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SIDELINES



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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Murfreesboro, TN

Powell appeals harassment allegations

Brian Forrester
Staff Reporter

Professor Dennis D. Powell appealed the decision reached by the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action office, which said he had committed sexual harassment against a student, Donna Dukes.

Dukes filed a report on Dec. 4, 1998 with Public Safety and the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action office (EO/AAO) against Powell, professor of the MTSU department of Criminal Justice, alleging sexual misconduct.

According to the report for sexual battery filed with Public Safety, Dukes said Powell had touched her in a sexual manner on several occasions and had otherwise made her feel uncomfortable. The report mentioned that on Nov. 18, 1998, Powell had touched her in a sexual manner and propositioned her. According to the report, Dukes said she told him to leave her alone in response to his alleged advances.

The report mentioned a second occurrence on Nov. 20, 1998. Allegedly, Powell requested Dukes to come into his office.

Once she was present, Powell allegedly dropped a piece of paper and told her to pick it up. Dukes declined Powell's request and left campus.

The Public Safety report mentioned that on Dec. 1, 1998, Powell allegedly grabbed Dukes' buttocks in Deborah Newman's office. Dukes claimed that Powell grabbed her rear as he was exiting the office.

According to the EO/AAO report, Dukes said to Newman, "He grabbed my ass!"

According to the report, "The professor in whose office the alleged incident occurred provided a written statement to Public Safety. She stated that when Powell exited her office the student placed her hand on her hip and glanced toward the door where Powell had exited. The student then turned her head back toward the professor and said 'he

pinched me.'"

Dukes mentioned another incident which occurred Dec. 2, 1998. She said Powell allegedly grabbed her rear and brushed the front of his body against the backside of hers. She said the incident occurred while students were in the Criminal Justice department's reception area taking an exam.

Dukes filed a complaint against Powell on Dec. 4 with the EO/AAO alleging sexual harassment against Powell. The two allegations that Dukes made against Powell were the Dec. 1 and Dec. 2 incidents described in the Public Safety report.

"He flatly denies the allegations. We look forward to having a hearing on this matter."

- Greg Reed, Powell's attorney

EO/AAO conducted an investigation on the allegations Dukes had described. According to a report to James Walker, president of MTSU, from Forrestine Williams with EO/AAO, the conclusion reached after investigations said no evidence was found which supported Dukes' first allegation against Powell.

According to the investigation report, "With regard to the second allegation, Dr. Powell admitted that he slapped the student on her right hip, but that there was no sexual intent. Nor did the student complain at the time."

The EO/AAO report defined sexual harassment as, "The behavior must be sexual in nature or gender-based. In other words, the behavior must have some sort of sexual conno-

tation or occur because of the recipient's being male or female." The report concluded the explanation stating, "The intent of the behavior is generally considered irrelevant; its effect upon the recipient is what counts."

Powell admitted in a written response to the second allegation that he had "slapped the student on the right hip area and said something like 'move woman,'" according to the report from EO/AAO.

Powell said there was no sexual intent or meaning involved. He added, the student did not say anything to him about it at the time, according to the report with EO/AAO.

The report mentioned the "EO/AAO initiated action to insure that the charging party was not in a position or situation where harassment or retaliation would occur, or that she would be adversely impacted for having complained. However, the complainant has not cooperated fully with efforts to accommodate her."

The EO/AAO investigation report included statements from other faculty members and letters from students who had written comments on Powell's actions in the past. Both students commented they had been adversely affected by rejecting Powell's alleged propositions towards them.

In a letter dated Nov. 11, 1996, one student wrote, "I am very disappointed and appalled that this professor is allowed to teach."

She added, "I did not pay my tuition money for college to hear about this professor's drug related experiences nor to be harassed sexually by someone who is supposed to be teaching me about the Criminal Justice System."

The investigation report cited one professor, whose name was not given, that students had complained to him of Powell being very unprofessional in class and using extremely crude language in his teaching.

The professor said the department has a

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MTSU's sexual harassment policies

What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment is defined in the MTSU policies and procedures manual (Policy number I:01:22) as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Sexual harassment can take many forms, but most sexual harassment falls into three categories: verbal, visual and physical.

What are some examples of sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- refusing to hire, promote or grant or deny certain privileges because of acceptance or rejection of sexual advances
- promising a work-related benefit or a grade in return for sexual favors
- suggestive or inappropriate communications, e-mail, notes, letters or other written materials displaying objects or pictures which are sexual in nature that would create hostile or offensive work or living environments
- sexual innuendoes, comments and remarks about a person's clothing, body or activities
- suggestive or insulting sounds
- whistling in a suggestive manner
- humor and jokes about sex that denigrate men or women
- implied or overt sexual threats
- suggestive or obscene gestures
- patting, pinching and other inappropriate touching
- unnecessary touching or brushing against the body
- attempted or actual kissing or fondling
- coerced sexual intercourse

What should I do if I am the victim of sexual harassment?

Any student, applicant for employment or enrollment or employee who believes he or she has been subjected to harassment at MTSU should present the charge to the designated Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action officer (if the person harassing is a faculty or staff member) or Student Affairs officer (if the person

See POLICIES, page 3

Look who's hiding



Staff photo by Derrick Wilson

"Lightning" taunts Tennessee State University fans Thursday night while the men and women's basketball teams claimed victories.

Women in Power Conference to be held on campus this week

Chris Crockett
Staff Reporter

The Women in Power Conference will be held at Middle Tennessee State University from Feb. 18 through the 20.

The event will include panel discussions, keynote speakers, feminist film sessions, artistic performances, paper presentations on academic issues affecting women and the Women's Music Festival. Director of MTSU's Women's Studies Jackie Eller says the event will draw men and women from all over the country who wish to participate in this "extraordinary experience."

