabama scored six runs in the first inning on six hits.

Christi Benton led off the third with a single and Grybash earned a walk, but Alabama's Jennifer Wright set down the next three batters to squelch the Blue Raiders' last major scoring opportunity.

Alabama (27-6) added two more runs in the bottom of the third inning and one in the sixth to end the contest. ♦

Struggles: Softball team hosts Bulldogs

Continued from 5

The doubleheader contest Thursday will be the first meeting between the Bulldogs and the Blue Raiders.

Sunday brings a more subtle challenge. The University of Dayton is only 2-3, starting late in the season as the Blue Raiders did. The matchup Sunday

against the Flyers will also be a first for the Blue Raiders.

Senior Cassie Gross was just two home runs shy of third place all-time in school history after a solo homer in the first inning of UD's loss to Eastern Kentucky Tuesday. Gross leads the Flyers with a .375 batting average and three RBIs.

Thursday's doubleheader

against Mississippi State begins at 3 p.m. Sunday's doubleheader versus Dayton begins at 12 p.m. Both matchups are at Middle Tennessee. ♦

Jill Davis covers Blue Raider softball for Sidelines. She can be reached at jrd3g@mtsu.edu.



MT Tennis Update



Lady Raiders begin road trip in Texas

By Jon Leffew
Assistant Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee Lady Raider tennis team will look to break a three-game losing streak this weekend during a road trip to Texas.

Saturday, MT will begin a three-game road trip against Texas Christian University.

The No. 20 Frogs are 10-1 during the spring season. They concluded a recent road trip with a 5-2 win over Ohio State.

Sunday, the Lady Raiders will travel to Denton, Texas, to take on Sun Belt Conference foe North Texas.

Both the Mean Green and Lady Raiders, who suffered three losses last week, will be looking to rebound before next month's SBC Tournament.

The Lady Raiders traveled to Florida during Spring Break to participate in three matches.

On March 10, MT found themselves in a hole after arriving late to their match against Boston University.

After losing points for being late and dealing with the absence of Claudia Szabo, who was out with a stomach virus, the Lady Raiders were eventually defeated 5-2.

On March 11, MT looked to bounce back against Florida International.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

Ana Maria Cibils dropped three matches last week.

However, FIU dominated the match, capturing the doubles points before sweeping each singles match.

The following day, MT took on Boston College.

Neil Stapp's team appeared to be ready to capture a win in their final contest in Miami, as the Lady Raiders picked up a

win at No. 1 doubles.

However, the Eagles won the final two doubles matches and all but one singles match.

Siljestrom, who defeated Lindsey Nash 7-5, 6-1, picked up her 10th singles victory of the spring season.

Both Saturday and Sunday's match will begin at 12 p.m. ♦

Blue Raiders earn split in HEB tourney

By Jon Leffew
Assistant Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee's 37th ranked men's tennis team finished play in the HEB Invitational tournament on March 5 with a 2-4 loss to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

The loss is the Blue Raiders' third of the season, and came a little more than two weeks after the team finished a six-game winning streak.

The match, which was forced inside due to rain, held many disadvantages for the Blue Raiders.

Both Born and Greg Pollack were up a set and a break, yet both suffered losses in three sets.

In addition, the doubles matches were canceled, as MT's only two points came

from Andreas Siljestrom and Brandon Allan.

Prior to the loss, the Blue Raiders opened the tournament with a 4-1 win over Western Michigan.

MT lost both doubles points and was down in the final two matches before Marco Born clinched the victory with a three-set win at No. 2 singles.

The Blue Raiders had the tournament's No. 1 overall seed going into the tournament, but head coach Dale Short was disappointed with his team's performance on the first day.

"We got off to a slow start and really struggled," Short told MT Media Relations after the match. "Western Michigan came out really

fired up and took it to us. I hope we learn from that because it was much more difficult than the score indicated."

