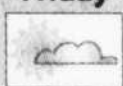


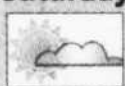
Thursday

HI: 66°
LO: 38°

Friday

HI: 61°
LO: 34°

Saturday

HI: 49°
LO: 27°Chic shopping
in the 'Boro

page 5

Ladies go to
tournament

page 6

Vol. 82 No. 50

www.mtsusidelines.com

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Editorially independent

Bredesen grants \$31 million for LRC expansion



Photo illustration by Chet Overall | Staff Designer

The state budget includes money for an expansion of the LRC. If passed, the project will receive \$31.7 million.

By Josh Daughtery

Staff Writer

The McWhorter Learning Resources Center may receive several million dollars from the Tennessee state budget for an expansion.

On Feb. 20, Gov. Phil Bredesen proposed his fiscal year 2007 through 2008 budget, which includes \$31.7 million to expand the LRC.

According to the new state budget, the \$31.7 million set aside for the LRC is a part of \$92.83 million allocated for the Tennessee Board of Regents.

This fits in with the governor's emphasis on improving K-12 education, therefore, improving universities as well, said Mark Byrnes, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

"We're ready to take the next steps to seize the future for ourselves, for our children and for our children's children, and to do this we must start with education," said Bredesen in a Feb. 20 press release.

Pre K-12 education and higher education together make up 29 percent of the state's budget for 2007 through 2008.

The budget outlined that the money for the LRC would be used for construction of an addition as well as a partial renovation of the existing building for the College of Education.

The construction would mainly be for new classrooms, labs and offices. According to the budget, the non-functional area on the south side of the building would be demolished.

According to the budget, the LRC project is part of \$505 million for Capital Outlay projects. These projects include \$82 million for the North Cumberland Plateau Land Preservation, \$32 million to the UT Knoxville Cherokee Campus and \$53.4 million for statewide higher education maintenance, as well as other projects.

Byrnes said there is a possibility the budget could be denied by the Tennessee State Legislature.

"The higher it is on the governor's priorities, the more likely it is to be funded," Byrnes said.

John Vile, chair of the political science department, said both houses have to pass the budget by a majority vote before it can be signed or vetoed by Bredesen.

"He's not going to veto something he has already proposed," Vile said.

Byrnes said the budget is typically the last thing the legislature does during their session.

Lola Potter, public information officer for the finance department for the state of Tennessee, said if the budget is the approved the funds would be distributed at the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1. ♦



Photo by Chris Barstad | Photography Editor

Adam Brown, Andrew Burns, Steven McClain and Jackee Curry wrap up their 82 hours of living in a small shack on the Knoll Wednesday. The students from the Wesley Foundation built and lived in the shack to raise money for Habitat for Humanity.

Group 'shacks up' for Habitat for Humanity

By Faith Franklin

Staff Writer

For 48 hours, members of the Wesley Foundation, in conjunction with the MTSU chapter of Habitat for Humanity, were shackled up outside on the Keathley University Center Knoll.

"Shacking Up" is an effort to raise money for the Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity.

"We build a shack out of donated materials or materials that we can scrounge or find and then we stay in it," said Jonathan Kerstetter, senior education major and president of the Wesley Foundation. "Sometimes we stay in it until we have raised a certain amount of money or a certain amount of time."

This year was the first year that the shack was on the road. Students took the shack around to local businesses including Lowe's, Home Depot and Big Lots.

Students built the shack Saturday and

began staying in it on Sunday, ending their stay Wednesday night at 7:30.

"Staying in the shack is actually a lot of fun; you get to bond with whoever you are in there with," Kerstetter said. "It is interesting because you actually wake up because of the cold sometimes."

Students who spend the night are equipped with flashlights and plenty of blankets. The night shift begins at 11 p.m. and ends at 7 a.m. There is no electricity or running water which makes for the closest experience to being homeless.

Students have been positively responding to the presence of the shack by stopping to observe the foundation.

"The shack itself gets a lot of attention because people are wondering what this is doing on campus," said Steven McMillan, senior recording industry major. "It's a really good attention grabber [and] we get to talk to [students about the program]."

Students on campus have been very

supportive of the effort to combat homelessness.

"We have had several students come up and give twenty to thirty dollars and was like 'I was homeless, [and] we really appreciate what you are doing,'" Kerstetter said. "I did not realize how many people had actually at one point in time been considered homeless. It has been a real eye opening experience."

Kerstetter's favorite part about working with the shack is "staying in it, but getting to talk with all the people who came by, getting their experiences and gaining a little more understanding."

According to Kerstetter, the title "Shacking Up" has caused some people to pause.

"We have had people ask, 'Have you ever thought about changing the title, because I don't know if you want that type of connotation,'" Kerstetter said. "It's meant to get attention [and] is not meant to condone any kind of lifestyle." ♦

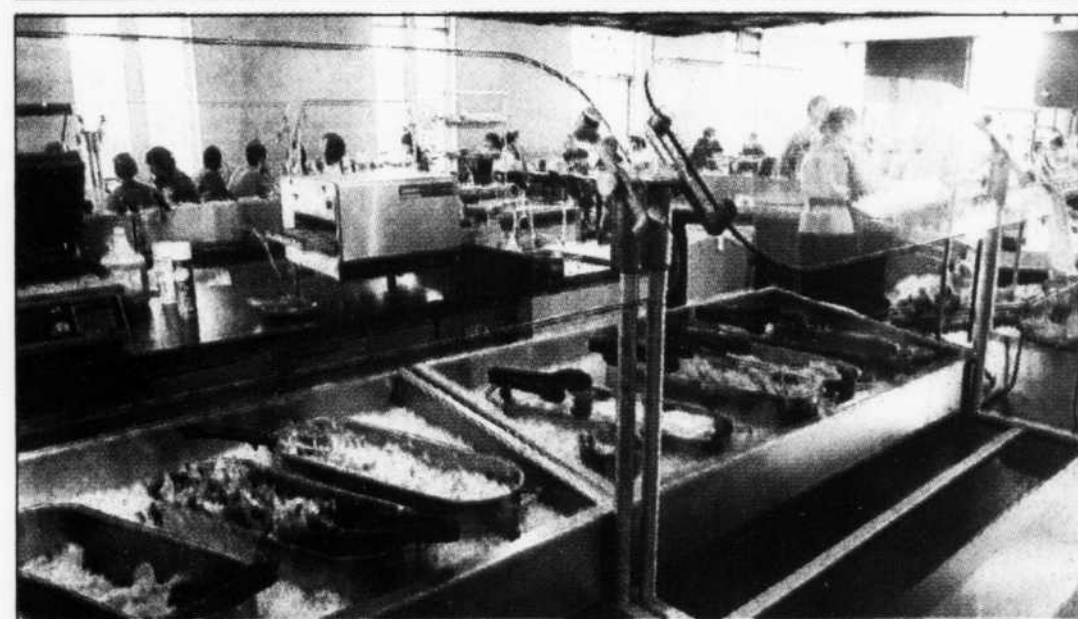


Photo by Chris Barstad | Photography Editor

Students eat food provided by Aramark in McCaillie Hall's RoFC Restaurant. One student recently accused Aramark of lowering food quality after an internal review by company officials.

Aramark refutes claims of sub-par food quality

By Dana Owens

Editor in Chief

Aramark was accused of reducing food quality after a corporate review in a letter to the editor published in *Sidelines* Feb. 15, but according to officials, any changes are part of a healthier menu initiative.