The Women in Power Conference

begins with the Rock for Choice: Women's Music Festival, an event that, according to Eller, was initially started to "celebrate female musical and vocal talents." Proceeds from the Rock for Choice Concert will benefit programs or clinics supporting women's rights to choose an abortion. Musical guests include: Annie Sellick, Natalie Aulvin, Janet McLaglin, Doria Roberts and Angela Modder, Heather Roberts and Michelle Malone.

The concert will begin Feb. 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. Tickets will be on sale only at the door for \$8.00 a person or \$5.00 for MTSU students, faculty and staff with a valid MTSU ID, as well as for Women and Power Conference registrants.

The conference will formally begin on Feb. 19 at 8:30 a.m. in the Keathley University Center. Papers and presentations will last until 10:00 a.m. with several feminist films being presented at the KUC Theater shortly after. Later that afternoon, Elaine Brown, the first and only woman leader of the Black Panther Party, will speak and that evening at 7:30 p.m. Louise Barth, a feminist playwright, will perform at the Ewing Street Playhouse. The day will conclude with a reception being held for conference participants in the Garden Plaza Hotel at 9:00 p.m.

Saturday's program will include more papers, films and panel discussions. In

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Aramark bids to keep food service contract with MTSU for five years

Mike Barton
Staff Reporter

Aramark, the company who handles all of the university's food service needs, is bidding for a new contract to service the university for the next five years.

The university's food service coordinator for over twenty years, Aramark has reached the last few months of its existing contract and must outbid about fifteen other companies to stay at MTSU, according to Joe Hugh, director of Purchasing.

The university has sent out proposal forms to prospective bidders for the food service contract, which are due back March 17.

"This provides an opportunity for vendors to come in and view the facilities and send in their bids," Hugh said.

After they view the facilities, these prospective vendors then fill out their proposal forms and suggest how they would benefit the university in specific areas of its food service needs.

The different areas that comprise the form include cost, management, experience, long and short range planning, personnel qualities, creativity ideas and flexibility.

After the deadline for the proposal forms, the university will evaluate the responses of the candidates and chose the most qualified vendor.

The vendor awarded the contract will then be responsible for the management of all of the university's cafeterias and on-campus food catering.

Aramark, whose contract expires in June, hopes to outbid the rest of the prospective vendors and continue servicing the university under the new contract, said Dave Wallace, director of Food Services.

According to Wallace, Aramark is in an advantageous position over its competitors in areas of long-range improvement plans, experience and marketability.

"All of the things we will be addressing in our proposal

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SPORTS

Five signees to the Lady Raider soccer program prepare for the Fall 1999 season.
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FEATURES

Controversy sparks over the possible expansion of the Stones River National Battlefield. See page 6.

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ON CAMPUS

NATIONAL NEWS

WORLD NEWS

LOOKING AHEAD

FEB 16
Nations Bank, MTSU College of Business and the Department of Business Education, Marketing and Office Management will sponsor a seminar on grammar and formatting. The seminar will be held in the BAS 334 from 2 to 4 p.m. and will be instructed by Nancy Fann. The seminar will also be offered on Feb. 17 in the BAS 130A from 2 to 4 p.m.

FEB 18
Student Publications Committee meeting will be held at 3:15 p.m. in the KUC 210. For more information call John DiVincenzo at 904-8251 (campus).

Hoot Gibson, past commander of several shuttle missions, will speak to students about "Applied Physics, Orbital Dynamics and Rocketry." The lecture will be held in BAS S128 at 4:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information call Janet McGee at 904-8495.

MTTV will hold an "Old School Dance Party" from 8 p.m. to midnight in the LRC studio B. For more information, contact Bryan Dihigo at 898-3215.

ON GOING
Presbyterian Student Fellowship will host dinner and discussion on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. located at the Fellowship House on 615 N Tennessee Blvd following the study there will be wallyball at 9 p.m. at the Rec Center. For more information call Rich Zeigler at 893-1787 or Andrew Lee at 867-7370.

Raider Victory Fellowship will have weekly meetings and Bible sessions on Tuesdays and Bible sessions on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Corlew Hall room 719. They will meet on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Cummings Hall lobby and at 8 p.m. at Felder Hall room 208. Contact Ricky Walters at 317-4541.

Dragon's Guard School of Sword Fighting and Reenactment teaches swordfighting techniques and swordplay. The school meets for practice at 7 p.m. at Middle Tennessee Christian School gymnasium on Tuesdays and Fridays. For more information contact Hunter Jones at 896-4596 or e-mail at shadowh@bellsouth.net.

MTSU Fencing Club will have practices every Monday at 8:30 p.m. till 10:30 p.m. in the Aerobics Room located in the Rec Center. The practices are geared to students of all skill levels. Contact Michael "Hunter" Jones at 896-4596 or e-mail at shadowh@bellsouth.net.

The Kingwood Heights Church of Christ College Class will host monthly devotions every second Thursday at 6:30. Kingwood Heights Church is located at 115 East MTCS Road. Contact Chuck Mullins at 898-1086 or Alan Welken at 890-0940 for more information.

The Student Pagan Organization will have meetings Monday at 8 p.m. The meetings will take place on the 2nd floor of the KUC in the lounge area. For more information contact John Bryan at 898-3734.

The MTSU women's rugby team will have practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 till 7:30 p.m. The practices will be held at the Rec Center or the intramural fields if the weather is permitting. Contact Shannon Bustillos at 867-3592 or e-mail at sib2a@mtsu.edu.

Raider Victory Fellowship will hold Sunday services at 10 a.m. in the Murphy Center. Contact Ricky Walters at 907-4079 for more information.

