

MONDAY

February 2, 2004



This week's poll question at www.mtsusidelines.com:

Do you believe in UFOs?

BASKETBALL

'Murphy Magic' gone for men

In Sports, 8



The university's editorially independent student newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 55

University subpoenaed for illegal uploading

Unnamed student posted several songs to file-sharing server

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

Last October, MTSU joined the ranks of universities across the nation that were served subpoenas from the Recording Industry Association of America.

MTSU was subpoenaed for the

name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of a student who uploaded copyrighted songs to the peer-to-peer file-sharing program called KaZaA through the MTSU server.

The student, who remains unidentified, uploaded songs such as George Strait's "Blue Clear Sky," Mariah Carey's "One Sweet Day" and the Dixie Chicks' "Sin Wagon."

"With any subpoena it's our responsibility to respond to it," said James Floyd, the university's legal counsel. "This particular subpoena, however ...



Floyd

Verizon Internet Services, Inc. ultimately changed the way these Internet service providers can be subpoenaed. "The RIAA used a provision of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act,

which is a 1998 revision to copyright law to update for general technologies and capabilities that allowed them to get the names of these people from their Internet service providers by going to a court clerk and getting a subpoena," said Paul Fischer, recording industry professor.

However, according to the ruling, the DMCA does not apply to online P2P services that are used by millions to download copyrighted songs and movies.

As a result of the ruling, the more than 3,000 subpoenas filed by the

RIAA since last summer can be called into question.

"This will be following what's called Rule 45 of the Federal Civil Procedure whereas this subpoena that they served upon us did not comply with the Rule 45," Floyd said.

Nevertheless the RIAA isn't giving up its campaign to crack down on music downloaders.

"This decision in no way changes our right to sue, or the fact that those who upload or download copyrighted

See RIAA, 2

Experts debate existence of UFOs

Nuclear physicist, former Air Force officer question scientific 'fact'

By Tim Poland
Staff Writer

Two experts went head to head Wednesday in a debate over one of the most controversial issues of modern times: UFOs.

Stan Friedman, a nuclear physicist, and James McGaha, a retired U.S. Air Force officer, answered questions and posed some of their own about extraterrestrial visitors to Earth.

"There is far more than enough data (to prove that UFOs are real) but most people are not reading the information out there," said Friedman, who has worked on numerous classified projects and lectured at more than 700 colleges and professional gatherings.

But McGaha is skeptical that the "data" these sightings provide proves anything at all.

"The burden of proof is on the person making the claim," McGaha said. "Ultimately, this comes down to physical evidence. There is none. People were seeing things like lights in the sky and land traces."

Friedman dismissed the idea that most UFO sightings were under poor circumstances, citing the existence of many multi-person sightings.

McGaha trusts the human memory less, however.

"The mind is not a videotape," he said.

Friedman displayed slides and some little-read documentation on UFOs.

"The facts are real," he said. "We are not being told the truth."

Friedman asked the crowd how many had read any information regarding the existence of UFOs. A handful responded.

He said that such scientists argue that the ability to travel such far distances in space in such a short amount of time is impossibility. Friedman asserted that scientists have often been proven wrong when it comes to statements about the impossibilities of various acts, including flight, going to outer space and visiting the

Surviving the jungle

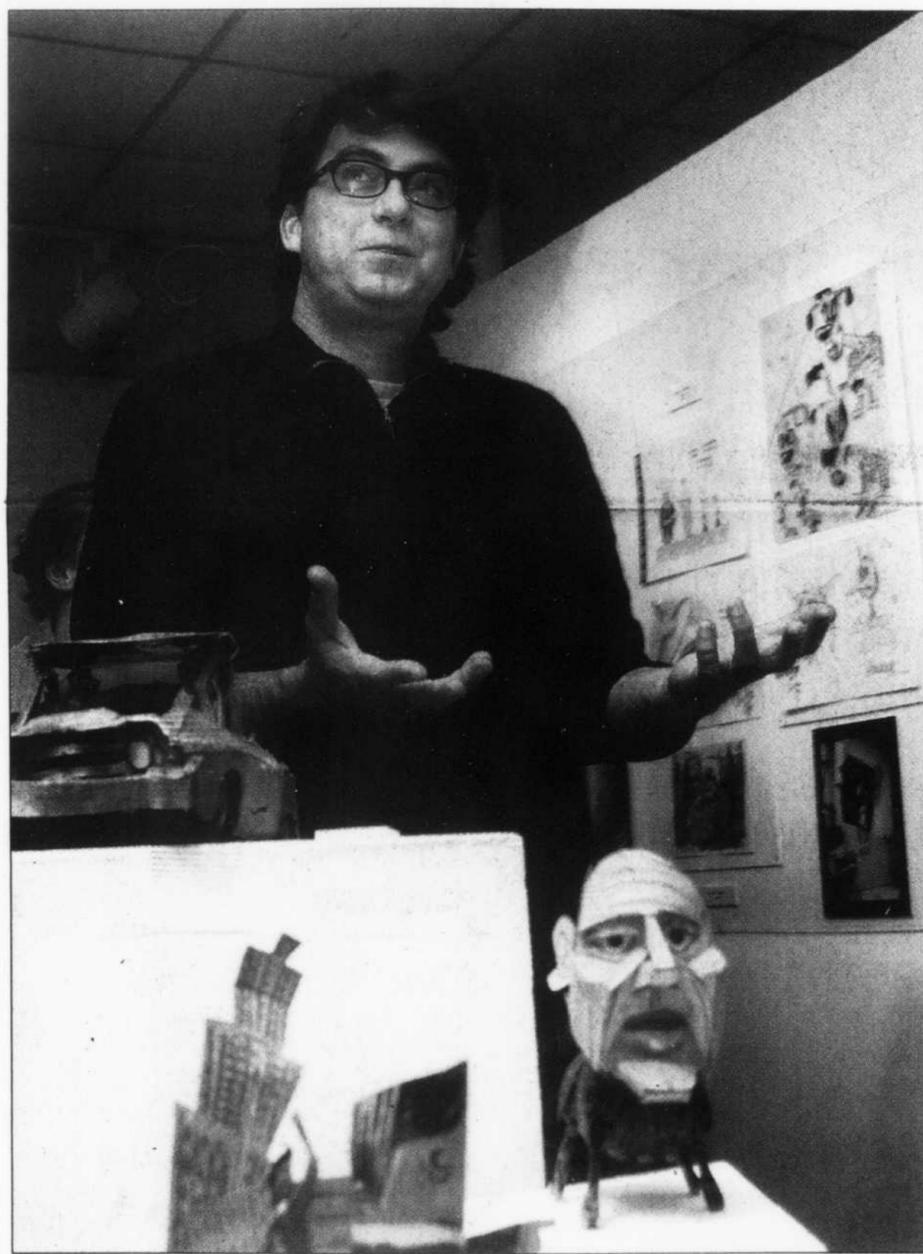


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Artist Wayne White, an MTSU alumnus, takes participants on a gallery walk-through Friday afternoon in the Art Barn. "20 Years in the Jungle," an exhibition of his work, was on display there all last month, and will be on display in the Cheekwood Museum of Art in Nashville through March 28. White has worked on the set of Pee Wee's Playhouse, Beakman's World, Mrs. Cabobble's Caboose, and Bill and Willis and other TV shows. He has won two Emmys.

Center seeking oral history

By Tim Hill
Staff Writer

Rosie the Riveter is coming soon to MTSU.

"We're looking for anyone who either worked in defense-related industries in Middle Tennessee during World War II, or who even were forced to use rations during the conflict," said Lisa Pruitt of the Albert Gore Sr. Research Center.

The staff at the center is looking for older Americans - men and women - who went to work for the war effort, even if they weren't eligible to join the military.

"There's lots of places where this research is going on already, but we are breaking new ground on it here in Tennessee," Pruitt said.

The center has been partners with the Library of Congress' Veterans War Hero Project for the past two years.

"Oral history is an interesting side of history that isn't covered too much," Pruitt said. "Even our assistant director's mother worked for the Dupont plant in Old Hickory during the war."

Other corporations such as the Tennessee Aircraft Company helped build airplanes for the American military during the war. Pruitt wants the local residents who helped in that effort to come forward and share their stories as well.

Pruitt said that new history is being recorded as each interview takes place.

"During World War II, a lot of African-American women were able to leave their mostly domestic jobs and find higher-

See History, 2

See UFOs, 2

Oregon group's study finds textbook gouging common

By Zachary Goldstein
The Dartmouth
(Dartmouth College)

(U-WIRE) HANOVER, N.H. - The textbook industry is unnecessarily gouging the wallets of college students, according to a report released yesterday by the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group.

The report found that college students spend an average of \$898 per academic year on textbooks.

The report, titled "Ripoff 101: How the Current Practices of the Textbooks Industry Drive Up the Cost of College Textbooks" complements recent legislation sponsored by

Democratic Oregon Rep. David Wu to investigate the textbook industry's pricing practices. In addition to finding students' textbook costs hovering around \$900, up from an average cost of approximately \$650 in 1996-97, the study found the average textbook now runs a price tag of more than \$100.

"Price gouging in any form is unacceptable, but it is particularly outrageous when it cheats students," Wu said.

Erin Fifield, who is working with OSPIRG in Portland this term, helped research for the report and coordinated yesterday's press conference at Portland State University. She stressed three recent trends in

the textbook industry that have contributed to the excessive pricing: mandatory extras, frequent new editions and mark-ups for textbooks sold in the United States.

Half of all textbooks now come "bundled," meaning they are packaged with additional instructional materials such as CD-ROMs and workbooks. Students are rarely given the option of buying the textbook "a la carte."

Moreover, as is the case with many student textbook purchases in Hanover at Wheelock Books, these shrink-wrapped packages are rarely allowed to be returned if opened.

"A lot of times you get a CD

that comes with your textbook that your professor doesn't use," Fifield said. "Most people don't think about it, but if they knew they were paying more for it they might think more about it."

The report, which was based primarily from statistics from colleges in California and Oregon, claimed that 65 percent of faculty "rarely" or "never" used the bundled materials in their courses.

A second finding of the report was that textbook publishers release new editions of their texts frequently - often with very few, or only minor content changes - making the less expensive, used textbooks

obsolete and unavailable.

"Many of the new editions we looked at didn't contain significant changes," Fifield said, "especially not significant enough to warrant a new edition."

One math book used at Dartmouth College, "Calculus: Early Transcendentals," is guilty of just that, according to Fifield, in addition to "bundling" with a CD-ROM. The only change between the current edition and the previous one is a change in the practice problems throughout the book, Fifield said.

The report found that 40 percent of faculty report that the new editions are "rarely" to "never" justified. Perhaps most

detrimental to students' wallets is the fact that new editions make it impossible to get away with purchasing a used book. According to the report, an overwhelming majority of faculty members - 87 percent - supported including new information in a supplement instead of producing a new textbook edition.

