

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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## UEC proposal receives support from fifth university department

Departmental support initiated by faculty members: Grantham

By Kris Wetzel / staff

The Uniform Equality Committee (UEC) received formal support from the English Department Feb. 22, making the goals of the UEC endorsed by five university departments and thirteen campus programs and organizations.

The UEC was formed last June to facilitate the adoption of a sexual orientation statement in the university's non-discrimination clause. The UEC proposal would not affect ROTC and Affirmative Action non-discrimination policies.

According to UEC Chair Michael Grantham, all departmental support has been initiated by faculty members who want the department to vote on the UEC proposal. Once the UEC has been approached by a faculty member, they send a representative to speak to the department head.

After talking with the department chair, the representative schedules a time to give a presentation to the department faculty. The department chair then distributes ballots to the faculty members who vote on whether to support the inclusion of a sexual orientation statement into the

university's non-discrimination clause.

Once the votes have been tallied, the chair writes a statement giving the UEC the department's formal support. The statement is forwarded to President James Walker, Vice President for Student Affairs Robert LaLance, department faculty and the UEC.

All departments that have voted on the UEC proposal have issued their support, Grantham said.

The English Department voted 25 to 4 in favor of supporting the UEC proposal.

"We are hoping by gathering departmental support that it will testify to the will of the university," Grantham said. "We will gain strength through departmental support, faculty support and, if possible, student support."

"Women's issue groups have been the forerunner of our support," Grantham said. "Women have been through a similar struggle, and they understand that the protection of equal rights is a strong issue."

Grantham said the UEC plans to ask each college dean for the college's formal support if a majority of the college's departments vote favorably on the UEC proposal.

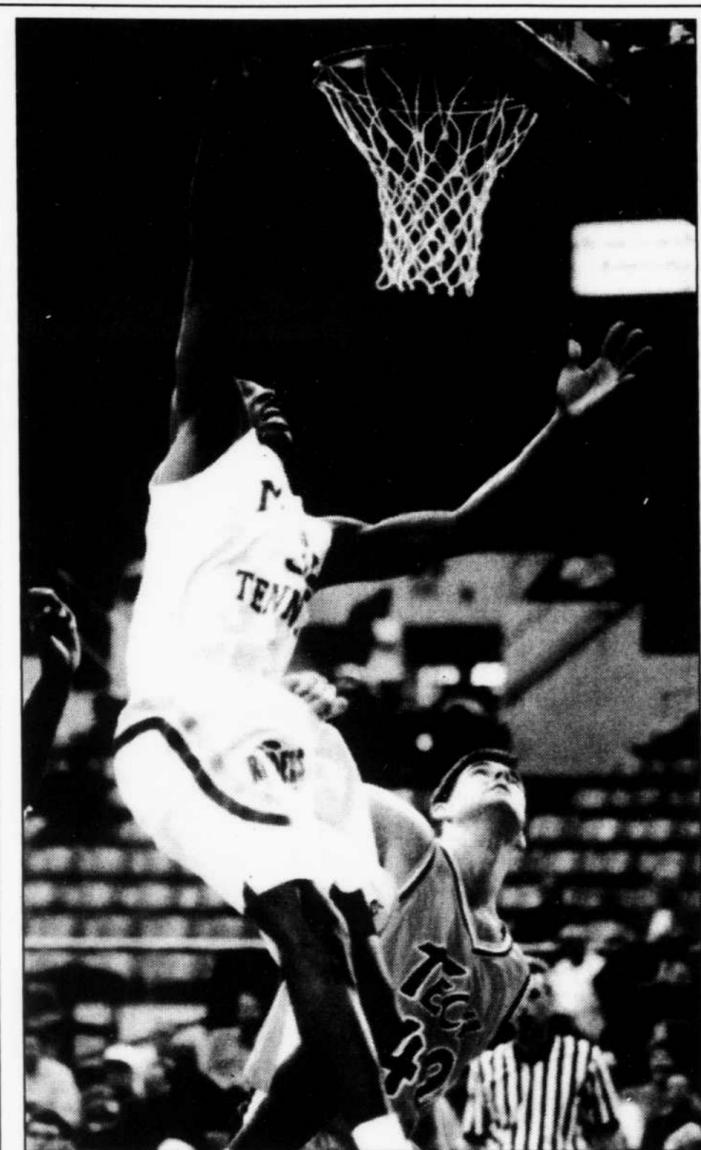
The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) formed a task force in February under the Student Affairs Sub-Council to assess whether a sexual orientation statement should be adopted into a

system-wide policy.

The Student Affairs Sub-Council consists of the highest administrators in the office of Student Affairs from each university in the TBR system. The Student Affairs Sub-Council is currently chaired by Patty Powell of Volunteer State Community College.

Grantham said he hopes the task force will adopt the sexual orientation statement into a system-wide policy, but the UEC will continue to gather university support in case TBR decides to leave the inclusion of a sexual orientation statement up to each individual school. TBR presently leaves the decision to each individual school.

The following departments, programs and organizations have given formal support to the UEC: Faculty Senate, Concerned Faculty and Administrative Women, Women's Studies program, Holocaust Studies program, Wesley Foundation, Panhellenic Council, Students for Environmental Action, Philosophy Department, Womyn's Political Action Group, Honor Student Association, Lambda Association, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, College Democrats, June Anderson Women's Center, Speech and Theater Department, History Department, English Department and American Association of University Professors. ●



Brian G. Miller / staff

## Fall in, baby

Roni Bailey puts up a shot good for two of his 15 points in MTSU's OVC tournament loss to Tennessee Tech Thursday.

## African-American enrollment remains high

By Amy Sentelle / staff

MTSU's African-American enrollment is increasing at a significantly higher rate than the state average, according to a recent report released by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

The Tennessee Challenge 2000 report indicates that from 1990 to 1995, African-American enrollment at MTSU has increased 34.02 percent, compared to an average statewide increase of only 19.22 percent.

Cliff Gillespie, dean of Admissions and Records, said this is only one indication of the "aggressive work we're doing to increase opportunities for under-represented populations."

Ron Malone, associate director of Admissions, said MTSU's increase in African-American enrollment is significant when compared with the rest of the state.

"Over a period of five years, the average increase in African-American enrollment among Tennessee universities has been less than 20 percent," Malone said.

"Comparatively speaking, MTSU's increase is significant and stands as a testimony of this university's efforts to attract, recruit and retain quality African-American students."

"Destination MTSU" is one

**"Comparatively speaking, MTSU's increase is significant and stands as a testimony of this university's efforts to attract, recruit and retain quality African-American students."**

**Ron Malone**  
Associate Director of Admissions

program that has been instituted by the university to recruit African-American students. The program brings in students from Memphis and Jackson, allowing them the opportunity to tour MTSU and attend workshops that inform them about financial aid, the admissions process, housing, multi-cultural affairs and qualification for scholarships.

Malone said he credits part of the increase of African-American students at MTSU to a healthy scholarship program.

"The Scholastic Achievement scholarship and the Otis L. Floyd Academic Excellence Scholarship are the two main ways we can assist outstanding African-American students," Malone said.

The Otis L. Floyd Scholarship for African-Americans is available to qualified African-American citizens. Applicants must have a 21 or higher ACT composite score and at least a 3.0 high school GPA.

Awards range from \$2,000 to \$2,400 per academic year, and preference may be given to applicants with the highest ACT score or GPA.

Both scholarships are renewable for up to eight semesters provided the student maintains at least a 3.0 GPA for the Floyd Scholarship and a 2.8 GPA for the Scholastic Achievement Scholarship.

Other scholarships awarded by MTSU include the Presidential Scholarship, the Leadership Performance Scholarship, the Academic Service Scholarship. The deadline for these scholarships is March 15.

For more information, students may contact the office of financial aid at 898-2830 or the admissions office at 898-2111. ●

## Library workshops to begin

By Martha Stroud / staff

Todd Library is sponsoring three workshops to discuss and evaluate research sources for women's studies, according to Kristin Kubly, user services librarian.

Kubly said the workshops are geared to assist students in finding resources and information about women's studies in the library.

Ginny Vesper, assistant professor of the library, will lead Tuesday's workshop titled Women's Research Sources in Todd Library. Those sources include reference materials, periodicals and indexes both in print and electronic. Vesper will discuss and evaluate these resources and share successful searching techniques, according to Kubly.

Kubly will conduct Wednesday's workshop titled Women's Resources on the internet. Kubly said she will discuss and demonstrate some of the internet sites designed by women that

offer career advice, networking opportunities and mentor contacts, Kubly said.

Ken Middleton, instructor in the library, will close the week's workshops with a presentation titled Women's History Resources on the internet. He will discuss and demonstrate how you can view rare materials at the Library of Congress, find on-line book reviews and instantly communicate with other scholars and students around the world. Middleton will also discuss the need for a balance between internet and traditional print resources, Kubly said.

All workshops will begin at 3 p.m. in Room 111 in the Todd Library.

This is the first time Todd Library has offered these kinds of workshops to individual users of the library, according to Kubly. Normally these workshops are only done for classes or at the request of professors. All three of these workshops were individually designed by their speakers. ●

## Parking to be tight for tourney

By Mark Blevins / staff

Parking will be a little tougher this week as a state-wide basketball tournament rolls into Murphy Center, according to officials in the Department of Parking and Transportation.

The Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association (TSSAA) women's state basketball championship tournament is scheduled for Wednesday through Saturday at Murphy Center. The games begin at 11:30 a.m. and are expected to be completed around 11:30 p.m.

Manager of Parking and Transportation Linney G. Moore recommended that students try to find parking space towards the east end of campus away from Murphy Center. He also suggested students avoid Greenland Drive to enter and exit campus.

"What we're trying to do is inform [members of the MTSU community] so their life will be easier while the tournaments are here," Moore said.

The TSSAA men's tournament is scheduled for March 13 - 16. Games start at 10 a.m. ●

## Electoral Act revisions in final stages

By Heather Hybarger / staff

Students passed a referendum last week concerning changes in the Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution with a final vote of 92 for and 3 against.

The final step in completing the revisions to the election process is making suggested changes to the Comprehensive Electoral Act of 1996.

The SGA Constitution now allows for spring elections to be held at any time during the spring semester. The

Constitution previously required the elections be held in March.

The Electoral Act must also be revised to match the new Constitutional guideline.

Due to Tennessee primary elections and Spring Break, SGA could not acquire voting booths during March and had to move elections to April.

Members of the Electoral Act Revision Committee plan to introduce changes to the Act suggested by Vice President for Student Affairs Robert

LaLance in the next joint House/Senate session on Wednesday, according to Representative Michael Grantham, who is a member of the committee. The changes must be approved by the House and Senate, and signed by both SGA President Shane McFarland and LaLance.

Several of LaLance's suggestions were simply to change the wording of certain sections for clarity, according to Election Commissioner Ginger

Please see ACT on page 2

## FEATURES

Singer/songwriter Todd Snider brings act to town **Page 7**

## WEATHER

MON  
partly  
sunny

High: 65  
Low: 32



TUE  
light  
rain

High: 68  
Low: 52



WED  
scattered  
t-storms

High: 65  
Low: 54



## SPORTS

Lady Raiders advance to OVC tourney final **Page 7**

# ACT: changes to be made

continued from page 1

Sullivan. However, several fundamental changes were suggested as well.

