



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com:
Who is your choice for the
Democratic presidential nomination?

Valentine's Day special coverage

In Living, page 6

ELECTION 2004

**Kerry wins
Tennessee, Virginia
primaries**

In State and Local, page 3



The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 59

Campus briefs

Foundation to hold pancake breakfast

The Wesley Foundation will hold their annual pancake breakfast Saturday morning from 7 to 11.

The price is \$3.50. The foundation is located across the street from Gore and Clement halls and the James E. Walker Library.

Get a fake marriage for Valentine's Day

In addition to selling traditional Valentine's Day roses, Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society, will also be marrying people — for one day.

The fake marriage comes with a faux marriage license, a pair of wedding rings and a free wedding favor.

The group will provide a substitute partner for students who would like to get married for the day but don't have a partner.

The ceremonies will be held in the courtyard of Keathley University Center (or KUC 318 if it rains) from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Justice system, race topics of discussion

Race and the justice system will be the focus of a panel discussion tomorrow as part of Black History Month.

Representatives from the Tennessee Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, MTSU's criminal justice department, the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing and more will be on hand to answer questions.

The discussion will begin at 4 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 227. The event is free and open to the public.

'Crossfire'-type debate to be held Monday

The Raider Republicans and the College Democrats will hold a Crossfire-type debate Monday in the Keathley University Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The actual debate will start around noon.

The debate will be moderated by Steve Gill, a radio talk show host on WTN 99.7. The event is free and open to the public.

MTSU to host Predators Night Friday

The Nashville Predators will hold their first of two MTSU Nights Friday.

The special events are fundraisers for the sports marketing scholarship. Tickets for MTSU Nights are \$18 and \$29. The Predators will donate \$5 of each \$18 ticket and \$9 of each \$29 ticket to the Sports Marketing Scholarship.

The second MTSU Night will be held in March.

The Predators play the Washington Capitals Friday.

Starting time for the game is 7 p.m. at the Gaylord Entertainment Center in Nashville.

To order tickets, contact Jason Mott at 770-7819.

More briefs on page 2

Building a legacy



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Construction continues on the Middle Tennessee Athletic Center building, which is estimated to be complete in late spring. A \$1.5 million donation from Emmett and Rose Kennon last year funded the building. Emmett Kennon is a former Blue Raider baseball and football player. He graduated in 1938.

Student participants sought for Aramark focus groups

Staff Reports

Aramark, the company contracted by the university to provide food services on campus, is currently seeking student volunteers for two focus groups tomorrow.

Food Services director Paul Stuart said residential students (students living on campus) are needed for the first meeting tomorrow from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Commuting students (students not living on

TO PARTICIPATE

Call 898-2860 to sign up to participate in one of Aramark's focus groups.

campus) are needed for an additional session, to be held from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. tomorrow. Both sessions will be held in Keathley University Center, Room 316.

Stuart said about 40 volunteers are needed for each ses-

sion. Students will need to call ahead if they are interested in participating. The number to call is 898-2860.

An additional focus group will be held for faculty Friday from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., but Stuart said interest for that session has already been overwhelming.

Stuart said Aramark holds focus groups periodically to gauge what services people who eat on campus want out of their eateries. ♦

Glenn stresses importance of clear consent between adults

By Tim Hill Staff Writer

Robert Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs, addressed the topic of sexual consent between two legal adults during Monday's honors lecture.

"In my experience in 33 years of working on college campuses, sex seems to just happen and there doesn't seem to be any discussion leading up to it," Glenn said.

By citing statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and even reading from Tennessee's legal consent statute, Glenn said he wanted students to know how serious the issue of sex is.

According to federal statistics, approximately one out of

every four women on campus will experience some type of sexual assault, Glenn said.

"Although we didn't have any rapes reported in the last school year, we want students to know that the university is here to help you," Glenn said. "We can unilaterally change room assignments and issue 'No Contact' orders between students."

"These are things that can be done to change a situation without necessarily taking legal action if you've been raped," he said.

Glenn offered some advice to students who want to help someone who has been raped.

"Get them back in control of their life," he said. "Encourage

them to go to the emergency room and get a forensic examination by a doctor. Evidence of drugs can only be found within 72 hours of when the rape took place; otherwise they become untraceable."

He added that the woman should also be tested for sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy as well.

Glenn said that students could avoid a situation where sexual consent could be called into question.

He said that couples should understand that communication is key to knowing their partners' views.

"We all carry with us our

See Consent, 2

TSU to host historian from MTSU

By Kristin Hall News Editor

Michael Gavin, a preservation specialist with MTSU's Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, is presenting a lecture at the Conference on African-American History and Culture.

The conference is being held today from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at Tennessee State University.

Gavin has been researching the iron ore industry in Middle Tennessee during the 1850s and the usage of slave labor for almost a year and a half.

"I want to first introduce the idea that Tennessee had an iron ore industry and secondly that African Americans primarily moved that industry," Gavin said.

Counties west of Nashville were heavy producers of iron ore, according to Gavin.

"[The producers'] biggest problem was labor," Gavin explained. "So they turned to

slavery in a big way."

He became interested in the subject of slave labor in the iron industry when he started investigating arms manufacture during the Civil War.

"I soon realized that there was not a great deal of awareness on this subject and secondary sources were rare," Gavin said.

Newspapers from the period were Gavin's starting point and he slowly worked his way through the microfilm, trying to read an hour a day before his eyes would get too tired.

"Through the newspaper research, I created a chronology for every furnace," Gavin explained.

From there he went to various counties to search records and census statistics. He found the addresses and names of the men who worked at the factories — an essential piece of the puzzle.

See Conference, 2

Facelift planned for Smith Quad

Design includes making dorms accessible for the disabled

By Meagan Kirby Staff Writer

The Smith Quad, which includes Sims, Beasley, Judd, Gracey and Smith halls, will undergo renovation in the near future.

The halls were built in the late 1950s and '60s and can house 502 students.

Basic renovations will include handicapped or disabled student access, a card access system, new fixtures throughout the building, new plumbing, individual room temperature control, new furniture, repainted rooms and new flooring.

Specific renovations to the Smith Quad will be making the rooms and bathrooms ADA accessible, consolidating the

two bathrooms on the floor into one and reconfiguring the first floor lobby.

"We wanted the lobby area to be more student-focused," said Sarah Sudak, director of Housing and Residential Life. "Now, incorporated within the building are a study room, a kitchen facility and a laundry room."

The old quad area had a solitary laundry room that stood in the center of the quad and was used by all five buildings.

"We are slowly phasing that out so that laundry will be included in all five of the building renovations," Sudak said.

Tom Tozer, director of News and Public Affairs, said that the approximate cost for the Smith Quad renovations is about \$11.6 million and the funding will come from MTSU's housing account.

"MTSU has a 10-year plan to renovate all of the residence halls on campus," Sudak said.

The renovations will be made up of six phases, the

See Smith, 2



Photo by David McCombs | Staff Photographer

Robert Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs, emphasizes yesterday the importance of communication.

Briefs

Continued from 1

Student wins free trip for taking survey

Matthew Roe, a sophomore and criminal justice/political science major, won an American Airlines flight certificate from Aramark for taking a dining survey last semester.

The survey was conducted to determine student dining preferences on campus. Roe was selected at random.

Trip to Costa Rica offered for \$1,150

Campus Recreation is coordinating a trip to Costa Rica May 16-26. Students can go for \$1,150, faculty/staff for \$1,300 and guests for \$1,400.

According to Scott Pruett with Campus Rec, activities will include watching a volcano erupt, strolling through a tree-top cloud forest, whitewater rafting, hiking through the jungle, mountain biking down an ancient trail, riding horses on the beach, or just being lazy in the Caribbean sun.

The deadline is tomorrow for payment of the required \$200 deposit. For more information, contact Scott Pruett at 904-8473.

Drug war to be subject of radio show Monday

The reason behind the nation's drug laws will be discussed at noon Monday on 88.3 WMTS, the university's student radio station. "Spread the Word," with Ben Cooley and Joel Bellis airs from noon to 2 p.m. every Monday.

Next week's show will feature several in-studio guests (including *Sidelines* editors Patrick Chinnery and Jason Cox) armed with some little-known information about the War on Drugs.

Cooley welcomes listeners with any questions to call the studio at 898-5051.

Groups collect food in fall 2003 drive

The Order of Omega collected more than 1,400 items of food during its fall 2003 canned food drive. The items were donated to the Rutherford County Emergency Food Bank, which is an affiliate of Second Harvest Food Bank.

Several groups, including individual classes and Greek organizations, earned "Golden Can Awards" by donating more than 100 food items each.

Music fraternity offers to sing serenades

Phi Mu Alpha, an MTSU music fraternity, is taking orders to serenade loved ones Friday in time for Valentine's Day.

A small ensemble of songs costs \$10, while a larger ensemble costs \$20.

For more information, or to set up a serenade, call 849-7687 or 653-0050, or e-mail sinfonia@mtsu.edu.

Student group selling Valentine's Day baskets

The Hispanic Student Association will be selling Valentine's Day baskets today through Friday outside Phillips Bookstore in Keathley University Center from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The baskets are filled with candy, Mary-Kay products and teddy bears. ♦

Recording industry origins discussed

By Tim Hill
Staff Writer

Paul Fischer, recording industry professor, discussed the origins of the recording industry and the role of the Victor Talking Machine Company during the Pop Music Culture lecture series yesterday.

"There was a search for equipment that could provide the best sound quality over all," Fischer said.

"Eldridge Reeves Johnson was an inventor based out of Camden, N. J., who built a



Fischer

spring machine to run German-born inventor Emile Berliner's gramophone record player back in 1897."

Fischer noted that Johnson's modifications to the motor kept costs low for a working product.

"Building recorders that actually worked was a very tedious and demanding process," Fischer said.

Berliner proudly accepted the motor, and invited Johnson to join him in the business. Johnson founded the Victor Talking Machine Company and kept his machine shop in Camden.

"The company began to take on several tasks, including maintaining a very large lumber yard as well owning and operating its own coal power plant," Fischer said.

Eventually, the company

moved Johnson's first machine shop onto its property, as new space became available.

Eldridge Johnson was praised for his excellent management style throughout his career.

"I'm interested in learning more about Johnson's style at the company," Fischer said.

Although committed to Victor's new ventures, Johnson put in place a very tough committee process in order for new ideas to become approved by those at the top of the ladder.

"You rarely see that kind of dedication to making sound investments any more," Fischer said.

He said that during the 1920s, new ideas had to be embraced cautiously, even after the emergence of radio.

"In the rush to constantly

make things better, new prototypes would be built one day and offer nothing but scratchy noise when played during a test run," Fischer said.

The selling of his patent to RCA years after founding of the Victor Talking Machine Company helped make Johnson a multi-millionaire mechanic, one of the first of his kind.

"Johnson was worth \$27 million even in 1927, which was before the RCA acquired his company," Fischer said.

His business adopted the slogan, "His Master's Voice," and in its advertisements had a fox terrier named Nipper who would closely pay attention to the sounds coming from the record players.

RCA Victor kept Nipper the dog for use in its ads later on, and is still famous to this day.

Fischer is in the process of writing a book about the inner workings of the Victor Talking Machine Company.

He said he hopes to cover a lot of the never-before-released stories on how Berliner influenced the direction of Johnson's company, as well as the pressure that RCA's chief executive officer, David Sarnoff, put on Johnson early on in the 1920s.

"There are a few diaries that were dictated to members of his family into offer a wonderful insight into all of this," Fischer said.

The popular music lecture series is held Mondays in Room 241 of the John Bragg Mass Communication Building, from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. ♦

Consent: Intoxication can affect judgment; VP warns against intimacy while drunk

Continued from 1

own sets of values and beliefs," he said.

"In sexual relationships, there are assumptions that are made by both parties on where each person stands. You have to make sure your beliefs aren't diametrically opposed to each other's."