Finally, the report found that textbooks are significantly more expensive in the United States. Even textbooks that are sold in duplicate forms in other countries were found to be much cheaper abroad. The same calculus book that costs \$135.95 in

See Textbooks, 2

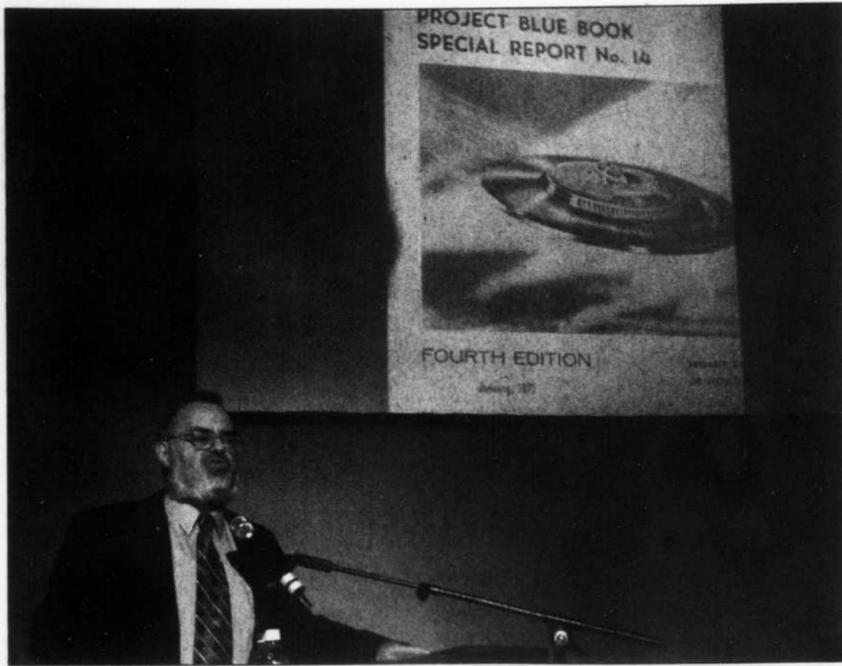


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Stan Friedman, a nuclear physicist, argues during a debate Wednesday in the Business and Aerospace Building that there is more than enough data to prove that UFOs exist.

UFOs: Pundits explore possibility of aliens

Continued from 1

moon. It was not long ago that these ideas were preposterous, he said.

But McGaha, who insisted that he was not speaking as an agent of the Air Force or the government, said the belief in UFOs is an example of how powerful myths can be in the human mind, and how the line between myth and

scientific fact is often blurred in our culture.

"Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups," McGaha said.

McGaha is also a consultant to the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, and has discovered 15 asteroids and 18 comets.

Eric Klumpe, astronomy assistant professor, moderated

the debate, which was sponsored by the Campus Freethought Alliance.

Amanda Cotton, the group's president, put the debate together. Cotton took a UFO debate course through the honors college with Jill Hague. Since the class, she has found herself interested in the UFO debate.

"I was particularly interested in the skepticism (of the existence of UFOs)," she said. ♦

History: Students' grandparents sought

Continued from 1

paying jobs by working for defense-related industries," Pruitt said.

The center's staff hopes that some of those women who are still alive will come forward and share their experiences as well.

Even though the emphasis on the home front workers during World War II is a first for the university, the Gore Center's staff has completed more than 100 interviews of surviving veterans. Those interviews have taken about a year or more to set up.

"We are on the front edge of this," Pruitt said about the home front worker project. She said that this type of research usually is long-term.

"This is an open-ended project, and we'll keep at it as long as it takes."

The staff of the center hopes that students at MTSU will contact their grandparents who may have worked on the home front during the second World War.

Pruitt said that it is the policy of the university to have each interviewee sign a release form before any interview takes place.

"After this project is over, MTSU students will be able to listen to any of our interviews for their own research projects one day," Pruitt said.

"The people who lived through World War II actually have had the rest of their lives shaped by their experiences,



Photo courtesy of Dupont

This photo, which ran on the cover of a Dupont company newsletter in the 1940s, features Lela Woodard. Woodard is the mother of Betty Rowland, Gore Center Oral History Project assistant.

and have become a wonderful part of our society," Pruitt said.

Those interested in being interviewed for the Oral History Home Front Workers Project

can contact Betty Rowland at 898-2632, or stop by the Gore Research Center on the first floor of the Learning Resources Center for more information. ♦

RIAA: Sales have steadied since suits

Continued from 1

music without authorization are engaging in illegal activity," said Cary Sherman, president of RIAA, in a December press release.

"Because the court unanimously said that court clerks can't give out subpoenas that reveal people's identities, the RIAA now has to use traditional legal means to bring these suits," Fischer explained.

Under these "John Doe" lawsuits, the RIAA will be forced to discover the identities of downloaders through the DMCA's enforcement mechanisms and a judge, not a court clerk, will approve subpoenas.

These individuals are identified by the RIAA using their Internet protocol address.

"What this means for the people that the RIAA will sue is, first of all, they won't give them advance warning," Fischer explained. "And they're going to have to invest more money in these prosecutions up front, so they're not going to settle for the same small amounts of money."

Copyright infringers can face statutory damages ranging from \$750 to \$150,000 for each work that has been illegal uploaded or downloaded.

On Jan. 21, the RIAA filed copyright lawsuits against 532 unidentified individuals who have illegally distributed music on P2P programs.

Fischer explained that record sales have been steady decreasing over the years, but since the RIAA has started its campaign

against illegal downloads, the rate of decrease has slowed.

"Circumstantial evidence says that it is having an impact," he said.

Fischer also points to the new legal music download services such as Apple's iTunes, which offers downloads at 99 cents apiece.

"They are still fighting so many different ways, trying to hold it back and make it go away, when what they should be doing is embracing and adapting and looking toward the future," Fischer said.

While MTSU has not received another subpoena since the first one, Floyd said that the university would have no choice but to release the information if subpoenaed. ♦

Textbooks: New editions rarely different

Continued from 1

the United States just \$68.38 (37 British pounds) on the United Kingdom's Amazon affiliate.

This discrepancy is one of the focal points of Wu's bill, which directs the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, to determine why there is such a large gap between what American college students and overseas students pay for identical textbooks.

However, not all textbooks are overpriced, according to Dartmouth computer science professor Thomas Cormen, co-author of the book *Introduction to Algorithms* – at least not his,

Cormen said. But Cormen's book may be an exception.

The 1,200-page textbook is reasonably-priced at \$79.95 and is useful from introductory classes all the way up to graduate-level courses, Cormen said.

But not only does Cormen's book buck the elevated pricing

trend, but it also contradicts the other trends in the report. The book has seen only one new edition – published 11 years after the first edition – which included a pretty major revision, Cormen said. ♦

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Rep. John Bragg, alum, 1918-2004

By Jason Cox
State and Local News Editor

Former state legislator and MTSU alumnus and advocate John Bragg died on Saturday afternoon in Murfreesboro.

Jeanne Bragg, wife of John's son and Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg, said he died at 3:55 p.m. at Adams Place in Murfreesboro due to health issues from a heart attack suffered last weekend.

His influence in the Murfreesboro area reached far and wide, from the John Bragg Highway to the John Bragg Mass Communications Building on the MTSU campus.

His influence also spread throughout his district and the state. A representative of the 48th district, he was a longtime chairman of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee and authored and sponsored a bill requiring babies and young children to be restrained in car seats during travel - the first law of its kind in the coun-

try. A four-lane highway from Murfreesboro to Woodbury bears his name.

Bragg, a member of the MTSU class of 1940, was always a proud advocate of MTSU, and former Tennessee Gov. Ned McWherter said MTSU had lost one of its dearest friends.

Bragg is credited with expediting the process of creating several new facilities on campus, including the John Bragg Mass Communications Building, the James E. Walker Library, the Tennessee Livestock Center and the Business and Aerospace Building.

Also, through his efforts the MTSU Chairs of Excellence were established, as he ensured their inclusion in the Better Schools Program bill.

"He was the most outspoken person who funded higher education," McWherter said. "Middle Tennessee State University was very dear to his heart."

"MTSU will likewise feel the loss of John Bragg," McWherter contin-



Photo courtesy of News and Public Affairs

Rep. John Bragg served in the state legislator for 30 years. He was an MTSU alumnus and always advocated for the school.

ued. "He had a vision that MTSU would be the major institution in all of Nashville and all of Middle Tennessee. He particularly wanted to get programs funded for capital construction and was able to do that."

"His love for his alma mater, I think, goes without saying," former state senator Andy Womack said. "Certainly, Middle Tennessee State University deserved the Mass

See Bragg, 4

Funeral service set for Tuesday

A memorial service for John Bragg will be held tomorrow at 4 p.m. at the First Baptist Church at 200 E. Main St. in Murfreesboro.

A Leadership Performance Scholarship was established in Bragg's honor at MTSU. Any wishing to make donations to the fund may do so at:

THE FOUNDATION
MIDDLE TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY
P.O. Box 109
MURFREESBORO, TN 37132.

Walter Hill landfill works to quell odors

Residents still complain about smell from landfill

By Juanita Thouin
Staff Writer

Over the past few years, residents of Regency Park subdivision have complained repeatedly about the rancid, sour smell emanating from BFI's Waste Management facility located in Walter Hill.

Those complaints may be coming to an end.

BFI recently completed construction of its gas extraction system. The extraction system forces gases, produced by decomposition of solid waste, through a set of pipes into large turbines where it is then converted into electricity.

This conversion process burns the gas, and its associated odors, thus keeping them from dissipating into the air.

While residents agree the smell hasn't been offensive in the past three weeks, they are a bit skeptical.

"I've gotten frustrated with BFI," Regency Park resident Kelly Johnson said. "BFI always wanted to blame it on the pig farm that MTSU has."

"What I smell is not a pig farm," John Rucker, also of Regency Park, insisted.

Al Majors, field office manager for the State Solid Waste Management Division of the Tennessee Department of Environmental Control said no government agency regulates smells.

Nonetheless, according to Majors, TDEC has taken resident complaints seriously and worked with BFI to alleviate any environmental concern.

"We don't have a scientific connection [to the smells]," Majors said.

"[But] we do call the landfill

to see if anything strange was going on at the time [of the complaint]."

Part of the problem, said Alan Spear, a TDEC chemist who works closely with BFI, is that by the time the agency arrived on the scene to ascertain the odor's source, the smell was gone.

He explained that the wind direction and other weather patterns play a big role in whether or not landfill smells carry over to neighboring houses.

He and Thad Owings, manager of the BFI landfill, noted that most of the complaints came between sundown and midnight, when the air was cooling off and settling.

According to resident John Rucker, who's lived in Regency Park for 20 years, the problem with odors began three or four years ago - right about the time BFI contracted to dispose of all Nashville Metro garbage at its Rutherford County facility.

Spear conceded that for a short period of time, the Walter Hill landfill was suffering from work overload. However, BFI quickly rectified the problem, he added.

While the new gas extraction system seems to be eliminating odors for the time being, there might be brief periods when they return.

According to Owings, as new dump areas open up, new gas wells are drilled.

Once a well is drilled, it then takes about a week for the piping crews to attach the pipes. During this time period, if certain weather conditions are present, the potential for an increase in odor exists.

"The landfill is always growing," Owings said. "We do as much as we can."

Mike, who also lives in Regency Park said nothing short of complete elimination of the odor will satisfy him.

"As taxpayers, we shouldn't have to put up with this," he said. ♦

Culturing the masses



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Visitors enjoy a look at paintings from the Phillips Collection. Normally housed in Washington, D.C., the Phillips Museum is being renovated, so the exhibits were sent on tour. Nashville is the tour's final stop.

Art masters come to Nashville

Picasso, Van Gogh, Renior, Monet among exhibits at Frist Center

By Juanita Thouin
Staff Writer

Katie Sue Ford, a lifelong native of Nashville, gazed at two Monet paintings displayed side by side at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. Her face, framed by neatly coiffured white hair, radiated both delight and awe.

"I never thought I'd live long enough to see one of these," she said.

Renovations of the famed Phillips Collection museum in Washington D.C., is the capital's loss and Middle Tennessee's gain.

Rather than put some of the world's most famous art in storage, Phillips'

Collection trustees decided to send 49 original paintings and four sculptures from European masters such as Van Gogh, Daumier and Cezanne on tour.