Lambda Organization meetings will be on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in room S316 of the Business Aerospace building. For more

information go to www.mtsu.edu/~mtLambda.

Attention May Graduates!
Graduating seniors will need to complete a 10 minute survey at the Graduation Fair that will be held Feb 15-19 in the Alumni Center. The times are as follows: Feb 15, 10-6 p.m./ Feb 16, 10-6 p.m./ Feb 17, 10-6 p.m./ Feb 18, 10-3 p.m./ Feb 19, 10-3 p.m. Surveys need to be completed at the Institutional Research table. For more information call Ruth Watson at 898-2854.

Campus Crusade for Christ will meet on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in KUC room 322. If interested contact Courtney Rushlow at 849-7899 for more information.

The "Right to Life" group of Tennessee will hold an outdoor revival concert in the KUC courtyard on March 5, 6. They are looking for music groups, religious organizations, gospel singers, etc. Contact Kevin Fisher at faco019@frank.mtsu.edu or mail him at Box 6003.

Homecoming Director applications are now available in the SGA office located in the KUC room 208. The applications are due on Monday, Feb 22. Contact Maggie Prugh at 904-8418 for more information.

Alternative Spring Break applications are available in the KUC 306. The application deadline is Feb 12. The trip is going to Franklin, NC on March 14-18. The cost is \$100. For more information call Maggie Prugh at 904-8418.

"Up Till Dawn" is a fundraising event benefiting St. Jude's Hospital. Committee applications are due on Feb 9. They may be turned in at the KUC 306. Contact Office of Student Organizations and Community Service for more information at 904-8418.

Union local ratifies contract with Detroit Newspapers

DETROIT (AP) — Members of one of the six union locals that struck the city's daily newspapers for 19 months approved a contract agreement on Sunday.

The deal covers 98 members of International Typographers Union Local 18, said Shawn Ellis, spokesman for the Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions.

The agreement is the first reached between the newspapers and one of the formerly striking unions since the walkout which began in 1995. Members of the local create ads and prepare advertising and news materials for publication.

Susie Ellwood, vice president of market development for Detroit Newspapers Inc., said the contract is a 10-year agreement that includes an increase in pension contributions, a contractual four-day work week, a 5 percent increase in midnight shift premium and a 19.5 percent increase in wages over the terms of the contract, or 2 percent a year.

Six union locals representing about 2,500 workers walked out in July 1995 against the Detroit Free Press, The Detroit News and Detroit Newspapers, which runs the papers' business and production operations under a joint operating agreement.

"The unions made an unconditional offer to return to their jobs and end the walkout Feb. 14, 1997. The newspapers accepted the offer five days later."

Amid racial tensions, high school cancels ethnic festivities

INGLEWOOD, Ca. (AP) — A high school is scrapping celebrations of Black History Month and Cinco de Mayo, worried that the ethnic celebrations will spark ethnic violence.

Inglewood High School, 10 miles south of downtown Los Angeles, has been the site of tensions between black and Hispanic students. The campus was forced to close for a day last May after a riot broke out and dozens of police were called in.

A task force found that the fight in May began, in part, because Hispanic students who comprise about half the school population felt slighted. They were angry that a month was set aside to honor black history but only a day to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

Instead of celebrating Black History Month and Cinco de Mayo, Principal Lowell Winston has told teachers to follow a "multicultural education approach" throughout the school year.

"Let's talk about all cultures and contributions all the time," Winston said. "This school has had racial problems that are unique ... the old ways didn't work."

February is marked by many schools around the country as Black History Month. May 5 is a national holiday in Mexico commemorating an 1862 battle in which Mexico defeated French occupation troops southeast of Mexico City.

POWER

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addition at noon Ellen Wolfe, an instructor of cultural anthropology at Tennessee Technological University, will discuss her work "A Personal Journey: Hiking the Appalachian Trail." Also at noon, novelist Dorothy Shaw will discuss her book, "Lissie: Women's History to Women's Fiction." Finally at 1:30 p.m., Ninotchka Rosea, author and founder of the GABRIELLA Network, a Philippine-United States women's organization working against the trafficking of women, will speak in the

Lockerbie bombing suspects hard to get, harder to convict

LONDON (AP) — Pressured to send two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner to face trial before Scottish judges, Libya's Col. Moammar Gadhafi may be heading for a double victory: an end to U.N. sanctions and an acquittal of the suspects.

Legal experts believe it will be tough to prove that the men — alleged intelligence agents who worked for Libyan Arab Airlines in Malta — actually built and planted the radio bomb that blew up Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. A total of 270 people, including 198 Americans, were killed.

Saudi Arabian diplomats told U.N. officials Friday in New York that Libya — under U.N. sanctions for refusing to extradite the suspects — has agreed to bring Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah to The Netherlands, where a Scottish panel of judges will sit in a special court.

Scottish legal experts, speaking on condition of anonymity because of links to the case, said there is little chance of convicting the Libyans either of murder or conspiracy to murder.

The best chance, they said, was under a 1982 British act which makes it an offense to endanger the safety of an aircraft and carries a maximum of life imprisonment.

Rushdie will be killed, says Iranian foundation head

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — On the 10th anniversary of the edict against British writer Salman Rushdie, an Iranian foundation that has put a price on his head said Sunday that it remained valid and would be carried out.

"The idea of Rushdie's annihilation is still very much alive and seeks only the right moment," Ayatollah Hassan Sanie'i said in a statement published in the hard-line Jomhuri Islami daily.

"There are many people in different countries who are ready to carry out this verdict. Surely, this verdict will be implemented one day."

Sanie'i's Khorad Foundation, a semi-official charity organization, has offered a \$2.8 million reward to anyone who kills Rushdie.