Jessica Causey, author of the letter and a senior business student, stated she has noticed food quality rising overall, but after a recent internal review, certain products such as fruit and meat

have been changed.

Aramark is responsible for all food on campus, including cafeterias and catering. According to Leanne Brown of Aramark's higher education services, a "fresh eyes" internal survey was recently conducted of MTSU's Campus Dining Services. The survey brought company representatives from locations across the country to offer suggestions from other colleges.

Russell Doyle, food service director of Campus Dining, said the representatives gave input on how to better serve students.

"Everything we do is a team concept," Doyle said, adding there are about 500 Aramark college locations around the country. "All sorts of ideas come out of [the review], it's an exchange of ideas."

Though Causey declined to comment further, she stated in the letter that Aramark is substituting quality meats with "mixed turkey, low quality meats." Doyle said the "turkey-ham," which is currently being used, is part of Dining Services' effort to make the menu

See Aramark, 2

Study advocates change

Pedagogy Task Force aids Faculty Senate's reinvention of professor-evaluation system

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

The Pedagogy Task Force presented a new teaching evaluation instrument to the Faculty Senate on Feb. 12.

The Task Force presented the "New Teaching Effectiveness Instrument" pilot study, which is meant to improve on the current methods that teachers use so students can evaluate the instructors' performance.

Wendy Koenig, assistant professor of art, and Michael Fleming, assistant professor of recording industry, served as co-chairs and shared the responsibility of the Pedagogy Task Force.

"The point of the task force is how to improve teaching across campus," Koenig said. "I'm sure you have heard about the situation where it's not really that helpful."

Victor Montemayor Spear, formerly a professor of physics, headed the project from the very beginning, until this year, when he left on a sabbatical while working at Vanderbilt University. He was responsible for putting everything together.

"The current evaluation tool is just really too vague," Koenig

said. "It is not really that helpful to the students and they are really frustrated by it because they really don't have much of a voice. The faculty does not really get any information from the forms. That was what led them to say 'Let's do a pilot study with a new evaluation instrument.'"

The main point of the presentation was to address the current teaching evaluation tool and its inadequacies. The means of which a professor receives a hard copy of the results will be stopped and instead be delivered to them on a Web site.

Workshops will be available to professors from the Innovative Technologies Center in order to help teachers to improve on their performance in the classroom, as well as the department chairs and college educated in the teacher-effectiveness instrument and the results.

The Task Force looked into several different areas for examples that could be tested and decided on a test instrument they found at Georgia State University.

"We looked around at several different examples," Koenig said. "We ended up using one that, I believe, is currently being

used at Georgia State University, which is one of our peer institutions that we are suppose to be like."

According to Koenig the testing form was created at the University of California at Berkeley. The Task Force did not want to design one of its own. Instead, they wanted to use one from another university with which to compare.

Koenig volunteered her classes back in the spring of 2006 to test this new teaching evaluation instrument.

"I used all of my classes for the evaluation," Koenig said. "We did one semester about 100 different courses I may be wrong about that, but it wasn't campus wide."

Once the students used the forms, they were asked to evaluate the forms themselves in order to see what changes needed to be made to the forms. The students that were involved in the study ranged from freshmen to graduate students.

Once the results were tallied, it was overwhelmingly positive, pushing for the use of the new testing instrument and requesting that it should be implemented sometime in the near future. ♦

New task force defines purpose of Greek Life

Christin Pepple
Staff Writer

In order to define and improve Greek Life and university relations, the Greek Life Task Force finalized their Statement of Relationship last Tuesday.

The Task Force is a committee designated by Sidney McPhee, president of MTSU, to define Greek life on campus and improve policy.

"The Greek Life Task Force originally had approximately 30 members, but then we had people who had to quit here and there," said Gentry McCreary, director of Greek Life. "We tried to get as diverse a group as possible together comprised of current undergraduates, MTSU Greek Alumni, faculty and staff."

The Greek Life Task Force was commissioned in March of 2006 by McPhee and gave the group two responsibilities: the creation of a Statement of Relationship and developing a strategy plan to improve Greek Life at MTSU.

The Statement of Relationship main components include cements rules, regulations and responsibilities of Greek and University rules on campus.

Although the Task Force has varied in number since last March, all the members worked to compile the Statement document that encompasses every aspect of Greek life on a broad scale.

The final Statement was comprised of reports by four subcommittees within the Task Force.

The four subcommittees were Social Governance-Risk Management, Undergraduate-University Relationship, Alumni-Undergraduate-University Relationships and National

Organization University Relationship.

"It's definitely been an ongoing process," McCreary said. "We had the final draft two months ago and we've been tweaking it ever since to make sure everything is stated clearly and correctly."

The Statement of Relationship went through several drafts which were debated upon by the task force and open forums for Greek

Standing" placement and directly states the circumstances under which a chapter can be placed under the classification.

The role in judgment of policy violations that council judicial boards within Greek Organizations was formalized, and established guidelines and regulations concerning recruitment and membership intake over the course of each semester were also clarified.

Social policies, risk management guidelines, establishment of a Greek Alumni Council, guidelines regarding chapter advising and closure of any loopholes regarding alumni-graduate chapter sponsored events were also clearly defined.

On Feb. 20, the motion to finalize the document and send it before each Greek council and McPhee passed unanimously.

After the motion passed, the primary points of contention discussed in the meeting were retention, scholarship and alumni relationship, areas the entire task force agreed were the most important to Greek Life.

The Greek Life Task Force is also planning to recruit new members to replace the ones lost over the last few months. Candidates range from professors, students, alumni and members of the community as possibilities.

The committee is now in the first phase of constructing a strategic plan to improve the quality of Greek Life on campus.

The plan has to be finalized by its deadline on June 1. The board is working on several different plans to implement all the policies of the Statement of Relationship and to work out any problems that it may pose. ♦

"We tried to get as diverse a group as possible..."

-Gentry McCreary

students to voice their opinions and concerns with the document.

The purpose statement of the final document is "To define and clarify the role, responsibilities and the basic expectations of Greek undergraduates, Greek Alumni, the University, National-International Headquarters staff and to formalize the relationships that exist between each of these groups."

After final composition, the Statement of Relationship made several major changes to the policies currently in place in Greek Life.

It established procedures regarding the formation of a new Greek organization on campus and recognized the policy in which the Greek governing councils recognize new chapters.

The final document also granted the Office of Greek Life the authority of "Temporary Bad

Aramark: Health-conscience menu

Continued from 1

menu healthier. Also, the ham substitute provides an alternative for those who cannot eat pork.

According to Melissa Scruggs, marketing specialist for Aramark, the turkey ham is not a substitute but an additional option to expand the variety of Campus Dining's menu.

Though Causey said she encountered the produce in her omicron, Scruggs said it is likely they were trying out the turkey ham in one location before making it widely available.

"We are always interested in hearing customer dissatisfaction, so we can make changes," Scruggs said.

Causey also claimed that fresh fruit would be replaced by canned, but according to Aramark's contract with MTSU, Dining Services is required to provide fresh fruit and citrus juices daily.