Nashville's Frist Center is the last stop of the 18-month circuit.

It's hard to say which is the most famous of the collection. Some believe it's Renoir's "Luncheon of the Boating Party" while others choose El Greco's "The Repentant St. Peter."

According to Jay Gates, director of the Phillips Collection, the museum's founder, Duncan Phillips (1886-1966), always thought his greatest acquisition was Daumier's "The Uprising."

MTSU alumnus Ed Crawford likes them all.

"It's awesome," he said of the collection. "There's never been anything like this [in Nashville]."

Gates, who was on hand for the opening of the exhibition, said Phillips was, by any definition, a child of privilege.

Born into a wealthy family, Phillips began collecting and critiquing art after

he graduated from Yale University.

In 1921, as a memorial to his beloved father and brother - who died within 13 months of each other - he opened his Georgian Revival style home as the first American museum of modern art.

Phillips did not begin his career as a connoisseur of modern art. In fact, after the 1913 New York Armory Show - the first North American exhibition of cubism, fauvism, impressionism and post-impressionism - he wrote a scathing review describing it as "stupefying in its vulgarity."

According to Gates, many years later Phillips made light of that comment.

"This is what happens when you commit yourself to printing your youth," Phillips said.

Phillips believed art served as a means for enhancing and enriching one's life and that his calling was to bring such enrichment to the public.

Eighty-three years in the making, the

See Frist, 4

New trash pickup rules about to pass

By B.J. Chaplin
Staff Writer

A proposed sanitation ordinance governing new trash pickup rules for Murfreesboro city residents is close to becoming law.

The new ordinance, authored in large part by Director of Solid Waste Services Joey Smith, was approved unanimously during two of three required readings and should go into effect if it passes the third reading scheduled for Feb. 5, Smith said.

If approved, the new ordinance will go into effect 15 days

after the approval, but current plans are not to begin enforcement until after June 1. Smith said that the changes will increase efficiency and are of no cost to the customers.

"We're just going to be allocating our resources to make picking up limbs and brush quicker," Smith explained. "We're just making some change internally here."

Smith encourages residents concerned or curious about the changes to visit Murfreesboro city's Web site at murfreesborotn.gov. Listed there are the main stipulations of the new ordinance, which include:

- Residents will be required to use only one, city-issued cart. Previously, no mandatory cart existed. Another cart will be available if needed for \$52.61.

- Leaves and grass must be placed in biodegradable bags.

- Items that do not fit into the city-issued carts must be called in to the solid waste department.

- Brush and limbs must be cut to less than 8 inches wide and 10 feet long. The current standard is 4 inches wide and 4 feet long.

- Carpet and carpet products may not be discarded. Also prohibited are linoleum, brick and

sheet rock.

Worker's compensation concerns appear to be one of the driving forces behind the changes.

"Between 1996 and 2002, Murfreesboro paid out over a [quarter million] dollars in [worker's] compensation insurance claims for injuries sustained when employees picked up residential garbage, much of it from personal cans and plastic bags," the Murfreesboro city Web site reads.

Smith said he is concerned about the health of the

See Rules, 4



Photo by Nick Kermanski | Staff Photographer

Under a pending city resolution, residents who use city trash pickup service will have to use one city-owned cart. Other changes pertain to yard garbage pickup.

Blood supply low again in region

Elective surgeries suspended for now

By Sandi van Orden
Staff Writer

Non-emergency surgeries have been suspended at area hospitals due to lack of blood.

Currently the Red Cross only has half of the blood supply it needs to keep on hand.

"They [the Red Cross] like to have a five day supply. We are currently at a two and a half day supply," said Madeline Methvin, assistant director of the Heart of Tennessee chapter of the Red Cross.

That means that any elective surgery, including joint replacements, cosmetic surgery and anything that is not for a life threatening illness have to be put on hold until there is enough blood to meet the needs of everyone.

"We have an everyday ongoing need for blood in cancer patients, free bleeders and anemics in addition to surgeries that are scheduled," Methvin said.

The Tennessee Valley blood region is made up of 89 counties, Methvin said. The Red Cross must collect 800 units of blood in order to fully service the area hospitals. There are currently 1473 units, and only 689 pint units available for use. The current supply is only 47 percent of the total goal.

After Sept. 11, 2001, many people donated blood, but donations fell sharply very soon after the attacks. Donations have since returned to normal. Much of the red blood cells that were donated after the attacks were unusable due to the 42-day shelf life. The Red Cross

was able to use plasma and other blood products from the donations it received.

While normal donations are typically enough to meet daily needs for blood, there are times when serious accidents occur that use more blood than normal. To be prepared for such accidents, the five-day supply goal is necessary.

"We need those people that came in and donated then to come in now," Methvin said.

"Blood cannot be manufactured," Methvin said. "It has to come from healthy people."

Ideally, the Red Cross would have enough regular donors to

keep up with the need for blood, but currently there are not enough. The Red Cross would like as many healthy people that meet the basic requirements to donate,

and to do so consistently. Anyone interested in donating can go to the local Red Cross on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., or Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. It is located at 836 Commercial Court in Murfreesboro.

There will also be a blood drive on March 2 in the Keathley University Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be free pizza at the blood drive, which is being sponsored by Alpha Omega.

There are a few basic requirements for those wanting to give blood. Donors must be at least 17 years old and weight 110 pounds. They also can't be on any antibiotics and must be in good health the day of the donation. All blood types are needed.

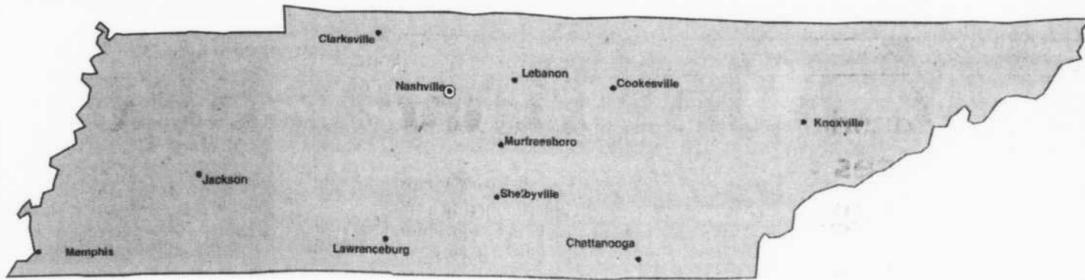
There are 14 tests run on all blood donations, including HIV, hepatitis tests, syphilis and a test of liver enzymes.

"It doesn't make headlines that you saved a life, but it is just as important," Methvin said. ♦



Middle Tennessee Weather – Five Day Forecast

From the Associated Press



Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
47° ▲ 35° ▼	46° ▲ 28° ▼	40° ▲ 35° ▼	39° ▲ 32° ▼	44° ▲ 27° ▼

Prosecutor drops investigation against U. of Tennessee professor

Professor had already resigned from Trustee board

By Duncan Mansfield
Associated Press Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A rape investigation against a University of Tennessee music professor has been closed and no criminal charges will be sought, prosecutors said Friday.

"There is currently no investigation against Dr. Michael Combs. There are no charges pending. And we don't expect any charges to be pending against him in the future," said John Gill, special assistant to Knox County District Attorney General Randy Nichols.

Without elaborating, Gill said there was no credible evidence to support allegations by a Knoxville man that he was raped by the professor at gunpoint after doing some

"There is currently no investigation against Dr. Michael Combs. There are no charges pending. And we don't expect any charges to be pending against him in the future."

— John Gill
Special assistant
to Knox County
District Attorney General

work at Combs' house Jan. 17.

"Mr. Combs was the victim of a false allegation," Combs' attorney Gregory Isaacs said. "He is pleased that this matter is now

concluded and looks forward to continuing his public service to the community and teaching at the University of Tennessee."

Combs, 60, resigned his faculty seat on the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees on Jan. 21, saying the decision was unrelated to the rape allegation.

As a member of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra also, he said he didn't have time for the UT board during its major search for a new university president.

"To tell you the truth, I have two grandbabies. ... They live in town, and I don't have a chance to see them. I have commitments to the community that are pretty major," Combs said then.

Gov. Phil Bredesen, who is chairman of the UT board, quickly appointed education professor Katherine Greenberg to complete the few months left on Combs' one-year faculty trustee term.

Isaacs doubted Combs would seek reinstatement on the board. "I think right now he is happy that this freak show is over with, and I don't blame him," the lawyer said. ♦

Bragg: Former chair of Finance Committee

Continued from 1

Communication building, the business building, the agriculture center [and] the new library, but it's still doubtful the university would have received them in the matter that they did if he hadn't been there to shepherd [them] through the legislature."

"Outside of my family, this university has been my first love for 60 years," Bragg once said. "We still have more to do. Fifty percent of all college students from Middle Tennessee attend MTSU. The better we prepare our young people, the better our quality of life in Tennessee."

In his days as a student at MTSU, he was the president of the student body, was editor of *Sidelines* and received letters in basketball, baseball and golf. He was given the MTSU Distinguished Alumni Award and is a member of the Blue Raider Hall of Fame.

His efforts in promoting education extended beyond MTSU and higher education. McWherter said he was instrumental in funding kindergarten programs in schools throughout Tennessee.

Bragg was born May 9, 1918 in Woodbury, Tenn. He began operating the family printing and newspaper business, which is today known as Courier Printing Co., and retired from the company in 1981.

After graduating from MTSU in 1940, serving in the U.S. Air Force in World War II and operating the family business, he was elected to the state House in 1964. He made an unsuccessful bid for Congress in 1968, then was re-elected to the state House, where he served until his retirement in 1996. Even in retirement, he served as the president of the MTSU Foundation from 1997-98.

As chairman of the House

Finance Committee, McWherter said Bragg ensured the financial security of the state while he was in charge.

"[Something] that you would not ordinarily observe is Bragg sponsored legislation that would keep Tennessee fiscally sound in the future," McWherter said. "Number one, he sponsored legislation that required 10 percent be set aside by the budget for the amount of bonds authorized during that year."

His efforts in this position resulted in the state having had one of the highest credit ratings of states in the nation at that time.

"Because of John Bragg and others, Tennessee has the highest credit rating we've ever had, the eighth in the nation," House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh said at the dedication of the John Bragg Mass Communication Building. "Things like that don't just happen — people make them happen."

Womack reflected on Bragg's career, saying that he encouraged bi-partisanship and was a receptive and courageous leader.

"He always represented what he thought was best for the people who elected him, and had the courage to do sometimes what he thought was best for them, even when they didn't agree with it," Womack said.

McWherter also spoke very highly of Bragg.

"He supported me early in my public service career to become speaker of the house, then encouraged me to run for governor," he said.

"He was not only a responsible, educated, responsible legislator, he was for 30 years my personal friend ... We'll all miss him." ♦

Much of the information was obtained from News and Public Affairs.

Rules: New bags will be more environmentally friendly

Continued from 3

employees as well.

"The garbage industry is the third most dangerous industry," Smith said, adding that it is trumped only by "commercial fishing" and "commercial logging."

Another concern that both the city and Smith seem to have is the environment. The new bags, Smith insists, are labeled "biodegradable" and are available at most large local retailers.

"These bags are 100 percent biodegradable," Smith said. He said that the proposed bags are "mad out of different polymers such as corn starch" and that they "use a natural enzyme" to

break the bags' contents down.

Traditional plastic bags are much less environmentally friendly, Smith contends.

"They stay with you for 100 years," he said.

Though some have expressed misgivings about the ordinance proposal initially, Smith said that the overall reception has been positive.