Glenn took time out to read from the state law regarding consent.

"When penetration occurs

where the individual clearly does not want a part of it, then that is not legal consent," he said.

Glenn said that if a partner has passed out after drinking too much, then the other partner shouldn't believe he or she still has consent, even if it was agreed to before the partner started drinking.

"Intoxication to the point where the individual cannot make reasonable decisions is not legal consent," he said.

Smith: Completion date estimated in 2006

Continued from 1

Smith Quad being in the first phase. She also said that the cost of all the renovations would be about \$70 million.

All of the buildings will get the same basic renovations and

specific renovations that will be made depending on how much room the building has.

"We are not adding on to any of the buildings," Sudak said. "We are reconfiguring what space we already had."

The renovations on the Sims

residence halls began in May 2003 with the Smith Quad.

"It is hoped that the entire Smith Quad project will be completed by spring 2006," Tozer said. ♦

Conference: Gavin hopes his research will help give a voice to the voiceless

Continued from 1

During his lecture, Gavin will also discuss the treatment of slaves in Tennessee's iron industry.

The slaves were in many ways treated better than the slaves who worked in the plantations, Gavin explained.

"They were given more food than agriculture workers," Gavin said.

Gavin said that the iron workers were allowed to work extra hours on Sunday for the same wages that a white man would get paid.

"It was anywhere from 50 cents to a \$1," Gavin said, adding that 50 cents meant a lot back in those times.

Gavin said he hopes that these ledgers of slave iron workers will help provide a voice.

"The problem with articulating the black point of view is that they've been voiceless, nameless for so long," Gavin said.

He has more than 1,000 names of slaves who worked in the Middle Tennessee region in the iron industry and suggested

that this primary source would be invaluable to residents looking for ancestors.

Gavin said that in the past couple of decades, interest in genealogy has increased.

"Roots really kicked off the genealogy movement in the U.S.," Gavin explained.

However, he said that blacks are at a loss because there is not as much documentation on their lives as for white people.

"This is just a way of giving a voice and names to the voiceless," Gavin said. "So far it's showing real promise."

This is 23rd year of the conference, which is co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences at TSU and the Metropolitan Historical Commission.

This year marks the 40-year anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which helped desegregate public establishments, and the 50-year anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

The conference has a \$15 registration fee, which includes lunch and publications, and can be paid at the door. ♦

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- Sorry, officer, I don't know what I did wrong.
- Geez, mom, I'll clean my room tomorrow.
- Oh no, I dropped my soap!
- Yes, you can send it back to the chef if it's in the temperature danger zone.
- This mop smells like cat food.
- Hi, I'm Candy Sparkles. I'll be your stripper today.



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Fill out the Campus Events form in the James Union Building, Room 310.

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Kerry wins Tennessee, Virginia

By Jason Cox
State and Local News Editor

Sen. John Kerry swept primaries here in Tennessee and in Virginia last night, solidifying his lead in the delegate race and perhaps causing other candidates to have second thoughts.

As of press time, the Tennessee Secretary of State's office reported Kerry led the way with more than 46 percent of the vote in Tennessee. Sen. John Edwards was in second with 29 percent and (Ret.) Gen. Wesley Clark third with 22 percent. With nearly 30 percent of the vote still unavailable, the race for second was still undecided as of 9 p.m. last night.

Clark has cancelled a planned fundraiser in Houston

tonight. Kerry, however, did not seem content to rest on his laurels. "We will fight for very vote and we will carry our cause all across this land," he said.



Kerry

On the other hand, Kerry was jubilant at the news of his impending victories in the two states.

"Once again, the message rings out loud and clear: Americans are voting for change," Kerry said from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

"Together across the South, you have shown mainstream

values we share ... are more important than birthplace," he said.

Randy Button, chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party, said Tennessee had an unusually high turnout for a primary election - more than 500,000.

"I think that Tennessee has shown that it's the state that may determine the nominee tonight," Button said. Button said the momentum from Iowa and New Hampshire played a monumental role in reversing Kerry's fortunes in Tennessee.

"Four weeks ago, (Kerry) had no momentum in this state, and (Iowa and New Hampshire) drove it," he said.

Button also said the strategy Edwards and Clark employed may have caused them to split the pool of voters who would have gravitated toward a Southern candidate.

"I think that could have very well happened," Button remarked. "They were both talking about, you know, being from the South, and I think that very well could have caused a split there."

"I think [Edwards and Clark are] going to have to take a serious look at their possibilities and where they're going to be headed with their campaign," he said. "You know, they banked on

the Southern states. It's going to be very tough.

"I would like to see us get unified as soon as possible behind one candidate and unify our message," Button continued, "and I think Democrats are going to be together this time. The difference that we're going to make is that we're going to beat President Bush in November."

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, the presumed frontrunner until the Iowa caucus, was projected to finish fourth with approximately 4 percent. Al Sharpton was fifth, with just under 1 percent. Sen. Joe Lieberman, who pulled out of the race last week, was expected to beat Rep. Dennis Kucinich. ♦

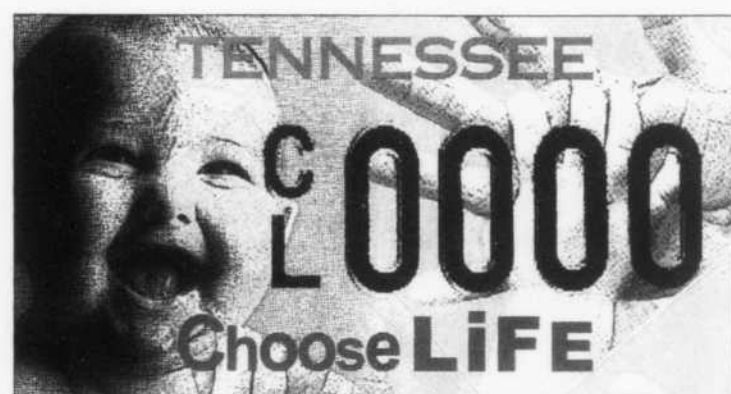
Sharpton wins Sidelines poll

Staff Reports

While Sen. John Kerry may have wrapped up the vote in Tennessee and Virginia, it seems Al Sharpton has won the hearts of Sidelines online readers.

As of 7:20 p.m. CST, Sharpton captured a solid 34 percent of the vote, while Kerry came in second with 24 percent. Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean edged out (Ret.) Gen. Wesley Clark for third with 9 percent. Clark received 8 percent of the vote.

Sharpton won 14 out of a total of 31 votes cast. ♦



File Photo

The Tennessee Right to Life organization's bill for the 'Choose life' license plate was challenged by the ACLU.

State moves to dismiss ACLU lawsuit

By B.J. Chaplin
Staff Writer

Gov. Phil Bredesen and Commissioner of Safety Fred Phillips filed a motion to dismiss a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of "Choose Life" license plates Monday.

The lawsuit, filed Nov. 6 by both the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee and Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee against Bredesen and Phillips, argues that the state "discriminates against opposing viewpoints," according to the ACLU. Web site

Reasons argued by Bredesen and Phillips in the motion to dismiss include "lack of jurisdiction for the subject matter," the plaintiffs' "failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted," and "that this case is not ripe for decision."

The motion to dismiss argued as well that "the case in front of this Court is not ripe for review as the plaintiffs are alleging a speculative injury that has not, and might never occur."

Executive Director of the ACLU of Tennessee Hedy

Weinberg disagrees.

"The injury is that there are citizens [and] residents of this state that wanted a 'Pro-Choice' license plate and they were denied by the state legislature," she said. "The issue has nothing to do with [pro-choice] and anti-abortion."

An abortion argument held by the motion - and also argued by the Tennessee Right to Life organization, which was instrumental getting the "Choose Life" license plates approved - was that opponents to the new plates did not go through the same process to get "Pro-Choice" plates approved.

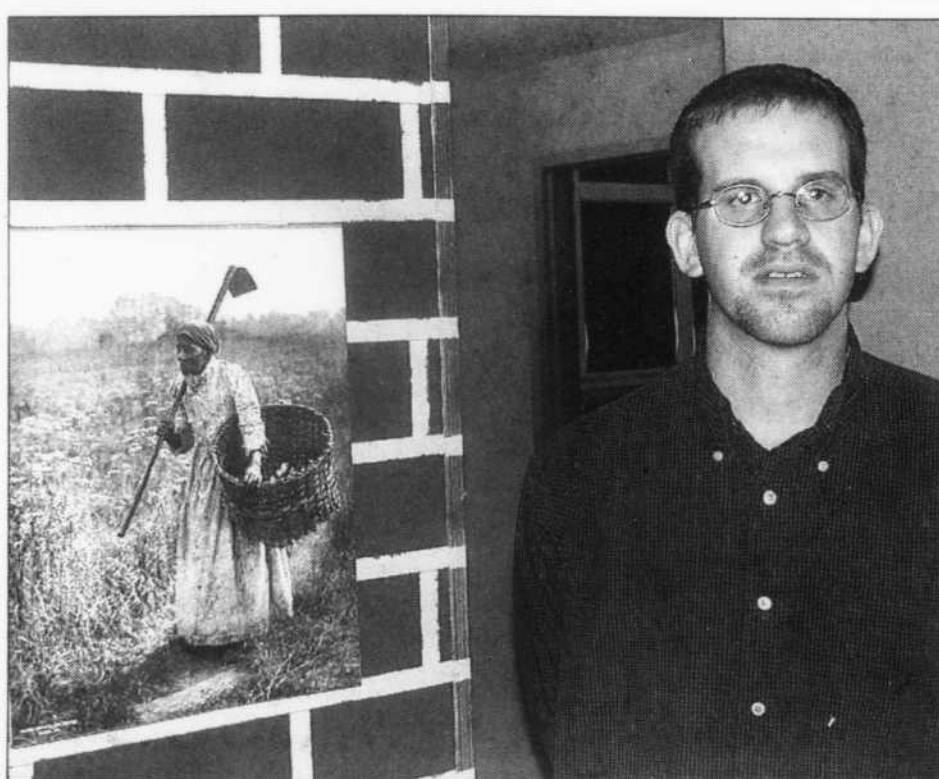
In order to get a new license plate approved, a minimum of 1,000 plates must be pre-ordered, according to WKRN-TV Channel 2.

"They only tried to hijack the 'Choose Life' amendment when they saw they weren't going to be successful in killing our bill," said Brian Harris, president of Tennessee Right to Life.

Harris said that as long as "Pro-Choice" license plate proponents follow the same steps

See Plates, 4

Black history month



Photos by Seth Holland | Staff Photographer

Bradley Academy Museum Director John Lodl shows off one of the featured exhibits. The exhibit will be at the museum through March 27.

Underground Railroad exhibit commemorates black history

By Maura Satchell
Staff Writer

The story of slave resistance and the struggle for freedom is retold at Bradley Academy from now until March 27 in a temporary exhibit called *The Story of the Underground Railroad: African-American Resistance to Slavery*.

The temporary exhibit features artifacts relating to the Underground Railroad and the struggle for freedom by southern slaves. On display are items of interest to visitors of all ages, from a facsimile wooden crate used to mail one slave to the free north, to personal items that once belonged to Frederick Douglass, the eloquent freedman who became highly visible on both sides of the Atlantic for his lectures on the abolitionist movement. The exhibit also shows the interpretive artwork by local talent and offers special educational programs for schools and community

groups.

Museum Director John Lodl sent flyers out to principals of the various Rutherford County schools announcing the program and received an enthusiastic response.

"We're booked for the next three weeks," Lodl said of the educational programs being held at the museum. The education programs will be attended by several classes from local schools including Blackman Elementary School, Central Middle School, Campus School and other schools in the county.

"We're hoping groups come from outside of Rutherford County as well," said Lodl. The museum sent out mailers to educators and media outlets in several neighboring counties advertising the exhibit.