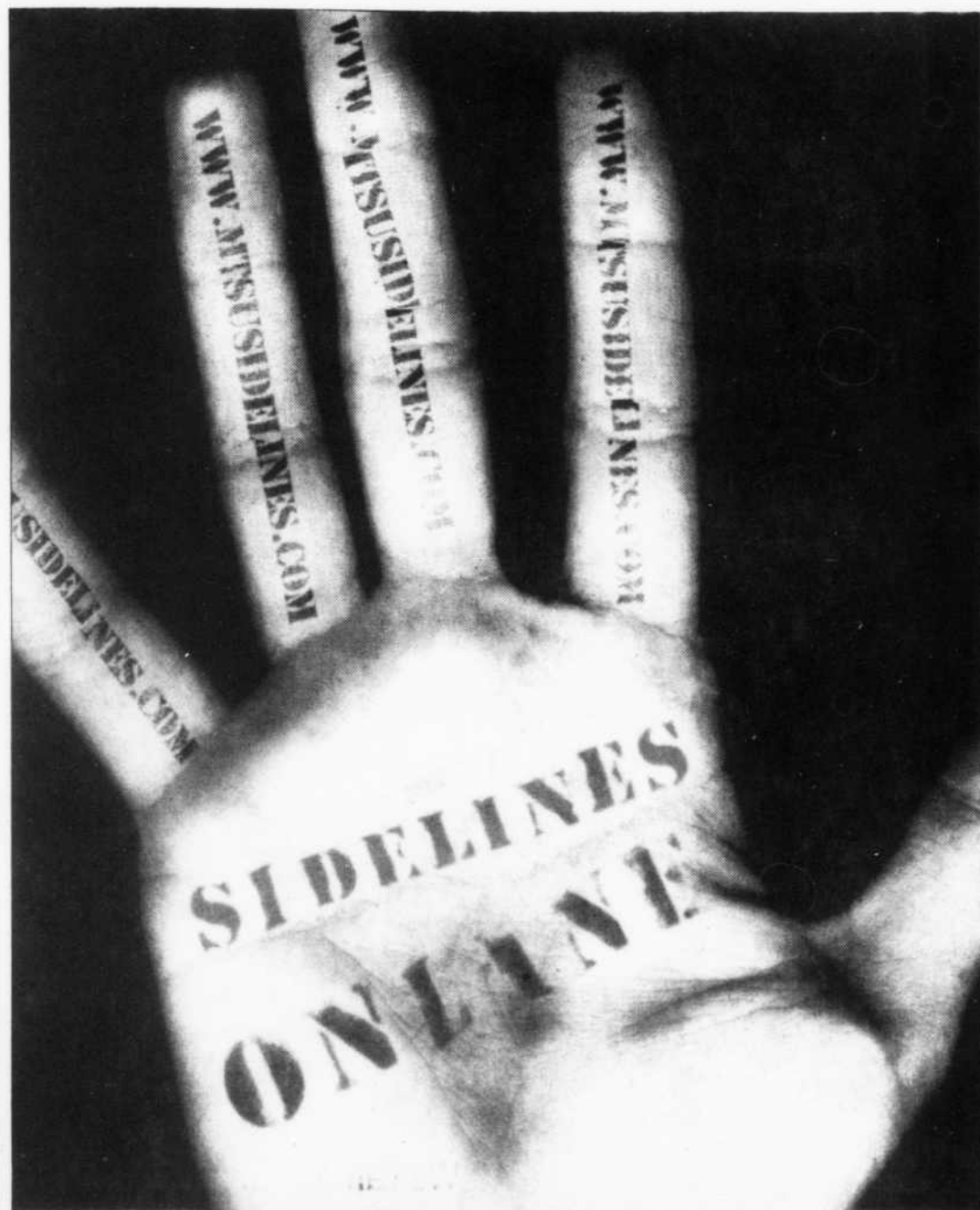
The reviewers mainly gave suggestions for making Aramark's offerings more health-conscious, Doyle said. They are also assisting Campus Dining in developing new menus and implementing systems, which will help with food production.

"It's all about quality with the resources we have," said James Quinn, culinary director. The healthier menu is "not taking away anything," he added.

Currently, Aramark is in the process of developing a healthier menu based on previous internal reviews. In the past, Dining Services incorporated a potato bar in RFOC Restaurant in McCallie Hall based on suggestions from other campuses.

According to Scruggs, a recent survey showed that in 2005 about 25 percent of college students said they were watching their weight. Last year, the number jumped up by nearly 10 percent, showing that students are becoming more health-conscious.

Though the reviews are periodic, Doyle said dining services corresponds with Aramark on a daily basis. ♦



ATTENTION: The Procrastination Club meeting is cancelled. It will be rescheduled in the near future.

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IN THEATRES MARCH 2

CRIME BRIEFS

Feb. 22 – 8:04 a.m.
Greenhouse
Traffic
Nathan Harrison of Murfreesboro was issued citation for driving without a license and given a verbal warning for speeding.

Feb. 22 – 8:55 a.m.
Pittard Campus School
Vandalism under \$500
Subject called to advise that graffiti was on the Westside of the campus school behind the dumpster.

Feb. 22 – 9:51 a.m.
Theft over \$500
Keathley University Center
Subject called advising her wheelchair had been stolen.

Feb. 22 – 1:35 p.m.
Midgett Business Building Lot
Theft over \$500
Officer was flagged down for a bike theft report.

Feb. 22 – 7:40 p.m.
Sigma Alpha Epsilon House
Alcohol
James B. Price, III was issued a state citation for consumption of alcohol under 21.

Feb. 23 – 1:17 a.m.
Greek Row
Driving while drunk
Philip A. Bell of Memphis was issued a DUI, violation of implied consent law, an open container violation, and possession of a fraudulent ID. Dominick L. Pagoria of Memphis was issued a citation for underage consumption of alcohol.

Feb. 23 – 2:00 a.m.
Scarlett Commons Apt. 3
Vandalism under \$500
There was a disturbance outside of Scarlett Building three.

Feb. 23 – 12:33 p.m.
Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building
Theft
A faculty member called advising a Coke machine had been vandalized.

Feb. 23 – 8:16 p.m.
Peck Hall
Theft under \$500
There was a theft of a bicycle.

Feb. 23 – 1:47 p.m.
Observatory Lot
Miscellaneous
Officer called advising there was a softball that hit the windshield of a black Pontiac.

Feb. 24 – 1:21 a.m.
Greenland Drive Lot B
Traffic
A green Acura was issued a state citation for driving on a suspended license and issued a verbal warning for failure to obey a traffic control signal.

Feb. 24 – 12:09 p.m.
Womack Lane, Apt. F
Harassment
Subject advised that she had received two obscene phone calls, the first being approximately three weeks ago and the second occurred today.

Feb. 24 – 12:53 p.m.
Scarlett Commons, Apt. 4
Theft under \$500

Subject advised a scooter had been stolen from the bike rack of Scarlett Building Four. A cut bike lock was found. The scooter is described as a red and gas-powered.

Feb. 24 – 3:12 p.m.
Womack Lane, Apt. G
Theft under \$300
Subject called in reference to laundry being stolen. He said he had left several loads of laundry in the washers at Womack Lanes, and this morning found that his load of whites was missing.

Feb. 24 – 3:48 p.m.
Recreation Center
Theft under \$500
Subject advised that a cell phone was lost or stolen from the Rec. Center. The cell phone is described as a black and silver Motorola.

Feb. 24 – 8:13 p.m.
Boutwell Dramatic Arts
Theft under \$500
Subject went into the BDA and when they came out their bike was gone or stolen. The bike is described as a purple road master with one of the gears hanging off.

Feb. 25 – 4:31 p.m.
Scarlett Commons, Apt. 6
Vandalism under \$500
A report was filled out in reference to a vehicle that had been vandalized. A silver Saturn had both rearview mirrors being knocked off.

Feb. 25 – 10:59 p.m.
Sims Hall
Burglary
A pair of glasses and a CD player was stolen from Sims Hall, Room 115.