"One hundred percent of the guys [at work] are for the ordinance change," Smith said.

He confesses, however, that as far as customers are concerned, "I'll be perfectly honest — not everyone is going to be happier."

He said he believes a fear of change is the reason some cus-

tomers will possibly be dissatisfied.

"Most people don't like changes when it comes to their garbage," he said.

Of the eight people voicing concerns at the first reading (held on Dec. 1, 2003) of the proposed ordinance, "four of them spoke for it, four of them spoke against it," Smith said.

By shifting resources, he reassured, no costs will be levied on the residents, and "nobody's losing a job."

Smith, who has been in the sanitation industry for 17 years and in his current position since August 2001, said that he hopes future changes beyond the proposed ordinance will make

garbage pickup run even more smoothly.

"We don't have the capability yet, but in two months, you'll be able to go to the city's Web site ... and actually request a new cart if you're a resident and you have a bulk item to pick up."

"That way, you don't have to make a phone call," Smith said.

Smith said that the eventual goal of Solid Waste Services is to "pick up limbs and brush on the same day that it is requested." He admits that they are not there yet, but he is optimistic.

"This is the first step in that direction," Smith said. ♦

Frist: Exhibit will be on display in Nashville through May

Continued from 3

Phillips Collection is still a privately supported, non-government institution, and this is only the second time in almost 15 years Renoir's "Luncheon of the Boating Party" has been seen outside of its home near Dupont Circle. The last time was also during a period of renovation.

Mark Scala, exhibitions director of the Frist Center, said the display of "From El Greco to Picasso" certainly falls into the center's mission statement of providing pleasure and education to the citizens of Middle Tennessee and the museum is excited to have these works under its roof.

In addition to the European masterworks, the Phillips Collection has also loaned the Frist Center its entire collection of Jacob Lawrence's "The Migration Series."

Lawrence, a black artist from Harlem, has chronicled the 1918-1941 mass migration of blacks from the Deep South to the North.

Gates said Nashville was the northern stop for many such blacks, so it is only fitting that this series should come to the area.

Sponsors of both "The Migration Series" and "From El Greco to Picasso" include cor-

porate donors HCA and Tri-Star Hospitals, First Tennessee Bank and *The Tennessean* as well as individuals from Nashville and beyond.

The exhibition, which opened Saturday, continues

through May 16, 2004. Admission is \$8.50 for adults, \$7.50 for senior citizens and \$6.50 for college students with a valid ID. Children under the age of 18 are admitted free of charge.

The museum is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m. and Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

For more information, call 244-3340 or visit www.fristcenter.org. ♦

Omega Phi Alpha

National Service Sorority

Omega Phi Alpha is now accepting new members.

We're more than a way to get involved on campus, more than a circle of friends where you can find your niche. We are an inclusive sisterhood with a major emphasis on giving back to our communities. We're not just raising money for charity; we believe in active service. Whether it's swinging a hammer with Habitat or teaching Girl Scouts fire safety, we're right there in the thick of it. Through our program of active community service and sisterhood, we change peoples' lives for the better... both those we serve and our own!

To learn more about becoming an O Phi A sister, contact: expansions@omegaphialpha.org

From the Editorial Board MTSU loses advocate in John Bragg's death

MTSU, Rutherford County and the state of Tennessee have lost a dear friend with the death of former state Rep. John Bragg. A lifetime resident of the Middle Tennessee area, Bragg was an example of the ideal student in his days at MTSU.

He was the president of student government, participated in track, baseball and basketball and served as the editor of this publication before graduating in 1940 and serving his country in World War II.

He contributed even more to the university in his nearly 30-year career in the Tennessee General Assembly. Partly through his efforts, MTSU got the Tennessee Livestock Center, the James Walker Library, the Business and Aerospace Building and the John Bragg Mass Communication Building. He also ensured the creation of the Chairs of Excellence at universities across the state, eight of which are at MTSU.

However, his legacy extends beyond the campus. The highway between Woodbury, the town of his birth, and Murfreesboro bears his name. He spearheaded efforts to mandate child safety seats for babies and young children, which became the first law of its kind in the nation. While he was chair of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee, the state enjoyed its highest bond and credit rating ever.

Those who *Sidelines* spoke with talked about his courage in leadership, his love for MTSU and his devotion to serving the community. He once told Andy Womack, "I've served in the legislature for well over 20 years. There's nothing else I could have done with my life that would help the people I love more."

Even in death, his influence is still present. From the Mass Comm. building to the Bragg highway to two prominent sons, John Bragg established a pattern of leadership that will not soon be forgotten.

His funeral will be held Tuesday at 4 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro. ♦

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines' occasional watch for mutton-heads.

"It's just a big book, and there's a lot of numbers."

That's the excuse David Weller gave concerning the numerous errors found in BellSouth's first attempt at a phone book for the Lexington, Ky., area.

BellSouth, this week's schmuck, erroneously printed Mayor Teresa Isaac's office number as the number for LexCall, which provides residents with an opportunity to call with various complaints and concerns and then directs them to the appropriate department.

But BellSouth didn't just stop with one error. That can at least be chalked up to a typo or temporary stupidity.

According to the BellSouth book, the largest Methodist church doesn't exist, or, at best, doesn't have a phone.

Maybe we're just used to constant fact-checking, but it seems like a company called BellSouth would understand the importance of religion in a place nicknamed the Bible Belt. Maybe they'd even remember to include large churches in their phone books.

Other blatant errors



include the omission of Alltel, BellSouth's area rival. Alltel serves as the primary service provider for the Lexington area.

OK, so the brilliant minds at BellSouth left out the largest Methodist church in a state in the Bible Belt, omitted the listing of their main competitor and printed the mayor's office number as the number for a city information/complaint line.

Maybe they were just having a bad day. At least they didn't omit an entire town. Almost. Wilmore, Ky., was almost completely omitted from the highly-informative phone book.

Portions of Nicholasville, Ky., and Versailles, Ky., were also overlooked in BellSouth's attempt to further their reach. BellSouth is printing updated directories of delivery. Maybe they should put their number in place of LexCall. ♦

Original story from www.kentucky.com.

Democracy, equality in new Iraq

For the world's most powerful leader, conquering a resource-rich land far away in a stunning offensive is sometimes a good political move. However, during an election year, having a hard time explaining why you did so can be rather awkward.

As numerous Democratic presidential hopefuls attempt to explain how they're both for and against the war, President George W. Bush offers us the unpleasant choice of believing that either he lied to everyone about the cause for war, or he was simply hoodwinked by underlings offering him faulty intelligence.

Continuing their "the buck stops somewhere else" policy, the Bush administration knows ignorant incompetence is more forgivable than deceptive aggression.

But we're not the only country facing election year choices. Negotiations continue between U.S. and U.N. officials and a leading Iraqi Shiite spiritual leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, over the formation of the interim Iraqi government. Al-Sistani has called for elections to be part of the planned July transfer of power, knowing that if an authentic, popular vote is used, Shiite control of Iraq is almost assured.



Speaking of Which

David Cotton
Staff Columnist

While this seems fair enough, the anti-American sentiment among Shiite Iraqis raises difficult issues. With memories of American non-support of their 1991 uprising against Saddam Hussein, an Iranian-style Shiite government would hardly be the American-friendly society the current administration would hope for. But the greater problem is with a fundamentalist Islamic regime comes the subjugation of women.

Subjugation may be a relative word, but the assassination of Akila Hashimi, one of three women originally on the Iraqi Governing Council and a strong advocate for women's rights, showed just how serious the threat to equality is. Already women are being discouraged to take part in the new Iraq.

This is particularly disturbing because under Hussein's secular government, Iraqi women enjoyed

equality unheard of in many neighboring countries. While no doubt many Iraqi women are pleased the ruthless dictator is gone, their pleasure will surely be diminished when we tell the liberated people of Iraq that about half of them will be less free than before.

The question seems to be, what part of American democracy is most important to introduce to Iraq: majority rule or equality? While indeed a difficult philosophical dilemma, that of national and cultural autonomy versus the assurance of a one person, one vote equality, I believe the choice for us as a nation is simple.

We must insist on equality. Any freedom based on anything less is false.

There are numerous checks and balances in our own democracy that help ensure that the popular vote doesn't lead to simple mob rule. First and foremost is our Constitution, which guarantees certain rights to all citizens regardless of majority opinion. That's why it's so vital to ensure female participation in a binding and fair Iraqi constitution before any national vote.

I'm not saying it'll be easy. There is already great resistance to our influence. Enforcing our own

morality on the Middle East smacks of Westernization. But that is an argument for before the bombs fell.

Now that our justification for war has been shown to have been misguided at best and immoral at worst, if we boast we have freed the people of Iraq and that proves untrue, then no one will ever again trust us, and with good reason. Replacing one repressive regime with another won't do. Noble ideals are, and have always been, our greatest export. While military force is neither the best means of sharing those ideals, the fact is we're already there.

Our occupation of Iraq will be unpopular with the common Iraqi citizen either way, as any military occupation is unpleasant, something we must alleviate as best we can. We have nothing to lose now by sharing the ideals that have prospered our own civilization.

Running water and homeland security were poor consolation prizes for the conquered populations of the Roman Empire. History won't judge us just on the reasons for going to war but by how we left Iraq. ♦

David Cotton is a graduate student and can be reached via e-mail at dpc2b@mtsu.edu.

College answers question: Who will you become?

Who are you? What do you want to do with the rest of your life? These questions have been planted in your brain since you graduated high school. The answer you probably gave people then was, "I'm going to college." This answer was safe for you because you didn't have to think about your future as an adult.

College has allowed most students to play the familiar role they played in high school. College isn't bad; it teaches the knowledge needed to make it in the real world and shows what the real world is. In smaller doses throughout our college experience, we learn that we don't know everything and are just one person out of millions.

Many people come to college looking for themselves, and the ones that aren't looking still find something they thought they never could.

The questions are hard. You are in college now and can't run away from these questions much longer, so here's a simpler one: What is your life centered on?



Kacey's Corner

Kacey Hercules
Staff Columnist

I'm not talking about the New Age movement or religion; I'm talking about your everyday life.

What do you think about when you're alone? What do you talk about with your close friends, and who are your friends? Here's the big question: What do you find yourself doing when you know you should be writing a research paper? Everyone has some form of procrastination habits. It's just another lesson we learn in college.

If you honestly sit down and think about these things, you'll find out a lot about yourself. We have pieces of our life's puzzle in front of our faces, but we're too busy running away from them. Believe it or not, we do find most of the answers about life within ourselves because

we're the only ones living our lives. The good thing about finding what your life is centered on is you can use what you find to make the world better. If you don't like what you find, then you can try to change it before it comes out into the world, and it will come out.

I hope that everyone one day will stop running away from who they are. Making peace with yourself is a rewarding experience. I don't want to tell anyone what to do because I'm still running myself.

You are what you think. You are what you do, but most importantly, you are who you are when you're alone. I don't know if college can teach someone that. It's just a process we all go through in life.

I hope life's road is good to you; maybe I will see you at a stop sign one day. ♦

Kacey Hercules is a sophomore social work major and can be reached via e-mail at kah2x@mtsu.edu.

Kerry's 'demspin'

So we haven't found the weapons of mass destruction ... yet. That's the gospel from U.S. weapons inspector David Kay.

Major Kay from the *Today Show* interviewed Kay about his findings Jan. 27.

During the interview, Kay reported Iraq was deliberately investing in its nuclear program, Saddam Hussein "was pushing ahead his long-range missile program as hard as he could" and there were dozens of examples where Hussein had "lied to the U.S. [United Nations], violated Resolution 1441 and was in material breach."