On Feb. 21, a program, "Society of Friends: A Story about the Underground Railroad," will be performed by the children's theatrical

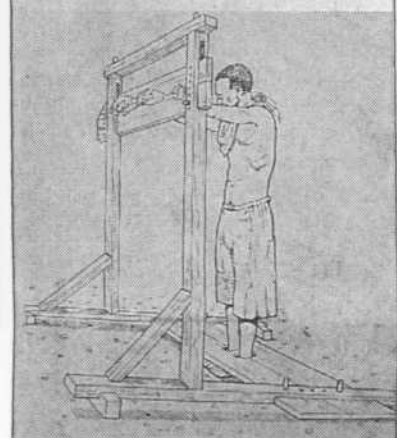
group Generation for Creation. The children wrote the play and put it on themselves, Lodl said.

The great-great-grandson of Frederick Douglass, Kevin Douglass Green will give a presentation on his grandfather and tell of the Douglass family tree. He has donated some family heirlooms originally belonging to his ancestor to the exhibit as well.

Bradley Academy was commissioned in 1806 by a decree of the Tennessee General Assembly which called for academies in every county of the newly formed state. The structure was renovated in 1917 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 14, 1990. The structure underwent a second restoration which took ten years starting in 1990. It has been open to the public as a historical museum for three years now. The museum is open

See Museum, 4

A recaptured runaway slave faced the possibility of placement in stocks and forced to stand for as many hours (or days) as his master or overseer decided upon. Other punishments were severe, even fatal, depending upon the fear or rage felt by the slave owner.



Nashville's rustic Loveless Cafe to undergo renovations

'Traditional feel' not to be altered, owner says

By Melissa Coker
Staff Writer

Described as a Nashville institution, the Loveless Cafe served its last meal for a few months on this past Sunday morning.

For approximately the next three months, there will be a little less to visit at the Loveless as the rustic eatery undergoes exciting renovations including a new kitchen, bathrooms and added seating. The kitchen hasn't been altered in more than 20 years.

"Our mandate is not to alter the traditional feel of the Loveless," said owner Tom Morales of TomKats, Inc.,

which purchased the café last year.

The Loveless has been more or less tradition in Nashville for more than 50 years. It opened in 1952 as the Harpeth Valley Tea Room, when original owners Ron and Annie Loveless set up picnic tables and began selling fried chicken outside of their front window to Natchez Trace travelers. Today they continue to be well-known for their fried chicken and "secret recipe" made-from-scratch biscuits, according to TomKats Marketing Director Angie Gore.

"We want to preserve what's great and special about the café so that it can last for another 50 years," Morales remarks.

Though the café itself will be closed during the projected three-month long project, those still craving a taste of the Loveless won't have to go far. Hams and Jams, the newly renovated building alongside the

café, will house the existing mail-order business of the same name. Additionally, a retail area will sell Loveless cookbooks, biscuits, hams, and jams - which are made in house, and more.

Hams and Jams will not be fully operational for a couple of weeks, but Loveless management will be on-site to help with mail order or catering business.

"Customers will still be able to take something away from the Loveless," Morales said. "They won't leave empty-handed."

He added that he didn't want any customer to be disappointed, whether they are locals or out-of-state travelers.

"Going to the Loveless is like stepping back in time," Gore said. "It's like being in your grandmother's kitchen."

Recent buyer TomKats is famous for its movie-set cater-



Photo provided

ing business. Its credits extend across hundreds of famous films. They have recently provided catering during filming for *The Stepford Wives* and *The Manchurian Candidate*.

TomKats has also been the caterer for the award-winning HBO television series *Sex and*

the City through its last four seasons. In addition to the Loveless, they own the award-winning Nashville eateries Saffire and SoBro Grill and Catering.

"The truth is, the Loveless has become bigger than me and my family," partial former

owner George McCabe said. "We wanted to hand over the restaurant to someone we could trust [who] would maintain the name, the reputation and the ambience that has always made the Loveless special to local customers and tourists. In a way, we wanted to sell the restaurant in order to save it for future generations."

Long before chains cashed in by mass-marketing similar rustic appeal, the Loveless drew down-home seeking visitors from around the world. The Loveless Café and Motel has long stood as a legendary body by clinging to the comfort foods and old-fashioned quality of a simpler time. ABC-TV once named it "the best country restaurant in America."

So no matter how the biscuit's buttered, there will soon be even more to love about the Loveless Café. ♦

TENNESSEE

news briefs

Associated Press

Workers' compensation burdens companies, workers, state

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee's unique workers' compensation law is having a negative impact not only on companies but on injured workers and the state tax system, state officials told a legislative committee Monday.

Economic Development Commissioner Matt Kisber told a special joint committee on workers' compensation that Tennessee loses business recruitments and expansions every day because of its high workers' comp costs. That puts a larger burden on the companies that stay, he said, and ultimately costs the state tax revenue in forgone collections from businesses that locate or expand elsewhere.

An independent study of workers' compensation costs found that Tennessee businesses shoulder a burden that is average on a national scale, but is high relative to its neighboring states, especially in the dwindling manufacturing sector.

The study said Tennessee's court-centered system for resolving claims creates widely varying outcomes in different parts of the state, and leads to "venue shopping" and "dueling doctors."

Insurance Commissioner Paula Flowers noted Tennessee is one of only two states that uses a court-based system to resolve workers' compensation claims, and that the other, Alabama, requires a separate review before a case goes to trial.

She said workers' comp insurers in Tennessee paid \$32 million in 2002 in defense and cost-containment expenses. She said there were 14,768 workers' comp cases filed that year, surpassed in number only by divorce and child custody cases.

She also noted the system is failing workers as well as making it difficult for employers.

"Over 40 percent of employees hurt on the job had to wait more than 120 days to receive their first disability payment," she said, although the law now requires the first payment within 15 days. "This is a significant issue. Not many people can go 120 days without a pay check."

Gay father may regain parental rights

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A state appeals court has agreed to reconsider a lower court order barring a gay father from "exposing" his son to "his gay lifestyle."

The Court of Appeals granted the American Civil Liberties Union's petition for a partial rehearing of the case of Joseph Randolph Hogue.

"We are very pleased that the appeals court has agreed to reconsider its decision," said Hedy Weinberg, executive director of the ACLU of Tennessee. "Courts have no business putting gay parents in the position of having to choose between raising their children and having a loving, committed relationship with their partners."

The case began when Cher Lynn Hogue filed for divorce in February 2002. As part of a divorce hearing, the lower court issued a temporary restraining order that forbade Hogue "from taking the child around or otherwise exposing the child to his gay lover(s) and/or his gay lifestyle."

Later that year, Cher Lynn Hogue filed a complaint that her husband had violated the restraining order by telling his son that he was gay.

A judge agreed with her and found Hogue in contempt of court and sentenced him to two days in Williamson County jail. The court also stripped away some of his visitation rights.

Hogue appealed to the state Court of Appeals, and last month the court cleared him of contempt because it said telling his son he was gay did not violate the restraining order.

But the court went on to say that the restraining order was valid, a point the ACLU found objectionable and asked the court to reconsider.

"The judges on the court understand that this is a very important issue and not something to be brushed aside lightly," said Ken Choe, a staff attorney for the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "It deserves very careful examination."

Woman drops lawsuit over Super Bowl halftime show

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Less than a week after filing a class-action lawsuit because of her outrage over Janet Jackson's Super Bowl stunt, Terri Carlin believes she's made her point.

The Knoxville banker is withdrawing the suit filed last Wednesday in U.S. District Court against Jackson and Justin Timberlake, along with MTV, CBS and their parent company, Viacom.

The lawsuit had sought billions of dollars in compensatory and punitive damages.

Carlin alleged that she and others who watched the show during the Super Bowl were injured by the performers' lewd actions when Timberlake tore off part of Jackson's costume, exposing her right breast.

The notice of dismissal filed in federal court says Carlin wants to see if "remedial measures" announced by federal regulators and the companies involved succeed in preventing similar stunts.

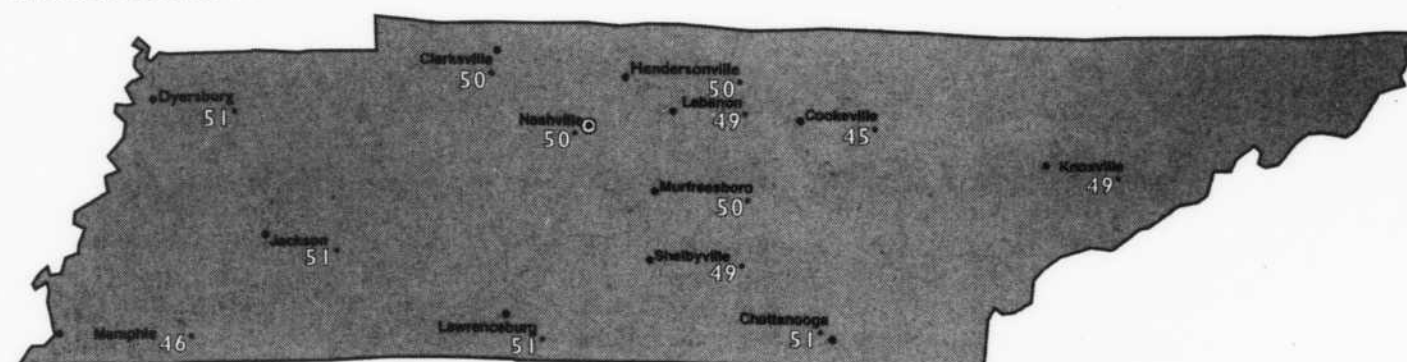
Carlin and attorney Wayne A. Ritchie II, who filed the lawsuit on behalf of Carlin and has represented her for free, have received phone calls and mail from hundreds of supportive parents from across the country who wanted to be included in the suit, the notice states.

In the lawsuit filed on behalf of "all Americans," Carlin charged that Jackson's exposure and "sexually explicit conduct" by other performers during the halftime show injured viewers.

Jackson apologized for the incident, saying a red lace garment was supposed to remain over her breast when an outer garment was ripped away. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Wednesday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Haynes Bros. receives threat

By David Paulson
Staff Writer

Haynes Brothers Lumber Company on 739 NW Broad St. received a bomb threat Monday afternoon. Murfreesboro Police conducted a search and found no evidence of a bomb's presence.

Glenn Reed, a supervisor at Haynes Bros., called police at approximately 1:15 p.m. Monday afternoon after receiving two phone calls. The first call, according to police reports, was "not understandable." The second was from a male caller who asked to speak to "Mike." Reed then handed the phone over to employee Mike Jones.

When Jones answered the phone, the suspect stated, "There is a bomb in the building."

Police arrived on the scene at 1:23 p.m. A search of the building found no evidence. The company's phone did not have a caller ID feature, and authorities were not able to trace the call.

Reed told Officer Don Schubert that he did not recognize the suspect's voice. According to Reed, Haynes Brothers has not had any problems with customers or employees.

While the suspect's claims may have been false, bombings remain a viable threat to middle Tennessee. According to an FBI report published last year, Tennessee is ranked 7th in the nation in the frequency of bomb-related incidents. There were 22 attempted bombings in the state in 1999. ♦

Plates: Pro-choice plate tabled by Senate

Continued from 3

in order to have their license plates, there is no reason they should not have a fair chance at getting their license plates.

"That was never our argument," he said. "That's just the way things work at the legislature."

The motion to dismiss argued along the same lines.

"Plaintiffs do not allege that a pro-choice bill has ever been introduced in the Tennessee General Assembly, only that plaintiff[s] unsuccessfully lobbied members of the General Assembly in opposition to the 'Choose Life' plate," the motion read.

A "Pro-Choice" plate amendment to the Choose Life Act was proposed, but was subsequently "tabled by the Senate and thus defeated," according to the motion.

Weinberg explained that the

lawsuit, however, was not about the pre-ordering process.

"Getting the 1,000 names is a legitimate thing," she said. "There's nothing wrong with setting that criteria."