Article 19, a London-based anti-censorship group, downplayed Sanie'i's remarks.

"This ayatollah is on the margins in Iran. He is just trying to make political capital out of it domestically," said spokeswoman Carmel Bedford.

Ten years ago Sunday, the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a "fatwa," or Islamic edict, proclaiming that Rushdie was an apostate and should be killed.

Khomeini said the writer had insulted Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

The Farsi-language Jomhuri Islami on Sunday published a 16-page supplement to mark the anniversary.

To submit an announcement for On Campus, submit information in person at James Union Building Room 310, mail information to campus box 42 or fax information to 904-8487. Due to space constraints, priority will be given to submissions with earlier deadlines.

ARAMARK

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include a significant number of changes in many areas, especially meal plans and our operations in the cafeterias," Wallace said.

The most valuable commodity Aramark has to offer the university, according to Wallace, is its people and their connection to the university.

"We have been here since 1976. Our people have been here for twenty years and are close to the customers already. We know MTSU's mission better than other companies."

Wallace said he also feels that Aramark can benefit the university in its ability to evaluate the students needs and wants and deliver these practically.

"We look at what is hot in the marketplace and the desires of our customers and try to make a good marriage."

Aramark is able to do this because of its reliance on customer feedback, Wallace said.

"Food service on campus is a reflection of what the students are asking for because we ask them. We have been soliciting the feedback of our customers more and more frequently. We just feel it is the right thing to do."

Wallace said the most apparent example of this is the renovation of Woodmore cafeteria and its inclusion of a Starbucks and a Burger King.

Aramark wishes to continue to advance the university's food service quality in this manner. "We enjoy being here and look forward to servicing the university for a long time."

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SIDELINES

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SGA accepting fall officer applications

Stacie Odeneal
Staff Reporter

So, you're frustrated with campus. You see problems that aren't being fixed and you spend a lot of time griping about changes you know simply must be made. The opportunity you've been waiting for is here.

It's election time once again. Students have the opportunity to elect the President, Speaker of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Election Commissioner and Senators from their respective colleges.

The Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences and Education get five senators. Students in the College of Business or Mass Comm can elect four senators each. The College of Liberal Arts, Graduate Studies, and those undecided can

elect up to three senators.

Petitions for Student Government elections have been available since Feb. 8 and party registration begins Feb. 15. The deadline to register both your party and your petition is Feb. 22. March 1, candidates will be announced. The big days are March 8 and 9, when you can elect your representative in campus politics.

The present Student Government is busy, though. The Senate met Wednesday, but was unable to discuss any legislation, including the two resolutions passed by the House Monday, because there were not enough Senators to compose a quorum. One of the two House resolutions addressed the repainting of some campus crosswalks. The meeting was rescheduled for this Wednesday. ■

POLICIES

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harassing is a student). If you have a complaint, it is requested that it is submitted to the appropriate officer in writing. However, the claims will still be investigated if they are not made in writing or they are made anonymously or by

a third party. The allegation should include the name of the person accused of harassment, the detailed actions of that person including dates, locations and times of the incident(s), witnesses, people with whom you discussed the incident(s), how you would like the matter resolved and the effect the harassment has had on you. ■

POWELL

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reputation for students being sexually harassed. He went on to say he does not like the idea of being part of a department with such a reputation, according to the report from EO/AAO.

Matt Moore, who had Powell for three classes and as an advisor briefly, said that Powell tells students who might be offended they should drop his class. He went on to add that he does not believe the allegations brought against his former teacher.

Powell was contacted Thursday at his home.

"I vigorously deny it," he said, "If there is any merit with these charges, you must contact my attorney."

Doug Williams, director of News and Public Affairs, said the

EO/AAO announced on Jan. 4 that they agreed with the student that he had committed one of the alleged complaints filed by Dukes.

"The professor has the right to appeal the decision. Which he did," Williams said.

Powell's attorney, Greg Reed, commented about his client's attitude toward the appeal with EO/AAO, saying, "He flatly denies the allegations. We look forward to having a hearing on this matter."

Since Powell has appealed the decision by EO/AAO, he has the right to a hearing with an appeals committee. The committee is comprised of three tenured faculty members, two administration staff members and two students.

The appeals committee will review the case and can call for witnesses in behalf of the complainant and the defendant. The committee will make a

Five inducted to MTSU Insurance Hall of Fame

Staff Reports

Five insurance professionals were inducted into the Middle Tennessee State University Insurance Hall of Fame by a 12-member committee of their peers.

Chaired by John Major, president of the First Insurance Group of Lebanon, the selection committee reviewed a large number of nominations and narrowed them down to five honorees: Tommy T. Martin, namesake of MTSU's Martin Chair of Insurance and formerly of Mutual of New York; Joe Lancaster of Farm Bureau in Columbia; Jack Turner of Turner and Associates in Clarksville; Bob Musto of National Life and Accident; and Jim Alexander of Insurers of Tennessee in Nashville.

The foundation for the establishment of the university's Insurance Hall of Fame was laid when MTSU's Tommy Martin Chair of

Insurance was given a gift of \$10,000 in 1997, in honor of a "giant in the insurance business."

The donation was presented to Bob Musto of the former National Life and Accident Insurance Company by his son Bob Musto, Jr.

The elder Musto served as vice president of the company and turned the sales team into one of the best sales forces in the nation.

His son served as regional sales manager.

Martin Chair holder, Ken Hollman, told insurance professions at a luncheon that efforts are underway to establish MTSU's Tennessee Insurance Hall of Fame as the sole official entity of its kind in the state.