"Was it prudent to go to war? Was there an imminent threat?" Lauer asked Kay. "I think it was absolutely prudent. In fact, I inspect the process we'll paint a picture of Iraq that was far more dangerous than even we thought it was before the war," Kay responded.

Kay said the main problem facing the United States was intelligence failures.

There you have it - the truth - that's what Kay said.

We faced intelligence failures all throughout the 1990s, which led to the World Trade Center bombing in 1993, Khobar Towers, the USS *Cole* bombing and of course, Sept. 11, 2001.

Let's evaluate the Democratic frontrunner, John Kerry, a U.S. senator for more than 15 years.

On *Fox News Sunday*, Kerry acknowledged he was the only sponsor of a bill in 1995 to cut \$1.5 billion from intelligence spending over the next five years.

In 1997, Kerry complained the intelligence apparatus was too enormous.

After Sept. 11, 2001, Kerry carped we should've had better intelligence.

Is this guy serious about protecting the American people? Kerry voted against the Persian



Reality Check

Justin Wax
Staff Columnist

Gulf War after Iraq ravaged Kuwait.

However, he voted for Operation: Iraqi Freedom before and after Iraq played hide and seek with weapons inspectors.

Kerry himself is more than misleading; he practices what I refer to as "demspin."

This phenomenon frequently occurs when a Democratic politician is responding to criticism, trying to answer a difficult question, stumping for votes, performing character assassination or simply trying to mislead.

Anyone who believes what Kay concluded would be inclined to agree that liberating Iraq was crucial from a national security perspective - much more so than a war to end the genocide in Kosovo. But Kerry resorts to demspin in an attempt to gain politically.

This principle goes back to the demspin days of Clinton when he was seeking clarification on what the meaning of "is" is. Words change meanings.

So what has Kerry done to aid our intelligence agencies? For starters, he tried to diminish funds.

Only in the Democratic Party would this bizarre, national security strategy survive and be admired.

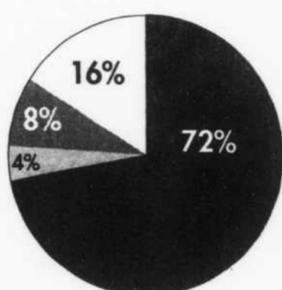
I'm not demspinning; I'm throwing my support to Kerry for the Democratic nomination because I think he'd be more likely to lose to Bush.

So bring it on John - but leave the demspin behind. ♦

Justin Wax is a freshman history major and can be reached via e-mail at jtw2n@mtsu.edu.

Sidelines online poll results

Last week we asked readers, "Have you or anyone you know ever tried methamphetamines?" Here's what you had to say:



- No, I'm not one for brain damage.
- Not yet, are you offering?
- Yeah, there was that one time and that other time ...
- What? I'm not telling you narcs anything!

SIDELINES

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Update

Due to a large response regarding the Feb. 3 meeting of Raider Republicans, the location has changed from the Suntrust Room to the State Farm Room in the Business and Aerospace Building. The meeting will still take place from 7 to 9 p.m.

Middle Tennessee State University
1301 East Main Street
P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Editorial: 898-2337
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Fax: 904-8193
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Debate ensues over controversial words

New legislation would raise punitive damage fines

By Laura Taylor
Staff Writer

Due to the Federal Communication Commission's ruling in October, networks are allowed to say "fuck" on television as long as it is not used in a sexual context.

This issue arose at last year's Golden Globe awards when U2's Bono accepted an award by saying, "This is really, really fucking brilliant."

Following the live show, NBC received over 200 complaints, mostly from the Parents Television Council. Parents were outraged by Bono's comment, and wanted cursing on television to stop.

The FCC's enforcement bureau thought differently, however, finally ruling that Bono's use of the word "fuck" was not obscene because it had no sexual or excretory connotations.

Therefore, curse words not used in obscene contexts are technically allowed to air.

Despite this ruling, the FCC still censors television speech.

Some profane speech got past the censors, however, during the live broadcast of the Billboard Music Awards in December.

Nicole Richie, star of the reality show *Simple Life* said, "Have you ever tried to get cow shit out of a Prada purse? It's not so fucking simple."

Many viewers were furious and Fox TV quickly apologized saying that this would never happen again.

So, although the FCC allows the use of curse words in situations that are not deemed obscene, most networks still censor them in order to keep the audience happy.

Larry Burriss, director of the school of journalism, values free speech and the First Amendment, but he also thinks that broadcasters should be aware that their messages are going into people's homes.

He believes that most of the time expletives are

used for shock value.

Because they do not represent important social statements, Burriss believes that curse words should be censored in order to keep the public happy.

"Why upset people over a word?" he asks. "This is different from political or social commentary."

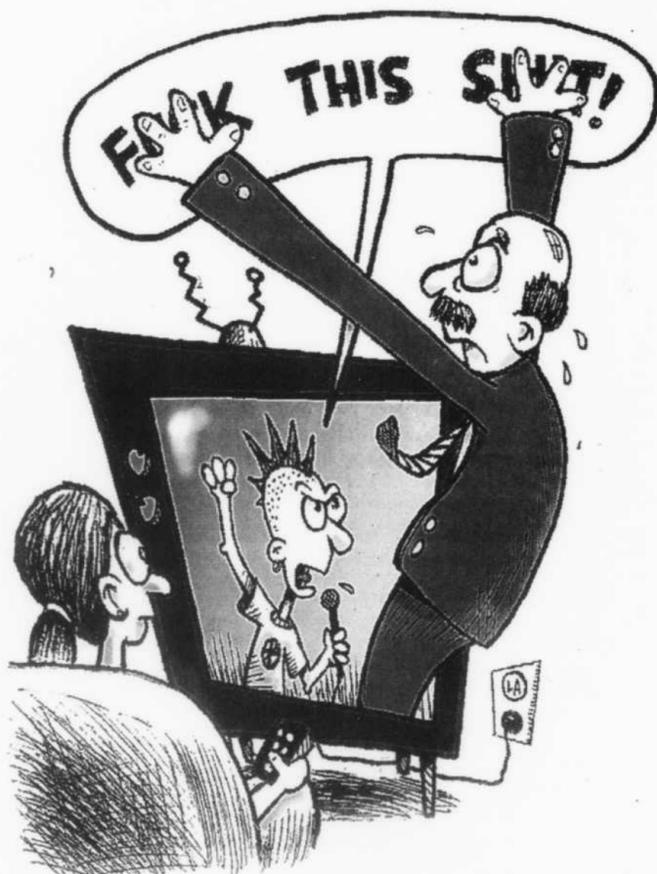


Illustration by Lucas Antoniak | Staff Illustrator

Ashley Richardson, a junior psychology major, agrees with the FCC's decision to allow the use of the word "fuck" on TV.

"Why is it [cursing] such an issue? They do everything else on TV," she says. "Besides, if there is going to be concern over curse words, I think that 'goddamn' is more offensive."

One of the chief concerns about allowing curse

words to air is the effect that they will have on children.

Although Burriss is against the use of curse words on television for the sake of offending the public, he does not think that children are being negatively affected by hearing them.

"Kids have heard those words before; they can look them up in the dictionary," he says.

Andy Franklin, a sophomore concrete engineer major, agrees.

"TV is not responsible for raising children," he says. "They should be taught that just because they see something on TV does not mean that they should do it too."

Connie Jones, a professor of elementary education, believes that when children see celebrities using these words on television, they will want to follow in their footsteps.

"This type of language is not something for children to emulate," Jones says.

She thinks that if children use profane language in their daily lives, it will hinder their communication skills.

Because of the fact that many people are upset about the FCC's decision, which courts are reconsidering.

Two pieces of legislation have recently been introduced in Congress to toughen obscenity rules. One of these lists exactly which words cannot be used on the air under any circumstance and the other raises fines tenfold on stations found guilty of violating obscenity rules.

If these bills pass, the maximum fine for airing curse words would go from \$27,500 to \$275,000 per word.

These fines have not been enforced in the past, but Michael Powell, chairman of the FCC, believes that the fine increase will help to get the networks' attention.

Networks are also taking precautions by adding delays to live shows so that explicit words can be censored. NBC aired this year's Golden Globe Awards with a 10-second delay to prevent a repeat of last year.

So, although the FCC has allowed the use of the word "fuck" in Bono's case, it does not appear that television will be using such words in the future. ♦

Student-written plays performed on campus

By Michaela Jackson
Staff Writer

This past weekend, students from all over campus attended the theater department's production, *An Evening of Short Plays*, directed by Deborah Anderson.

The two plays, *The View from This Room* and *Pillbox*, were written by former MTSU students Josh Dunkin and Paul Daniel Bond, respectively.

The View from This Room is much like a modern-day remake of the 1970s controversial movie, *The Graduate*.

It details the emotional transformation of a young and inexperienced kid, fresh out of college, who sleeps (rather graphically) with his lonely former teacher, a woman twice his age.

The repercussions are life changing for both of them.

Pillbox probes the depths of love and friendship, and follows the confused triangle of a woman and her long-time boyfriend who live with her best friend, who is a gay man.

Her boyfriend leaves her, saying that she really loves the other man in the house.

The gay man, though, who sees how much his friend is hurt, and believing himself to be at fault, kills himself and leaves both his friends to grieve alone. They reconcile in the end, and so the tragic suicide is not in vain.

The plays were selected as the only two winners of the Short Play Competition at last year's Region IV Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

They will return to the festival in Birmingham, Ala., next week to open the competition and to be considered for the honor of performing at the Kennedy Center.

Jeff Gibson, the theater department public relations manager, emphatically remarks that to be invited to the KCACTF alone is "really cool," but to have both of the top spots grabbed by MTSU plays is truly an honor.

Austin Sanders, a junior, and one of the three actors in *Pillbox*, explains that the group has put on the plays at MTSU this weekend to prepare for the upcoming exhibition.

Last semester, the plays were performed in the Studio Theater, which is a much more

See Plays, 7



Photos by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Tracy Thorne and Taylor Tutt perform in the award-winning play, written by former MTSU student Josh Dunkin, *The View from This Room*.

Student sets example of environmental awareness

By Meg Akers
Staff Writer

Anna Fitzgerald's legs are her primary source of transportation.

Calling all college students who are struggling to make car payments: The impossible can be achieved. You can survive without an automobile.

Senior Anna Fitzgerald does just fine without one, and her supposed lack of luxury is — get this — by choice.

While most of us stare at her with glazed-over eyes and displaced jaws, Fitzgerald just giggles and dictates her practical reasoning for such servitude:

"Cars contribute to poor air quality."

Fitzgerald, president of Students for Environmental Action on campus, finds other ways (in addition to walking), that help to improve the environment around us.

"I pick up every can or bottle I see," she says humbly after a little prodding. "When I see something that needs doing, I go for it."

SEA is a group of students dedicated to non-violent ways

of helping the environment. Right now, the groups biggest concern for MTSU is the need for a unified recycling system.

"At the moment, all the university recycles the paper and cans, and even those are only run by individual departments," says Fitzgerald, an art education major, with a hopeful smirk. "We would love to see the school recycle everything on a campus-wide basis."

The SEA ideally would love to see what is called a "kenaf system" on campus. This system involves a treeless paper-making process that the campus could call its own. Not only would this ingenious plan benefit the campus physically, but emotionally as well, as Fitzgerald explains:

"It would be so great to be able to say, 'hey, we recycle everything' and 'hey, we make our own paper.'"

But it's a matter of getting the ball rolling.

Last week the SEA's attendance was the highest it's ever been, 13.