Political parties

- Article VII, Section 1: The first sentence which reads "A Student Government Association political party..." would be changed to read "A student political party..." The last sentence reads "This group may not be affiliated with any national, state or local political organization and must follow all guidelines for student organizations." Due to possible violations of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, this sentence will be rephrased to read "A student political party must comply with all guidelines, rules and policies set forth for all student organizations."

- Article VII, Section 3: The section reads "The name of a political party may not be the same as that of any other registered campus organization, nor may it be in poor taste." Again due to First Amendment concerns, LaLance suggested this section be omitted.

- Article VII, Section 4: The last sentence, "The Election Commission shall have final say over the acceptability of the political party and its name," will also be omitted to avoid a conflict with the First Amendment.

- Article VII: A new section will be included which stating "Political parties which have registered with the Election Commission shall submit a slate of candidates to the Election Commissioner no later than 4 p.m., 14 calendar days before the election." Vote tabulation

- Article X- A new section will be included which states "The administrator who serves as SGA advisor will maintain elections results indefinitely."

- Article X, Section 2: The section reads "All votes shall be counted in the presence of the Election Commissioner, at least two members of the Election Commission, and if they choose, the SGA administrative advisor, a representative of the official campus newspaper, and each candidate or his or her designee." It will be changed to "Votes shall be counted in the presence of the Election Commissioner, the administrator who serves as SGA advisor, or his/her designee, any candidate or their designee, and at the discretion of the Election Commission, a representative of the official campus newspaper."

- Article X, Section 6: The sentence that reads "A run-off shall be held in the event of a tie between the bottom two of the top number of positions

determined to be elected plus one," will be changed to read "A run-off election shall be held only in the event that two or more candidates are tied for the last available seat. All candidates who are tied will be included in the run-off."

- Article XI, Section 3: This section, in relation to Homecoming Queen elections, will be amended to also state, "The name of the sponsoring organization may appear on the ballot of the discretion of the sponsored candidate."

- Article XI, Section 8: The sentence "In the event of a tie, the Election Commission shall determine what course of action to take" will be replaced with "In the event of a tie between the top two candidates, a one day run-off election will be scheduled by the Election Commission. If two or more candidates are tied for the last available position, the Homecoming Court will be expanded to include the number of candidates tied for the last available position."

- Article XI, Section 10: This section will change the way the Homecoming Queen has traditionally been announced by stating "At half-time of the football game, the Homecoming Court will be announced in alphabetical order, with the Queen being announced after the court is on the field." ●

# New research analyzes the science of laughter

College Press Service

Laugh. go ahead. Laugh. Can't do it on demand? Why not?

And by the way, what exactly is laughter, and when do people laugh?

University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) Professor and Neuroscientist Robert Provine has answers to these questions. For Provine, laughter is no joke: it's a science.

He and his students have studied thousands of people's ha-has, hee-hees and ho-hos.

"First we analyze the sounds of laughter," says Provine, whose study of laughter appears in the February issue of *American Scientist*. "Everyone laughs the same way: chopping up breath into little fifteenth of a second [blasts], and it reoccurs regularly. Some vowel-like sounds change (example: ha, ha or hee, hee), but it's basically these little pulses of sound."

(So much for that charming, distinctive giggle you were cultivating.)

To conduct his research, Provine ordered his students to hit the streets in search of laughter. Despising what Provine calls the "canned research" that was the norm during his own grad student experience, the professor sent three of his undergraduate psychology students with notebooks into local malls, cafeterias and other environments where "you'd find laughter."

The goal: to eavesdrop on anonymous conversations and record them when laughter occurred. "I thought, what kind of crazy idea is this?" admits former eavesdropper-turned-medical student, Lisa Greisman. "It didn't sound like research."

But Greisman and her colleagues took copious notes on more than 2,000 cases of

natural laughter:

When do people laugh? Who was laughing? Who was speaking? Does the speaker laugh? Did researchers notice gender differences?

"I'm not sure I want to hear laughing ever again," says Greisman, jokingly.

But what Provine and his students discovered could have significant social implications, especially for women.

According to Provine's research:

—Laughter is almost exclusively social. You are 33 times more likely to talk to yourself than to laugh to yourself. Laughter actually causes laughter. That explains why those smart TV producers still use laugh-tracks on sitcoms.

—Laughter occurs more in response to a "droll statement," than it does after a joke or story.

—The speaker generally laughs more than the people they are speaking to. But here Provine and his students found that gender played a significant roll.

Generally speaking, women are better laughers. But a male speaker is more likely to get laughs than a female speaker. If a woman is speaking—no matter what gender her audience is—she's less likely to get a laugh.

"The lot of the female comedian is not an easy one..." Provine concludes.

"I don't agree with that," says Chicago-based comedienne Caryn Bark. Bark is a 10-year veteran of the comic-circuit with her own one-woman show and is a founder of Chicago Women in comedy.

Bark suggests what

Provine and his students are seeing is a prejudice against women being funny. "[People] don't expect women to be funny," says Bark, "so they don't get it at first."

Before she was a professional comedienne, Bark worked in an office and found that her quick wit, an asset to most men, made people uncomfortable. "I'm kidding," Even on dates I'd have to say, "I'm kidding," says Bark.

For female comedieness, Bark adds it's important to be introduced as a 'comedienne,' so people know what to expect. "If you're not a character, they think you're a singer. You don't look like a comic."

But once on stage, Bark says she is able to get just as many or more laughs than her male counterparts, no matter who's in the audience. Once, Bark did a show for a holiday lunch full of "stuffy older men," she says.

"I do my act. Two smiles. It was awful. I ran home and the secretary calls and says, 'They loved you, they want to book you for next year.'"

Bark did the act again the following year, got the same reaction and the same phone call. When she was asked back to perform the next year, Bark says "I just couldn't do it."

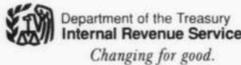
So she booked a male comic, who did "sports and stuff" in his act. After the show, the male comic called her and said they hated him.

Bark reassured him that was their usual reaction. Then the secretary called and said to Bark: "They hated him. Could you come back next year?"

Park adds: "Humor is a powerful tool." ●

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... a martyr  
... God.  
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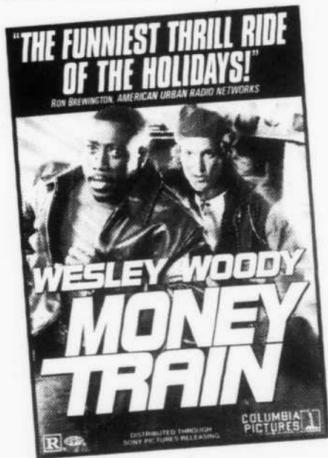
Former Indiana State University basketball player Femi Akinola will be speaking after the film. Akinola is originally from Nigeria and is also a full-time staff member with the Intersarsity Christian Fellowship at the University of Louisville.

Sponsored by the MTSU Christian Faculty and Staff Fellowship and Intersarsity Christian Fellowship.



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and  
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Deadline for entry:  
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Music on the Knoll and will receive  
FREE recording studio time

Pick up an application in KUC Room #308 or  
call 898-2551 for more information.

## CAMPUS CAPSULE

### MONDAY, MARCH 4

MTSU Art Barn Gallery will present "The Rite of Dreams: An Awakening," an installation by MTSU Art Professor Janet Higgins, March 4-29 (excluding March 9-17). The opening reception will be March 4 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. In addition to the opening, special viewing times have been established when all aspects of this multimedia show will be working: March 7 from 11:30-12:30, March 19 from 2:30-3:30, March 20 from 2:30-3:30, March 27 from 11:30-12:30, March 28 from 12:30-1:30 and March 29 from 3:30-4:30. Regular gallery hours are 8-4:30 Monday-Friday.

Portraits for Midlander will be taken March 4, 5, 6 and 7 in KUC Lounge, across from the Grill from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Seniors should make an appointment for their portraits by calling 898-2478 or 898-2815. Underclassmen will be taken on a first-come-first-serve basis. It's free-no sitting fee.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Golden Key National Honors Society will meet at 5 p.m. in KUC Room 315. They will discuss officer elections and community projects and plan for the National Convention.

Placement and Student Employment Center is offering a career placement workshop entitled "Your Job Search," from 11 a.m.-noon and 2-3 p.m. in KUC Room 318. Learn about placement services, Resume expert, campus interviews and employment opportunities.

All May 1996 Graduating Seniors: As a condition of graduation, you are required to take the ACT-Comp. The test will be given on March 5, 6 and 7 in the James Union Building-Tennessee Room. On these dates you may choose from the following test times: 8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. or 6 p.m. The test should take approximately two and one-half hours.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Placement and Student Employment Center is hosting a workshop entitled "Resume Writing," from 3-4 p.m. in KUC Room 318. Learn the basics for writing your resume.

Phi Beta Lambda will hold a membership meeting at 4:30 p.m. in KUC Room 312 with a guest speaker. For more information contact James Robertson, President at 898-3051 or Dr. Robert B. Blair, Advisor at 898-2036.

Social Work Forum will meet March 6 and 7 from 1-2 p.m. in KUC Room 312.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Proposals for the Fourth Annual Undergraduate Symposium in Women's Studies are being accepted through March 7. Applications may be picked up from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in KUC 120. For more information contact Womyn's Political Action Group, MTSU Box 623, or call 890-0915, or e-mail us at m\_c\_01c4@frank.mtsu.edu.

Placement and Student Employment Center is hosting an Interview Preparation Workshop from 11 a.m.-noon and 2-3 p.m. in KUC Room 318. It is a workshop for

developing interview skills and professional dress.

A leadership development seminar entitled "Motivation" will be held at 3 p.m. in KUC Room 314. The seminar will feature John Thurston, Consultant for First Tennessee Bank, and Brent Holland, Staff Training Director at Stones River Center. They will address apathy, stimulating interaction and participation, different approaches to motivate individuals, identifying the readiness of individuals to be motivated, and the best way to motivate.

Travis Smith, Graduate student from the College of Mass Communication will be defending his thesis "Campus Watch: Campus Crime and the First Amendment on at 3:30 p.m. in Room 150 of the Mass Comm building.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 8

MTSU will be hosting the Tennessee Women's Leadership Conference for college women on Friday, March 8. The keynote speaker will be Harriet Woods, the first Woman Lieutenant Governor of Missouri and former Missouri State Senator. The registration fee is \$18 and includes lunch. For more information call the June Anderson Women's Center at 898-2193. Registration ends March 1.

Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society will meet March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Red Rose Cafe for discussion and socializing. Members, guests and all interested students are welcome. Call Candace Moonshower at 646-4527 for more information.

The Japan Center of Tennessee presents a "Women of Japan" exhibit in the lobby of Cope Administration Building. The exhibit of photographs and dolls is free and open to the public on Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. A "Japanese Kite Exhibit" will be displayed at the LaVergne Public Library, 5089 Murfreesboro Road, LaVergne, TN. The exhibit can be seen Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. and Wednesday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Volunteer State Community College will sponsor and "Origami Exhibit" in the lobby of the Library, 1360 Nashville Pike, Gallatin, TN. This exhibit may be viewed Monday-Thursday from 7:45 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday 7:45 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. All exhibits will be displayed through March. For more information call The Japan Center of Tennessee at 615-898-2515.