Ken Bowles, Bob Gayle, Betty Hart, Francis Jernigan, Dick Hendrick, Tom McNeil, Kirkie Lewis, Jack Sharber, Raymond Moran and Millicent Workman were other members of the Hall of Fame selection committee. ■

recommendation to the university administration based on their findings after the appeals process.

Williams said there have not been any other reports concerning Powell filed with EO/AAO prior to this instance. Other students have written complaints about Powell to the university on other occasions, though, based on the investigation report with the EO/AAO.

"During the course of the investigation, this office became aware of other alleged incidents in which two students claimed that Dr. Powell had asked them for dates," according to the EO/AAO report.

One student alleged to have been sexually propositioned by Powell in 1990. She claimed the failing grade she received was as a result from rejection of his advances. A different student claimed some of her course credits

would not transfer to the university because she had rejected Powell's alleged advances, according to the report from EO/AAO.

The investigation concluded the EO/AAO office could not find evidence to support the first allegation against Powell by Dukes. The EO/AAO recommended that Powell be advised "of his right to either an institutional hearing or a hearing through the Tennessee Uniform Administrative Procedure Act."

The investigation report added that Drs. Lee, Bonner and Haskew determine what action should be taken to ensure faculty members in the department of Criminal Justice are not committing sexual harassment.

Dukes was unavailable for comment after attempts were made by phone and e-mail. ■

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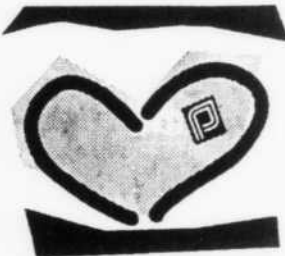
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Sims speaks out



Photo by Barry Gilley

Shirley Sims of Fisk University Race Relations Institute spoke on the subject of "Providing Space for African-American Women" at the Race and Gender Lecture Series Tuesday, February 10 in JUB Dining Room C.



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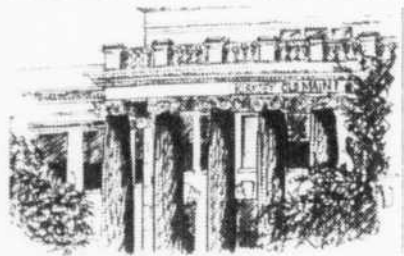
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OPINIONS

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

—Thomas Jefferson

Murfreesboro, TN

Editorial

Make harassment verdicts public

If a professor currently is found guilty of sexually harassing a student on campus, the results of the hearing and appeal are known only to select university officials, the professor and the student involved.

A professor could have multiple complaints filed against him or her, and no one will ever know — unless one party makes the verdict public.

The result likely will be tucked away in a filing cabinet somewhere, and never mentioned again.

A student enrolling in the professor's class the following semester won't know he or she was accused of touching a student inappropriately or saying vulgar things to offend them unless they learn by word of mouth.

And if the same thing happens to that student that semester, the student in the professor's next class will never know, either.

It should not be like this. A student signing up for a class should know if he or she is entering a potentially hostile environment.

Professors found guilty of sexual harassment should not be protected by the university. The current system is set up so that people don't know when a professor is charged with or found guilty of sexual harassment. And nobody finds out if the instructor isn't punished according to the crime.

A professor found guilty of harassment should not be protected.

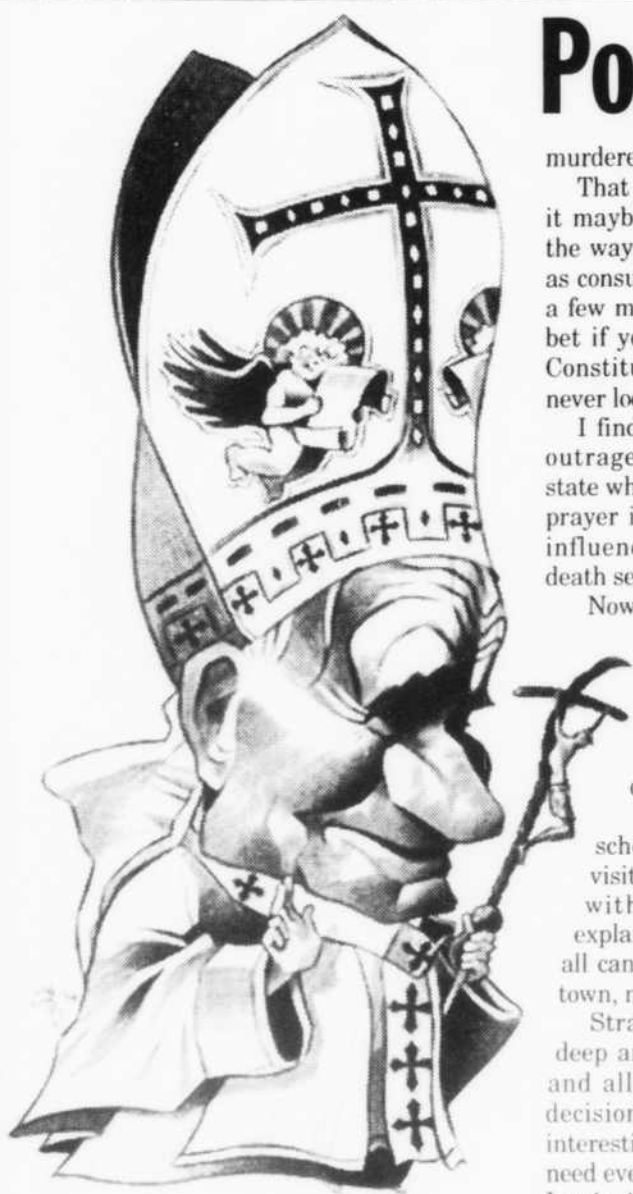
It doesn't matter who the professor is. If they are found guilty, their names should be made public.