The problem she said the ACLU and Planned Parenthood have is with the legislative process.

"The criteria of first going to the legislature to vote up or down is not acceptable," she said. "The state is practicing what's called 'viewpoint discrimination,' which she adds is "not protected under the First Amendment."

President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee Jeff Teague agreed.

"By allowing [choose life plates] and not allowing choose choice license plates, they denied us access to that public forum," he said. ♦

Museum:

Continued from 3

open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Lodi is a 1998 graduate of MTSU and obtained a master's degree in history in 2002 from the university. He became the director of Bradley Academy shortly thereafter. ♦

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From the Editorial Board

Black History Month benefits all Americans

It's the time of year for all Americans to set aside their differences and embrace diversity while educating themselves on what it truly means to be an American.

No, we're not referencing the Democratic primary; we're writing about Black History Month.

Each February, numerous events take place across the United States in honor of Black History Month. MTSU is no exception, as the university has several events planned in honor of the month-long celebration.

At 4 p.m. tomorrow, a panel discussion, "Race and the Criminal Justice System," will be held in Peck Hall Room 227. On Feb. 24, another panel discussion will be held in Room S128 of the Business and Aerospace Building, titled "50 Years after Brown: The Impact of the Brown Decision on Education and Society." These are only a few of the many events MTSU has to offer its students.

We at *Sidelines* encourage all of our readers to take part in the Black History Month activities. Regardless of race, black history is a vital part of American history and should be studied and experienced by all Americans.

As individuals committed to furthering our education through higher learning, we as students should take an active role to become as familiar with black history as we are with the rest of U.S. history.

Being the multicultural melting pot that it is, the United States and its citizens should be committed to embracing all aspects of their history.

We recognize this need, and throughout the month of February, we will be featuring black history in various stories printed in *Sidelines*.

In this issue, our sports section features the accomplishments of Jackie Robinson, the first black man to play Major League Baseball.

Black Americans have contributed to the political, professional, athletic, educational and entertainment aspects of the United States, and all Americans should recognize these accomplishments not only as advancements for black Americans, but also as advancements for all Americans. Black History Month is paramount to understanding our American culture.

For more information on Black History Month events, contact the Multicultural Affairs office at 898-2987. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Student protesters deserve anonymity

In an appalling violation of civil liberties, a judge issued a subpoena ordering Drake University to release the names of students who participated in an anti-war forum held Nov. 15.

The forum provided students who planned to attend an anti-war protest with nonviolence training in addition to offering informative sessions on the war.

The protest, which took place Nov. 16, was held at the headquarters of the Iowa National Guard.

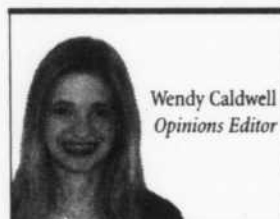
In addition to requiring the names of the students who attended that forum, the subpoena also requires that the names of the officers of Drake's chapter of the National Lawyers Guild be released as well.

The group issued an appeal on Monday.

The subpoena "has no purpose or effect other than to harass and intimidate persons engaged in constitutionally protected advocacy and expression," according to Bruce Nestor, an attorney for the group, as reported in a story by the Associated Press.

Nestor couldn't be more right.

If a group of students wishes to exercise their First Amendment rights



Wendy Caldwell
Opinions Editor

by protesting a war they feel is unjust, they are entitled to do so.

I doubt any judges would be issuing subpoenas for students participating in a pro-war demonstration.

According to Nestor, Drake intends to comply with the subpoenas.

Officials at the private university should seriously reconsider their stance.

The students should not be punished for expressing their views, however unpopular they are with the powers that be.

Forcing a university to comply with this subpoena sends a dangerous message: Speaking out against the government will not be tolerated.

The First Amendment protects all viewpoints, not only those shared by the leaders of our government.

Shame on the judge, and shame on Drake University for even considering entertaining the notion that students voicing opinions are subject to legal action. ♦

War on terror must continue

Less than three years removed from the most catastrophic attack on our country in history, the Democrats have told Sen. Joe Lieberman there is no room for him on their presidential ticket.

The only candidate for the Democratic nomination that promised to continue to carry on the fight against terrorists was forced to withdraw last week after being rudely dismissed by Democrat voters. What has happened to this party?

Democrats of old such as Franklin Roosevelt and John Kennedy would cringe at how far left their party has gone on national security issues.

FDR guided our country to its greatest victory ever, never losing his drive to defeat the Axis Powers in World War II.

Though the Nazi war machine seemed unstoppable at the onset of the war, Roosevelt kept the nation strong, despite American casualties suffered in the latter half.

Compare that to today, when huge strides have been made against perhaps the most dangerous enemy our country has ever faced, yet the Democrats see nothing but doom and gloom. They preach that we're only inflaming the terrorists' anger against us by



Common Sense

Randall Thomason
Staff Columnist

fighting them, that hate breeds hate and so forth.

There's no way this is the same party John Kennedy belonged to. In his inaugural address on Jan. 20, 1961, Kennedy proclaimed the United States would "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

JFK's pledge is countered by today's leading Democrats, who apparently will pay any price and bear any burden not to make France mad at us. Liberals hold Kennedy and Roosevelt to an almost god-like stature, yet as Bush stands shoulder to shoulder with these past presidents in the desire to spread liberty, Democrats label him a renegade, maverick cowboy.

The 2004 election is about one overriding issue: the defense of this country and the free world

from a dangerous band of thugs and terrorists. We've had much success in the struggle over the last 29 months. We haven't been attacked again on our soil, something many of us, myself included, would've thought impossible on Sept. 12, 2001.

According to Bush's information, nearly two-thirds of al-Qaeda's leadership has been captured or killed. The remainder are on the run, being pursued relentlessly by our exceptional military and other allies. Saddam Hussein and his tyrannical rule are gone from Iraq; ditto for the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Lybia has given up its advanced weapons because they've seen first-hand that the United States is serious about stopping terrorism and preventing rogue dictators from even thinking about harboring them.

But there is much more work to be done. North Korea is still a menace on the horizon, as are Iran and Syria (where Saddam's weapons of mass destruction very well could be).

It's simply not safe to cast a vote for a party made up of appeasers who are uncomfortable with the United States being the leading military and economic power in the world.

Fighting the war on terror isn't something we've chosen to do; it's something we're called to do. History has called on nations throughout history to defeat various forms of evil, and the United States has answered that call each and every time.

Bush is following in line with other great American wartime presidents, a group that includes such Democrats as Woodrow Wilson (WWI), FDR (WWII) and JFK (Cold War). Unfortunately, the struggle for national security and liberty is now only on the platform of one party.

America must stay vigilant and not lose the vision of a free and democratic Middle East that will no longer be a breeding ground for terror. The only candidate remaining who will continue the march to victory is Bush.

Terrorists have challenged our mettle, expecting America to retreat. It's this nation's responsibility to ensure that terror, just as Ronald Reagan said of Communism, is relegated to "the ash heap of history." ♦

Randall Thomason is a sophomore mass communication major and can be reached via e-mail at rkt2c@mtsu.edu.

Students deserve authority

By Terrence A. Lee
Associate Professor
Guest Columnist

For several years, the members of the state legislature have clearly indicated they have little interest in supporting colleges in our state. They've said this in the clearest possible fashion, by regularly cutting appropriations to fund state colleges and universities.

These legislators have clearly indicated the students in our colleges and universities will assume more responsibility for the costs of obtaining their education. Through the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and Tennessee Board of Regents boards, tuition has increased dramatically over the last several years.

What the legislators have ignored is a simple and fundamental fact of life: Those who have the responsibility also have the authority. To hold someone responsible for a situation, while denying them the authority to deal with the situation, is the act of a fool or a despot.

The Daily News Journal (Jan. 29) has reported that student tuition and fees account for 50.1 percent of the MTSU operating budget, while the state's contribution is 45.47 percent. It's only logical that if the students attending our university are responsible for 50.1 percent of the costs, then they are entitled to 50.1 percent of the authority for how the university is operated.

In the words of Jim Vaden, chief fiscal officer for THEC, "[Universities] should get a larger percentage of their revenue from the state than from the students."

I have several proposals that I would like to make, and I request that the Student Government Association, the Faculty

Senate, the students, the faculty and the administration give these proposals careful consideration.

First, the name of this institution will be changed to Middle Tennessee Student University. This will finally provide our university with a unique, distinctive and nationally recognized name.

To the best of my knowledge, no other college or university in the country, private or public, acknowledges by its name that students are the entire reason for its existence.

The monetary costs associated with this name change will certainly not be any higher than those costs for some other names that have been suggested. Existing supplies will be used until the change is fully implemented.

Second, every administrative branch and office, from individual department chairs to the university president, will immediately add at least one student assistant or associate position.

Students occupying these positions will be selected by the student body as a whole or by their designated representatives.

The costs associated with this change will be minimal. This change will dramatically empower the students and the SGA.

Participation in SGA elections can only increase when the student body realizes they can wield real political power.

Third, all committees charged with student related affairs will have a proportional number of students (no less than 50 percent) on the committee.

The costs associated with this change will be minimal, and students selected for service on these committees will be chosen by the student body or by their designated representatives. Committees that aren't

charged with student related affairs (for example, the Faculty Welfare Committee) will be unchanged.

Fourth, all proposals submitted to the Faculty Senate that concern student affairs will also be submitted to the SGA. Recommendations concerning these proposals will be made by both groups and will be given equal consideration.

Finally, since MTSU and Tennessee State University receive the majority of their budgets from student fees and tuition, MTSU President Sidney McPhee and TSU President James Hefner will petition TBR for the formation of a separate governing board.

This board will be composed of current TBR members to be selected by the TBR and student members in proportion, with no less than 50 percent students. All rights, privileges and responsibilities of the board members will be identical.

Many of my colleagues, and many administrators, will view these proposals as the nonsensical ravings of a lunatic mind. Before dismissing these ideas out of hand, I would ask that you consider the following questions.

Who is your boss? I think that the boss is the person(s) who pays your salary, and while the boss might not always be right, (s)he is always the boss.

How could allowing the students a greater voice in university operations worsen a situation that currently borders on the intolerable?

If you truly believe students can't make mature, reasoned and responsible choices in January, then how has the situation changed after they have graduated in May?

Vox populi, vox dei. ♦

Letters to the Editor

No progressives in military?

To the editor:

I couldn't agree more with Eric Blevins when, in his column Feb. 4 ("No liberals on Dem's ballot"), he said that Gen. Wesley Clark was no progressive.

However, as a member of the U.S. Navy (and a former *Sidelines* staffer), I was shocked by his glib hypothesis that it was not possible for a member of the military to be a progressive.

I didn't have to look far to find a progressive member of the armed services. I just had to look in the mirror. In my time in the service, I've gotten used to being the exception rather than the rule. To be sure, the Armed Forces aren't exactly a bastion of liberal political thought, and by now I'm accustomed to the raised eyebrows I get when requesting an absentee ballot for the Democratic primary and the puzzled looks coming my way when I check out books from the command library written by Molly Ivins or James Carville.

But I've also learned that being a progressive and defending my country are not mutually exclusive. The crux of the oath of enlistment is a promise to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States," which eerily parallels the ideals of progressivism in general and, more specifically, those of the American Civil Liberties Union, another organization of which I'm a member. Progressive leaders have always stressed national service, from Franklin Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration to John Kennedy's Peace Corps to Bill Clinton's AmeriCorps. Serving in the military is another way to pay back the country that has given us all so much. Many of history's great American progressives also wore a uniform: Harry Truman served in World War I, and Kennedy famously commanded a PT Boat in World War II, for example.

Blevins would do well to remember that the Democrats are members of the party of inclusion and lumping all of America's servicemen and women into a conservative voting bloc is irresponsible. And whoever wins the party nomination should remind everyone that it was the conservative leadership that has proposed dramatic cuts in funding to military housing, schools and child care centers, not to mention rollbacks in imminent danger and family separation pay for those serving in harm's way.