Application deadline for the Alpha Delta Mu Social Work Honorary Scholarship is April 12. Applications can be obtained in the social work office. Criteria are posted with the applications.

1995-95 MTSU Student Handbooks are available in KUC 122 and KUC 128.

Todd Library has items on loan from Fisk University Library in the display case to commemorate African American History Month. These items include materials from W.E.B. Dubois collection, Aaron Douglas collection, W. C. Handy collection, Langston Hughes collection and Jubilee Singers Archives.

### ONGOING EVENTS

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meets every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. in Dance Studio B. Everyone (athletes and non-athletes) welcome. Come for fun, fellowship, and Bible Study.

Women's Clinic in the Academic Nursing Center offers the following gender specific assessments for \$15 initial and \$10 follow-up: breast exam, pap smear stool for occult blood, urine check, pregnancy test, blood chemistry profile, tests for infections if indicated and follow-up reporting and counseling. Blood Chemistry Profiles available the first Wednesday of every month from 8-10 a.m. at \$10 for the 18 component blood chemistry profile and \$10 for PSA (prostate cancer test). The clinic also offers free blood pressure screenings every Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. For an appointment call 898-5950.

Raiders for Christ will hold a devotional on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Middle Tennessee Christian Student Center.

The MTSU Christian Faculty and Staff Fellowship will meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in KUC Room 312. Interested Faculty and Staff are invited to attend any of these meetings. For further information contact Kim Sokoya at 898-2352 or ksokoya@frank.mtsu.edu.

The MTSU College Democrats will hold weekly meetings in room 313 of the KUC at 5:00 p.m. Come and find out what we are all about.

Codependents Anonymous (Coda) will meet Thursday's from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Marks United Methodist Church, Room 109 under the red handrail. Coda is a fellowship of men and women whose common problem is an inability to maintain functional relationships. The only requirement for membership is a desire for healthy and fulfilling relationships with others and ourselves.

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) will meet Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. at St. Marks Methodist Church, 1403 E. Main St., Room 109. ACOA is a 12-step support group for people raised in an alcoholic or other dysfunctional family. For further information write to MTSU Box 624 or call 780-2293.

Lambda will be hosting a "Movie Night" every Thursday at 7 p.m. in Mass Comm Room 103. For more information call the Lambda Hotline at 780-2293.

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship will hold its weekly meetings on Tuesday at 8 p.m. and Campus Prayer meetings on Wednesday at 9 p.m., in KUC room 312. All campus ministries and all individuals are invited to attend.

Seniors and Graduate Students: create your resume with Resume Expert Plus Software and register with the Placement Center in one easy step! Contact Placement and Student Employment Center KUC 328, 898-2500.

Wesley Foundation will be hosting an hour-long ongoing study group on

Human Sexuality in the Christian Faith, Mondays at 5:30 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation.

Wesley Singers rehearsals will be held Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation. Anyone who loves to sing is welcome.

MTSU students who need speech testing or speech therapy services should call the MTSU Speech Clinic, 898-2661, for an appointment.

Anyone interested in being a tutor or getting tutored, please contact Tanisha Harris of the NAACP (Educational Committee) at 898-4056.

MTSU Equestrian Team will hold regular meetings every Monday night at 7:00 p.m. in the TLC Sales Arena. Everyone is welcome!

Inroads Nashville, Inc. plans to recruit Sophomore and Junior Minority Students in marketing, computer information systems and business administration. With a GPA of 2.9 or better, successful recruits will have the opportunity to do internships with such firms as IBM, Price-Waterhouse and Northern Telecom. Those interested should immediately call Prof. B. Fayissa at 898-2385 or see him in KOM 322G.

The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss, a reflective book study, meets Sundays at 4 p.m. in KUC 305. All are welcome to attend. Sponsored by the Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry.

Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for dinner and fellowship at St. Paul's Church, 315 E. Main St. and Thursdays for lunch in the KUC Grill. All are welcome. Contact Andrew Wright at 893-3780 for more information.

MTSU Raidersharks- Scuba Club will hold meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. in the MTSU Pool. It is open to anyone interested in scuba diving or associated activities. All students are welcome. For more information call Tim or Jude at 895-6249.

Phi Sigma Pi will hold their weekly meetings on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Stark Ag Building Room 125. Contact an officer if you can not attend.

### DEADLINES FOR CAMPUS CAPSULE SUBMISSIONS:

MONDAY EDITION:  
4:00 P.M. FRIDAY

THURSDAY EDITION:  
4:00 P.M. TUESDAY

All submissions must be brought to the Sidelines office in writing. Phone in submissions will not be accepted. Sidelines reserves the right not to publish any listing for any reason. Sidelines is not responsible for false information.

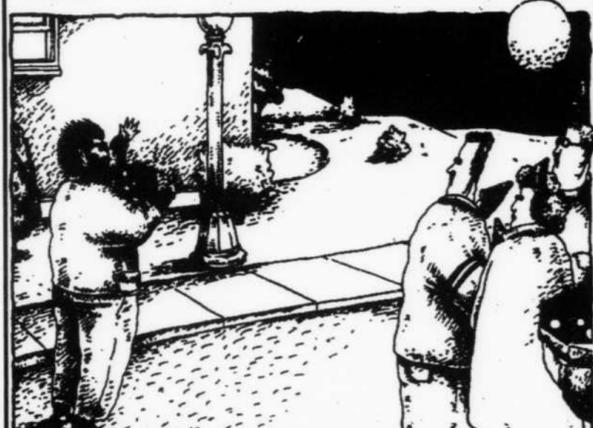


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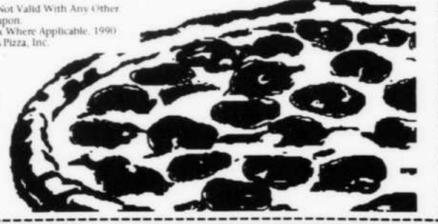
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## Science, evolution don't mix; it's either one or the other

By Joe Dowell

It takes more faith to believe in evolution than it does to believe in creation. Evolution defies the laws of science. The Creator is above all laws - He created them.

The Second law of Thermodynamics states that everything tends to disorder. This is why rooms get messy, cars break down, and people get old. This law encompasses everything - from stars to chromosomes. This is why stars burn out, and why our genetic load increases, and why genetic defects occur. Evolution breaks this law. How then do evolutionists get around this? They don't, but they do try.

The Hardy-Weinberg law states that in a large population in which random mating occurs and in the absence of forces that change the proportions of alleles, the original ratio of dominant alleles to recessive alleles will be returned from generation to generation. In English, this means the ratio of our alleles wants to stay in equilibrium. If this occurs, evolution does not take place. The evolutionist's next step is to propose scenarios that deviate from this law. They have proposed four that I know of: population size, migration, selection and mutation.

The Hardy-Weinberg law only works for large populations, so the evolutionist says, "Hey, what about small populations!" The loss of alleles from a small population is still unlikely, but suppose this happens. We now have the elimination of a trait, not the creation of one.

Migration deals with the shuffling of alleles from one population to another. We now have the mixing of alleles with a chance (a slim one) of some being more emphasized and others less emphasized. Still no creation of alleles.

Selection is the reduction of certain alleles due to the survival of organisms. The idea is that the organism survived because it had a trait that was advantageous to it. This happens. Darwin noticed the results of this when he noted the different beak structures in the finches on the Galapagos Islands. But did you ever notice that the finches all had beaks and not lips? The reason is that the ancestors of those finches did

not have the genes for lips. Those ancestors of those finches did have the genes for the variability of beak structures that Darwin noticed. This is called micro-evolution. I believe in micro-evolution; it is a fact. There are no new genes created in micro-evolution. So truly, it is not "evolution," it is the pronouncement of certain traits. Look at all the human races - we did have a common ancestor, it was a population of humans with the genetic variability to produce our many races.

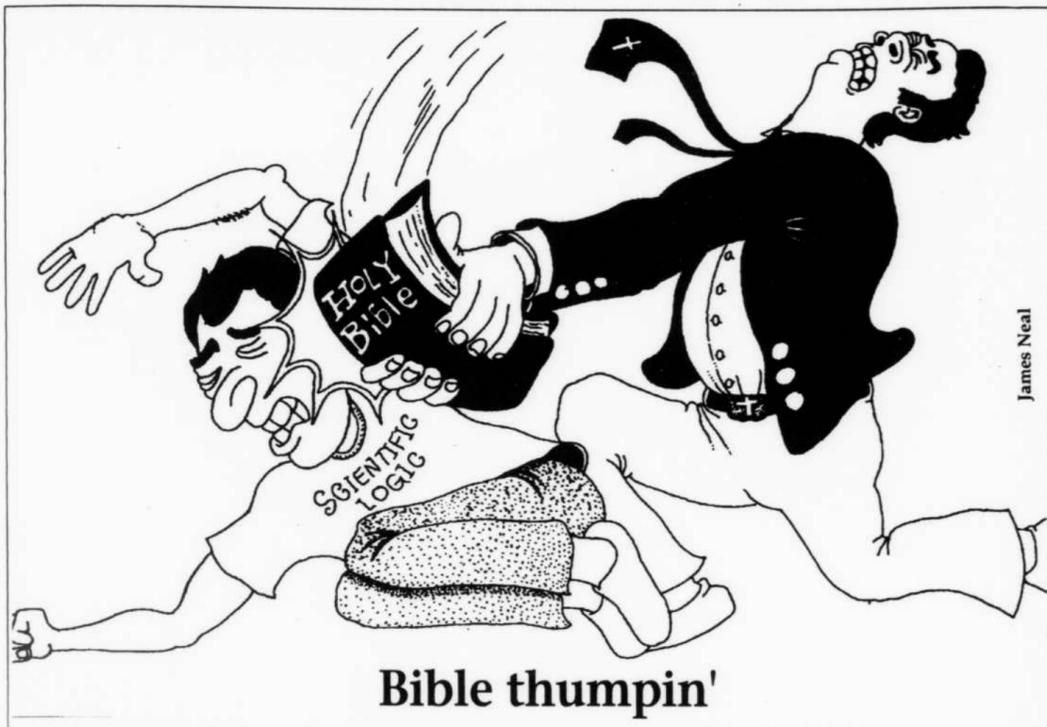
The evolutionist's god is the mutation. It is their Creator. Ask any animal if it would mutate and it'll say, "Hell No!" Ask an evolutionist and he

may ponder up all the wonderful things he could become. Mutations are harmful to organisms. Mutations that give an evolutionary advantage do not happen in nature. They happen in only one place - the mind of an evolutionist. I personally do not recall any mutations that "created" anything new. Often they are additions or subtractions of certain traits. For example, a five-legged cow. Or a child without a face. They are not advantageous. The First Law of Thermodynamics - matter/energy can be neither created or destroyed is another reason why

evolution is such a bad idea. If you want to call it theory... fine... but don't call it a fact.

It must be realized that evolution is a religion - in the sense that one must have a lot of blind faith to believe in it. I have stated three laws that make evolution much harder to believe than creation. Once you come to the conclusion that this world could not have come about by any natural process without breaking the laws of science, you will be forced to look beyond those laws. There you'll find God. Then you'll see the incredible design that has gone into His work. There is not an engineer alive that could design a machine to run like a cheetah or one with the ability to fill so many niches in nature like the Galapagos Islands finches. Charles Darwin was looking in the face of God... and never knew it.