A student can't find out whether their professor has been found guilty of harassing one, five or even 10 students. Turn the situation around.

A student — not the university — should have the right to decide to enter an environment that might not be safe.

Yes, it tarnishes the university's precious reputation to broadcast that a professor is guilty of harassing students. But it embarrasses the university more if people know that a professor has multiple complaints against him or her and nothing ever was done about the situation.

The only reason the public is aware of this professor's alleged behavior is that his accuser was brave enough to file the complaints and face the scrutiny that comes with making these charges public. ■



Brendan Rush
Louisiana State University

While in St. Louis, Pope John Paul II, leader of the Roman Catholic faith, assisted in the staying of an execution for a man who had killed three people.

Gov. Mel Carnahan honored the pope's request and chose to commute convicted

Pope should not rule U.S. government

murderer Darrell Mease's death sentence.

That pope, what a guy. While he was at it maybe, he should have helped rewrite the way our judicial system works as well as consult with the U.S. Congress and add a few more articles to the Bill of Rights. I bet if you gave him a month or two the Constitution of the United States would never look so good.

I find it strange that there is appalled outrage over separation of church and state whenever someone even speaks about prayer in public school, but the pope can influence and change the outcome of a death sentence.

Now the pope seems to be a nice man who means well, but what jurisdiction does he have over the state of Missouri?

As it stands now, Darrell Mease's death sentence has been changed to life without parole.

Originally his execution was scheduled for the week of the pope's visit and then postponed to Feb. 10th with no explanation. Was an explanation necessary? Here is a rule we all can live by, "When the pope comes to town, no execution."

Strangely, Carnahan said it was his deep and abiding respect for the pontiff and all he represents that swayed his decision to grant the request. What an interesting way to say, "I'm a Baptist and I need every Catholic vote I can get out of St. Louis if I ever want to be a senator someday." Both statements sound so similar.

Carnahan followed this statement by saying he still believes in capital punishment and said he does not plan to look differently at other death penalty cases.

I am not sure I understand this but it seems like everyone else on death row

picked the wrong week.

Meanwhile, Darrell Mease becomes a confined ward of the state until he dies of natural causes. This is the old kill-three-people-eat-free punishment that the state of Missouri enforces with great vigor.

From now on, this will certainly get across the point that we mean business to anyone who kills three people.

I am sure that after some discussion, the pope would defend his actions by using the "thou shall not kill" argument from the Old Testament.

Unfortunately, the Catholic Church and other Christian groups do not have an answer for the, "but what if I do kill" scenario.

This leaves the commandment sounding more like: "Thou shall not kill. I really mean it. Hey, what did I tell you? I am not kidding, no killing! Oh come on, stop it!"

In addition, what is the governor thinking? Would he do the same thing for the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Dali Lama or any other leader of an organized religion? There is nothing like that Christian forgiveness, unless of course you are not Christian.

I have a feeling that if the pope had gone to visit Cleveland that Darrell Mease's sentence would not have changed.

While I witnessed the laws of religion sway the laws of the land I could not help but wonder if the Roman Catholic Church would consider some criticism of their own list of rules and regulations?

Try to make a case for women in the priesthood with the Pope and see how far it will get you. You can argue the point that only women stayed by Christ's side while he was dying while the men were off hiding.

Unfortunately, such acts of faith and loyalty do not constitute a place of leadership within the hallowed walls of the

church.

Or how about addressing the Vatican's annual plea to feed the hungry and shelter the poor in third world countries.

Try asking the Vatican to sell a few paintings to help foot the bill in their African and Asian missions instead of asking middle and lower class Catholic families in the United States to fill a second and sometimes third collection plate each week.

I think you may receive the cold shoulder from the Pontiff regarding matters such as these.

I wonder how the Pope feels about swearing to tell the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Here is something you may think he could really address since it actually makes mentions of something he is familiar. I do not remember him commenting on this.

Instead he influenced the hand of a vote hungry governor instead of comforting the relatives and friends of three victims. Of course, we all know that this would not be news nor would it attract anyone's attention.

As for Mel Carnahan, there have been 26 executions carried out during his two terms in office as the governor of Missouri, Darrell Mease will not be one of them, but there are 87 others scheduled.

I do not think the pope will be here for those.

For you the citizen of Missouri or anywhere else in this country, you may not agree with capital punishment but it is the law in parts of this country.

There is something to be said for the fairness of consistency.

Unfortunately, history, past and present, has shown us that these two things do not exist in religion or government. ■

Women have it easy; shaving hurts

Sam Goldberg
Cornell University

Every so often I shave. It's pretty much an unavoidable thing, like death, taxes, comparing "unavoidable" to "death and taxes," lip-synching national anthems and half-time shows so unspectacular they make the blind want to beat each other silly with frozen loafs of Wonderbread — Stevie Wonderbread.

Forget astronomy — sluffing off facial hair is the true cosmological constant. Ninety-nine percent of all men who have ever lived have had to spend time shearing their faces. Word is, we're still waiting on Dan Quayle.

Using sophisticated mathematical theorems, experts have calculated that if the average male spends five minutes per day face-scrapping from age 18 to 72, he will have spent 68 days of his life just shaving. Round that up to an even three months, lest we forget the time it takes for the nicks to stop bleeding. (Tack on two weeks each June if you're a New York basketball fan.)

Nearly every male will tell you about the gross feelings of inadequacy he had when that first kid in his grade was able to grow a sparsely-fuzzed trailer park 'stache. Of course, by tenth grade, that same kid ended up having to keep a razor and some Barbisol in his locker so that he could shave his face at lunch and his back after fourth period. So I guess it all evens out — even if he did marry Kim Bassinger.