Feb. 26 – 1:51 p.m.
Murphy Center
Theft over \$500
Subject called and requested an officer to come take a report in reference to stolen cell phones.

Feb. 26 – 2:11 p.m.
Keathley University Center
Vandalism under \$500
Subject called and requested an officer to come take a report in reference to writing on the walls.

Feb. 26 – 3:38 p.m.
Pi Sigma Phi house
Vandalism under \$500
Subject called and advised that one of the windows was broken.

Feb. 26 – 6:04 p.m.
Scarlett Commons Clubhouse
Theft over \$500
Area coordinator called and advised that she needed to make a report in reference to some stolen keys from the Scarlett Commons Clubhouse key box.

Feb. 26 – 9:06 p.m.
James E. Walker Library
Theft under \$300
A purse was stolen from the library.

Feb. 27 – 7:24 a.m.
Murphy Center
Theft under \$500
Subject came in to file a report on a stolen purse.

Universe's origins questioned again

Associated Press

A Tennessee lawmaker is demanding answers about the creation of the universe from the state education commissioner.

State Sen. Raymond Finney sponsored a resolution to ask Education Commissioner Lana Seivers whether the universe "has been created or has merely happened by random, unplanned, and purposeless occurrences."

Finney, a Republican, said he wants the department to say there's no scientific proof for the theory of evolution and to let schools teach creationism or intelligent design.

"Is there a creator? If yes, why are we afraid to teach creationism?" Finney said Tuesday. "And if the answer is 'well, we can't tell,' then why are we prohibiting an alternative theory?"

A spokeswoman for the Department of Education did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

Finney's resolution would not need approval from the Democratic-controlled House or the governor. Republicans hold a one-seat advantage in the Senate.

Finney, 65, a retired physician, said he has found no scientific proof of evolution. "We've hunted for almost 150 years and not found supporting evidence," he said.

Mainstream scientists consider evolution a well-established theory. A federal judge barred the Dover, Pa., school system from teaching intelligent design, saying it was religion masquerading as science.

The senator said he doesn't want to ban the instruction of

evolution or to include religion in the curriculum.

"I don't want them getting into teaching religion. That's faith. We go to church for that," he said. "But let's don't teach something that's not supported by evidence as truth, as the only idea."

The resolution specifically omits the name of any deity.

"Don't name that creator," Finney said. "Don't say it's Jehovah or Allah or anybody else; that's a matter of faith."

Finney said he just wants students to evaluate evolution and creationism side by side.

"That's what education is," he said, "To take competing ideas and come to a conclusion."

Finney is from Maryville, about 60 miles from the East Tennessee town of Dayton – home of the infamous 1925 Tennessee "Morkey Trial" that pitted evolution against the biblical creation story and resulted in the conviction of biology teacher John T. Scopes for teaching evolution.

Scopes, a Dayton teacher, was convicted of violating a state law that forbade teaching evolution and was fined \$100. The Tennessee Supreme Court reversed the conviction on the narrow ground that only a jury trial could impose a fine of more than \$50. It did not rule on the constitutionality of the law. The state repealed the law more than 40 years later, in 1967.

A year after the repeal, a similar case in Arkansas reached the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled unanimously that the law was unconstitutional because it violated the First Amendment ban on establishing religion. ♦

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Governor firm on tax for cigarettes

Associated Press

Gov. Phil Bredesen on Wednesday said he wants to turn back speculation that he might want to negotiate about the amount by which he proposes to raise the cigarette tax.

"That is not correct," he said. "I have put forward a plan that will pay for some essential things in education."

Bredesen wants to raise more than \$200 million a year by increasing the cigarette tax from 20 cents to 60 cents per pack. Most of the money would go

toward primary and higher education.

"I've put forward a cigarette tax (increase) of 40 cents that I think is a very reasonable and conservative amount of money," Bredesen said. "It still keeps our cigarette tax well below even national averages."

"And I'm not in any sense compromising on that," he said.

Legislative leaders from both parties have acknowledged that a tax increase is likely to pass, but have stopped short of endorsing the increase at the 40 cent level. ♦

SIDELINES

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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board Sidelines offers cure to spring break woes

Two weeks ago, *Sidelines* published only about four Crime Briefs. In today's issue, we have 27. Looks like some MTSU students – and a few from Memphis – have already caught "Spring Fever."

Before the campus is released into the wilderness of the world for a week of debaucheries with MTV and VH1, maybe everyone needs to stop, take a breath and figure out why coeds catch the dangerous springtime tremors. Is it the overwhelming amount of midterms, papers and projects due before release, or the need for immediate gratification in order to prepare for the looming seven weeks after the break?

Perhaps more balanced breaks are needed. Two months off for summer and winter with 14 weeks in between is not working. And, while we love our spring break, the lase of seven weeks after a two-month break and seven months of rushed scrambling to play catch-up, hurts both students and teachers.

No student wants to have a paper or test, sometimes both, due before the break, and teachers, hopefully, do not want to spend what little alone time they have surrounded by more papers than TPS reports in "Office Space."

Instead, balance breaks with class time. For example, a year-round schedule has six weeks of class and three weeks of school. This might prove to be impossible for a two-semester college system, three if you count the optional summer.

Lengthening the semester would provide a longer period to absorb information and work on assignments, as well as provide opportunities for longer rest periods. This is, of course, the point of any break – to relax and enjoy oneself.

So as you read this editorial board when you know you should be working on the paper of getting in two hours or are rushing through a presentation in hopes of dueing out of class faster, remember one thing: spring break only comes once a year, so enjoy yourself.

And try not to make Crime Briefs wherever you vacation.

Conservatives, abandon GOP to adhere to values

Every great social or political movement has leaders whose names are forever remembered in conjunction with that movement. The modern American conservative movement grew out of a response to the Great Depression, the beginning of the Cold War, and to a greater extent domestically, a response to the counterculture of the 1960s and government deregulation of the economy under Republican presidencies in the 1970s and 1980s.

As with any other social or political movement, this movement contains great leaders that worked to advance the tenets of conservatism. To understand the relationship between those individuals and the movement as a whole, one must understand the beliefs of modern American conservatism, as detailed by Russell Kirk in his 1953 book "The Conservative Mind":

"Belief in a transcendent order, or body of natural law, which rules society as well as conscience. ...Persuasion that freedom and property are closely linked: separate property from private possession, and the Leviathan becomes master of all. ...Recognition that change may not be salutary reform: hasty innovation may be a devouring conflagration, rather than a torch of progress."

Several prominent Americans adopted these beliefs and changed the political landscape in the United States for decades.

William F. Buckley, Jr. fathered the American conservative movement as we know it today. His literary creation, *The National Review*, and his countless columns in newspapers, speeches at conservative events, and long-running television program *Firing Line* showcase the views and beliefs of the most prominent American Conservative.

Buckley continues to write on conservative issues, and just recently retired from his public speaking career. Undoubtedly though, Buckley remains as the quintessential conservative figure in American politics and will hold that title for decades to come.

Buckley was once quoted, "Liberals claim to want to give a hearing to other views, but then are shocked and offended to discover that there are other views."

Another crusader for the conservative cause is Phyllis Schlafly. Schlafly fought vehemently



Hurt Pride

Matthew Hurtt
Staff Columnist

against the feminist movement in the 1970s and was successful in derailing the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972.

Since then, she has written and published many works relating to American conservatism. She also frequently lectures across the country. It should be noted that Schlafly spends much of her time criticizing the Bush administration for "muddying the waters of conservatism."

On the feminist movement, Schlafly said, "I like being a woman, and the protections the law now allows."