"It's a matter of getting people to ask, 'What can I do' and 'How can I help?'" From the



Photos by Erica Rodefer | Features Editor

Besides being an avid environmentalist, Anna Fitzgerald is a campus RA, radio personality and cello player.

determination that resounds in her voice, Anna Fitzgerald is going to try her hardest to get people to ask those questions.

But one big question remains, just why does she do it?

I, for one, got a pretty straightforward answer.

"I used to live in the rainforest," Fitzgerald says with a smile.

All at once you begin to understand.

She tells of her living conditions there as a child: The jungle, the monkeys, the hand drums, the flocks of tropical birds.

"It's one of the most amazing things," Fitzgerald says with a

See SEA, 7

MTSU employee turns woodwork into art form

By Adam Parker
Staff Writer

Take your time. Do it right. Walk away proud.

That's been MTSU's lead cabinet-maker Keith Jenkins' approach to woodwork since childhood.

Jenkins, the son of a furniture storeowner, has been fascinated with wood as far back as he can remember. He spent his early days chopping up the wooden palettes that his father brought home from work and then reshaping them.

In those days, the woodwork was just for fun.

Now it pays the bills.

"I could take you around campus and show you a lot," says Jenkins, who has been MTSU's lead cabinetmaker for the past 18 years.

His woodwork reaches all the way from the baseball field, on one end of the campus, to the mass communications building on the other with desks, cabinets and other furniture in between.

Recording industry majors who stick it out long enough to man the mixer in studios A or B

will notice staggered wooden panels that jut out from the wall behind them.

These wooden panels eliminate sound waves that might degrade the sound quality.

"That was challenging," Jenkins says of the four month (two months per studio) project, which involved lasers and strings crossing the room from end to end to determine the precise dimensions and placement of the panels.

The baseball stadium is a Keith Jenkins woodwork showcase.

As soon as you set foot in the lobby, you are surrounded by his work. To the left is a trophy case that spans the wall. On the right are old team pictures, which are mounted on frames that he carved. Above the locker room entrance is a plaque of Chuck Taylor, an MTSU graduate who went on to play for the St. Louis Cardinals. The Chuck Taylor plaque is perfectly boxed in between two walls, the ceiling and the top of the door.

In an era that values

See Wood, 7



Photos by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Keith Jenkins built many of the wood structures on campus, including trophy cases, wood panelling and cabinets.

Wood: Jenkins renovated baseball helmet

Continued from 1

quantity over quality, Jenkins is a rarity.

When he works on a project assigned by the school, he stays with the same wood, from raw lumber from the sawmill to a shiny varnished object of whatever furnishing is needed.

When curves are needed in the wood, Jenkins uses a lathe, a machine that spins the wood on a horizontal axis so it can be shaped by a blade that is gradually adjusted to widen or narrow the curve.

Once the wood is shaped, Jenkins applies a coat of varnish. This darkens the wood, emphasizing its natural wood-grain pattern and giving it a smooth, glassy texture.

"When I started in the cabi-

net business 30 years ago, you had custom cabinet shops," Jenkins says. "As Murfreesboro grew, people got out of the custom cabinet business and went into 'pre-fab' cabinets.

"It's been that way since the early 80s."

Pre-fabricated furniture, "pre-fab" for short, is created in factories where the wood is often reconstituted sawdust.

The furniture is then sent down an assembly line and handled by factory workers, each involved in only a small part of the production.

It reaches the consumer in a box, with some assembly required.

Unfortunately, this furniture all too often falls apart a few years down the road.

Not only is the wood of less-

er quality than the red oak or alder that Jenkins prefers, but it also comes in many pieces, whereas Jenkins might build the same kind of furniture from one solid piece, so it is difficult to break.

Jenkins's latest pet project has nothing to do with wood but everything to do with his style of craftsmanship.

He just finished renovating the giant MTSU-baseball helmet that greets spectators when they enter the stadium.

The shiny blue helmet, made of Plexiglas, features the MTSU baseball logo on the front and a picture of Lightning, MTSU's mascot, on the back.

All graphics on the hat are raised a half-inch forward from the helmet, giving it a third dimension.

He fixed the helmet not because he had to, but because he wanted to, he says, investing his own time and money into the project.

He removed the helmet during Christmas and repainted it with the help of Jeff Bowen of Bowen's Body Shop, and put it back on display the end of January.

Jenkins' approach to woodwork may be old fashioned, but not obsolete.

His woodworking methods have endured, despite the changing manufacturing trends of the last few decades, just as his woodwork outlasts the furniture that rolls off the assembly line. ♦

Plays: Performance to be showcased

Continued from 1

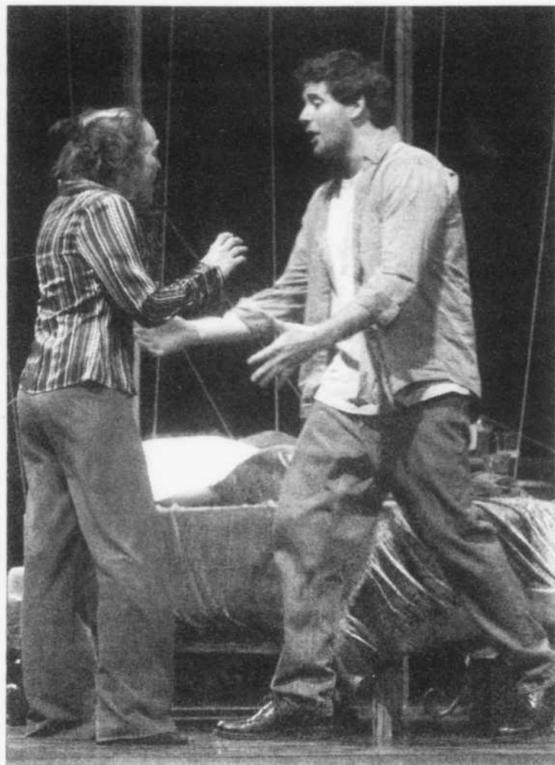
afforded the actors in Birmingham. Tucker Theater, where the play has just been staged, is of a much more comparable size; it seats 1,000 people.

"It's definitely a different dynamic," Sanders says, speaking of the different theater sizes. Additionally difficult, according to Sanders, has been "getting back into it" after such a period of dormancy for the plays. After a brief revitalization under the spotlight, the plays are once again ready to take the grand stage.

Sanders encourages students in the future to support the theater program, because, he says, "these are your peers, these are the people you go to class with, doing what they love to do."

Aside from just supporting your friends, Sanders applauds theater for its inherent value: "There's lots of laughing, lots of crying. [At times it is] entertaining, but it can also be quite moving, [even] heartbreaking."

Look for more productions from our very own award-winning theater department in the coming weeks. ♦



Photos by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Actors Benjamin Carrie, Austin Sanders and Cara Francis performed Paul Daniel Bond's, *The Pillbox*.

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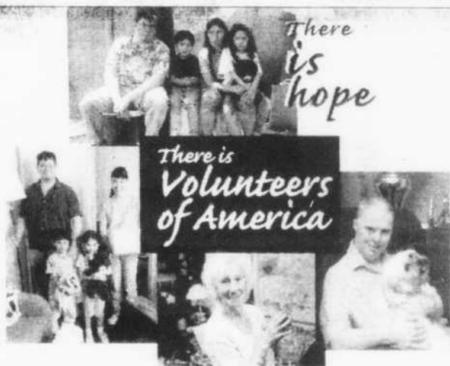
Continued from 1

with a far-off look, "the mist coming off the forest because it had just rained."

Anna Fitzgerald has an emotional connection to everything she stands for. And this girl certainly stands for a lot: College democrats, WMTS radio station, Student Art Alliance, her position as an resident assistant and even the cello she plays – just to name a few.

For a girl who "stands" for so many things, her legs must get tired.

For more information on how you can help the environment, or information on becoming a member of Students for Environmental Action, please email the SEA at sea@mtsu.edu. ♦



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Campus Calendar

<p>Monday, Feb. 2 Groundhog Day Luncheon Tennessee Room, 11:30 a.m. Reservations by Jan. 28 Advance cost, \$10; day of event, \$15 For reservations, call 898-2210.</p> <p>Honors Lecture Series Martin Honors Building Room 106, 3 p.m. Topic: "Consumer-driven Health Care" Speaker: Dr. Kenneth Hollman, Martin Chair of Insurance For information, call 898-2152.</p> <p>Faculty guest Christopher Harding, piano WMB Music Hall, 8 p.m. For information, call 898-2493.</p> <p>Phi Alpha Delta Interest Meeting Peck Hall Room 211, 6 p.m. For information, call 907-9996</p> <p>Thursday, Feb. 5 Jazz Artist Series – Kenny Werner WMB Music Hall, 7:30 p.m. For information, call 898-2493.</p> <p>African American History Month Committee "Unity Luncheon" JUB Tennessee Room, 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Cost: \$15, adults; \$8, students. Reservation deadline: Jan. 30 For ticket information, call 898-2987 or 898-5311.</p> <p>Women's Basketball game Western Kentucky Murphy Center, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Saturday, Feb. 7 Governor's School For the Arts Auditions BDA Studio Theatre, 8 a.m. For more information, call 898-2223.</p> <p>Women's Basketball game Florida International Murphy Center, 2 p.m.</p> <p>Pi Sigma Epsilon Informal Meeting Business and Aerospace Building Room S126, 5 p.m. For information, e-mail Str8t2top@comcast.net</p> <p>Sunday, Feb. 8 Stones River Pony Club Horse Show Tennessee Livestock Center Through Sunday For information, call 904-0049. ♦</p>
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Women's tennis hosts UTC Tuesday night

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

After beginning the season 1-1, head coach Randy Holden and the rest of the Middle Tennessee women's tennis team had a week off to prepare for Tuesday's match against the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

Looking back on the first week of play, Holden was mostly pleased with his team's performance.

"I think we really competed well, especially for this time of year," Holden said in a telephone interview Thursday. "I also think that we showed a ton of enthusiasm, and we were excited to play."

The Lady Raiders opened the spring season with a 7-0 shutout of Austin Peay State University Jan. 22. MT then lost at No. 15 University of Kentucky the following Saturday, but not before No. 54 Manon Kruse upset No. 23 Aibika Kalsariva 6-1, 6-2 to stay undefeated in singles this season.

"It was very close at Kentucky," Holden said. "The score said 5-2, but there was probably about a half a set difference between two teams. If we stay competing the way we are, we're going to have some really good wins."

Jennifer Klaschka also won her singles match versus Sarah Foster 1-6, 6-4, 5-3 as the Lady Raiders took the No. 1 and No. 2 singles matches. MT couldn't overcome the strength of the Lady Wildcats' lower seeds, but Holden was only mildly concerned about his younger players.

"We need to get a little more production out of the bottom of our lineup at [No.] 3 doubles and [Nos.] 4, 5 and 6 [singles]," he said, "but those are kind of our least experienced players and when they finally get a few matches under their belts, they'll be fine."

UTC's early schedule has almost mirrored that of the Lady Raiders. The Lady Mocs also started the season with a victory against an in-state opponent, 7-0 over the

University of Memphis. UTC then lost 5-2 at No. 53 Ole Miss Jan. 24, the same day the Lady Raiders lost to UK.

The Lady Mocs (2-1) defeated the University of Alabama-Birmingham 7-0 Friday in their first home match of the season. Senior Charlotte Goude and freshman Lucie Barney are both 3-0 in singles. Goude will most likely face Klaschka and Barney will take on senior Laura McNamara.

"They are pretty similar all the way down their lineup," Holden said about the Lady Mocs. "We haven't lost to them in quite a few years, obviously, but they played Ole Miss pretty tight and they've been getting better and better. We obviously have to play well and do the things that we need to do to pull it out and keep the string going."