No — there aren't a lot of progressives in the military, but we do exist, proudly serving our country in true progressive tradition. And in the future, let's leave universal generalizations to the conservatives. They've been at it longer, and they're better at it.

J. R. Lind
U.S. Navy

Short story misrepresented

To the Editor:

It has become brutally apparent that short stories of great American authors can be molded to fit someone's personal agenda ("Laws based on Christianity," Jason Brunner, Feb. 5).

Blatantly leaving out crucial concepts of a piece of well-known literature is irresponsible. Brunner portrays Sargeant as a black man who "fights with white cops ... and brings down a church..." with the assumption that Christ is somehow blaspheming God.

The story is based on Sargeant's attempt to find shelter and not finding it where he should. The minister who turns Sargeant away is misreading the message of Christ. Sargeant's debauching of the church and confrontation with the police is justified in conveying that hypocrisy in religion is too common.

Brunner distorted a good message: Attempt to be like Christ, even when those around you aren't.

Andrea Hinch
Freshman
Undeclared

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Letters Policy

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

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Valentine's Day Special Edition

Students express excitement, indifference

By Michaela Jackson
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is upon us! The girls are donning pink and the guys are shopping for overpriced flowers. Ahhh ... love is in the air.

So what does that mean for MTSU students?

Well, that depends on your relationship status, your romantic tastes and the size of your bank account.

Some who have managed to dodge Cupid's arrow this rosy season plan to just let the day roll by pretty much unnoticed.

Zol Hooper, who is contentedly

See Valentine's, 7



Photo by Seth Holland | Staff Photographer

In 2001, Americans spent \$68 million on domestic roses, according to U.S. Census Bureau 2003 statistics.

Club praises Macintosh

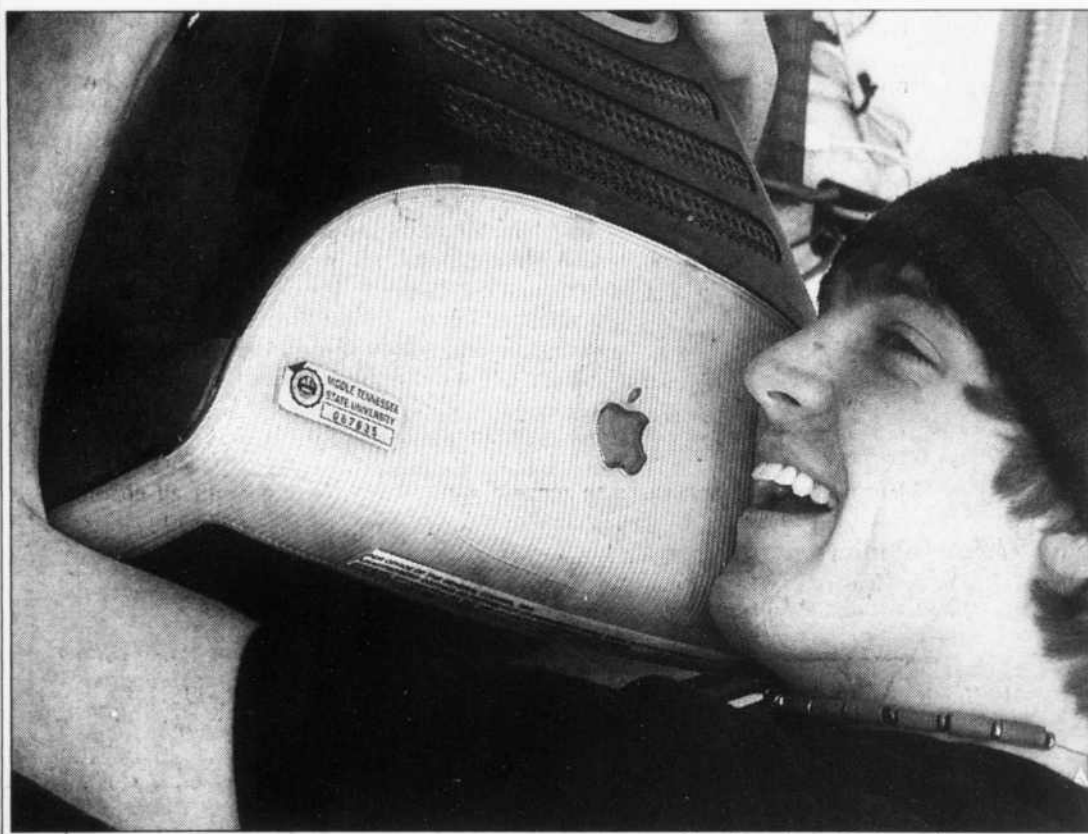


Photo Illustration by Kyle Seaman | Staff Photographer

Joe Kappelman, above, expresses his love for Macintosh brand computers.

By Abby Slinger
Staff Writer

Some people love their pets. Some people love their cars.

Some people love their computers.

For the past four years, the Macintosh Users Group of MTSU have been celebrating Macintosh computers on campus.

This 45-member group, composed of MTSU students, faculty and staff, found its beginnings when President Lucas Leverett was chosen by Apple to represent the company on the campus.

Leverett was already the Apple specialist at Phillips Bookstore when he became a representative for Macintosh users on campus.

"Part of the responsibility of [being] the campus rep is to start the campus user group," Leverett says.

The Mac Users Group's purpose is to protect Apple user interests on campus.

That means if the administration wanted to get rid of the Macintoshes on campus, the group would ban together to

fight to keep them, Leverett says.

Unlike most organizations on campus, Mac Users does not have regular meetings.

"We tried holding meetings, but it was difficult to schedule them since faculty wanted to hold them after four and students wanted to meet during lunch," Leverett says.

After trying traditional meetings, Leverett turned the club into more of an e-mail newsletter.

He sends out information on upcoming events. Attendance is optional.

Mac Users gives the members the option to meet at Mac Authority, home of the Nashville Mac Users, to watch broadcasts given by head of Apple Computers, Steve Jobs.

In these two-hour broadcasts, Jobs discusses the successes of products and sale results of Apple computers.

Though the club chooses to meet in Nashville, any Apple store and select retailers can show the broadcasts, according to Leverett.

The club also holds workshops and demo days.

"On demo Apple day, we have tables of the latest and coolest stuff from Apple," Leverett says.

"We're wanting to do an ultimate dorm room, where the home stereo, entertainment center, and computer is all connected using wireless systems through the Macintosh," he says.

"People don't know that the technology already exists, and it doesn't have to come prepackaged through cable companies or through buying a PC.

This year is also Macintosh's 20th anniversary, and like other Mac User groups, the Macintosh Users Group of MTSU is waiting to see what Apple does to celebrate, Leverett says.

Those interested in joining the Mac Users group of MTSU should sign up online at www.mtsu.edu/~macusers.

The Web page also contains links to the Nashville User Group and other helpful pages. Dues are not collected. ♦

Prestigious London Group to perform 'Romeo & Juliet'

By Laura Taylor
Staff Writer

A traveling Shakespeare troupe will perform *Romeo and Juliet* at MTSU for a week in March.

The group, Actors from the London Stage, has only five members who come from prestigious European companies like the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre of Great Britain and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

They will put on three performances of *Romeo and Juliet* at Tucker Theatre.

These performances are scheduled for March 17 at 9:15 a.m., March 18 at 7:30 p.m. and March 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Kevin Donovan, an English professor at MTSU, is excited about the upcoming visit from the AFTLS.

He describes their performances as "magical" and "one-of-a-kind" because their rendition of Shakespearean drama is very unique.

The five actors will enact *Romeo and Juliet* in its entirety, taking on at least three major roles each, often switching characters mid-scene.

This is a feat in itself, but the actors must also portray their characters without the help of sets and with minimal props and costumes.

This style of acting places the focus on the actors' words and gestures, as opposed to elaborate sets and costumes that generally upstage other Shakespeare performances.

The AFTLS provides a real look at unadulterated Shakespeare.

Jeff Gibson, a theatre professor, describes this as "stripped-away Shakespeare."

He says that viewing the play in this fashion allows the audience to have a better understanding of Shakespeare's work. Not only do the actors pro-



Photo Provided by Jeff Gibson

Actors from the London Stage will perform at MTSU.

vide a better understanding of Shakespeare onstage, they also supplement their performances by teaching in several literature and theatre classes during their visit.

Donovan believes that his classes will benefit from their

"It gives them a chance to interact firsthand with professional actors who are some of the best in their field," he says.

The AFTLS will only be visiting eight schools in the country this spring, so this is a rare opportunity for MTSU students to feel the significance of Shakespeare's words with little visual interference.

After all, as the bard wrote in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, "Love looks not with the eyes but with the mind."

Students, faculty and staff can attend these shows for free by presenting their campus ID cards. Tickets are \$10 for the public and can be reserved by calling the ticket office at 898-2103.

The matinee on Wednesday has been scheduled especially for school groups, so most seats for this performance have already been reserved. ♦

"They provide a new perspective by focusing on things that are harder to see on the page."

Kevin Donovan
English Professor

unique teaching methods.

"They provide a new perspective by focusing on things that are harder to see on the page," he says.

Donovan thinks that the actors will help give life to works discussed in class.

In their mission statement, the AFTLS state how they help students to truly understand Shakespeare, by getting students up and out of their chairs and act with them.

Gibson feels that this is a great opportunity for students in these classes.

Dear Jonathan,



Jonathan Hicks

I got an e-mail this weekend from *Sidelines* Editor Patrick Chinnery saying he got an e-mail hoax.

This particular e-mail tells him that he may have a virus on his computer, and that he should look for a certain program or file and delete it.

After deleting the "virus," you're instructed to e-mail everyone in your address book and warn them that you may have accidentally sent the virus to them.

I'm going to go over a few examples I've found and why e-mails like this exist.

First of all, this just sounds bogus to me. Why would you have to remove the virus yourself? If this virus is big enough then some virus protection software should get rid of it for you or you should be able to download a program to get rid of it from www.symantec.com.

You should not have to search for a virus and get rid of it yourself.

Let me outline some other hoax e-mails: I received one claiming an elementary school teacher trying out an experiment with her class to see how far the e-mail message will get back to them.

The message asks you to send everyone in your address book the message you received. After a week, the message will travel around the globe enough and be sent back to the class.

This next one is a personal favorite.

You get a message from a friend or relative saying that Bill Gates is giving out money. He wants you to send this message to as many people as you can and Microsoft will track it.

In fact, Microsoft will somehow know that you were one of the root people to send this message. So for every one of your e-mail recipients who sends it on to someone else, you get a little more money. Just like a pyramid scheme.

Let me debunk this myth. Does it seem reasonable that a billionaire really cares enough about tracking your e-mail to Aunt Polly to pay you for it?

Also, how are they going to track all these e-mails? Just think of all the data created by people wanting free money.

I'm sure your asking, "But what about the school kids experiment? Surely that will work." Maybe, but where is this class? What is the teacher's name and where does she teach? The e-mail never tells because the class never existed.

The reason for this message is ... traffic.

There are types of worms out there, one of which affected the school heavily last semester, that cause what is called a denial of service (or DoS) attack.

The worm infects your computer and at a specified time starts sending Internet requests to a server, like www.microsoft.com.

This causes so much traffic that the server can't handle the workload and it is forced to shut down.

These e-mail hoaxes are nothing more than an attempt to bring down mail servers with floods of useless e-mail.

The moral of this story is, don't believe everything you read. ♦

Send computer questions to jh2f@mtsu.edu.