The last real hero of the conservative movement was former actor and president of the Screen Actors Guild – Ronald Reagan.

Reagan epitomized conservatism in a way that no other political leader has. His laissez-faire style "Reaganomics" brought the United States out of the economic failures of a peanut farmer-turned president from Georgia and his firm stance on military build-up led to the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

Reagan's abilities to communicate complex ideas in simple language produced words of wisdom like this: "Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

Regan also said, "Government's first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives."

From Rush Limbaugh to Phil Valentine – and all in between – talk radio has become the new frontier for conservative viewpoints. As conservatives become more and more disenchanted with the Republican Party – the party who has received a majority of the conservative vote since the 1980s – a new third party could be on the horizon.

Matthew Hurtt is a junior liberal arts major and can be reached at mch2x@mtsu.edu.



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

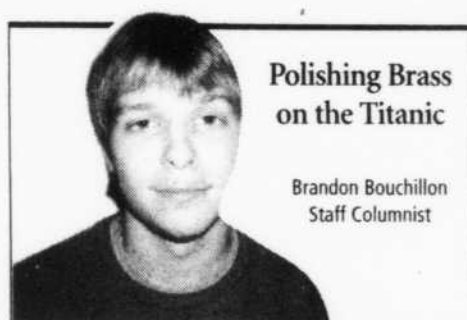
Police not qualified to serve, protect

Homeland security has taken on a greater importance in our modern United States. With incessant natural disasters and our ill-forsaken choices regarding the Iraq war, now, more than ever, we need protection. Nationally, our self-defense system is constantly criticized and overhauled; but locally, we overlook the problems with our most relevant form of protection, the police.

Police officers play a vital role in Keeping America Safe. Their duty, clearly stated, is to serve and protect the citizens of this country. Yet too often these terms contradict each other. Why can't the cops who watch over us also care about us at the same time? The two, you'll find, always seem to cancel each other out.

Have you ever been driving, glanced in the rearview mirror and noticed a police cruiser tailing you? Your first reaction? Proceed to fall apart behind the wheel. An aura of fear and paranoia follows cops, not undeserving. In this and age, hearing the phrase "Here comes the Fuzz" or "5-0!" scares people far more than it comforts them. "Oh, thank God. The police are here." When was the last time you said that? Why are we so afraid?

This suspicion surely stems from our everyday run-ins with cops. The disparaging looks they hand out at gas station counters. The verbal assault citizens can receive for the smallest of infractions. Their stifling presence can



Polishing Brass
on the Titanic

Brandon Bouchillon
Staff Columnist

empty once-comfortable bars. Such examples reinforce the notion that police are, in fact, not our friends. Instead, they're simple, sometimes spiteful, authority figures, capable of causing us trouble should they deem fit.

Area police are charged with keeping the peace in Rutherford County. However, in our great nation, you can become a police officer after a mere four months of training. Four months, the length of an extended summer, is all it takes to become an official judge of right and wrong. In such a short time, could you learn half of what's necessary to "serve" and "protect"? Four months, then it's "Congratulations officer, you're free to do as you see fit." Four months and its open season on the public. This surely isn't long enough to instill some common decency, some much-needed people skills, in our beloved fuzz.

Maybe it's the archetypal cop that throws everything off kilter. You remember those kids from high-school, the ones who dreamt off growing up, of bossing their peers around – those in need of a badge so people will listen. Police duty is surely their dream job: carrying a gun, arresting who you deem fit, frightening motorists into driving ridiculously slow speeds. These are all power-hungry traits. A fine line exists between what's fair and what's abuse of power. Defining this line for police officers would help a great deal. Pointing out that this line even exists works as a starting place.

Since American citizens interact with police officers on the regular, then shouldn't we have some say in who's elected as these officers? At the very least, let citizens approve local police training. Do this before cops are given the jurisdiction to carry out their whims upon us.

The longer we neglect to do something, the more this corruption of inexperience spreads. Police officers exist to serve us, not to petrify or threaten us. We the people would like some say in who is going to "police" us, and how we'll be treated while they do so.

Something greater than four months of classroom instruction is needed.

Brandon Bouchillon is a junior mass communication major and can be reached at bcb2t@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Estes passes judgment on women not like her

To the Editor:

One can't help but read the piece submitted by Liz Estes ("PHC makes light of domestic violence," Feb. 22) with some level on humor. While Estes bases her piece on her perceived belief that Greeks are genuinely bad people hurting the fight of the feminist, perhaps she should take a step back and ask why she believes only those similar to herself are entitled to their own life choices while still possessing good, genuine intentions coupled with a modern view of their potential. Furthermore, any skilled writer would have been able to articulate their opinion on this issue without making it so blatantly obvious that the mere mention of Greek organizations, even outside of this scenario, regularly sends said author into a judgmental rant.

To think, all of this time I have simply been reinforcing the notion to my toddler that she must always wear sexualized undergarments to please "frat boys" and teaching her that her body is "inconsequential" when I asked her to make sure her panties have the tag in the back, or when I allowed her to choose for herself which package of "panties" she'd like to purchase. If the author takes issue with "panties," perhaps she should get her drawers out of a wad and open her mind a bit.

How dare she take it upon herself to demonize the efforts of these people? In regards to all of her "Animal House"-fueled mental images, that sounds to me like she is the one who might want to take a long hard look at how she might be hurting fellow females by encouraging a sexist view of sorority members.

It is simply infuriating to read one individual pass judgment on another, calling the other narrow minded, all the while giving repeated examples of her own closed-mindedness. It could not be much clearer that Estes believes only her opinion, or that of those that share it, is right in every scenario. An individual truly fighting for the end of sexist views would not pick and choose which females she wants to receive equal treatment and respect; referring to members of sororities as "sorority girls" in a derogatory fashion and including her own fantasies of said girls jumping around in their panties having a pillow fight simply reinforced a negative sexist view of women. Pot, meet Kettle.

In regards to the groups' choice of the Domestic Violence Center for their beneficiary, this event was sponsored by the Panhellenic Council. The PHC represents only female Greek organizations; it seems quite obvious why these ladies would choose to focus on a group of ladies. The Red Cross accepts donations that are used in other types of emergencies, generally, and sometimes outside of one's home area. I believe these individuals wanted this event to make a difference for ladies in Murfreesboro. It doesn't exactly take a genius to figure out why they might choose a Murfreesboro organization aimed at women. In addition, what business is it of Estes' if a sorority member wanted to donate a gift card in her possession? How selfish to take a gift received and say, "You know what? Those ladies need this a lot more than me. I am going to pass it along to them." If someone passed along a gift card to Chili's to a homeless shelter, would Estes be complaining? Though I agree that a gift card to an overpriced panty boutique would be ridiculous in theory, this is not the point. Why does Liz Estes think she is the donation police? Does she seriously believe that these girls are sitting around whining about how they have to make a donation to look good to their peers? Give me a break. If there is such a pow-wow going on, it's most likely that they are sitting around talking about how disappointing it was that some didn't skip one or two days at The Grill this week to buy a toiletry for donation.

There are times when a specialized theme helps an event receive more publicity. I highly suggest Estes take a class or two in marketing

or PR before graduation if she can't fathom why the individuals planning this Panty Party choose an ingenious name that was sure the grab attention. These women sometimes leave their homes in a moment of urgency with only the clothes on their backs and those of their children. If Estes can't fathom that at least some of these women would gladly welcome a fresh new pair of panties with the change of clothes they might receive, I just don't even know how to respond to that. Items donated certainly appeared to me to be predominantly toiletries, which landed right there at number one of Ms. Authority-on-the-issue-at-hand Estes' list of suggested donations. Perhaps if she had not been so quick to grab a pen and badmouth the Greeks, she would have seen that she merely made a fool of her own close-minded self.