**Mr. Dowell is a freshman who studies chemistry and biology.**



Bible thumpin'

## Evolution of man is not a fact



Scott Link

What if I went to MTSU and claimed that I had completed enough hours to graduate, and then as proof I offered only a partial transcript. I could insist that if I had taken English 112 I must have taken 111, even if it is not shown in the evidence I have given. Maybe the lower-division classes I had taken were a precursor to all the upper-division classes I claimed to have passed. I must have completed all the prerequisites to get into some of those upper-division classes which are listed on the transcript, so that should be proof that I had taken them as well. MTSU would laugh me off the campus.

For them to allow me to graduate, there must exist undisputed, historical proof that I have completed all the requirements for graduation. If it does not, I am out of luck.

Yet, professors teach evolution, a theory which is disputed and full of "missing links," as the only true fact about our origin. We cannot show, scientifically or historically, the path from ooze to human. Even still, this is what we are told is true, and often those who dare to question are ridiculed.

Now, Tennessee is considering passing a bill which would make teachers admit that there is a possibility that it is not true. They are not trying to stifle the teaching of evolution. Those who support the bill merely wish for teachers to point out that this theory (make no mistake, it is a theory) is not undisputed fact. Where is the harm in questioning? If it cannot stand up to scrutiny, we should not be teaching it all.

By the scientific method, we come up with a hypothesis, test the hypothesis, evaluate the results, and bring a conclusion, a theory, from those tests. All scientific "facts" are theories that are supported by scientific and historical evidence. They rely on inductive logic which is to say that our scientific facts are

claimed to be such only because there is a great probability that they are true. An argument made by inductive logic, no matter how cogent, has the possibility of being wrong. The next time someone drops a bowling ball off of Peck Hall, it may fall up instead of down. It is highly unlikely, but within the realm of possibility.

To say otherwise is to commit the informal logic fallacy "Argument From Ignorance." If the statement "since no one has ever proven a bowling ball could fall up before, no bowling ball ever will" is a logically correct argument, then I can prove the existence of God with one simple sentence. No one has ever proven that God doesn't exist, so he must exist. Of course, I could prove that God doesn't exist just as easily. No one has ever proven God does exist, therefore he doesn't. This line of reasoning is illogical. We cannot say anything about the future that

is 100 percent sure, but we can be accurate in our probable predictions based on past experience.

Of course, evolution is something that has already happened. Why do we seek to prove historic events by scientific means? If someone says, "Ivory soap doesn't float," I could prove them wrong easily and scientifically. I could just fill a sink with water at average room temperature, drop a bar of Ivory soap in, and watch it float. Observations are made and the hypothesis is supported through inductive logic. We would have scientific proof that Ivory soap floats.

Try to prove that you went to class all last week in the same way. It cannot be done. The only proof which can be given is historical. You

could show notes that you took from the lecture, present roll sheets that you have signed and assignments which were turned in, and you could have your friends and professors verify that you were there, but you cannot prove you were there by the scientific method.

Darwin's theory about our origin cannot be proven scientifically, and it has not been completely proven historically. There is evidence which backs up the claims of evolution, but there is also evidence which denounces said claims.

**Yet, professors teach evolution, a theory which is disputed and full of "missing links," as the only true fact about our origin. We cannot show, scientifically or historically, the path from ooze to human. Even still, this is what we are told is true, and often those who dare to question are ridiculed.**

Contrary to the view held by most fans of evolution, Charles Darwin was not necessarily an atheist. In a letter to Asa Gray, written in 1860, he penned, "With respect to the theological view of the question. This is always painful to me. I am bewildered. I had no intention to write atheistically" ("The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin," 1959, pg. 105). It seems from the

letters he wrote after the publication of "Origin of Species" that there were many times when he was not at all sure what he had proposed was of any value. In another letter to Asa Gray he said, "I am in thick mud; the orthodox would say in fetid, abominable mud; yet I cannot keep out the question. My dear Gray, I have written a deal of nonsense" ("The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin," 1959, pg. 175). If the very author of the idea of natural selection had doubts about its validity, how can we teach it as fact?

Whether or not evolution is true has yet to be proven. When we teach that it is immutable fact, we lie.

**Mr. Link is a senior who studies Radio/TV.**

### LETTERS POLICY

*Sidelines* encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words. Authors who want more than 300 words to express themselves should contact the editor. *Sidelines* keeps its pages open to all viewpoints and all members of the MTSU community. Authors should include their name, address, major, classification and phone number for identification purposes. (Phone numbers will not be published.) *Sidelines* reserves the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. Send letters to Box 42, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 or drop them off at the *Sidelines* office in JUB Room 310. Letters can also be sent via e-mail to the editor at: m\_c\_008c@frank.mtsu.edu.

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### Letter to the Editor

#### Atheists, homosexuals should open the Bible for truth

To the Editor,

I am sick of all the atheists liberals who write to *Sidelines* advocating such ideas as the theory of evolution and homosexuality. Face it people, God created the heavens and the earth, and He created man. Read your Bibles sometime and you might find this in there somewhere if you look at the first page! I am not saying evolution does not take place; one look at an isolated island chain can prove it. I'm just saying that the existence of this phenomenon does not discount the presence of God.

God created everything in six days and rested on the seventh, but how long is a God-day? A half-billion years? It is entirely possible that evolution was a part of God's creation process. Think about it!

As for homosexuality, it is not just a fact on our campus, it is a worldwide epidemic. Get out your Bibles again, my friends, and read. In there you will find that God does not approve of this lifestyle, and He condemns those who practice it to eternal damnation! Please do not misread me as a gay-basher, I am not. My only concern is your eternal happiness, and it pains me greatly

to know so many people are on a one-way trip to hell. The Bible says that all the angels in Heaven break out in harmonious song when a soul is saved. Change and give them something to sing about!

In closing I would like to ensure everyone atheist and everyone homosexual that Christians love you. If we did not love you, we would not try to show you the error of your ways. We feel no hate, no fear, and no ill-will toward you, please remember that.

**Joseph R. Bradford**  
 Freshman, social studies

# Animal testing doesn't ensure safety of products for human consumption

By Joshua R. Liner / CPS

## OPINION

I, perchance with the reader, have seen several flyers up about campus espousing a position that both favors recognition of the rights of non-human animals and, if implicitly, condemns the practice of vivisection (vivisection defined as the cutting, burning, poisoning, mutilation, etc. of a live animal, or, more loosely, as the "testing upon" of animals for medical, psychological or corporate research). Above one such flyer, I saw there placed another, advocating the contrary position, to which I would like to respond: The author of this second flyer begins by championing the superiority of "animal testing" over "human testing," disputing a claim never made by the first flyer. But he or she continues, imploring the reader to "Remember Thalidomide," inquiring, "How would you like you unborn child to be the one to find out [that] the medicine you take...is toxic to human beings?" Thalidomide, for readers who are unaware or may fail to "Remember," was a drug administered to millions in 46 countries in the 1950s and 60s as a sedative and morning sickness remedy, until it was discovered that the drug caused gross birth defects in the first trimester of gestation; prescription of the drug (mostly to pregnant women) resulted in about 10,000 armless and legless offspring, the "flipper children" as the less tactful have put it; the drug is still being used today, mostly in South America, by those ignorant of its ill effects.

It is no small irony that the author might cite this same "thalidomide incident" in support of animal testing, as a sort of example of "find[ing] out [that] the medicine you take... is toxic to human beings;" in short, if I interpret correctly, he or she offers the drug as a prime example of the sort of tragedies to which we commit ourselves in a world free from all animal testing. In truth, however, the results of thalidomide offer the world a paradigm example of the harms that testing upon other species has brought, historically, upon our own species: To quote Professor of Philosophy Peter Singer, from page 57 of his book, "Animal Liberation," "The most notorious drug to have caused unexpected harm to humans is thalidomide—which was extensively tested upon animals before it was released... laboratory tests on pregnant dogs, cats, rats, monkeys, hamsters and chickens all failed to produce deformities." In short, years of tests with this drug having yielded no adverse effects in non-human animals, thalidomide was awarded a friendly "product profile" and, consequently, the go-ahead for human consumption; nonetheless, as has been the sad case with drugs/products both before and since thalidomide, these results failed to indeed translate to human physiology, with tragic results. Animal testing could not have prevented the

thalidomide tragedy; animal testing produced the thalidomide tragedy. Whether it be the drug Clioquinol (a "safe" animal-tested drug responsible for 30,000 cases of human blindness and paralysis and the deaths of thousands more), Opren (causing serious damage to skin, eyes, liver, kidneys, and blood circulation in 3,500 people and the deaths of 70 persons), or Chloramphenicol (responsible for blood disorders leading to death), "thalidomide" is but one story bespeaking a problem of "transferability" from non-human animals to humans that has characterized a history of fraudulent vivisection science. Hence, to the author of the second flyer, I answer: Yes, I do indeed "Remember," and, because of the thalidomide incident and the many others like it, I call for a complete and immediate end to all vivisection research, for both the preservation of my own species and of those of the 100,000,000 non-human animals that fall prey to the scientist's knife and pocketbook yearly. If anybody, of any opinion, is interested in public debate on both the rights of non-human animals or related topics, or in the cause of animal rights generally, please write or call: Joshua R. Liner MTSU P.O. 9778 898-7837 Mr. Liner is a senior who studies philosophy and English.