Born and Andreas Siljestrom, ranked No. 30 in doubles, continued their dominance in doubles with an 8-6 victory over Jose Orozco and Bryan Norville.

However, the remaining two Blue Raider doubles teams dropped their matches and MT lost the doubles point.

The Blue Raiders then won three singles matches before Born clinched the victory.

The team, which is now 10-3 overall, will return to action Saturday after two weeks off.

They will take on Louisiana-Lafayette in Houston Sunday. ♦

Sports Line 898-2816

Upset: MT looks to defeat another North Carolina team

Continued from 5

timid and not knowing what to expect. We've been there and know what it is all about. We will be well prepared and will have a great game plan. The key will be to execute it."

MT (23-8) won its second straight SBC tournament title with a 67-52 win over Louisiana-

Lafayette and will be looking to improve upon last year's appearance in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Note: The MTSU Alumni Association will host a "Big Blue Game Viewing Party" at Bunganut Pig on Saturday at 6 p.m. All fans are invited to attend. ♦

Baseball: Blue Raiders end five-game homestand with loss

Continued from 5

four runs, all unearned.

"Fortunately we didn't use the bullpen [Tuesday], and we have a day off tomorrow, so I had a lot of bullets," MT head coach Steve Peterson said. "Overall, I was fairly pleased with the bullpen in keeping it a manageable game."

Pitching wasn't the Blue Raiders' only problem, however. The MT defense committed three errors, including two by Archer.

"We don't have a strikeout staff," Peterson said. "We actually ask our pitchers to get hit, but to make them hit our pitches. It took a team effort to

get beat, just like it would take a team effort to win."

After falling behind 5-0 after two, the Blue Raiders responded with singles by Marcus Taylor and McKenry before shortstop Jeff Beachum sent them both home with a one-out double.

After a sacrifice fly by Koski pushed the Saluki's lead to 6-2, Chase Eakes hit his second home run in as many days with a two-run shot in the fourth that scored McKenry. That narrowed the score to 6-4, but that would be as close as the Blue Raiders came.

"To come back when you're down, you have to have the whole team," Peterson said.

"We had parts of the lineup that didn't produce when they had the chance."

The Salukis put up two more runs in both the fifth and eighth innings before the Blue Raiders made things interesting. McKenry followed Eakes' lead and hit his second home run in the series with a two-run shot in the eighth off Adam Snyder, who pitched 4 2/3 innings in relief of starter Jason Chavez for the win.

McKenry leads the Blue Raiders with five home runs this season.

"McKenry's hot," Peterson said. "He had to have hit that ball hard, because the way the wind was blowing, it was going

to foul." Three batters later, Chris LeGuene collected his first hit of the year with a two-run homer off Andrew Weber to pull the Blue Raiders within two runs once again.

"Chris did what good pinch hitters do: look for the first pitch," Peterson said.

Weber settled down and set down the Blue Raiders (8-6) the rest of the way, however, including a strikeout of Nate Jagers to end the game.

Yesterday's loss ended a five-game homestand for the Blue Raiders. MT heads on the road this weekend for a three-game series at Southwest Missouri State starting tomorrow. ♦



Compiled by Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

Jones hired as cornerbacks coach

Middle Tennessee head coach Andy McCollum announced today the hiring of Derek Jones to his staff.

After five seasons at Murray State as secondary coach, Jones will be in charge of the Blue Raider cornerbacks.

"We're excited to have Derek in our program," McCollum told MT Media Relations. "He's energetic, is a good teacher, and has been very successful in his young career. Derek will be a great representative of our program and University."

Jones, a former cornerback at Ole Miss and member of the first Nashville Kats franchise, helped lead the No. 11 defense in Division I-AA last season. In 2003, Jones' secondary earned the No. 2 ranking in the country in pass defense.

Before joining the Murray State staff in the spring of 2000, Jones served as a graduate assistant at Ole Miss.