The Morning-After Pill

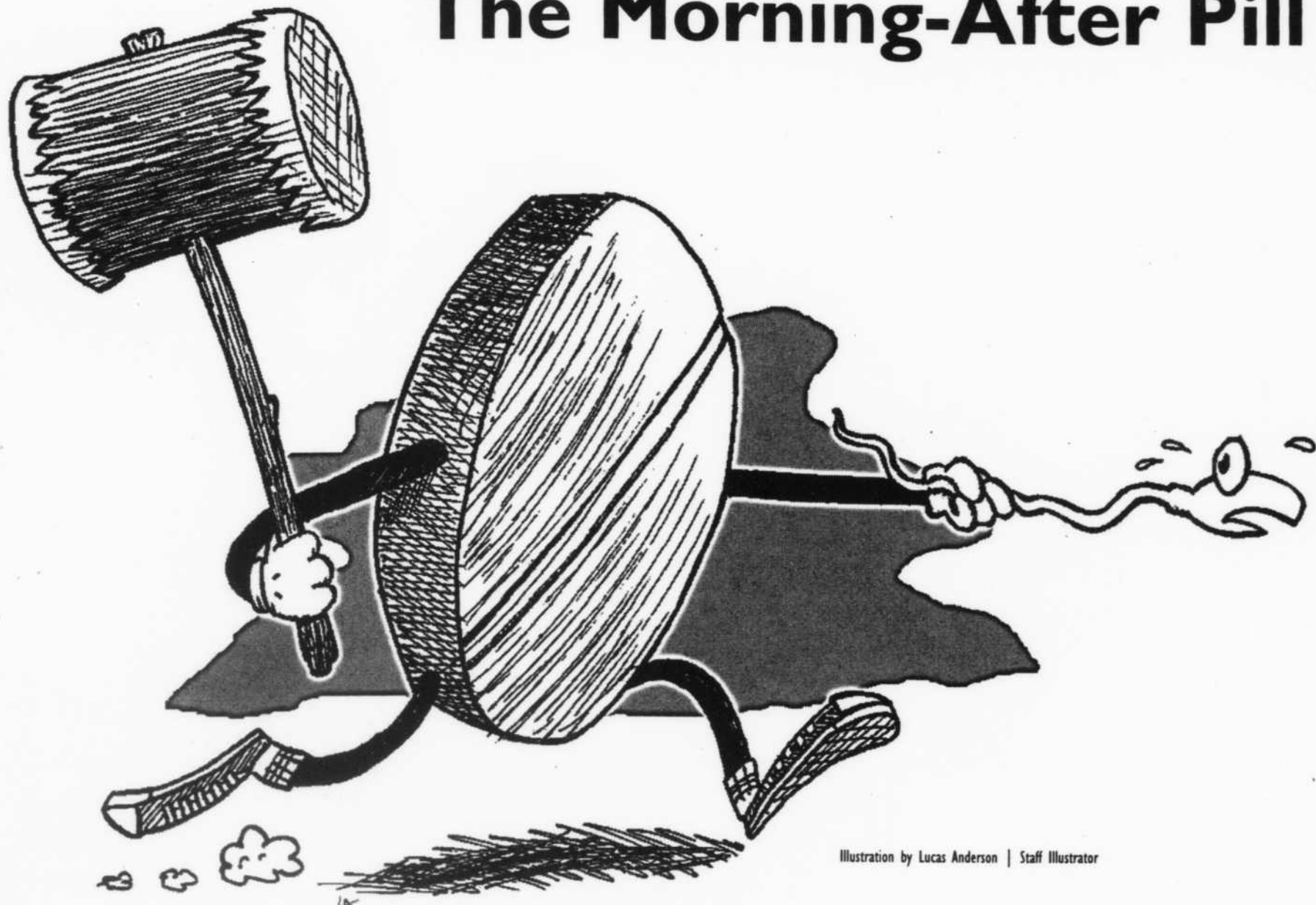


Illustration by Lucas Anderson | Staff Illustrator

Experts say emergency contraception pills safe, effective

By Emily Nance
Staff Writer

In a society that offers a quick fix for almost everything, it's no wonder there's a "morning-after" emergency contraceptive pill on the market.

Preven and Plan B, two brands currently offered, deliver a high dosage of hormones. Preven uses both progesterone and estrogen, hormones found in daily oral contraceptive pills, while Plan B includes only progesterone. This makes it difficult for a fertilized egg to implant properly, reducing the risk of pregnancy from about 8 percent down to 1 percent.

Plan B consists of two tablets. One should be taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex and the second taken 12 hours later. Some of the side effects include nausea, abdominal

pain, fatigue, headache and menstrual changes.

"It's difficult to say," says senior anthropology major Melissa Jetton when she was asked if she would use emergency contraception. "I think its kind of the same as abortion."

For ECPs to be most effective, it is essential to act immediately. But examination by a physician and a prescription for the medication is currently required before anyone may purchase it.

For many, by the time they can get to a physician, it's too late.

Some residents of rural areas argue that they may have to drive long distances to get to a clinic for a prescription, which could reduce the chance of the medication working.

This time constraint has sparked a national debate over

whether or not the "morning-after pill" should be offered over-the-counter.

ECPs have been available without a prescription in Europe for nearly two decades, and five states currently sell them over-the-counter: Washington, California, Hawaii, Alaska and New Mexico.

In states such as New York and South Dakota, a debate exists about whether hospitals should be required to counsel sexual assault victims on emergency contraceptives.

"Opponents say the pills promote irresponsible and immoral sexual behavior and may stop a fertilized egg from being implanted in the uterus, which makes them abortion agents," Tammie Smith reported in the *Richmond Times Dispatch*.

An advisory committee

hearing, at which Plan B was recommended for over-the-counter sale, was held Dec. 16, 2003, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

However, the FDA is currently taking public comments and will not make the final decision until the end of this year.

"Emergency contraception is safe and effective, and is the best way to prevent unintended pregnancy in cases of contraceptive failure," says Dr. Vanessa Cullins, vice president for Medical Affairs at Planned Parenthood Federation of America, according to a PPFA press release.

"There is no scientific basis for denying [emergency contraception] over-the-counter availability."

Cullins testified before the FDA advisory committee held

in December on the necessity of expanding access to emergency contraception.

Carol Cox, spokesperson for Barr Laboratories, Inc. of Woodcliff, N.J., says that Barr Laboratories will support Warren's Capital Corporation, the current manufacturer of Plan B.

This may mean the price for Plan B will change.

To locate the nearest ECP distributor call 888-NOT-2-LATE or go to MTSU Health Services, which provides prescriptions for Plan B to candidates who meet the recommended requirements upon an examination.

Also, prescriptions are available online by filling out a questionnaire at Web sites such as www.getthepill.com or www.themorningafterpill.net, which may be filled at local pharmacies that stock ECPs. ♦

Valentine's: Creativity, not price, counts when picking out gifts

Continued from 6

single, says Valentine's Day is "kinda like Christmas—if you celebrate it, it means something to you. If not, it's just another day."

Equally indifferent, Katie Dreiling "doesn't really care" about the starry-eyed celebration.

Dreiling admits that tradition makes Valentine's Day more appealing to her.

"I just like flowers. [They] make me feel like the most special person in the world," she says.

Flowers, along with candy, jewelry and little pink teddy bears are among the more frequent tokens of affection.

But what if you haven't got the green to bling-bling your way into your honey's heart?

Erin Killebrew plans to overcome the money issue by staying home and cooking a roman-

tic dinner of crepes with her boyfriend.

It's a cheap way to make the night special, she says.

Aside from showing your significant other how much he or she means to you, or drowning your loneliness in isolation and ungodly quantities of sugar or alcohol, what is Valentine's Day for?

Kelly Jenkins believes it isn't just for lovers. Valentine's Day is

about showing all kinds of love.

She expresses how important it is to show your love for friends and family, as well as your significant other.

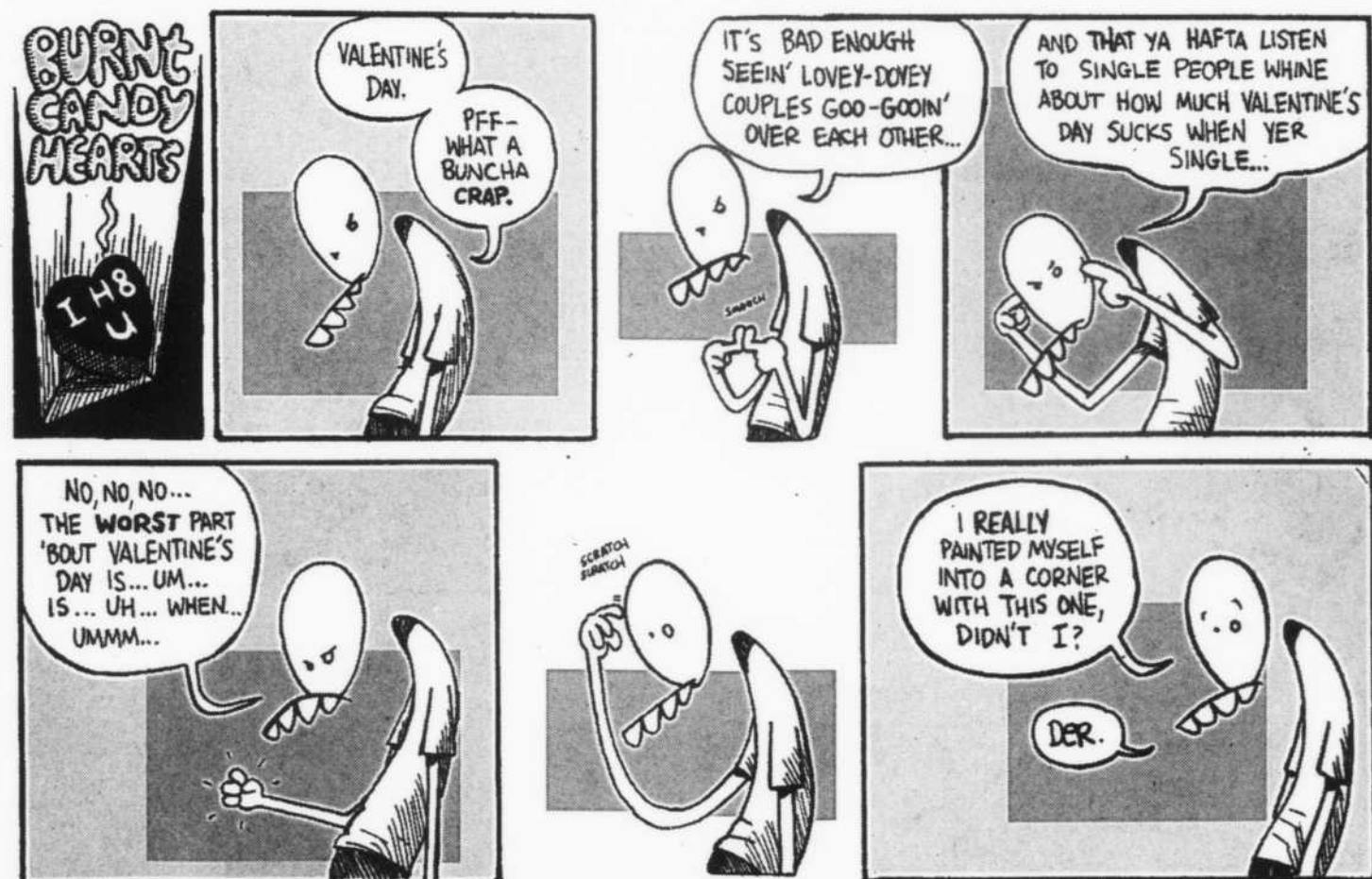
Whether you're single or taken, married or wishing you were, Valentine's Day is undeniably relevant to you.

Whether it's to remind you how in love you are or how glad you are that you aren't tied down.

Apparently, Feb. 14 assumes a universal appeal that surpasses roses and kisses.

It's about love for the people in your life who care about you — whether they are love interests, moms and dads or best friends.