Again, how dare she pass judgment on the rest of us? Stop focusing on hatred of other students and start focusing on peoples' needs. If the intent of this piece was not to focus on a disdain for students with a different life than her own, I urge Estes to please take additional classes in journalism before graduation. Do I see the point that making a reference to panties might be inappropriate under some conditions? Certainly. Was it inappropriate in this scenario? Absolutely not.

Stop seeking out reasons to justify your judgment of others and your life will be much more fulfilling and much less anger-driven.

Whether I choose to hang out with those who prefer Imogene Heap, Shakira, Carrie Underwood or Mary J. Blige, I will be proud of any friend attempting to make this world a better place. It isn't my place to decide whether or not their efforts are genuine based on their clothes, cars, appearance or affiliations to groups that I clearly know nothing about. It takes all kinds of people to make a difference.

Dusty F. Brown
MTSU and Chi Omega alumna

What's wrong with attention-getting names?

To the Editor:

As a woman, I understand the importance of domestic violence awareness. In Liz Estes' article "PHC makes light of domestic violence," [Feb. 22] she claimed the Greek Panhellenic Council displayed "a frivolous name" by naming the recent charity event "Panty Party for the Murfreesboro Domestic Violence Shelter."

I think we can assume that the name wasn't intended to offend anyone, or more appropriately, get anyone's panties in a wad. I'm sure the logic behind the name was to draw attention and build curiosity, which obviously it did. The event was a success, and they were able to donate around 3,000 items to the shelter.

What's in a name? Everything, and apparently Estes realizes this. After all, her column is called "One Vagina for Lady Liberty." Some might find this name offensive, but the shock value gains attention and rouses curiosity. It looks like the pot was calling the kettle black.

Kristen M. Douglas
Junior, Spanish major

Yet another example of pot, kettle dialogue

To the Editor:

In reference to your editorial "SGA fails to represent, interest student body" [Feb. 26]:
Hi, Pot. Kettle speaking.

Brian Carroll
Senior, aerospace administration

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FEATURES

Anxiety over flying unnecessary

Statistics dispute fears, death from bee sting more likely than crash

By Kristen Snyder

Contributing Writer

With spring break just a few short days away and summer looming in the distance, vacations are quickly taking a front seat to studying and jobs.

While many MTSU students will be packing their cars full for long trips to the beach, others are contemplating whether or not flying will be their means of travel.

To some, flying may just be another day in the air. But for others, it's fear which keeps them far from the vicinity of an airplane runway.

"I would only fly as a last resort," says Eric Trusty, a senior English major.

There are several things that keep people from flying. After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, many Americans question the passengers sitting beside them and wonder if their flight will be targeted by terrorists.

At MTSU, it seems mechanical problems are more of a fear.

"Terrorism is always in the back of your mind, but it doesn't control my desire not to fly," Trusty says.

"I am more terrified of the possibility of crashing than terrorism," says Megan Hartoon, a junior English major.

If terrorism isn't the fear, then what is? It seems that many

Americans find the idea of flying dangerous and feel they are more likely to die in a plane crash than in a car accident.

They allow their minds to play tricks and see the effects of movie magic on screen appear in wild imaginations.

We attempt to rationalize these fears by telling ourselves it could happen to anyone.

Therefore, many choose driving because they are more comfortable with it.

Though many people are aware of traffic accidents, automobiles are such a constant in our lives we seem to disregard safety and fears.

Flying, on the other hand, is not a frequent means of travel for many, and it often feels scary and new each time.

The Bureau of Safety Statistics and the National Transportation Safety Board compared the chance of dying from an airline accident versus a driving accident, after accounting for the greater number of people who drive each day. The findings greatly crash with American fears and comforts.

A person is 19 times safer in a plane than in a car, according to the report.

The Bureau of Safety Statistics and the National Transportation Safety Board also noted a person is more likely to die from a bee sting than from a commercial flight.



A person is 19 times safer in a plane than in a car.

—The Bureau of Safety Statistics and the National Transportation Safety Board



Photo courtesy of Morgue File

To some, the above image might look like fun. To others, it might elicit anxiety and fear. Popular attitudes toward flying may be becoming more and more pessimistic, but statistics tell a different story. With spring break days away, the question is on a lot of college student's minds: To fly, or not to fly?

The numbers are striking, but can a fear of flying really be tamed by positive statistics?

"What is really annoying to me are all of the security restrictions, but flying is still the safest way to travel," junior music major Josh Busman says.

Perhaps the modern annoyances we face in the line of security build upon anxieties and make people's fears even greater. Although many agree these restrictions are important to the

safety of travelers, there is still the added panic which arouses when one realizes he may still have liquids packed in his suitcase. Flying then becomes more of an event than a means of travel, one which adds significant stress onto our already worrisome minds.

For some, though, flying is a way to sit back, relax and enjoy a break from the reality of routine.

"Sometimes I take a trip just for the air ride," says Lauren Bullock, senior mass communi-

cation major.

Lauren is not alone. With a thriving aerospace department right in MTSU's backyard, flying is an important part of our lives. For some, it is an essential luxury.

"I never had a reason to be afraid," says senior industrial/organizational psychology major Julie Harris. "When your hometown is a place so far away from Murfreesboro, you have to embrace it. An hour flight will

always beat an eight hour drive."

With statistics riding in flying's favor, it may be time to put aside worry and hop on a plane. Instinct should never be dismissed, but avoiding experiences without first knowing the facts can keep people from a world of traveling.

This spring break, pack your bags, take a deep breath and prepare for take-off—just make sure your seat is in its full, upright and locked position. ♦

Georgetown boutique conveys celebrity style to Murfreesboro

By Sara Lunning

Contributing Writer

Celebrities seem to have everything. Spacious homes, luxury vehicles, dream jobs, designer clothes. The homes, vehicles and jobs may be out of reach for college students, but the designer clothes aren't. Murfreesboro may not be as fashion forward as New York or Los Angeles, but this small city is home to Penny's Closet, a petite boutique offering celebrity style.

Boutique owner Penny Bolton strives to carry fashion-forward pieces cherished by celebrities and desired by Murfreesboro's fashion-conscious consumers. She showcases brands which are well known but still unique. Bolton goes after designers who produce small quantities of their merchandise and literally goes the distance to do so. Bolton regularly attends markets in Los Angeles, Dallas, New York and Las Vegas.

Bolton could take the easy way out and attend trade shows in Atlanta but chooses not to. The short trip to the city attracts many other local retailers, and she doesn't want to fill her boutique with things you can find elsewhere in town. Instead, Bolton ventures off for clothing brands such as For Love and Liberty, Miss Me and Pure Love, just to name a few.

Located in the Georgetown Shopping Center on Northfield Blvd., the boutique may be named Penny's Closet, but inside, it also feels like Penny's jewelry box. Shoppers can try on jewelry pieces regularly seen on "Desperate Housewives," hold bags carried by Madonna and Kelly Ripa, pick out a rhinestone collar for a pampered pet and even be

entertained with a three-minute video that shows how the famous line of She Bead jewelry made famous by Michael Jordan is created.

Penny's Closet not only has designer goods but occasionally has visits from well-known designers. Brazilian jewelry designer Claudia Lobão is having a trunk show in the store on May 4. If you watch "Desperate Housewives" and see Eva Longoria or Terri Hatcher wearing a delicate and whimsical piece of gold jewelry, it's more than likely a Lobão creation.