Spring football begins

The Blue Raider football team began spring practice Tuesday as head coach Andy McCollum prepares for his seventh season at Middle Tennessee.

"This is always an exciting time and everybody is eager to get back on the field," McCollum told MT Media Relations. "It should be a highly competitive spring. The guys have worked hard over the winter in the weight room, and now we get a chance to take it to the field."

A handful of players, however, will be limited during the

spring. Defensive linemen Jeff Littlejohn and Quinton Staton and linebackers Jonathan Bonner, Marcel Horne and Dennis Burke all had offseason surgery and may not participate early on in spring drills.

The Blue Raiders will also be taking the field today and Saturday. Saturday's practice will be an 11-on-11 controlled scrimmage.

All practices during the week will begin at 3:30 p.m. on the practice field, and Saturday's practice will begin at 9 a.m. A full practice schedule can be found on goblueraiders.com.

Blue Raiders to 'Bag Hunger' on Saturday

The Middle Tennessee football program and Wal-Mart will team up for the "2005 Bag Hunger Campaign" on Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m.

"Like I have always said, this is Murfreesboro's team, and we want to show our appreciation by giving back to the community," head coach Andy McCollum told MT Media Relations. "There are people out there less fortunate who really need our help and the community's help. Hopefully we can make a difference on Saturday."

The Blue Raiders will divide into two squads on Saturday, with the offensive players and coaches at the Old Fort Parkway Wal-Mart, and the defensive players and coaches at the South Rutherford store.

The teams will compete against each other to raise money for hunger relief by bagging groceries, carrying items to the vehicles and signing autographs. Wal-Mart has agreed to match the funds raised by the teams.

The money will be given to Feed America First to help feed

hungry families in Rutherford County.

BRAA hosts Clay Target Fun Shoot

The Blue Raider Athletic Association will host a Clay Target Fun Shoot on April 9 at Big Springs Clay Target Sports located on Highway 41 at 8:30 a.m.

Each shooter will shoot 100 trap targets and will receive breakfast, lunch, an event jacket and shells will be included for an entry fee of \$125.00 per shooter or \$625 per team of five shooters.

Many local businesses have donated prizes to be awarded to winners and door prizes will also be awarded.

"Every organization has golf scrambles, and we wanted to have an event that is a little different," assistant athletic director Alan Farley told MT Media Relations.

The application fees will go to help fund the BRAA general scholarship fund.

The deadline to register is March 25. For entry forms or more information, fans can contact Farley at 898-2915.

Former player Gant signs with AF2 team

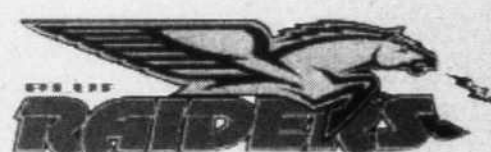
The Rio Grande Valley Dorados of arenafootball2 have signed former MT offensive lineman Julius Gant to their 2005 roster.

Gant played three seasons with the Blue Raiders and played in 1,797 snaps, registering 121 knockdowns. He started in 25 of the 34 games he played in and was a five-time recipient of the team's "Most Valuable Lineman" honor issued after every game.

The Dorados begin their season on April 9 against the Louisville Fire. ♦

Sports Briefs

News from around Middle Tennessee



Classifieds

Automotive

1990 Lincoln Towncar, runs great, 2 year old paint job, 1 year. Call 615-364-1004.

Ford Explorer Sport XLT, 2001 cd/cassette, keyless entry \$11,300. 615-409-6061.

1999 Dodge 4x4: Turbo Diesel. \$16,500 obo. Lists for \$18,465 in Kelly Blue Book. All pwr. New tires, am/fm/cd, automatic trans, tow pkg., excellent condition! Contact: mlb2e@mtsu.edu or 931-239-5613

Employment

Childcare needed in my home for 1 toddler Sat & Sun only. Good Pay! Must have references. 615-867-4201.