# Association for twenty somethings offers services for post-graduates

By Colleen DeBaise / CPS

WASHINGTON—Someday, maybe even this spring, you will leave the hallowed halls of academia behind, don a cap and gown, and become, at long last, a college graduate. Then what? After lounging a few days on your parent's couch, some big-picture questions may begin to gnaw at you. For instance, how will you find a job that pays you enough to live on? What about health insurance? And when should you start planning for your retirement? (No, really, you'll be retiring someday.) Welcome to life after senior week. For anyone in their twenties, life can be frequently confusing, oftentimes complicated. That's why Jennifer Sesen Klein, 26, recently started the National Association of Twenty-somethings, which she runs out of a small office space rented from a Washington law firm. After paying the \$10 yearly due, members have access to temporary and long-term group health insurance, job resources and financial planning. So far, more than 100 twenty-somethings, many of them recent college grads without jobs, have joined up. And not just for the health benefits. More than anything, Klein says members are trying to shake the Gen X label and its stereotypes: Self-indulgent. Isolated. Ignorant. Profoundly cynical. "I hate the label Generation X," Klein says, ticking off the unflattering traits associated with the term: "We're apathetic. We're slackers. We don't care about our future. We don't work." Klein remembers how she felt, fresh out of New York

University in 1990, when she didn't have a job and her parents' health plan no longer covered her. No one should have to go through that alone, she decided. Although she eventually got a job with the National Association of Radio Talk Show Hosts, she quit last year to devote all her time to forming a group for her peers. Like senior citizens, twentysomethings need to band together so they can get the best group rates possible, Klein said. So, she approached insurance companies and found one that would set up state-by-state health plans for members, from HMO to catastrophic coverage. "After I got that, I worked on calling companies to see if I could get discounts," she says. Her inquiries met with success, and the group's discount package includes slashed prices on movie tickets, magazine subscriptions and even hotel rates. Then, she began a resume database for members and spread the word among potential employers. Job resources for members include classifieds sections from papers all over the nation. She also found a financial expert who could give advice to members on starting a retirement plan. "Social Security is going bankrupt," she says. "This is the first generation in history that's smaller than the generation ahead of it. It will run out. We'll end up being the ones paying." That's one reason why the National Association of Twentysomethings will soon have new status as a lobbying group. "We don't seem to have representation," says Klein, who is keeping an eye on Capitol Hill for issues that

affect twentysomethings—from the flat tax to healthcare. "I'm watching very closely." For now, Klein is funding the association from her own pocket but is considering a loan or even a grant. She expects membership dues to fund the group someday, but is realistic: "Dues will only go so far." Already she has received hundreds of calls from interested twentysomethings. "I'm excited. It's moving faster than I thought," she says. Members live in Atlanta, Denver, Chicago and Boston, among other cities. Klein argues that an association should stand for the needs of its members. "That's why you have an association. That's what an association does." "I do think we have a vision," she adds. "Maybe our issue isn't a war. Our issue is our future." Klein says she envisions the group spreading across the nation, perhaps opening chapters on college campuses. "The more members, the more powerful we are," she adds. Her most immediate plan is a website for the group, which she hopes to have running by this spring. She also plans to stay with the group, even as she heads into her thirties. So, will the group eventually evolve into a National Association of Thirtysomethings? Absolutely not, Klein says. "It is for the twenties age group. As you move into your 30s, you probably won't need this one." For more information, contact the National Association of Twentysomethings, 1725 K Street, NW, Suite 602, Washington, DC 20006. ●

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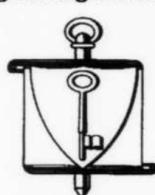
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## A wealth of education and entertainment available to students surfing the Internet

By David Laprad

The universal phrase for students is, "This is cool!"

Dathan Hale, a sophomore Radio/Television major, points to the comical image of Homer Simpson staring out from a monitor in a student computer lab and says, "It's totally awesome! I can download this picture into the computer. I can even download sound files of Homer saying 'Doh!'"

Well, yes, that is interesting, if not a little eccentric. Not everyone would want Homer's geeky mug greeting them when they turn on their computer, but then again, not everyone enjoys "The Simpsons." That is the point of the Internet. If you have an interest, you will find the Internet more than ready to serve it.

However, MTSU is an educational institution. Students and faculty are primarily concerned with using the Internet and other campus computing resources for purposes of higher education, right?

To be certain, helping students with their studies is the primary reason for having computers and lab time available. However, according to a study conducted last semester by students in the College of Business regarding use of the department's

computer lab, located in Kirksey Old Main, Room 252, a lot of time is spent doing things other than class work.

According to the study, the lab services approximately 80 students per week. While students spend a majority of their lab time using word processing applications, nearly 50 percent of the students also spend at least one hour per visit on the Internet. This study does not take into account students using labs located in KOM 251, 351 and 352, the Macintosh lab located in the Learning Resources Center or student connections from personal computers.

According to the Office of Information Technology, there are approximately 2,300 student log-ins each day to Frank, the HP 9000 mainframe computer from which students access the Internet. Not all students accessing the system use the Internet, but a majority of log-ins are for this purpose.

There is no debating the fact that the Internet offers unparalleled access to a wealth of information, and that this greatly enhances education. Students are no longer confined to the campus library when conducting research; they literally have the world at their fingertips. Using simple tools, students can access nearly any library on the planet. And that barely scratches the surface of what is available.

**"Computers provide more than access to the Internet. They have become prominent in most modern disciplines. They are important tools for communicating information and solving problems."**

**Jim Adams  
Manager of Academic Services for the Office of Information Technology**

Yet these same tools can be used to entertain just as easily as educate. On such tool is the World Wide Web (WWW), an immense computer-based information network accessible on the Internet.

Web pages, WWW sites that offer specific services or information, are the latest craze. Because of new

technology that allows users to download video and sound to their computers, the WWW has become an ideal place for WWPAN advertising their wares and fans promoting their favorite activity. Thus, if you have a favorite musician, film or hobby, chances are there are WWW pages dedicated to your interest.

In the earlier example, Hale was visiting "The Simpsons Archive," a WWW page created by fans of the popular Fox television program. That page provides access to other sites with a similar theme, and each of those sites offer additional links as well.

The links from page to page are innumerable, and often lead many users to engage in the time-honored – and time-killing – tradition of "surfing the 'net," a term used to describe wandering endlessly through the vast reaches of the Internet.

Another tool popular with students is electronic mail, commonly known as e-mail, a message system for Internet users. Using e-mail, students can keep in touch with family and friends who are also connected to the Internet, as well as communicate with professors about class material. According to the Office of Information Technology, there are approximately 4,900 student personal accounts on Frank, and use of e-mail is heavy.

Please see INTERNET on page 8

## Net users: Big Brother is watching



The Internet by Joe Legge

Due to the new Telecommunications Bill signed into law by President Clinton, specific words printed below are not allowed to be transmitted through the Internet. This industry changing law is already under scrutiny from the American Civil Liberties Union as well as others for problems stemming from restrictions on obscenity and indecency. But who has the right to define what is obscene and indecent?

The Supreme Court says it is "anything depicting or describing sexual or excretory activities or organs in a way that is patently offensive to the average person in the community and that lacks any serious literary, artistic, or scientific value." Now, sending "indecent" material to a minor on the Internet or displaying it so that it would be available to minors through the World Wide Web or other sorts could result in a maximum penalty of two years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Before anyone jumps to conclusions and says, "yeah, we should ban all of that filthy pornographic smut on the Internet," think about the implications of this new law. Take, for example, a library. This library decides to put books on-line to read and happens to stick "Catcher In The Rye" on their list. All of us know that here in Tennessee, people have a problem with not only this book, but others, and don't want them read in schools or anywhere else for that matter. A minor can legally go to his or her local bookstore and buy this, or check it out at the school or public library. However, in this area of the country...a concern might be raised that this book is "indecent," and those regarding this book as "indecent" could cause the library transmitting the book on-line to get in trouble with the federal government. Is it fair that these materials are available to all in printed form and not in cyber?

This new law also reiterates the existing federal law dealing with transporting "obscene" material across state lines to apply to computers. In addition, the existing law was extended to cover information about drugs and devices for producing abortion. Many argue that now using the word "abortion" on the Internet could result in penalty. The intent of expanding the law to cover abortion was intended to bar people from using the Internet to sell or obtain abortion drugs or devices. Thus, ordering RU486, the French abortion pill, could land you in jail because the FDA hasn't approved it for use in America. President Clinton says the law won't be enforced to arrest those discussing "abortion," but nonetheless, the law says in black and white you can't do it...and at any moment the law could be put into effect.

Also, an impact on the newsgroup circuit of the Internet can be seen. Newsgroups springing up with "indecent" words in them have notably disappeared, while others aimed at fusing over the recent regulation appear to be popping up right and left. Lawsuits are also following in the footsteps of the newsgroups and are aiming their attacks at specific parts of the legislation, notably the "abortion" rule and most of the "indecent" matter concerned. Although the Telecommunications Bill is aimed at protecting the innocent from whatever may be out there in cyberspace, it has never been as apparent as now that Big Brother is truly watching. ●

Questions or comments should be e-mailed to legman@knuth.mtsu.edu

## Todd Snider: His generation would be proud

### Off-the-cuff songwriter lights up Mainstreet stage

A review by Jason E. Young / staff

It was a hot night at 527 Mainstreet Thursday night. Not only because the heat was cranked up to a temperature that would make Satan himself sweat, but also because Todd Snider and The Nervous Wrecks were burning up the stage. The group is out in support of their soon-to-be released album, "Step Right Up."

Snider's last album, "Songs For The Daily Planet," met with both critical and commercial success for songs like "Alright Guy," "Trouble," "My Generation Part 2" and the cynical "Talkin' Seattle" (you know, the one about the band that doesn't play any instruments).

Snider started out the show with a very loud rendition of "Turn It Up." During the middle of the song, Snider took the time to thank the audience members for showing up. This is a somewhat common practice among performers, but there was genuine sincerity in his voice.

As the show progressed, the band drew members of the audience closer to the actual performance. What started out as a couple of drunk guys dancing around and acting like fools quickly turned into a bunch of dancing fools having a great time when Snider went into "My Generation Part 2."

Of course, the crowd went nuts when the first riffs from "Talkin' Seattle" blasted from Snider's harmonica. This song was followed up by one from the new album called "I Believe You." This song, like much of Snider's work, can be interpreted on two different levels. On one level, the songs are fun-loving anthems of any



Brian G. Miller / staff

Snider braves Mainstreet heat to deliver the goods.

fraternity keg party. On a completely different level, however, the songs are very tongue in cheek, poking fun at everything from being a "slacker" to relationships in general.

Not all of Snider's work is fun and games. Snider revealed a serious side during his rendition of "Spoke As A Child." This tune just wouldn't cut the mustard at a raging kegger. That is one of the greatest things about Todd Snider; you never know what to expect. He can make you laugh and he

can make you...well, you're not reading this for clichés are you?

Snider's band performed with all the soul and grit that one would expect from a down and dirty rock 'n' roll band. None of the members tried to overshadow the others, the band just wanted to have fun. Judging from the looks on their faces, it appeared that they did.

Hometown favorites Hank Flamingo started the show with a hot stomping performance fans have come

to expect. The combination of Hank Flamingo and Todd Snider would fit the bill for any person wanting their rock 'n' roll a little southern fried.

If you missed Todd Snider and The Nervous Wrecks, they will be playing at Exit/In Thurs., March 7. You don't want to miss the guys on this tour. They may very well be one of those acts that you can tell your kids you saw way back before they started selling \$40 tie-dyed T-shirts with the bands tour dates printed on the back. ●

## Ron Howard named best feature director by Directors Guild

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) – The Directors Guild of America named Ron Howard best feature director Saturday night for "Apollo 13."

"I didn't expect this at all. It's a weird business," Howard said, receiving a standing ovation.

Howard was not nominated for a best-director Academy Award for "Apollo 13," which retells the harrowing true story of astronauts trapped in a dying spacecraft. A string of dual nominations, then awards, had dominated the film industry recently.

"This award has always been a goal of mine since I was 7," Howard said before the awards dinner. "As a Guild member it's always good to be embraced by your peers."

**"This award has always been a goal of mine since I was 7."**

**Ron Howard  
Director of  
"Apollo 13"**

Two of the other five nominees were in New York – Mike Figgis, nominated for "Leaving Las Vegas,"

and Ang Lee, who directed "Sense and Sensibility."

Nominee Mel Gibson and Michael Radford attended the Los Angeles dinner. Gibson was nominated for "Braveheart," Radford for "Il Postino."

Radford, Gibson and Figgis were nominated for best-director Oscars; Howard and Lee were not.

Prior to the awards, Figgis said: "The awards mean a lot. It's much more personal than any other directors' award. They're particularly special to me because I'm British and this is an American award. I feel I'm being tolerated."