In fact, the Lady Raiders have never lost to UTC. MT is 3-0 all-time against the Lady Mocs.

Match time is 6 p.m. for Tuesday's contest. The Lady Raiders then travel to Mississippi State University Feb. 7. ♦



Photo courtesy MT Media Relations

Senior Manon Kruse prepares to return a volley Jan. 24. Kruse is currently ranked No. 54 in the nation in singles.

'Murphy Magic' gone for men

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

Fans got a chance to honor some of the legends of Middle Tennessee basketball at the Second Annual Blue Raider basketball reunion Saturday night. Beyond that, it was an otherwise forgettable night as the University of Louisiana handed the Blue Raiders their third consecutive home loss at 74-64.

The Ragin' Cajuns (11-5, 6-1 Sun Belt Conference) rebounded from a poor shooting first half to shoot 55 percent in the second half.

"We knew they were a good transition team," senior guard Tommy Gunn said. "We worked all week on making them run their half court offense, and I felt like we played pretty good defensively. It's just that shots weren't falling, and that's part of basketball."

Down six at the half, the Blue Raiders (11-8, 3-3) opened the second half on a 10-2 run, capped by Gunn's three-pointer with 17:33 left in the game, to take the lead at 36-34. Brian Hamilton's layup 16 seconds later tied it back up and Laurie Bridges' three-pointer the next trip down the court gave ULL a lead they would never relinquish.

"I've said it before," ULL head coach Jesse Evans said. "I think Middle Tennessee has as good and as exciting of perimeter players as you're going to find in this conference, and I think our ability to contain them, I knew we weren't going to stop them but our ability to contain them, went a long way towards us being successful."

Gunn led Middle Tennessee with 16 points on a night when the Blue Raiders shot just 34 percent from the field, including 25 percent from behind the three-point arc. Mike Dean (the SBC's leading scorer in conference games at 21.5 points per game) scored 13 points on 4 of 19 shooting, including 2 of 11 from three-point range, well below his average of 58 percent from behind the arc.

"I knew that our best

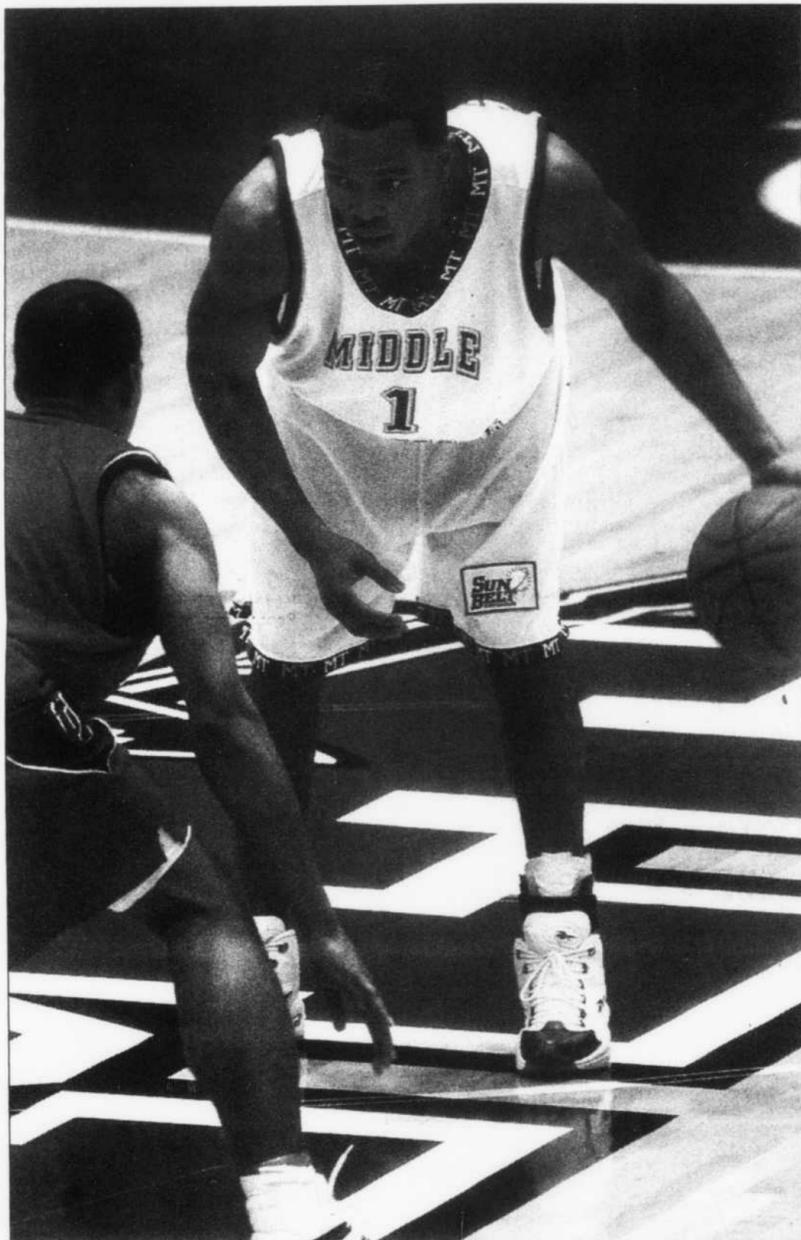


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT senior guard Keith Connor stares down a University of Louisiana-Lafayette defender Saturday night. MT lost 74-64 in the team's third consecutive home loss.

tonight might not be good enough," Blue Raider head coach Kermit Davis said. "Now did we have our best? No, but I don't think Lafayette did either. But they've just got a very athletic, very deep team. They've pretty much got eight starters, and we have to get to where we can throw the

ball around the goal and score."

Michael Cuffee had 12 points and eight rebounds for the Blue Raiders, and Steven Jackson added 11 points off the bench.

Junior transfer Orien Greene led the Ragin' Cajuns with 13 points as ULL showed

balanced scoring as all eight players that saw action scored at least six points.

The loss drops the Blue Raiders to 3-3 in conference play, but they remain tied with the University of Arkansas-Little Rock thanks to the Trojans' loss to Arkansas State University Saturday night. ♦

Roller coaster ride hits new low for MT

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

For as high as the Blue Raiders were after last weekend's road sweep at the University of South Alabama and the University of New Orleans, they must be as equally low after getting swept at home, having lost three straight Sun Belt Conference games in the suddenly not-so-friendly confines of Murphy Center.

"We've got to get better," senior forward Steven Jackson said. "We can't be satisfied with ever letting anyone come into our house and win."

Every chink in the Blue Raider armor was exposed in Thursday's loss to New Mexico State University and Saturday's setback to the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

A lack of an inside presence and poor defense in the half-court doomed the Raiders in a weekend home stand which could have helped Middle Tennessee put some distance between itself and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock in the SBC Eastern Division.

In three of the four halves played in Murphy Center this weekend, Middle Tennessee allowed the opposing team to shoot more than 55 percent from the field. Included was Thursday's loss to NMSU, who entered the game as the SBC's third worst shooting team and second to last in scoring.

After holding ULL to 37 percent in the first half of Saturday night's game, the Blue Raiders gave up 55 percent in the second half as the Ragin' Cajuns were able to pull

away.

"When you rely on perimeter scoring as much as we do, there are going to be nights when the shots aren't falling, and that's what you have to defend," Blue Raider head coach Kermit Davis said. "We did a good job in the first half and not in the second half. They did a good job on Tommy [Gunn] and a good job on Mike [Dean], and those are the nights when we have to get scoring from other people."

Despite opposing teams' gaudy shooting percentages, the Blue Raiders are forcing turnovers in transition (35 over the last two games) and giving themselves a chance to win, but lack of shooting down low continues to be a problem.

"I think we've gotten better [down low]," Jackson said, "but we definitely need more work and more production out of our big men."

The Blue Raiders averaged 15 offensive rebounds per game, a total of 30, but managed to convert those into 16 points. In Thursday's game, the Blue Raiders had 11 offensive rebounds and converted those into just four points and seven shots blocked.

"It's frustrating; those are situations where we need to capitalize and step it up offensively," guard Tommy Gunn said. "But I think that gives credit to our defense for keeping it close, and normally those should be baskets, and it's just something that we have to work on." ♦



Photo by David Maxwell | Staff Photographer

MT guard Michael Cuffee drives to the basket in MT's 81-76 loss as New Mexico State University's Allen Haynes looks on.

NBA suffers from lack of college graduates

NBA players should have college experience.

There was once a time when the NBA drafted more enlightened athletes who had devoted their time to schooling of a higher education, but then the draft started picking up unfinished youthful juvenile players that were straight from high school.

Michael Jordan went to the University of North Carolina when he was drafted by the Chicago Bulls in the 1984 draft. Now, Jordan is known to be the best player of the NBA.

Magic Johnson played for Michigan State University, then later made the decision to go pro. Johnson is also a legend in the NBA.

It's obvious that Johnson and Jordan are two of the many likeable players in the game of basketball. They were All-Americans and admired by many individuals.

However, the new generation seems to

Sports commentary

Jori Rice
Staff Columnist

be fascinated with younger players. It has been proven the NBA is getting more high school students each year.

Kevin Garnett from Minnesota made his announcement in 1995 to jump from high school to the NBA. The following year, Kobe Bryant skipped college and was selected 13th overall by the Charlotte Hornets.

Both players are considered superstars, but are they legends like Johnson

and Jordan? There have been many times Kobe has been compared to Jordan, but many people would say he'll never be Jordan.

Meanwhile, the debate of going to college or entering the pros has been an issue. The NBA has sunk into an abyss where actual proven ability seemed to be a detriment, the past couple of years.

Sometimes it seems to be a backlash from the fact that four high school players were picked in the lottery a year ago and none of them averaged seven points a game.

For the most part, many high school players are young, inexperienced and not ready to compete in the NBA. They may have some good skills, but most of them lack what's important — the knowledge of how to use their skills.

The NBA brought up the Developmental League so these players

See NBA, 9

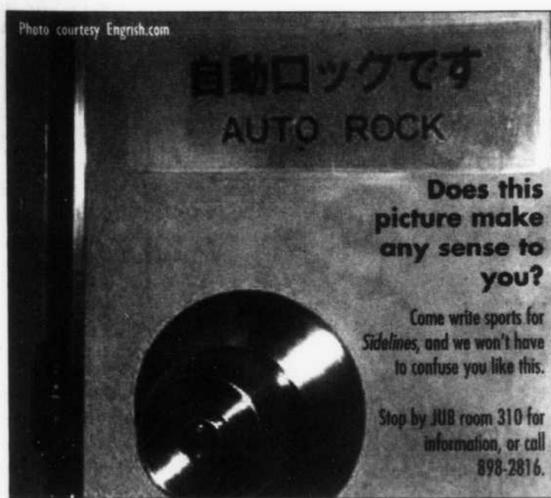
NBA: Experience needed

Continued from 8

would mature faster for the game, but it's not the same experience of playing college basketball.

Players with no college experience will have to prove themselves at the NBA level and gain maturity to gain respect. ♦

Photo courtesy English.com



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Track squads dominate MT Classic

By Brad Jameson
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's women's track team placed first in five events, and the men took first in three events last Saturday at the Middle Tennessee Classic in Murphy Center.

Junior Rosemary Okafor reported an NCAA provisional qualifying time of 54.29 seconds in the 400-meter dash, placing first in the event. It was Okafor's first 400-meter race of the season.