Love does not have to be exclusive — it is an all-encompassing emotion, and Valentine's Day is its celebration. ♦



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ON GEORGETOWN SQUARE

Lady Raiders travel to Georgia Tech Wednesday

By Brad Jameson
Staff Writer

The Lady Raider tennis team travels to Atlanta Wednesday to square off against Georgia Tech University in Middle Tennessee's third road match of the season. MT is currently 3-1, with their only loss coming from a 2-5 setback against No. 13 University of Kentucky on Jan. 24 in Lexington, Ky. The team has won its last two matches, defeating both the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and Mississippi State University 4-3.

Georgia Tech is 1-1 after a 4-3 loss to the College of William and Mary in the Yellow Jackets' season opener and a 6-1 victory against the University of Minnesota. The Jackets will kick off their home season when they host MT.

The Lady Raiders bring two nationally-ranked players to the courts. Senior

Manon Kruse from Germany is ranked No. 54 and has not lost a set this season. She has defeated all of her opponents in two sets, including UK's No. 23 Aibika Kalsariva.

Joining Kruse in doubles is senior Carien Venter. The pair (3-1) is ranked No. 31 and has dropped only one match, an 8-5 loss to UK's duo of Kalsariva and Sarah Foster.

Kruse was recently named the Sun Belt Conference women's tennis Player of the Week after her two-win performance against UTC Feb. 3.

Georgia Tech opened the season by finishing third at the Minnesota Court Classic in Minneapolis. The Yellow Jackets fell to William and Mary in a close 4-3 loss. The two teams split the singles matches, each winning three, but William and Mary won two of the three doubles matches, giving them the doubles point and the 4-3 win.

In their second contest, the Yellow Jackets defeated Minnesota 6-1 in the third place match. Georgia Tech swept all three doubles matches, and the only defeat the Jackets suffered came from sophomore Lyndsay Shosho's two-set loss at No. 1. Georgia Tech defeated all five other Minnesota singles players in straight sets.

For her 4-0 performance in the team's two matches, Georgia Tech's Lindsey Stauss was named ACC Player of the Week.

Georgia Tech coach Bryan Shelton believes his Yellow Jackets must be cautious against MT.

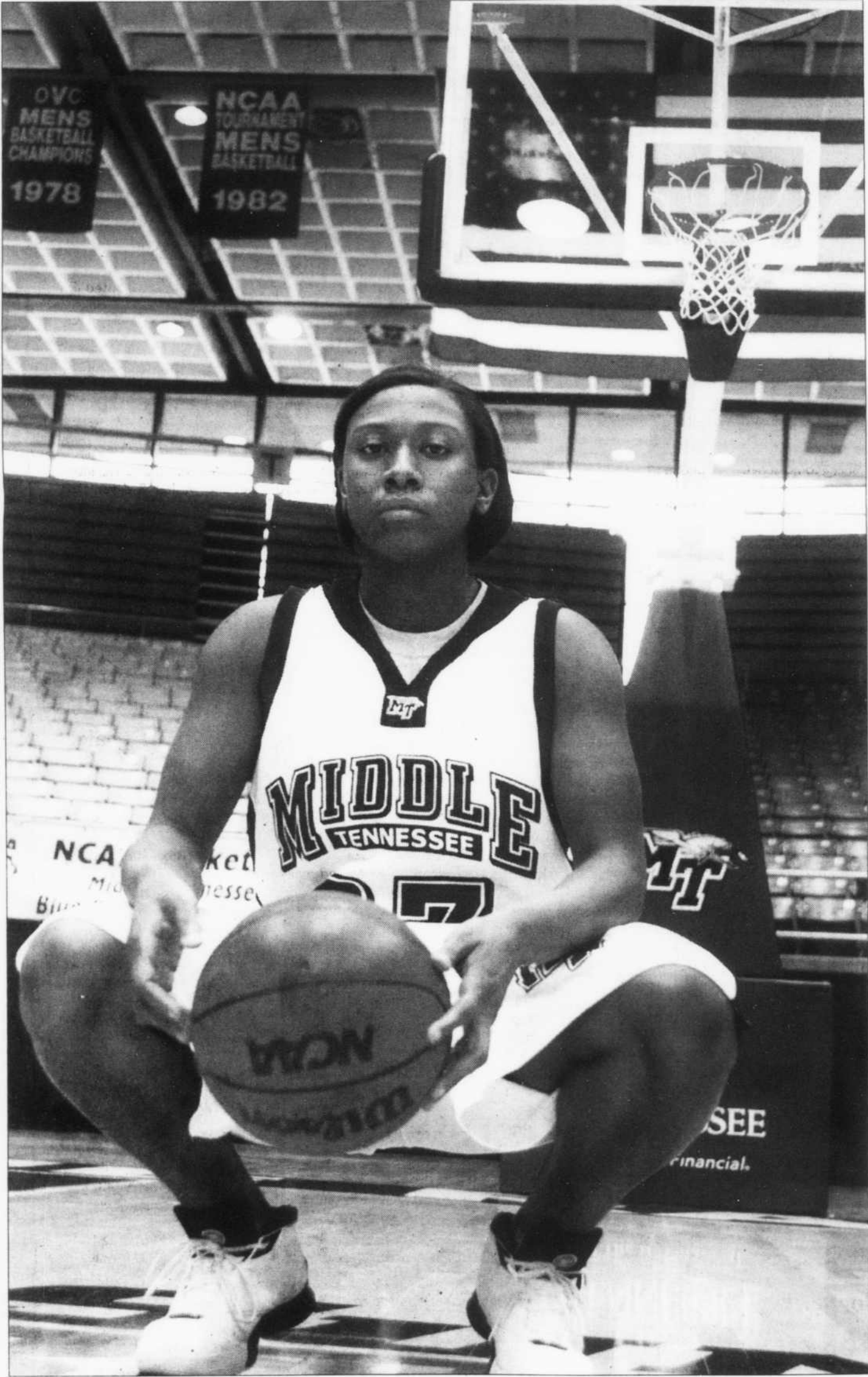
"MTSU, in general, is just a dangerous

See Tennis, 9

Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer
Right: MT junior Jennifer Klaschka returns a volley Feb. 3 against UT-Chattanooga. MT won 4-3.



Success not new to Holmes



MT point guard Patrice Holmes leads the Lady Raiders with 16.0 points per game, fifth in the SBC.

Shelbyville native putting up numbers for MT

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's point guard, junior Patrice Holmes, has a long list of achievements.

Those achievements include Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the year, SBC Defensive Player of the Year, First Team All-Conference and 2003 SBC Tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

Since high school, Holmes has been performing on a higher level than most. All

four years at Lee Central High School, she received All-Region and All-State honors. Her senior year, she led the school to a 30-0 record and a state championship.

Middle Tennessee head women's basketball coach Stephany Smith saw her talent before she graduated high school.

"I saw her play in an AAU [Amateur Athletic Union] game in Atlanta before her senior year and then saw her again at a workout in Atlanta after her senior year and got a

chance to see what she brought to the table," Smith said.

From the very beginning of the recruiting process, Holmes knew that MT was where she wanted to go.

"I came here because I liked the atmosphere, and it felt like a home away from home," Holmes said.

"She was comfortable with the team and the coaches and was impressed with the school overall," Smith said.

From the very beginning, she has had continued suc-

cess. During her freshman year she was the only player to start every game and was also named SBC Freshman of the Year.

Her sophomore year, she helped lead the team to the SBC Tournament Championship, in which they barely lost to Western Kentucky, 86-83.

She also set an MT record with 92 steals in a season. With all the achievements and the early success, most of the

See Holmes, 10

The Greatest Victory

A month-long tribute

Robinson paved way for all black athletes

By Jerry Wilkinson
Sports Editor

When one thinks of black athletes in 20th century sports, those who come to mind are Tiger Woods, Magic Johnson, Michael Irvin and Barry Bonds, to name a few.

Most of the students at Middle Tennessee, who are between the ages of 18 and 24, may not be aware of the adversity some of the earlier black athletes had to overcome to compete at a higher level.

In the early parts of the 20th century, black athletes could not play Major League Baseball. They had to play in the Negro American Leagues.

While many players were just as good, or in some cases much better than some of the white players in the M L B, this country was not ready to allow a black man to play on a white man's team.

Many times, players in the NAL would have to travel extensively throughout the course of their season.

Sometimes they would even play barnstorm teams.

John Roosevelt "Jackie" Robinson once said, "The right of every American to first-class citizenship is the most important issue of our time."

Robinson not only wanted civil rights for blacks, he fought for equal treatment for black athletes.

In 1938, Robinson attended Pasadena Junior College, where he excelled in sports along with his studies.

By 1940, he had transferred to the University of California-Los Angeles, where he would later become one of the best black collegiate athletes in the United States.

He was also the first man in the school's history to earn letters in four sports.

Robinson left UCLA in 1941 to become the assistant athletic director of the National Youth

Administration Camp in Atascadero, Calif.

That same year, he played semi-professional football for the Honolulu Bears.

With the onset of World War II, Robinson was drafted into the Army in 1942.

Robinson was later commissioned with the help of professional boxer Joe Louis' help.

Louis intervened with Washington officials so that Robinson could be commissioned as an officer in the Army.

Robinson was later treated of his fellow black soldiers and was later court-martialed for refusing to sit in the back of an Army bus.

He was later reinstated but was discharged from the Army in 1944.

In 1945, Robinson began his professional baseball career when he signed with the Kansas City Monarchs in the NAL for a monthly salary of \$400. It was at this time Branch Rickey, the general manager for the Brooklyn Dodgers, was looking for a player to break the color barrier in American sports.

Rickey went against commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis' rule and defied the "gentlemen's agreement," an understanding that American sports would remain white only.

Rickey was the only vote among all general managers and the commissioner for the desegregation of Major League Baseball and signed Robinson.

In 1947, Robinson became the first black athlete to play in the modern major leagues when he joined the Dodgers' top farm team, the Montreal Royals.

Robinson played in the major leagues from 1947 to 1956.

During his 10 seasons with the Dodgers, he earned Rookie of the Year in 1947, helped lead the team to six pennants and earned Most Valuable Player in the World Series in 1949.

Robinson was the first black athlete to be inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1962. He died in 1972.

Robinson helped pave the way for black athletes in America and continued, even after his baseball career, to fight for equality. ♦

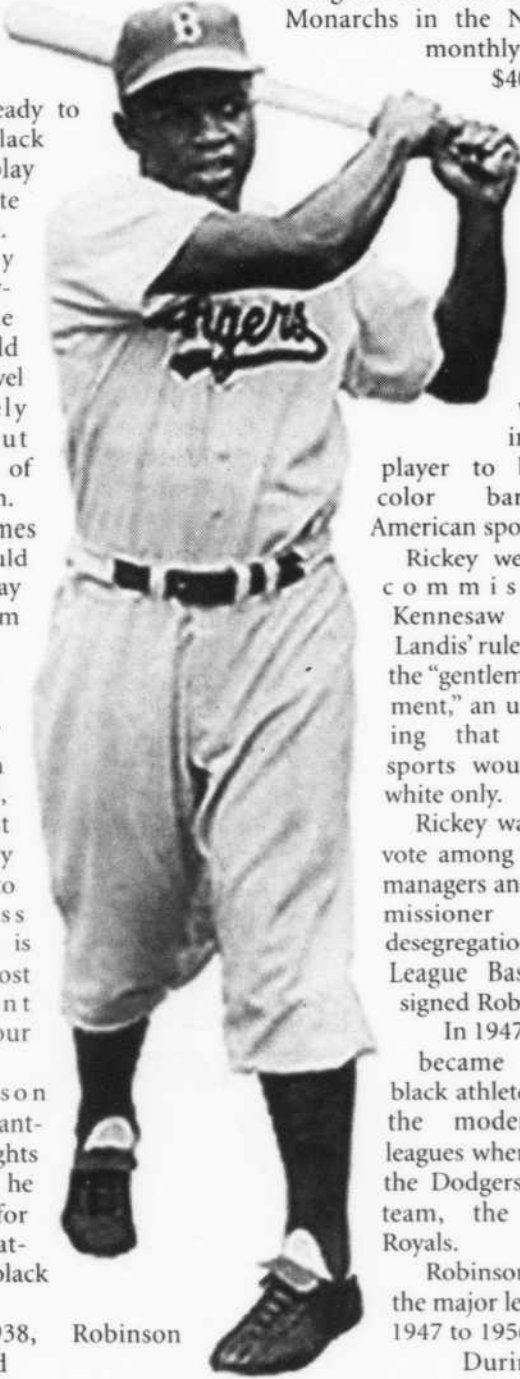


Photo courtesy National Baseball Hall of Fame

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Tennis: MT vs. GT

Continued from 8

team," Shelton told ramblinwreck.ocsn.com, Georgia Tech's athletics home page. "Especially at the top of their lineup, where they've got a girl [Kruse] that, in my mind, is one of the best collegiate players in the country. I think they are pretty scrappy all the way through their lineup, and it's not a team that we can, for a second, take lightly. This is a good test for us."