"Excellent opportunity for violin/strings teacher. Established clientele. Please email guitarlancer@hotmail.com or fax resume to 615-459-2557."

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Work for an established Lawn Service, Full or Part time. No experience needed. Call Matt - 615-456-1793.

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If you would like to make \$500 to \$5,000 per month part time or full time while working around your class schedule and are not afraid of speaking in front of small groups, please call...serious inquiries only.

Dana K. Crowell
615-217-8494 (home)
Chris Evans
615-360-1013 x23 (office)

For Rent

Newer house for rent, 3br, 2ba, hardwood floors, w/d, lawn maintenance included in rent, 5 min from MTSU, 900/month. call Neil @ 615-893-8773 for more info.

2 mi. near MTSU, Immaculate 3 br 2ba, 1100 sq House. Large closets, appliances, deck, fenced yard. \$900/mo plus deposit. 615-791-6296.

Almost brand new house! Stone Gate Subdivision, 1 mile from MTSU. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, screened porch, 2 car garage, dishwasher, stove, side by side refrigerator with ice maker, microwave, washer and dryer all included. \$975/mo with \$500 deposit. No Pets. Call 615-895-0075 or 615-347-1676 for more info.

Newly remodeled condo for rent. 4bd/2bath, w/d, lawn included. Walking distance to MTSU. \$900/month. Call 804-3817.

Condo near MTSU for rent. 2 bedrooms left. 4 bed/3.5 bath for lease. Washer and dryer in Unit. 3,000 sq. feet. \$330.00 + 1/4 utilities per month. Valerie at 943-8274 or 904-1871.

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

Miscellaneous

Reward!
Lost Wedding/Anniversary Ring belonging

to my deceased mother. Ring is 3 attached parts with diamond in the center of a rose and the anniversary band. If found, call 615-423-6897.

MTSU graduate student needs wives of deployed soldiers for a focus group. Wives will be discussing family changes in war times. The purpose of this focus group is to help educate future military wives and make a significant contribution to the current literature on military families. For further info please contact Jenni Davis 615-217-0265, jtd2r@mtsu.edu or Dr. Catherine Stogner at 615-898-5522, cstogner@mtsu.edu.

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Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girl's Rock Flash show in March 2005. If interested, contact Brandon 898-2917.

Are you an Undergraduate student interested in pursuing a PhD? If so, we would like to talk to you. Undergraduate research is beneficial for prospective PhD candidates. To find out more information visit www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair for qualifying criteria.

Pets

Roommates

Male or female needed. 2 bd 1 bath. 297/month + 1/2 utl. Needed by April 30.275-9075.

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

Female Roommate Wanted: 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$300/mo includes all utilities. Call: 615-893-7755.

1 Roommate needed to share 3bd/2ba house w/ 2 other people. 1.5 miles from campus. \$450/mo- all inclusive. Available 4/1/05. Jennifer 615-474-2399.

Roommate needed ASAP to share 3bd/2bath apt. 5 minutes from campus. Rent \$265 plus 1/3 utilities. Will pay first months rent. 931-581-6623.

Sales

Portable 7" DD player w/ accessories, Initial IDM 1731, brand new, unopened box. \$150. jrv2t@mtsu.edu or 615-217-3883.

2004 Trek 4900 Alpha Aluminum Mtn. Bike.

Bought in Jan and only ridden once. Excellent condition. Paid \$575 will settle for \$400. Adam 615-668-3822.

For Sale: Futon \$150, Full Mattress \$100, 13" TV \$50 mjw2k@mtsu.edu

7 ft. green checkered couch. good condition, very comfortable. We just got a new couch and have no room. \$75 obo. Tim or Joe 615-893-1293.

512 MB (2x256MB) Crucial DDR266/PC2100 desktop computer memory; lifetime warranty; \$60; email cmb2b@mtsu.edu.

ATI Radeon 9700 Pro (built by ATI); HDTV adapter included; 128 MB; AGP 8x; still under warranty; windows only; \$150; email cmb2b@mtsu.edu.