Lee said he did not believe in film competitions, but added, "I am also flattered to be nominated for this one because it's an award among by peers. I just flow with it. My job is to make the movie."

Woody Allen was given the D.W.

Griffith Award for distinguished achievement in film direction. Allen was performing in Vienna, and actress Mira Sorvino accepted for him.

"This award is very special and very personal," she said prior to accepting for Allen. "I was relieved that he made a video of his acceptance speech because I can't imagine having to put words in his mouth."

Also in New York, a lifetime achievement in news award was presented to Arthur Bloom, director of "60 Minutes" and other CBS news programs.

In the past few years, the DGA have been accurate predictors of best directing Oscars. Recent DGA winners which went on to capture best directing Oscars were "The Silence of the Lambs," "Unforgiven" and "Schindler's List." ●

## Internet

continued from page 7

Student's use of the WWW and e-mail, however, pales in comparison to IRC, or Internet Relay Chat. IRC is an Internet-based communications system that allows people all over the world to have live, textual conversations. Computer users connect to an IRC network and "chat" with other users about a variety of interests, or nothing at all.

Users on IRC often form friendships with the people they meet, and dedicate a lot of time cultivating these relationships. Walk through any student computer lab at any given time and you will undoubtedly find several students engaged in on-line conversations.

IRC could be the greatest threat to grade point averages since the invention of alcohol, and is just as addicting. Sonny McNeal, a freshman history major, spends up to four hours a day chatting with other IRC users he has never met in person.

"I could go back to my room and watch television," he says, "but this is much more interesting. I have talked with people all over the world. Plus, no matter what city I move to after I graduate, I'll know someone there from meeting them on IRC. I am making contacts all over the country."

When asked if the time he spends on IRC hurts his grades, McNeal says no.

"I do this during the day when I am not in class," McNeal says. "At night, I do my homework. My studies always get done."

Homework is important, but what about students who spend even more time on the Internet - morning, afternoon and night? When do they find

**"A certain amount of surfing the net is necessary."**

**Connie Schmidt**  
Institutional  
Technology  
Support Center

time to study?

Derek Miller, a sophomore computer sciences major who spend up to six hours a day on the Internet, still insists the time he spends having fun on the computer does not negatively affect his grades.

Miller's personal obsession is MUDs, or multi-user dimensions. MUDs are virtual worlds on the Internet in which dozens of users interact simultaneously. They are text-based, which means that users type commands and the world responds accordingly with messages. Type "Open treasure" and you may read "You find gold!" or "You don't have the key!" Players create characters when they first enter a MUD and, through interacting with other characters and the world, gain experience and strength.

While Miller demonstrates how the fantasy world in which he is participating works, his eyes never leave the screen.

"I am in here all times of the day, even between classes," Miller explains while furiously entering commands. "This can really turn into an obsession. I spend hours doing this."

But like the others, he insists his homework gets done.

With so many students using campus computer resources for activities that are

seemingly unrelated to class work, is education taking a back seat?

This question suggests that having fun and acquiring an education are incompatible. Jim Adams, Manager of Academic Services for the Office of Information Technology, feels the two work very well together.

"Many students use computers only for electronic mail, but in doing that, become more accustomed to the general use of computers," Adams wrote in answer to questions sent to him by e-mail. "This process eliminates much of the intimidation associated with computers."

Adams believes computer literacy is a vital part of a student's education.

"Computers provide more than access to the Internet," he continued. "They have become prominent in most modern disciplines. They are important tool for communicating information and solving problems."

This means that something as simple as accessing the World Wide Web or using e-mail can provide students with useful skill for the future.

Adams is not alone in his assessment. Connie Schmidt, director of the Institutional Technology Support Center, supports his views.

"A certain amount of surfing the net is necessary," Schmidt says. "To do research on the Internet, you have to become comfortable with using it."

Adams hopes students will use campus computer resources in ways that ultimately enrich their future.

"The Information Superhighway is becoming everyone's tool in the new age of information," Adams wrote. "We hope students enjoy the pursuit of knowledge. It can be a rich source of personal satisfaction and fulfillment." ●

## 'The Rite of Dreams'



"The Rite of Dreams," a mixed media presentation by Janet Higgins, opens today in the Art Department Barn Gallery. An opening reception will be held from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. and the gallery will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a. m. to 4:30 p.m. throughout the month of March.

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The Stults Memorial Scholarship Committee is now taking applications for the

## Douglas E. Stults Memorial Scholarship \$800

to be awarded April 19, 1996  
at the discretion of the committee

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 21, 1996 4:00 P.M.

TO QUALIFY, A CANDIDATE MUST:

- have a 2.7 grade point average
- be at least a second-year undergraduate student with a minimum of 24 credit hours
- have some media experience

(on or off-campus work applies, in any print or broadcasting medium)

TO APPLY, A CANDIDATE MUST:

- complete an application which is available in Room 308, James Union Building
- submit a 1,000 - 2,000 word essay on "Is Privacy Dead?"
- submit a copy of your transcript
- submit three to five samples of your work

(Short tapes of broadcasts are accepted. Clips must be professionally presented.)

Six copies of each sample should be submitted.)

For more information, contact Jenny Crouch at 898-2815, or come by the James Union Building, Room 308. No more than three finalists will be selected from the field of applicants and will be interviewed April 19 at 2p.m. in the James Union Building Dining Room A. Candidates will be notified by April 10 whether you are to be interviewed.

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## Announcing the JSA Foundation Scholarships, 1996-97

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Applicants must be 23 years of age or older and majoring in non-traditional fields for women.

Deadline for applications: April 1, 1996

Applications are available at the June Anderson Women's Center, James Union Building, Room 206. Call 898-2193 for more information.

## Lady Raiders advance to championship of OVC tourney



Brian G. Miller/staff

All-OVC first team selection Heather Prater led Middle with 17 points in Sunday's win over Murray State. All-conference selections, page 10

By Sean P. O'Toole / staff

Although it was a struggle, by the end of Sunday's semifinal game against Murray State's Lady Racers, the Lady Raiders had avenged last week's loss and battled their way into tonight's finals of the OVC tournament.

Yesterday's win over Murray came on the heels of a first round thrashing of Morehead's Lady Eagles.

Coming into Saturday afternoon's game with Morehead, the Lady Raiders knew they had an angry team on their hands.

After all, this was the same team the Lady Raiders defeated by nearly identical 108-74 and 108-75 scores during the regular season.

But even before the lights went out at the Municipal Auditorium at the 18:00 mark of the second half, the lights had already gone out on Morehead's season.

The Lady Raiders used two first half scorers, 11-0 early and 17-5 late, to secure a 99-73 victory, giving Middle their fourth consecutive first round victory.

Natalie Sneed led seven Lady Raider double scorers with 16, and Carlita Elder also added 14 points and 9 rebounds to the attack.

"I thought we shot the ball exceptionally well tonight," said head coach Lewis Bivens. "We wanted to jump out to an early lead in the first half."

Senior guard Heather Prater, who scored 12 points and dished 4 assists, added, "Everybody is really focused right now, because it is the tournament."

"We wanted to prove what we can do," guard Natalie Sneed said. "We did not finish the season the way we wanted to so this is our last chance to show what we are made of."

And Sunday afternoon, that was exactly what the Lady Raiders did against Murray State.

Murray State entered the second round of the tournament having defeated SE Missouri and holding

OVC player of the year Gray C. Harris to just 11 points in the process.

There was more on the Lady Raiders' minds going into the Murray game than just a trip into the championship.

Just last weekend in Murray, the Lady Raiders suffered a heartbreaking and shocking 74-67 defeat at the hands of the Lady Racers. That loss allowed Austin Peay to take the #1 seed out from underneath the Lady Raiders.

**"We did not finish the season the way we wanted to, so this is our last chance to show what we are made of."**

**Natalie Sneed  
Lady Raider guard**

But Middle was able to avenge that defeat with a 70-63 victory on Sunday night, that gave the Lady Raiders their first chance at the NCAA tournament since 1986.

After Middle jumped out to an early 8-4 lead, the Lady Racers got back in the game and tied it up at 8 at the 14:00 mark of the first half.

But the Lady Raiders paced themselves, and thanks to key 3-pointers from Heather Prater, were able to walk into the locker room at halftime with a 31-24 lead.

But things got interesting in the second half.

After the Lady Raiders opened up the second half with their only run, a 10-4 spurt, Murray State ate away at the Lady Raider lead and got the lead

down to five, before consecutive lay-ins by Heather Prater and Kara Hobbs put the lead back to nine.

But Murray kept the Lady Raiders from running away with the win.

A Stephanie Minor lay-up shrank the Lady Raider lead down to two at 57-55 with just three and a half minutes to go, but a three point play by Courtney Neeley on the ensuing drive put the lead back to five, and the Lady Raiders never looked back en route to a 70-63 victory, and a rematch with the red-hot Lady Gobs of Austin Peay tonight.

"It was a battle of two offenses tonight," Bivens said. "They got a lot of rebounds, and Minor was big for them. They made a lot of big shots."

Murray State head coach Eddie Fields said, "We have played very good the last two weeks, but we knew that Middle was the team to beat. They did what they had to do, and we did not."

Prater led the Lady Raiders with 17 points and 4 assists, as freshmen Jonelda Buck and Carlita Elder brought up the slack with 14 and 13, respectively.

Murray was led by Minor's 26 points and 11 rebounds.

And now it is time for the matchup of OVC women's basketball have been looking forward to.

It was nearly one month ago that the Lady Raiders lost to Peay in Clarksville, 81-67, ending the Lady Raiders 12-game win streak, and setting in motion The Lady Gobs now 11-game win streak.

"I caught the last few minutes of their game with Eastern, and they all looked real fired up," Prater said. "They have a lot of intensity and momentum on their side, but so do we, so it should be a great game."

Peay defeated Eastern Kentucky 70-56 earlier in the other semifinal game on Sunday.

"They go at the boards real well," Bivens said. "We have to play at that strength, so we need to grab a lot of defensive boards."

Tip-off is scheduled for 7:00 at Municipal Auditorium. ●

## MTSU tennis teams sweep UALR Saturday afternoon

By Joel Frey / staff

The Natural State was a natural fit for both the men's and women's tennis teams on Saturday, as each claimed impressive victories over the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

Coach Dale Short's men's squad jumped on UALR quickly, winning the first point with a sweep of the three doubles matches, on their way to a 5-2 road win.

With their fifth consecutive triumph, the Blue Raiders improved to 7-3 on the year heading into Wednesday's rematch at UT-Knoxville.

UT defeated the Blue Raiders earlier this season, 6-1, in the third-place match of the O'Charley's Invitational.

Since that loss, however, Short said he feels his team has played better, especially during the current win streak.

"I am cautiously optimistic heading into the UT match," Short said. "The first time we played them was one of our worst performances all year. But since then we have grown more as a team and gotten rid of a lot of unselfish behavior."

Short said this renewed commitment to team-oriented goals was evident against UALR.

"We gave a total team effort Saturday," he said. "I changed the line-up a little again so as not to be predictable heading into the match and everyone responded to the changes the way I expected them to."

After winning the doubles point, junior Fred Niemeyer and sophomores Anthony DeLuise, Julius Robbarts and David McNamara clinched the match for MTSU with singles victories.