The Lady Raiders will return to Murfreesboro Feb. 15 to take on St. Louis University. ♦

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Sports Briefs

News from around Middle Tennessee



Compiled by Jerry Wilkinson
Sports Editor

Lady Raiders win big
at Indiana University

Middle Tennessee's Rosemary Okafor and Kishara George each won events and the Blue Raiders finished first, second and third in the 60-meters during the second and final day of competition Saturday at the Indiana Invitational in Bloomington, Ind.

Okafor wins Sun Belt Track
Performer of the Week

Rosemary Okafor won the 400-meters for the second straight week,

with an NCAA provisional time of 54.75 seconds. The junior also won last week at the Middle Tennessee Classic to earn Sun Belt Track Performer of the Week honors.

Kishara George, also a junior, won the 600-meters, a non-NCAA event run sometimes at indoor meets and always at Indiana University. The St. David, Grenada, native finished in 1:33.61 to place first.

Men's track squad pulls their fair
share of victories

Xavier Darden, Pedro Holiday and Wesley Dupar-Scott were the top three in the 60-meters, with Darden and Holiday running the same time of 6.86 and Dupar-Scott just one-

hundredths of a second behind for third.

Sophomore J.J. Sturm was first in the long jump with a mark of 23-5.25, while Greg Jones improved on Friday's mark as well in the triple jump with a mark of 48-3.5 for second place.

Middle Tennessee Valentine
Invitational set for Saturday

The Blue Raiders and Lady Raiders return home next weekend for the Middle Tennessee Valentine Invitational at Murphy Center on Saturday, the final meet before the Sun Belt Indoor Championships. ♦

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Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach 6th Edition textbook for sale. Good condition. Selling for \$45. Call 615-898-3484.

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Conference leaders aim for March

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

As winter winds down, each NCAA conference is winding up their respective conference schedules in preparation for another exciting men's basketball tournament.

Several surprise teams are atop their conference standings, while several perennial contenders are also turning heads.

The Duke Blue Devils stand at No. 1 in many polls. The Blue Devils are 9-0 in Atlantic Coast Conference play, leading the likes of the North Carolina State Wolfpack (7-2) and the surprise Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets (4-4).

St. Joseph's and Stanford are the nation's only remaining undefeated teams.

The Red Storm are 20-0 overall and tied for first in the Atlantic 10 conference with a 9-0 record.

The Dayton Flyers are also 9-0 in Atlantic 10 play, as the two teams will square off on Wednesday for control of the conference.

The Stanford Cardinal are currently atop the Pacific-10 Conference with an 11-0 record in conference play.

Seven other teams are still undefeated in

conference play, two of which hail from the state of Tennessee.

The East Tennessee State University Buccaneers lead the Southern Conference with an 11-0 record, while the Austin Peay Governors lead the Ohio Valley Conference with an 11-0 clip.

The Bulldogs of Gonzaga recently appeared in the Associated Press Top 10 after improving their conference record to 8-0. The Bulldogs are 18-2 overall and lead St. Mary's of California by three games in the West Coast Conference.

One unexpected contender close to home is the Mississippi State Bulldogs. The Bulldogs stand at 19-1 overall, with an 8-1 record in the Southeastern Conference, which is one game better than the Kentucky Wildcats.

Rick Pitino's Louisville Wildcats (7-2) are in a three-way tie for first in Conference-USA with the Cincinnati Wildcats and the Memphis Tigers.

Oklahoma State leads the Big-12 with an 8-1 record after defeating Kansas at home on Monday.

Pittsburgh holds one of the best records in the nation at 22-2 while leading the Big East Conference with an 8-1 mark. The

University of Connecticut isn't far behind at 19-4 (7-2), but both teams lost Monday. Pitt was upset 68-67 by Seton Hall in overtime, while the Huskies were defeated 80-74 by Notre Dame at South Bend.

Michigan State, at 12-8 overall, leads the Big 10 conference with a 7-2 record.

Air Force has had a surprising season, leading the Mountain West with a 6-1 conference record.

Vermont is another team with a perfect conference record, 11-0, good enough for first in the America East Conference.

Eastern Washington leads the Big Sky Conference with an 8-1 record, while Birmingham Southern leads the Big South with a 9-2 mark.

Princeton, undefeated in conference play at 4-0, leads the Ivy League, while Manhattan (12-1) leads the Metro-Atlantic Athletic Conference.

After two bad weekends of play in the Sun Belt Conference, MT trails the University of Louisiana-Lafayette by four games.

All in all, this March looks to be an exciting one, with several teams from several conferences who appear able to make some noise in this year's NCAA tournament. ♦

Clarett's court win bad for NFL, others

Sports commentary



Brad Jameson
Staff Columnist

A seemingly solid wall was torn to shreds last week when a federal judge ruled that the NFL must allow suspended Ohio State running back Maurice Clarett to declare for the draft.

Though a big win for Clarett, the decision has the potential to open the doors to the NFL to players of any age straight out of high school who want to skip college and move directly to the pros.

The major issue to consider here is professional football is a lot different than other professional sports. The physical demands are too high for most high school athletes to survive, let alone succeed. No 18-year-old 200-pound half-back out of high school stands a chance against a 280-pound linebacker with 10 years experience in the pros.

"Football is not basketball," New England's Tedy Bruschi said at the Super Bowl. "The college game and the pro game are totally different. The season is twice as long, and the men that play are twice as strong."

However, it's hard to justify outlawing early entry to the NFL when recent high-school grad LeBron James leads the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers in points, assists and steals, and kids too young to get a driver's license are excelling in Major League Soccer and the LPGA.

But the NFL isn't backing down. Commissioner Paul Tagliabue plans to appeal the decision. He believes the current system is fine, referring to all of the foolish decisions of ill-equipped teenagers the rule has hypothetically prevented.

"The proof is in the pudding," Tagliabue told USA Today. "Our system is working."

The current set of rules states a player cannot be drafted until he is out of high school at least three years.

Yet after the first ruling in what has the potential to become an exhausting legal battle, the old set of rules was

out of the league faster than Steve Spurrier.

A new precedent has been set. Age may no longer matter in the NFL.

After Clarett's seemingly imminent victory, a new door will be opened, welcoming all sorts of kids eager to make the big bucks in the big leagues.

By taking his case to court, Clarett has in effect not only challenged the rules of the NFL, but also of common sense. By declaring for the draft, he forever forfeits his scholarship to Ohio State.

Suppose he does get drafted. Then, for whatever reason, suppose he finds himself overwhelmed in training camp (a likely situation, according to experts).

Well, that's it. There are no second chances. He moves on with no NFL, no college degree, nothing. Good luck getting through life with nothing more than a high school diploma.

For the inexperienced, untested player, declaring early for the draft is like blindly spinning a wheel of misfortune.

Clarett, after an impressive 2002 season with the Buckeyes, has raised doubts about his speed after sitting out all of last season in suspension. Gaining 1,200 yards as a freshman is notable, but nothing special. And remember, the NFL features much tougher rush defenses than Big Ten foes Illinois or Iowa have to offer.

No matter how much support Clarett now has from family, friends, and agents (all of whom stand to profit from his entrance into the NFL), once he's drafted, he's on his own. His Heisman Trophy won't count for anything, and he'll no longer have weak conference opponents to rack up yards against.

The NFL is the real thing. The league primarily drafts college football's top players. Simply put, Clarett will be facing a league of full-grown NCAA All-Stars.

Clarett may be confident in his victory now, but he may not feel the same once he collides helmet-to-helmet with Ray Lewis or falls to the ground under all 303 pounds of Warren Sapp.

Think about it, Maurice. ♦

Texas takes over women's No. 1 ranking

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The latest women's college basketball poll released by the Associated Press features a new top-ranked team.

The University of Texas (21-2) is No. 1 with 29 first-place votes. The Lady Longhorns replaced the University of Tennessee (19-2), who fell to No. 3 after losing 81-67 to the University of Connecticut (18-2), who took the second spot.

UConn leads the ESPN/USA Today coaches' poll, with Texas at No. 2 and Tennessee at No. 3.

The Lady Longhorns' No. 1 AP ranking marks the team's

46th top ranking in school history and its first since Dec. 28, 1987.

"I've been feeling for a while this is a good team," Texas head coach Jody Conradt told www.NCAA.com.

Texas is one of four teams that has been No. 1 this season, marking only the second season when four teams were ranked No. 1 since 1975, when the AP women's poll was created.

The Lady Longhorns have defeated the University of Duke and Tennessee and currently have a seven-game winning streak. Duke has the fourth spot in the poll with a record of 18-2 and 1,014 points.

Purdue University (19-2) took No. 5, while Louisiana Tech University (17-2) ranked No. 6.

No. 7 was given to the University of Texas Tech (20-3). Penn State University (18-3) got No. 8.

Kansas State University (17-3) was No. 9, and the University of Minnesota (18-3) took No. 10.

For the Lady Longhorns, their top ranking will make a difference in their team.

"It's got to be a motivating factor for us," Texas guard Jamie Carey told www.NCAA.com. "Wearing No. 1 on our back will create an even more intense list

of opponents. If anything, this team will have to focus more."

This is the third time in five weeks the top spot has changed hands. Duke held the No. 1 ranking for three weeks before falling to Tennessee 72-69 Jan. 24.

In the most recent poll, Texas had 1,154 points, 11 more than Connecticut. Former No. 2 Duke lost to Florida State University 80-74 Feb. 4.

Others receiving votes include: Florida (20), Georgia (19), Baylor (18), Michigan State (17), Louisiana State (16), North Carolina (15), Auburn (14), DePaul (13), Colorado (12), Stanford (11). ♦

Holmes: Junior aims to set records, lead team to SBC title

Continued from 8

pressure put on Holmes is surprisingly self-imposed.

"I think I've done a pretty good job so far," Holmes said. "I feel like I'm not doing the things that I did last year, because that's where all the pressure I put on myself comes from, but I feel that there are other teammates of mine who can score day in and day out. I don't feel like I have to try and go out and score 30 points a game."

Much of her continued success is due in

large part to her attitude. She has tried to be humble, keep her focus and play with heart.

"Patrice takes a lot of pride on and off the court and truly cares about what people's perceptions of her are," Smith said. "She leads the team by her example, she directs with actions and not her words."

With a year and a half to go, Patrice has a lot to look forward to.

"Hopefully I can break a couple of records," Holmes said. "Right now I got a thousand points and can hopefully get a thousand more. I would also like to get an

SBC title or an SBC Tournament Championship."

When considering where Holmes ranks all-time, Smith said without question that Holmes was the best player she has coached in her seven years. Some people around MT say that she is the best to ever play at MT.

As for her plans for the future, Holmes said she hopes to be able to play in the WNBA after graduating. ♦

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2. Every attempt will be made to run your announcement as often as possible, but priority will be given to events with the most immediacy.
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