Lady Raider Jessica Anderson took first in the 55-meter hurdles, clocking in at 8.35. Candice Robertson finished third in the event with 8.52 and Jerkita McClorin placed fifth with 8.69.

In the women's triple jump, MT Senior Latetia Eady took first with a Sun Belt Conference best with 40-0. Junior KeKe Deckard finished second with a mark of 37-7.

Eady and Deckard traded places in the long jump; Deckard won with a jump of 19-1 1/4 inches, her best of the season. Eady placed fifth with 18 feet-2 1/2 inches.

Freshman Nicole Marcus finished with 24.88 in the 200-meter dash to claim second place. Junior Kishara George finished third with a time of 25.27. George also took second in the 55-meter dash (7.25).

McClorin finished second in the women's high jump with a jump of 5-0, and Jennifer Thomas placed right behind her third with a mark of 4-10.

Laetitia Florimond won the women's shot put for the Lady Raiders with a throw



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT sophomore Linnie Yarborough placed first in the men's 55 meter hurdles at the Middle Tennessee Classic Saturday with a time of 7.41 seconds.

of 44-08. MT's Meaghan Byrd came in third with a distance of 41-4, and Kelley Enoch finished fifth with 39-0.

Katie Mirgliotta took second in the weight throw with 45-03. Byrd placed fourth in the event (42-07).

As for the men's team, Blue Raiders

Linnie Yarborough and Garland Martin took first and second in the 55-meter hurdles with times of 7.41 and 7.42, respectively.

Willie Parker won the shot put for MT with 49-11, and James Thomas placed

See **Track**, 10

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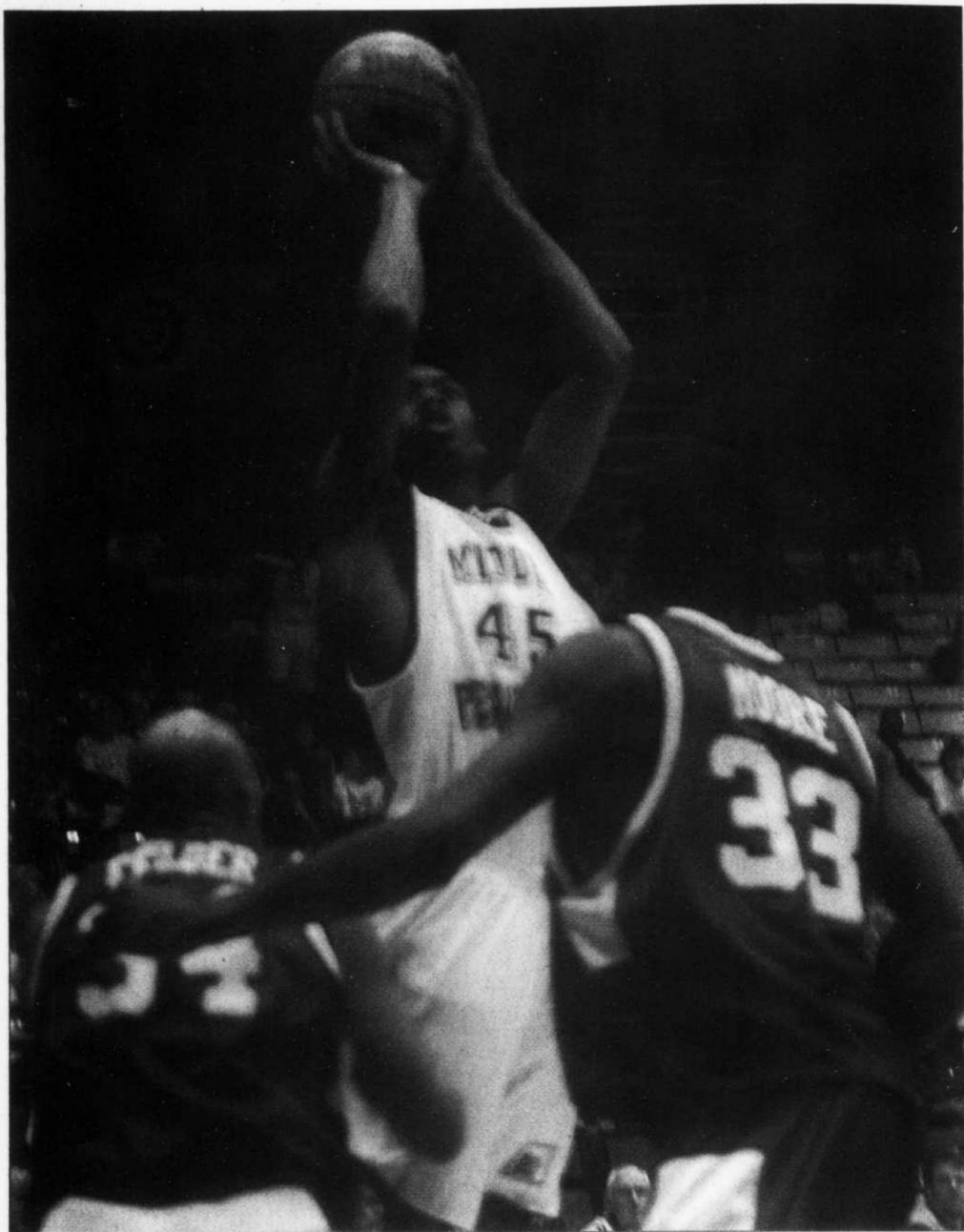
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Men's basketball falls to last-place Aggies



By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team did not look like a first place team Thursday night.

The Sun Belt Conference Eastern Division leaders were defeated by the last place team in the Western Division, New Mexico State University 81-76. An announced crowd of 3,758 people watched one of the worst teams beat one of the best at Murphy Center.

"Absolutely the tougher team, the most unselfish team and the most physical team won tonight," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "It would have been a shame if we had won at the end. It wouldn't have been a shame. I would have liked it, but we didn't deserve to win that game."

MT was outplayed in every part of the game. NMSU was next to last in scoring in SBC games only averaging 59.8 points per game. Thursday night the Aggies scored 81 by shooting 60.9 percent from the field.

"First of all, we haven't played like this all the time," NMSU head coach Lou Henson said. "I think we are getting a little bit better. The couple of games we have played pretty well. We shot the ball extremely well tonight, and of course, that always helps."

Henson now has 771 wins, seventh in NCAA history. Henson is seven behind Jerry Tarkanian with 778. In his 40th season coaching, Henson has coached for NMSU, the University of Illinois and Hardin-Simmons University.

Most nights the Blue Raiders would have won after scoring 76 points, especially against the toughest defense in the SBC. NMSU game up 64.4 points per game tops, in the SBC.

The Aggies blocked seven shots, and most were in the paint. Coming into the game, James Moore averaged 2.07 blocks per game, first in the SBC. Thursday night Moore had seven.

MT was able to stay in the game

until the very end. Blue Raider Mike Dean nailed a three-pointer with 18.3 seconds left to cut the lead 78-76. Then NMSU's Kelsey Crooks was quickly fouled. Crooks hit one of two free throws to make it a three-point game. MT's Tommy Gunn could not handle the double team, and turned it over. Moore added two free throws to seal the victory with 5.3 remaining.

"We ran a play trying to get on a open shot," MT guard Tommy Gunn said. "I was the first option, and Dean was the second option. [Smithson] chose to take the first option. On the double team, [NMSU] played good defense and slapped the ball away."

Moore led all scorers with 24 points, only missing one shot from the field. Moore was perfect from the line, going nine of nine. Before this game, Moore only was averaging just more than 11 points in the conference.

Moore was picked SBC preseason player of the year before the beginning of the season.

Allen Haynes and Kelsey Crooks chipped in 13 and 12 points each for the Aggies.

Mike Dean led the Blue Raiders with 22 points, and Gunn added 18.

NMSU, when leading at the half, is an undefeated 7-0. The Blue Raiders were behind at the half are 1-6.

The Blue Raiders (11-7, 3-2) now have two consecutive losses at home, while the Aggies (9-9, 3-4) have bounced back with two straight wins to stay in the hunt for an SBC tournament berth.

Saturday night, the first place team in the West, the University of Louisiana-Lafayette (10-5, 5-1), will make a visit to the "Glass House" to face the Blue Raiders.

The Ragin' Cajuns defeated Western Kentucky University in a shootout 110-102 Thursday night. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. ♦

Photo by David Maxwell | Staff Photographer

Left: MT forward Alex Weekes shoots over New Mexico State University's James Felder (34) and James Moore in MT's 81-76 loss.

Lady Raiders return with wins

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team enjoyed a successful weekend of play on the road picking up key Sun Belt Conference victories at New Mexico State University on Thursday and the University of Louisiana-Lafayette Saturday.

Thursday, MT picked up the 52-51 victory over NMSU.

An alternate possession call with three seconds left gave the Lady Raiders the ball and a chance to escape the Pan-American Center with the close win.

"I feel very fortunate to come out of here with a win," MT head coach Stephany Smith said after the game.

Krystle Horton led the Lady Raiders on offense with 18 points and five rebounds, while Jennifer Justice added 10 points.

Horton drained the first of two free throws to tie the game with three minutes remaining. After Horton missed her second attempt, Keisha McClinic snatched the rebound and scored to give the Lady Raiders

the 50-48 lead.

McClinic would then score again with 1:27 remaining, increasing the MT lead to four.

However, NMSU's Princess Moore hit a three with 1:08 remaining to cut the lead to one.

The Lady Raiders missed a shot attempt, giving the Lady Aggies a chance to win it, but two Lady Raiders forced the tied ball situation under the NMSU basket.

"I think in the last four minutes we fought really hard," Smith said. "We came in here after a long trip yesterday and got the job done we had to."

After getting the job done in New Mexico, the team traveled to Louisiana to take on the Lady Cajuns of Louisiana-Lafayette.

This time, the Lady Raiders managed to shoot 57 percent from three-point range on the way to the 72-57 victory.

McClinic continued her stellar play as the Lady Raider senior recorded her fifth double-double of her career by scoring 19 points and grabbing a career-high 13 rebounds in the contest.

"Keisha is playing with the heart of a warrior," Smith said. "This is her senior season, and she knows this is it for her, and she will not be denied."

Patrice Holmes led all scorers with 23 points in the contest, 10 of which were scored in the game's first 9:30.

Holmes triggered a 12-4 first-half run after the Lady Raiders started the game slowly.

The Lady Raiders went on another run to begin the second half, extending to a lead that was threatened several times by the scoring of Lady Cajun Anna Petrakova. Petrakova scored 12 of her team high 16 points in the second half.

However, the Lady Raiders used hot shooting from all over the floor, particularly the free-throw line (85.7 percent), to come away with the victory.

The Lady Raiders will return to Murfreesboro on Thursday for three straight home games as they host Western Kentucky for another important SBC game at 7 p.m. ♦

Track: Okafor, Parker lead MT to eight wins

Continued from 9

behind him in second with 44-01. In the weight throw, Thomas took first with 51-3 1/2 and Parker finished third with a throw of 40-8 1/2.

MT's Xavier Darden claimed the top collegiate finish in the 55-meter dash, taking second overall. Darden also placed fifth in the 200-meter dash behind Blue Raider Pedro Holiday, who placed first among collegiate athletes and fourth overall in the event.

Also taking a top collegiate spot was MT's Victor Okafor in the 400-meter dash, finishing second overall with a time of 48.18.

Both the men's and women's A relay teams also finished third overall in the 1760-yard relays.

The MT track teams travel to the University of Indiana Feb. 6 for the Indiana Invitational. They then return to the Murphy Center Feb. 14 for the Middle Tennessee Valentine Invitational. ♦

Photo courtesy English.com

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