Robbarts, in particular, gave MTSU an emotional boost in his dramatic 3-6, 7-6, 6-2 come-from-behind win at number three in the singles line-up.

After slightly pulling a muscle in his arm, Robbarts found himself down one set, trailing 5-2 in the second and facing two match points.

At that point, however, he regained his composure, fought off the match points and eventually pulled off the miracle.

"After I hurt myself, I was about

ready to give up," Robbarts said. "But then I just started keeping the ball in play, managed to win the second, took some Advil between the second and third and felt good going into the last set."

"His (Robbarts) comeback was unbelievable," Short said. "I really think there was some divine intervention on that one. I'm just glad Julius didn't give up when he was down."

McNamara continued his string of three set wins this season against UALR. The second year Blue Raider netter has yet to lose a match in dual competition which has gone the distance this spring.

Niemeyer said he felt the team was ready for the big match with the Vols on Wednesday.

"If everyone plays well we feel very confident we can beat them," Niemeyer said. "That first match was a long time ago and we have been playing much better since then."

The Lady Raiders received key singles victories from sophomores Amy King and Malinda Ryan in their 5-4 win over UALR.

Coach David Thornton said his team has played through the early part of the season with great poise and looks forward to OVC competition.

"The first half of our schedule was very demanding," Thornton said. "We played some high quality teams with only one match at home. Comparing our play to that of a year ago shows tremendous overall improvement."

In the UALR match, Lady Raiders Michelle Wilson and Kelley Bacich were unable to play, forcing everyone below them in the line-up to move up to a higher seed.

Thornton said he was particularly pleased with King's 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 win at number three.

"Amy usually plays at four or five, so for her to win that match was very big for us," Thornton said.

The Lady Raiders travel to Hilton Head, S.C. over spring break for matches with North Carolina and Georgetown.

"Hopefully this will give us a chance to get a couple of big wins and gather some momentum as we head into the second half of the season," Thornton said. ●

## Tech hands Raiders first-round loss

By Rob Nunley / staff

The 1995-96 season ended for MTSU's men's basketball team Thursday night, as the Blue Raiders were sent home from the OVC tournament early with an 89-69 loss to the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles.

"If it wasn't so ugly, it could almost be fun," said MTSU head coach David Farrar. "But it's not. We have nothing to offer other than they beat us, they beat us very easily, and in almost every way that we didn't think they could do."

"To show you how smart I am, I really thought it would not be a close game, but I thought it would be the other way," the Raider coach added.

The Golden Eagles jumped out to an early lead in the first half, going on a 12-3 run to start the contest behind a strong inside defense, including three blocked shots by 7-foot-1 center Lorenzo Coleman in the first minute of play.

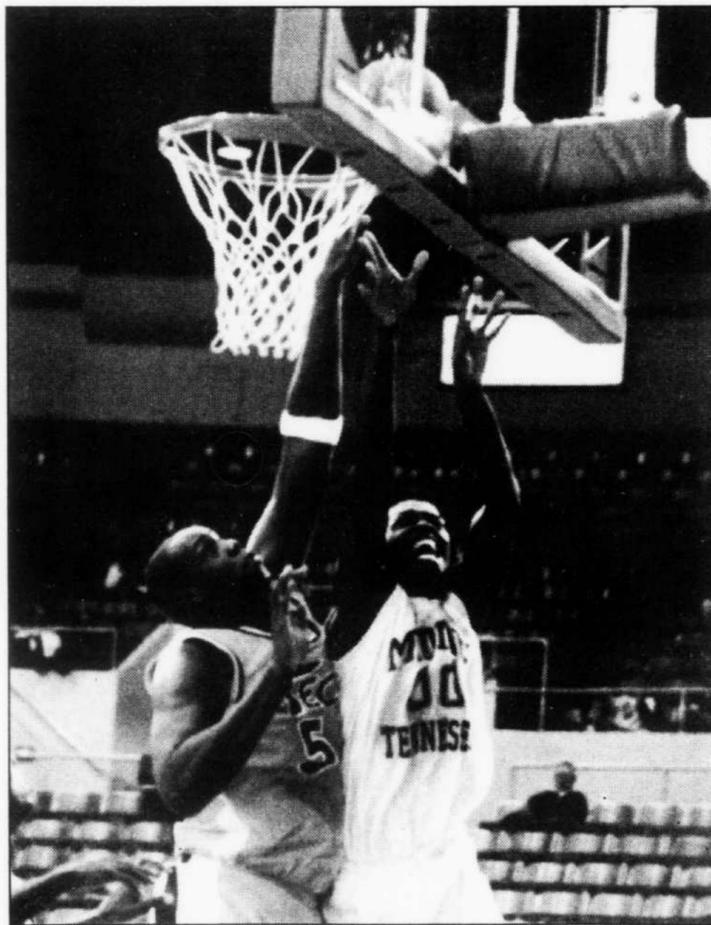
"We thought we could do a better job with controlling penetration, and I think when the game started and the game was a pretty physical game, we fell back a lot," Farrar said. "There were a lot of blocked shots early in the game and missed baskets inside, and from that point on I don't think we were as strong as we anticipated being."

The Raiders gathered themselves and began to close to the Eagles lead as the first half continued. Senior and four-year starter Tim Gaither's 3-pointer with 10:15 remaining in the half capped off a 13-5 run that allowed Middle to close the gap to two points. But Tech went on a run of the half, building a 52-33 lead at the break that Middle would never seriously challenge.

The Golden Eagles were led in the first half by senior forward Greg Bibb, who connected for 21 points, including hitting three-of-four from 3-point range. Tech shot an impressive 68 percent from the floor in the first 20 minutes of play, while the Raiders connected on only 31 percent of their shots.

"I said from the very beginning that I thought they were a very good basketball team," Farrar said. "I think they represent that if that's the fifth best team, the league's pretty damn good."

Middle was never able to establish dominance in the second



Brian G. Miller/staff

David Washington goes to the basket against 7-foot-1 Tech center Lorenzo Coleman during Thursday's 89-69 first round loss. The Raiders ended their season with a 15-12 overall record.

half, as the Raiders 9-0 run midway through the half which cut Tech's lead to 14 would prove to be as close as the Raiders could get to the lead for the remainder of the game.

Gaither led the Raiders with 22 points, followed by Ronni Bailey and Aylton Tesch, who chipped in 15 and 10, respectively.

Tech was led by Bibb's 23, while guard Carlos Floyd added 16. Coleman tossed in 12 points and blocked six shots, while guard Chris Turner contributed 10 points to the Golden Eagle win.

For the game, the Eagles shot 61 percent from the floor, while the Raiders, who came into the

conference in field goal percentage at 46 percent, could only manage to connect on 39 percent of their attempts.

"I don't want to ever take credit away from your opponent in terms of making big baskets, but I don't think we guarded them very well," Farrar said.

The Raiders ended their season with a record of 15-12.

"We had no injuries, we had no excuses. We just simply did not produce today," Farrar said. "If you had told me that this particular game would've ended up like this, I would've never believed it." ●

# Raiders take two of three from Illinois St.

By Rob Nunley / staff

The Blue Raider baseball team won their second three-game series of the season this weekend at Reese Smith Field, taking two of three games from the visiting Redbirds from Illinois State University.

"They're a good club," head baseball coach Steve Peterson said of the Redbirds. "We could have easily lit it slip away, but we didn't."

Middle won the first game of the three-day series on Friday 2-1, behind a strong pitching performance from staff ace Jason Stanton, who picked up his second win of the young season.

Peterson was somewhat dissatisfied after Friday's win, in that despite the victory his club was still hitting poorly.

"Right now we couldn't hit a bull in the butt with a bass fiddle," Peterson said. "Without our pitching and defense we could easily be 0-7."

"We've got to get the bats going," Peterson added. "It's nice to win, but it's not a fun club to be around when you're not hitting."

ISU's only run on Friday came in the first inning, when first baseman Don Spaniak connected off Stanton for a two-out homer. But the senior left-hander from Baxter, Tenn., settled down, allowing only three hits and striking out two in seven innings of work.

"I didn't think in the beginning he was very sharp at all, but he got his sinker going," Peterson said of his ace. "Jason's a bulldog, he's got great courage and he just does what he has to do."

Catcher Andrew Thompson had an outstanding day behind the plate on Friday, throwing out four potential base stealers.

"He did an outstanding job," Peterson said. He called a great game, and threw out those guys. I've said from the very beginning our catching was the best around."

Saturday the Raiders were not as fortunate, as the Redbirds came back in the eighth inning to win 9-6.

"On both sides it wasn't a



Brian G. Miller/staff

Center fielder Jeremy Owens dives back after a pickoff attempt during Saturday's game.

very pretty day of baseball," Peterson said. "Obviously for them it was a little better, because they won."

The close score was deceiving, as the Raiders only managed to get six hits, while the Redbirds connected for 15. Four of the Raiders' six runs were unearned.

Sunday saw senior Brian Early take the hill for the rubber game of the series, in which the Raiders finally managed to combine good hitting, pitching and defense to the tune of a 6-3 victory.

Early was very impressive in picking up his second win of the season, pitching seven innings and allowing only two earned runs and three hits while striking out seven Redbirds. Joe Dalton came out of the bullpen and held ISU hitless for the final two innings of the game to record his first save.

"Brian Early really did a good job," Peterson said. "It's a shame he didn't come out with

the shutout, as well as he pitched."

"And I'm very, very proud to see Joe Dalton come in there and throw two unexciting innings," the coach added. "He just came in there and did his job. I like to see those unemotional jobs."

The Raiders got on the board first on Sunday, when Ryan Dillard led off the third inning with a bunt single. Shane Shoemaker executed a perfect hit-and-run, singling to right and moving Dillard to third, and center fielder Jeremy Owens tripled to right to put the Raiders on top 2-0. Doug Barner then hit a sacrifice fly to center field that scored Owens and gave Middle a 3-0 lead.

MTSU was able to take advantage of a two-out error in the fourth to add two insurance runs that would prove to be very important. With two down, a throwing error by the Redbird third baseman allowed Clay Snellgrove to get aboard, and Dillard made ISU pay,

belting his first home run of the year over the scoreboard in left field to put Middle on top, 5-0.

A double from Thompson in the fifth scored Barner, who had led off the inning with a walk, and gave the Raiders a 6-0 lead.

"For about six innings we got a little aggressive," Peterson said. "But after Dillard hit the ball out of the park we just stopped."

Dillard turned in the most impressive hitting display for the Blue Raiders, as the part-time outfielder went four-for-four with two RBI and a stolen base.

"It was a great day for Dillard," Peterson said. "He can play any position he wants if he's going to hit like that."

The Raiders will travel to Hattiesburg, Miss., this week for a two game series with Southern Miss., and the Raiders will return home March 9 to begin a three-game series with Wisconsin-Milwaukee. ●

# MTSU basketball players earn conference honors

Staff Reports

Freshman sensation Jonelda Buck and senior leader Heather Prater led the Lady Raider nods in the All-OVC categories, which were announced Saturday.

Buck was named Freshman of the year by the OVC, the first ever Lady Raider to earn that award. Buck led the OVC in field-goal percentage (61.8%), and also ranked 10th in the nation in that category.