Guitars, Amps and drums for sale. Peavey, Yamaha, Schecter, B.C. Rich, m Traben, Zildjian, Sabian, Sonor, etc. Music World & Drummers Den 893-4242, 2762 S. Church St. (located across from Indian Hills).

House for sale, walk to MTSU, hardwood floors, move-in condition, rented attic apartment. Offer \$350/month. \$114,500. 614-571-2291 or oliverkleban@hotmail.com.

The North Face Summit Series Jackets, new w/ tags, Men's \$125 (L,XL), Women's \$115 (M). 3 in 1 system with Goretex outershell and zip in fleece inner shell. grey, navy, royal, light blue, red and green. obo call 217-9569 or email ras2g@mtsu.edu.

Two Cheap Computer desks. One desk type with cabinets overhead. One is a stand type with 1 drawer, no cabinets. \$30 for both. Email: deb_mtsu@yahoo.com. Call 615-563-4488 after 5:30.

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Sublease

Sterling 3335. Pool view, fast internet service, great roommates, needed for May-July. Great for summer school cheap housing. Candice 901-351-9915.

Female, non-smoker needed to sublease apt at Campus Crossing ASAP. Nice, clean 3 bd, private bath. Utilities, cable, internet included. \$430 monthly. Jessica 351-4935, jlaz2i@mtsu.edu.

Need a place to stay this summer? 1br/1bt available at the Woods May 15th-August 15th. Rent is \$300 and includes all utilities with cable and high speed internet. Please

call 407-375-4994 for more info.

Sublease needed to take over lease through August. 2 bed/2 bath apt. rent includes half water. 1st month rent free! only mins from campus. Call Tara @ 615-418-6919.

Female sublease needed ASAP! University Gables. Furnished, with utilities & internet included. \$375/month. \$300 off first month's rent. Call 615-319-2341.

I will pay \$200.00 to sublease my apartment! Seeking female, \$375/month, all utilities included, washer & dryer, private patio, furnished, tanning beds, pool, computer center, transport to campus, fitness center, basketball and volleyball court & game room. Contact 615-308-5463.

1 Roommate needed or 3 bed 3 bath apt. Campus Crossing. Fully furnished. Workout center, high speed internet, pool. 439/month. Utilities included. call 615-482-3796.

Sublease needed for a 2bd 2 ba apt. @ University Courtyard, all utilities included. Male or female because there is no other occupant as of right now and probably won't be until lease is up. Rent is discounted \$30 from \$525 to \$495. March rent has been paid! Lease ends in July. Move in ASAP! For more info call 313-433-8427 or email: Hnp2b@mtsu.edu

SUMMER SUBLEASER NEEDED
Female sublease needed for a 1BD in a 4BD/4BA at Campus Crossings Apartments. LR, DR, Kitchen, Wash/Dryer, utilities and cable, high speed internet, pool, workout. \$400/mo includes all of the above. 3 other roommates periodically gone for the summer. Mid May until Fall Semester. Call Carrie: 865-740-9133 or Steve: 865-405-4833

Travel

Condo in Myrtle Beach for Spring Break! Sheraton Boardwalk Plantation Resort. March 5-12, 2005, 7 nights. 1 BR (sleeps 4) \$90/night with minimum of 4 nights. 615-975-4792.

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Former UNC coach Smith upset over Peterson's firing

By Elizabeth A. Davis
AP Sports Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Esteemed North Carolina coach Dean Smith said Tennessee should have given his former player, Buzz Peterson, another year as coach.

Peterson's firing was not handled well and reflects poorly on the school, Smith said Wednesday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

"Who am I to be telling Tennessee how to run their program - but I think it could have been done much better. And ideally [Peterson should have] another year and let him know it would just be one more year," Smith said.

"I know he's capable, and I'm sure it would come through."