Lobão's gold pieces sometimes contain semiprecious stones and always contain a hint of Brazilian influence. Never stiff or rough, the bracelets, necklaces and earrings are smooth and playful with an allusion of movement appropriate to wear when dancing. Her creations are still very affordable with pieces as low as \$60.

Penny Bolton doesn't just sell merchandise worn by celebrities, she sells it to celebrities. Not long ago, Bolton received a call from one of Madonna's personal assistants asking her to overnights a My Flat in London handbag to London. The MFIL brand is carried by Bergdorf Goodman, Fred Segal and Nordstrom, but when Madonna couldn't find the particular handbag she wanted in any of those stores, she found Bolton listed with the company as an MFIL retailer, and from there, the contact was made.

You can't blame Madonna for going to such great lengths for the bag. Designer Jan Haldrich focuses on trends but doesn't believe in trendy.

My Flat in London products have an original, feminine and flirty feel with a modern and



Photo by Sarah Lavery | Features Editor

Brands like My Flat in London—coveted by stars like Madonna—are featured in Penny's Closet. The boutique brings fashion-forward pieces to the 'Boro.

stylish look.

What do the Center for Cosmetic Surgery at Vanderbilt and Penny's Closet have in common?

They both offer ways to achieve plump and full lips like Carmen Electra, Nicole Richie, Debra Messing and Jennie McCarthy. Skip the pain of the needles and buy products that create a similar effect. The Lip Fusion products produced by Fusion Beauty are all the rage with celebrities; it's nearly impossible to browse through any fashion magazine without seeing the famous lip-plumping gloss at work.

The moisturizing gloss treatment plumps lips instantly and can only be found at Penny's Closet—she's the only retailer in Murfreesboro who carries the products.

You don't have to travel far to look good. You just need to know where to look. From the outside, Penny's Closet blends in with the surrounding stores in the George Park shopping center. Maybe you've driven by it before and went past the white washed storefront with standard gold lettering. Next time, take a second look. ♦

Nearly horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 19

Bikinis, sun-burns and the beach are such clichés. This spring break, just sit at home and do nothing. It'll be fun.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

You'll find comfort in the arms of an old friend this week. Take a good shower afterward, though, because you're friend has scabies.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21

Please, please, please get out of your house during spring break. Go for a run, take a walk—do anything to shed those extra pounds you've gained during your seclusion. Your couch needs the break.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22

During spring break, you'll turn your weakness into strength. Your nagging paranoia will turn out to be justified—shark attacks really aren't that uncommon, it seems.

Leo

July 23 - Aug. 22

You know the "beer-goggle" phenomena? Make sure to keep your eyes during spring break, because that person you will find so darn attractive is actually your cousin. Sorry.

Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

We know, we know—college students are like sheep, just an excuse to get drunk and sleep around, you're so original and so not-a-follower. But you kinda are.

Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

Geez, that legal battle between Anna Nicole Smith's embattled boyfriend is getting kind of tiresome, right? Take a cue from Anna—go ahead and draft your will now.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 21

You never got over that horrible Valentine's Day, did you? Love stinks. You might find a little luck over spring break, though. A gorgeous stranger will glance at you seductively. But that's really all it will amount to.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Sometimes the truth can be hard to hear, especially when your new iPod shuffle renders you deaf.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Watch out for the deadly "beach-bum-bonfire" parties this spring break. If a really inebriated sorority girl or fraternity guy offers you an invitation to "chill," run quickly in the other direction.

Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

While you are staring at your ghost-white body in the mirror, just remember Fergie: "P to the A to the S, T, Y, girl you're pasty." But don't fret, there is a modern day deathtrap called a tanning bed.

Pisces

Feb. 19 - March 20

You will not be unscathed by the chocolate and depression induced calories you've accumulated the last few weeks. You'll notice this especially in your tiny-weeny polka-dot bikini that you will not wear for the first time today.

SPORTS

MT gets set for SBC Tournament

By Cody Gibson

Staff Writer

As the Lady Raiders head to Lafayette, La. for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, a number of awards and recognitions have been handed out.

Coach Rick Insell was named the Sun Belt Conference's coach of the year.

Chrissy Givens and Amber Holt were both named First-team All Sun Belt, and Krystle Horton was named to the third team.

Givens was named the Academic All-American of the year, is was voted on by Sports Information Directors around the country.

Middle Tennessee goes into the tournament with a 26-3 record and undefeated in conference play.

The Lady Raiders will play the winner of North Texas and South Alabama on Saturday, March 3.

MT will have a week of rest and will be prepared to make their tournament run.

Coach Rick Insell believes that the team will not only be ready to play, they will be playing like they were early in the season with a large amount of offense.

"We are ready. We have a different attitude going into the tournament."

What I like about Middle

Tennessee looking at their history, is that they play well in tournaments. There are programs out there who are tournament programs and Middle Tennessee is one of those," Insell said. "I think what you are going to see out there Saturday is a team that is excited about playing for a Sun Belt Championship."

The Lady Raiders have exceeded all of their own expectations this year with an undefeated conference record. MT is looking at possibly getting a three or four seed in the NCAA tournament.

The pressure of finishing undefeated and getting a specific seed is lessened come tournament time according to Insell.

Insell believes that the team will have more freedom and will be able to capitalize on the rest they will get.

"There is less pressure. If we had to go into the tournament and win it then there would be a lot of pressure," Insell said. "I think we are already a tournament team so, there is less pressure on us because we don't have to win it all. Insell also said the tournament will help in deciding where the Lady Raiders will be seeded for the NCAA tournament. "We are shooting for that three seed," Insell said.

Givens was voted Preseason

Player of the Year and did just that averaging 22 points, six rebounds and 5 assists per game.

Givens leads the Raiders in all four categories and is fourth nationally in scoring, 64th in assists and 17th in steals.

MT finished its season with a school-record 26 wins and broke the Sun Belt Conference league victories with 18.

The Lady Raiders are hoping that this tournament will be the fourth straight championships for MT with a number of teams falling the rankings above Middle Tennessee.

There is a possibility Middle Tennessee will be in the top 15 after the tournament and have a great shot at the third seed.

The conference tournament began last night, with the championship game being played on March 3 at 12:30p.m.

The Lady Raiders will be waiting to play either South Ala., or North Texas.

MT has beat both teams this season and stands to win the third meeting against either team.

The Lady Raiders beat South Ala., 93-58 on Dec. 14 and again 82-58 on Feb. 3.

The conference tournament begins March 3 with the Lady Raiders in the quarterfinals at Lafayette, La. ♦



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Senior Krystal Horton and the other Lady Raiders head into this weekend's tournament ready for action.

Krystal Horton: Future basketball coach

By Cody Gibson

Staff Writer

Krystle Horton has always been a great leader and teammate. This season Horton has stepped up her game and was named third team All Sun Belt.

She is one of the key players in the Middle Tennessee offense, with the team's record at 26-3, Horton believes that the team's success this year is not a huge surprise.

Horton thinks the Sun Belt Tournament will be the best basketball the team will play and is proud of what the team has accomplished, especially after the rough start to the season with losses to Maryland and South Dakota State.

"I think that staying together as a team was our biggest asset," she said. "We started out 0-2 and we didn't get down on ourselves. We got our confidence back, and we built on our wins."

As a senior leader of the team, Horton said that the team set a number of goals they have achieved throughout the regular season. The team has set other goals, specifically of a sweet sixteen berth, that they would like to achieve this season.