Beards are not grown on purpose. Whiskers are the result of puberty and weeks of laziness. Think about it. Who looks better with a beard? Nobody.

Think some more. When's the last time

somebody you know with a beard hooked up? Exactly.

Truth is, most of us would flick the facial-hair switch to "off" if it were possible. Certainly, men would spare women the irritation by barbering our faces everyday... if it weren't for the unfortunate fact that a day or two of stubble enhances sex appeal.

Cases-in-point: George Michael and Don Johnson.

I remember back in '85 when Officer Crockett and the driving force behind Wham!'s catchy melodies were the stubbly kings of cool. Though I was never allowed to actually watch Miami Vice, and thought "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" was a song about remembering to go potty before bedtime, I do remember thinking that when I was old enough to shave, I wouldn't.

At least women have it easy. Haven't shaved your legs in three, four weeks? Slip on a pair of pantyhose. But it's not like Leggs makes facehose for men. I know this because Microsoft Word has drawn a squiggly red line under "facehose," signifying that like the tooth fairy, Michael Jackson's sex drive and the Kansas City Royals, "facehose" don't really exist. Oh well.

Besides being an under-appreciated art-form, shaving is the second most ritualistic activity known to mankind, behind only moving your car to the opposite side of the street. First the cheeks are scraped. Then the sideburns fashioned. Then: I wonder how I'd look with a fu Manchu? Then: Wow, my ears are hairy. Followed by: "\$#@% earlobes!"

Anyway, it's about time to wrap this column up and go shave myself. My beard's making me feel just a little too much like Dom Deluise. Or is that my body odor? ■



From the mailbox

After reading the article in the 2/11 edition of the Sidelines, I feel the need to clarify a few points about the position of Student Government Association homecoming director.

First of all, a new homecoming director is chosen every year. This year, the SGA president is choosing the director earlier so the committee can go ahead and begin planning for Homecoming 1999.

Second, the complaints about Homecoming in the past have been aimed at the activities, not the director. Many people feel that the Homecoming activities have been limited to a small population of MTSU students as opposed to the entire MTSU community.

I am afraid the article implied that people were unhappy with the organizers of last year's event, which was not the case. My comments to the

Sidelines were designed to show students that this is their chance to become a positive force for change, not to point out weaknesses in last year's or any other Homecoming.

This year's director will assist in forming a committee that will try to design programs and activities that will appeal to all MTSU student organizations as well as individual students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Certainly, there will still be areas for improvement even with the assistance of a committee, but the SGA is working hard to involve a variety of students in the planning of these events so as to increase participation.

Anyone who wants to play a part in this year's Homecoming preparations is encouraged to visit the SGA office for more information.

Maggie Prugh,
Homecoming adviser



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"Sidelines" is the non-profit, editorially independent student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is published every Wednesday during June and July and on Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. FLASH!, the entertainment magazine, is published every Wednesday during the Fall & Spring semester. Opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily "Sidelines" or the university.



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6 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

Tax break on college tuition causing confusion

Pam Kelley
Knight-Ridder News Services

The nation's new tuition tax credits sound reasonably straightforward: You pay for a college education for yourself or your kid, and you get to take as much as \$1,500 off your income tax.

But the execution of this idea is proving to be a mess.

In the Carolinas and across the nation, campuses have spent thousands of dollars to gather required information and mail out new tax documents, called "tuition payment statements," to their students.

Despite the name, statements from many campuses - including UNC Chapel Hill and Central Piedmont Community College - include absolutely no information about tuition payments.

Now, many campuses are fielding questions from puzzled students and parents.

"When I got it, I had no idea what it meant," says Marlene Sanges of Albemarle, whose son Thane is a first-year student at UNC.

Campus officials predict queries will snowball as April 15 approaches.

"(Callers are) not angry at all. They're just totally confused," says Angie Davis, UNC Chapel Hill's director of student accounts and university receivables.

Colleges blame the government for this bizarre situation. When Congress approved the Hope Credit and Lifetime Learning Credit in 1997, it told colleges to report to the Internal Revenue Service and to each student how much that student has paid in tuition and qualified expenses.

But colleges pleaded for more time to accomplish the task, which requires some to gather information they haven't collected before. College officials say the IRS also has been slow to clarify what costs are eligible for the tax credit.

In the end, the government told colleges they must send out the tuition statements in 1999 and 2000, but they don't have to include actual tuition information until 2001.

So most information on the tax documents is stuff students already know: their own name, address and Social Security number, plus the school's name and address. The forms also note whether a student has been enrolled at least half time or is a graduate student.

At UNC, callers typically point out that their Form 1098-T has no dollar amount on it.

"Our response back is we were not required to furnish it," Davis says. "And our reason is the (federal) rules are so vague we do not know the amount to put on there."

The new tax credits offer major breaks to as many as 20 million Americans who paid college tuition and fees in 1998, and some experts predict they'll become among the most commonly claimed tax benefits.

While colleges weren't required to tell students how much they've paid this past year, many schools, including N.C. State University in Raleigh and Winthrop University in Rock Hill, sent out summaries of payments with the federal documents.

Those summaries are meant to help taxpayers figure out what they can deduct as a tax credit.

"We knew parents were going to need the information," says Craig Moore, director of N.C. State's university cashiers office. "And we also wanted to keep the number of phone calls (from parents) at a minimum."

At Winthrop, students received summaries of everything they paid in 1998, including many charges, such as room and board, that aren't deductible.

"It's the students' responsibility to determine what to include," says J.P. McKee, Winthrop's vice president for finance and business.

Some campuses, including UNC, had hoped to send out financial information, but weren't able to pull together reliable data in time. And other campuses, such as CPCC, decided to send only what was required.