Peterson and his roommate Michael Jordan played under Smith on North Carolina's 1982 national championship team.

Smith, who retired in 1997, and current Tar Heels coach Roy Williams called Tennessee athletic director Mike Hamilton and UT President John Petersen last week before the Southeastern Conference tournament to voice their support for Peterson.

The Volunteers finished the season 14-17, the second losing record in four years for Peterson. Hamilton fired Peterson on Sunday, and the decision was made public on Monday.

Peterson told the AP on Tuesday he was surprised by his dismissal, particularly after a discussion he had with Hamilton after Tennessee beat Arkansas in the first round of the SEC tournament.

Hamilton said he later apologized to Peterson for any misunderstanding.

"I just think it could have been handled differently by the athletic director," Smith said. "That's a hard one for me. I don't want to deal in other people's business, but it's a way to treat people. If you're going to do it, don't lead them on."

When asked if he thought the decision to fire Peterson made Tennessee look bad, Smith replied: "To me it does, but maybe that's just what it is today."

"[Duke coach] Mike Krzyzewski, after three years, he was really way down ... and people wanting him gone. You shouldn't listen to boosters anytime. It happened to me in my fourth year. I know there were some big boosters that wanted me [gone], but the chancellor was a strong guy."

Tennessee has hired the firm Champ Search, led by former NCAA President Cedric Dempsey, to help find Peterson's replacement. The firm has already made some contacts, Hamilton said.

Auburn coach Jeff Lebo, Texas Tech coach Bobby Knight and Charlotte coach Bobby Lutz, among others, have been reported as possible candidates. Tennessee interviewed Lebo for the job four years ago before choosing Peterson. Smith wouldn't say if he would encourage or discourage Lebo from going to Tennessee.

"I'm sure he's set at Auburn. That would be up to Jeff. I'm sure we would talk about it if he was interested," Smith said.

Smith also spoke to Lady Vols coach Pat Summitt, who voiced her support to the Tennessee administration along with former Tennessee athletes Peyton Manning and Todd Helton.

Peterson was hired at Tennessee in 2001 after one season at Tulsa where he led the team to the NIT championship. He coached the previous four seasons at Appalachian State, which won the Southern Conference tournament championship in 2000 and advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

The Vols did not reach the NCAA Tournament during his four years.

Peterson said he would like to find another coaching job, but plans to stay in Knoxville until the end of the school year.

"If he gets another job, you'll see a great job done by Buzz Peterson," Smith said. ♦

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Class A		
E. Harding (OT) 59	Ezell Harding	Saturday 3 p.m.
Wednesday 10:30 a.m. Chr. Aca. Knox 56	Friday 10:30 a.m.	
Middleton 77	Middleton	
Wednesday 12:15 p.m. Tenn. Temple 68		
Unaka 48	Peabody	Saturday 5 p.m.
Wednesday 2 p.m. Peabody 54	Friday 12:15 p.m.	
Wayne Co. 54	Wayne Co.	
Wednesday 5:15 p.m. Pickett Co. 47		

Class AA		
Austin East 52	David Lipscomb	Saturday 7 p.m.
Wednesday 7 p.m. David Lipscomb 55	Friday 2 p.m.	
Humboldt		
Wednesday 8:45 p.m. Raleigh Egypt		
Haywood		Saturday 9 p.m.
Thursday 10:30 a.m. Martin Luther King	Friday 5:15 p.m.	
Bolivar Central		
Thursday 12:15 p.m. Sullivan Central		

Class AAA		
Oak Ridge		Saturday 11 p.m.
Thursday 2 p.m. Jackson North Side	Friday 7 p.m.	
Hillsboro		
Thursday 5:15 p.m. Cleveland		
Ridgeway		Saturday 1 p.m.
Thursday 7 p.m. Wilson Central	Friday 8:45 p.m.	
Siegel		
Thursday 8:45 p.m. Tennessee		

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