Buck also led the Lady Raiders in scoring (15.5 ppg, 6th in the OVC), and ranked 14th in rebounding (6.0 rpg), 4th in blocks (1.2 bpg), and 10th in free throw percentage (71.2%). Buck also scored in double figures in 21 regular season games.

Prater earned her first All-OVC first team nod by leading the OVC in free throw percentage (86.7%) and three point percentage (39.8%).

Prater was also 6th in assists (4.4 apg), 7th in steals (2.0 spg), 10th in scoring (13.5 ppg), and 8th in field goal percentage (49.3%).

Prater is the schools all

time 3-point and assists leader, and is just the fifth woman in Division I-A history to score 1,000 points, dish 500 assists and hit 200 3-pointers.

Freshman guard Courtney Neeley also earned a nod on the All-Freshman team with Buck.

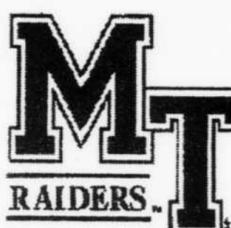
Neeley averaged 6.3 points and 2.9 assists a game.

Three members of the Blue Raiders were honored, as Tim Gaither, Nod Carter and Aylton Tesch received recognition for their efforts in the 1995-96 season.

Carter was selected to the All-Conference second team. The 6-6 junior from Murfreesboro ended the season averaging 13.9 points per game and with a league-leading 87.1 free-throw percentage. Carter was also selected to the OVC's all-newcomer team.

Joining Carter on the all-newcomer team was junior forward Aylton Tesch. Tesch led the league in field-goal percentage, was 15th in scoring and fifth in rebounding.

Gaither, Carter and Tesch all earned honorable mention from the All-Conference team voters. ●



**TONIGHT**  
7 P.M.  
Municipal Auditorium,  
Nashville

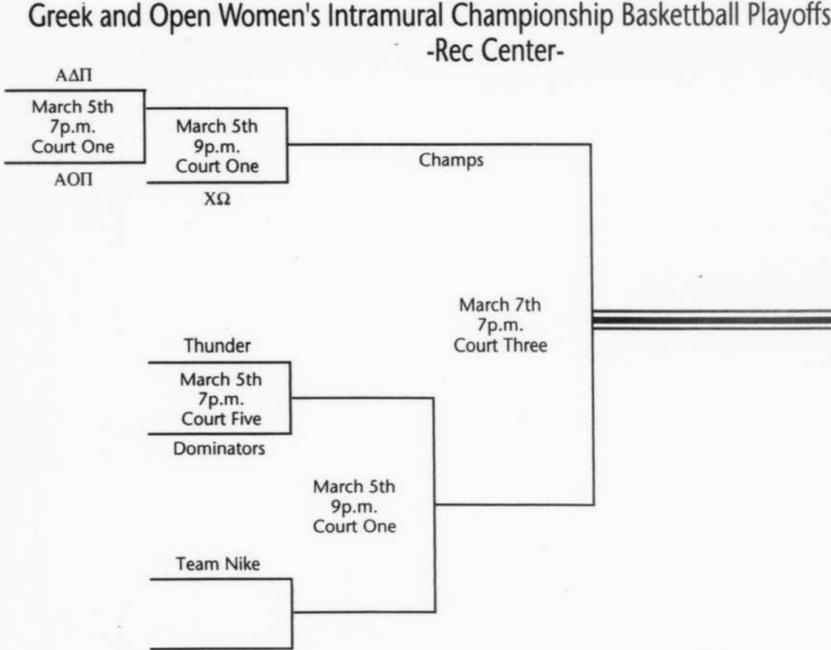
**OVC Women's Championship**  
MTSU Lady Raiders  
vs.  
Austin Peay Lady Gobs



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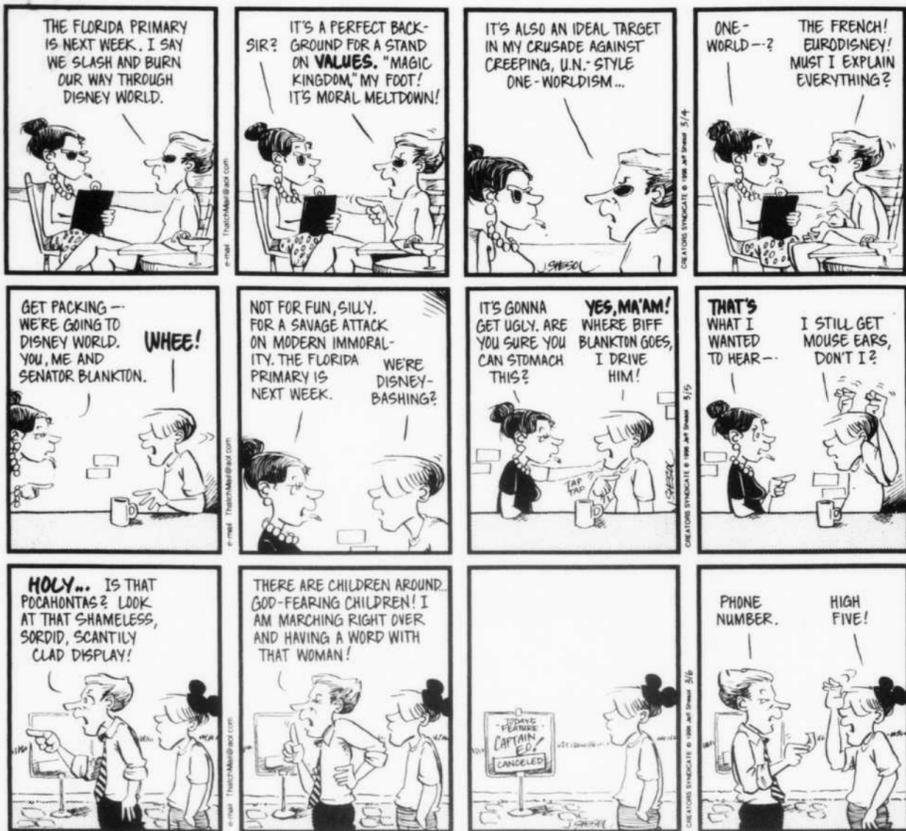
SIDELINES (Yes, the very paper you are reading now) IS LOOKING FOR AN AD DESIGNER FOR THE SUMMER EDITIONS.

SOUND EXCITING? \$?

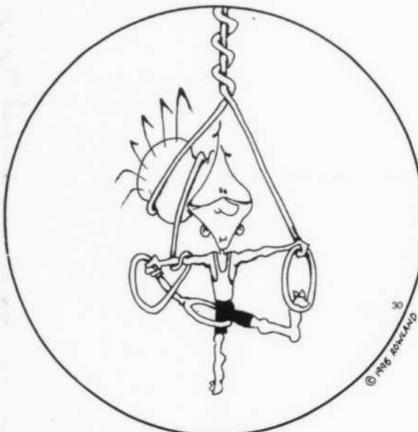
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**THATCH** by Jeff Shesol



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Portraits for Midlander, MTSU's yearbook, will be made March 4-7, 10 a. m. - 6 p.m., in the KUC lounge across from the Grill. Seniors should make an appointment for their portraits by calling 898-2478 or 898-2815. Underclassmen will be taken on a first-come basic. It is free-no sitting fee. **Your last chance for the 1995-96 yearbook.**

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**OPPORTUNITIES**

**ATTENTION ALL TRI-DELTS!!!** We are looking for any Tri-Delts on the MTSU campus. Please contact Melissa or Daniela at 898-4059. We can also be reached by e-mail at [int10004@frank.mtsu.edu](mailto:int10004@frank.mtsu.edu) or [m\\_c\\_00fd@frank.mtsu.edu](mailto:m_c_00fd@frank.mtsu.edu).

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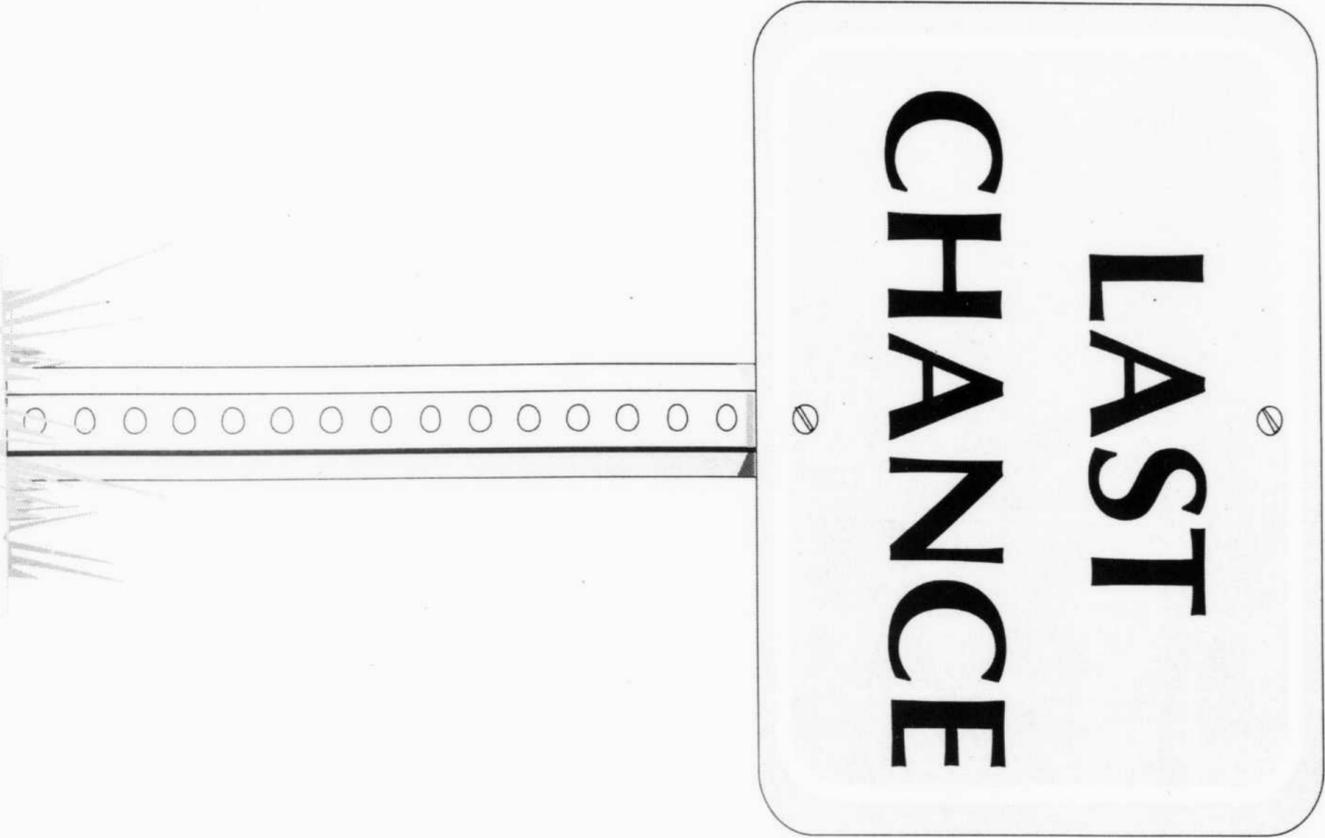
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