Horton believes her role on the team starts with her ability to help out the younger players and be a coach on the floor.

"My part is basically being a good leader," Horton said. "For the team goals, we wanted to win a conference championship, and getting to the

NCAA tournament."

Horton, in her senior season, along with Chrissy Givens, has won the Sun Belt Conference Tournament every year as a Lady Raider. That this is one of the things I will remember most about playing at Middle Tennessee," Horton said.

She said before the season that this was of the utmost importance to get to the championship game and achieve the ultimate goal of winning the tournament again.

"It's a big deal," Horton said. "It's been great that me and Chrissy came in and started winning, and then we can go out winners as well."

Horton is averaging nine points per game to go along with five rebounds per game, and she is third on the team in assists. Horton's stats don't tell the whole story. Her defensive presence on the inside has helped Middle Tennessee to defend post players and has allowed the Lady Raiders to continue their pressure and force turnovers.

Horton has been an instrumental part of the offense with the low post game she provides, which allows for the outside game of Middle Tennessee to open up.

As for life after basketball, Horton wants to be a teacher and eventually become a coach.

She wants to share her knowledge of basketball, and hopefully make an influence in children's lives.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Senior Krystal Horton was honored at Senior Night before the final game of the season with FAU. Horton helped the Lady Raiders to a 26-3 record.

"Right now, I plan on teaching sixth grade math, and coaching basketball," she said. "I've thought about doing my master's, and I have been thinking

about it a lot. As for basketball, I think I'm done after this."

Horton will lead the Lady Raiders into the SBC tournament this weekend. ♦



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

Jesse Owens: true hero of Black History Month

The J in J. Owen Shipley stands for Jesse. When I was born, my parents inadvertently named me after Jesse Owens.

My father had Jesse James on his mind but feared it might lead to my becoming even more of a hell raiser than he was.

So he and my mother tried hard to find a middle name that sounded dignified. For some reason, Owen popped into my father's head.

"Now, that is dignified," he thought to himself. He just wasn't sure why. A few months later it dawned on him that he had named me after a track star. 12 years later it dawned on me that he had named me after a national hero, a true patriot and the penultimate black athlete.

By the time this prints, Black History month will have come and gone and many people will have asked themselves, "what is it really about?"

Does it carry the same significance to be black that it did in 60s when Black History Week was anything but a national holiday?

Does being black mean the same thing? I would argue that in a lot of ways it doesn't. The history in Black History Month has become far more significant.

The 28-day celebration may as well be named White People Were Horrible Month. While racism is still a part of our culture, the field has muddled quite a bit since the black and white Howdy Doody days of the 50s and 60s.

What February means to me is pride, strength, and tenacity. It isn't just a month that celebrates black people; it is a month that honors black Americans. And no black American did more to represent his country, for less of a pay-off, than Jesse Owens.

He didn't become rich like Mohammed Ali, and he didn't become a movie star like Jim Brown.

Jackie Robinson retired as a hero, but Jesse Owens retired from Olympic racing to stunt racing horses for the money he needed to survive.

For 15 years, Owens barely

supported himself. He eventually won honor after honor as the struggle against racism began to make head way. He died the national hero he should have been recognized as in 1936.

In case you don't know much about the Berlin Olympics, Adolf Hitler had been touting the event as the ultimate showcase for Aryan superiority.

He had high hopes of watching America's "black auxiliaries" be proven to be the "mongrels" that he had been making them out to be.

One official even complained that America was using "non-humans" as athletes.

Hitler and his crew of exterior decorators smothered the stadium with so much red and black that it would have been impossible to deny that Nazi Germany was on the way up, but one red blooded black man refused to submit.

Jesse Owens wowed the crowd of 110,000 during those Olympics and won four gold medals in one day.

Germans crowded around him for autographs and followed him back to his hotel where, ironically, he was allowed to stay in the same rooms as white athletes.

His return to the United States showed the heights of our hypocrisy and the flimsiness of our own claims of superiority.

He was forced to ride freight elevators and sleep in colored-only hotel rooms. His black skin prevented him from receiving any endorsements and he had to resort to traveling exhibitions to feed himself.

The American dream at that time was no more of a reality than the myth of Nazi superiority. Owens' treatment proved that, but thanks to his achievements and those of other heroes like Robinson, Ali and Brown, the American dream has come closer to being a reality than ever before.

The month of February means a lot to me, not as a white person but as an American. My name has nothing to do with it. I

Blue Raiders softball team competes in Buzz Classic

By Greg Hohwald

Staff Writer

The Lady Raider softball team heads out of town this weekend to take part in the Buzz Classic, held at Georgia Tech University.

The host team is No. 21 ranked Georgia Tech and twenty-five other teams from across the country will be participating in this event.

Some of those teams taking part in this tournament is Wisconsin, Boston, New Mexico o San Jose State and Florida A&M.

Head coach Leigh Podlesny's squad will be looking to extend their three game winning streak, their longest of the season, which they built this past weekend at the MT Strikeout Cancer Classic.

Friday, the Lady Raiders will take on Wright State and

Winthrop. On Saturday, they will face San Jose State and Purdue, and end with the medal round games on Sunday.

Junior Whitney Darlington hopes to stay hot during the upcoming tournament, as she leads the team in both batting averaging .417 and 13 RBIs per game.

Her teammate Muriel Ledbetter also hopes to stay on track, as she leads the team in home runs with four on the year so far to go with her nine RBIs.

Junior Ashley Cline, Martha Davis and Melissa Weiland each hit their first homeruns of the season against Ball State this past weekend.

Following the tournament this weekend at Georgia Tech, the Lady Raiders begin conference play with three game set against Louisiana-Lafayette. ♦

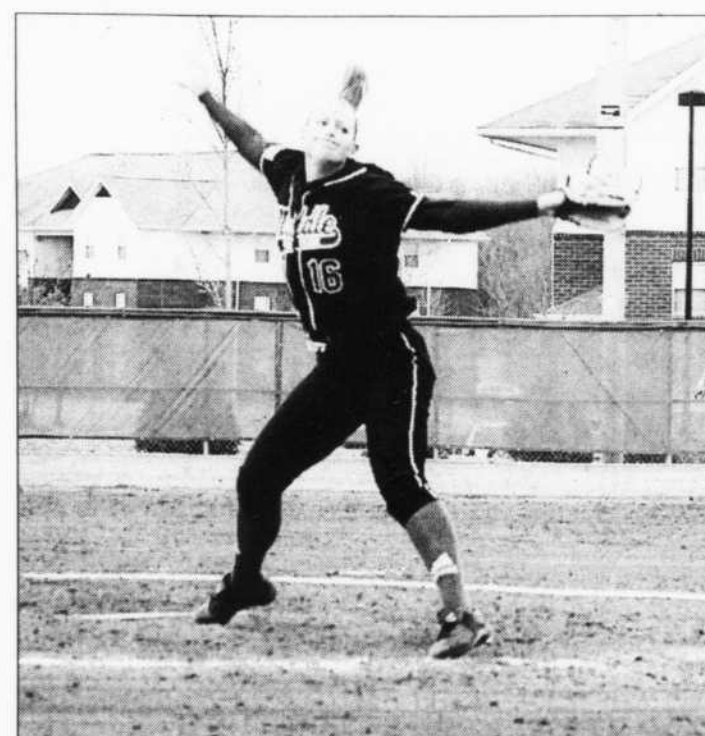


Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer

Junior Amy Candioto goes into her windup before she throws the ball against Ball State in the MT Strikeout Breast Cancer Classic.

See Sportacus, 7

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