"We're going to tell (students) to refer to their receipts," CPCC controller Michael Moss says. CPCC spent about \$11,500 in postage alone to send out tax documents without financial information.

At Chapel Hill, officials have told students to go to a Web page on the Internet. By using an identification number, students can access summaries of their accounts for 1998.

Students or parents without Internet access can call Chapel Hill and request a copy of the accounts.

UNC Charlotte, meanwhile, may be among a small minority of colleges this year that actually provided tuition information on students' tax statements.

See TAX, page 7

Expanding a piece of history



One of the many historical recreations that has taken place on the Stones River National Battlefield.

Photo provided

Addition to Stones River National Battlefield has both support and opposition

Vickie Gibson
Staff Reporter

Expansion of the Stones River National Battlefield, as proposed in the final general management plan just released by the National Park Service, would preserve much more of the actual site of the historic Civil War battle.

The plan has many supporters, both locally and nationally, among history and Civil War buffs. Both Jim Huhta, director of MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation, and Jim Williams, assistant history professor at MTSU, wrote letters in support of the expansion plan in 1997 when the plan was first proposed.

"As a historian, I believe that this alternative will best protect the remaining unspoiled area of the original battlefield," Williams wrote. "It also presents a stunningly different interpretive plan that will radically change the visitor experience and the NPS's success in conveying the events, the meaning, and the significance of the Battle of Stones River."

Williams also stated that while the expansion would protect battlefield land from development, it would also make the park a more useful resource for those who teach American history and protect the natural resources such as the cedar

glade habitat and endangered and threatened species that live on and near the battlefield. He also offered support for the plan to link the park with the Stones River Greenway.

Huhta stated his support for the expansion and criticized earlier studies which reduced the priority for the battlefield and downplayed the threat of surrounding development's encroachment.

While Huhta criticized the "less effective and more bureaucratic" manner by which the Park Service handles land acquisitions, he noted the need to preserve the historic land. He cited "...the availability, in an intact condition, the lands from Day 2 of the Battle of Stones River" as one reason for speeding up the process of expanding the park's boundaries.

Stones River National Battlefield Superintendent Mary Ann Peckham said the purpose of seeking an expansion of the boundaries now is to protect the undeveloped portion of the battlefield and identify the land where the park hopes to eventually occupy.

"We're not in a hurry to purchase the land," she said. "We're just trying to save the resources before they are no longer there."

Peckham said a large portion of the land in the proposed expansion area remains much as it did in the 1860s, untouched by commercial or

industrial development.

She acknowledges the lengthy process of acquiring ownership of the land because of budget restraints, but stresses that the owners of family farms in the area would see no immediate effect from inclusion within the park's boundaries.

Supporters of expanding the boundaries say many of the owners of farms in the area could live out their lives on their land without any intrusion from the future park plans. The main change, they say, would come in halting the commercial development of the area which would forever alter the historic land.

But the expansion plan also has many opponents, mostly locally, among property owners, real estate professionals and local government officials who want the desired battlefield land to become the next commercial growth corridor in fast-growing Murfreesboro.

City and county officials are concerned about the effect of the expansion plan upon development plans already underway. Murfreesboro has already invested in a new sewer line along Thompson Lane in anticipation of expected development in the area. The city and county have joined together in plans for a commerce center which would be located within the proposed new boundaries of the battlefield.

Currently, the park consists of

about 570 acres, which the Park Service now owns, of the nearly 4,000-acre battlefield. That does not include all of the approximately 712 acres in the current approved boundary. About 122 acres is privately-owned land and 20 acres is owned by the city or county, according to latest figures.

Land purchases within the current boundary is continuing as federal funds become available, according to Peckham.

The proposed boundary expansion would add about 760 acres to bring 1,471 acres within the park boundary. This would still be far less than the original 4,000 acres over which the Battle of Stones River took place from Dec. 31, 1862 to Jan. 2, 1863.

Congressional authorization is required for expansion of the park's boundaries. While Congress studies what to do, officials at Stones River National Battlefield will continue to answer questions and address concerns from area residents and others interested in the park's future.

"We'll be involved in education as to what this plan really means," said Peckham. She said park officials hope to address the concerns of the property owners and let them know they would retain all legal rights to their property until purchased by the Park Service. ■

Study finds similarity in ethics of MBA students, prison inmates

College Press Exchange.

Companies looking for a few good hires may want to recruit from local prisons before heading over to local business schools, a new study suggests.

It's not that MBA students are sleaze-balls, it's just that convicted felons enrolled in college courses are more honorable and ethical than you might expect, the study's authors said.

Marketing professors James Stearns of Miami University and Shaheen Borna of Ball State University interviewed 300 inmates attending higher education programs at three minimum-security prisons in the Midwest. They compared the responses with those given by MBA students at 11 business schools.

Stearns and Borna found that when faced with tough business decisions the prisoners showed just as much integrity as the MBA students - and in some cases even more.

Among other specific findings:

* Inmates were more likely to follow orders in ethically difficult situations, regardless of whether the outcome would be positive or negative.

* Inmates were less likely than business school students to "pirate" workers with specific, valuable skills from competing companies.

* Inmates were more interested in customer service than MBA students, who tended to focus more on pleasing stockholders.

The professors said they hope their findings will encourage more business owners to give former prisoners a chance in the workplace.

"The perception is that convicted felons are unemployable because they adhere to a different set of values," Stearns told The Chronicle of Higher Education. "Yet, they must have employment to remain viable in society. This research shows their values are not that much different. And, in some situations, their values are more laudable." ■

Smokers get help quitting

Staff Reports

According to The Journal of the American Medical Association, smoking among college students has increased more than 28% since 1993. The good news, however, is that half of all college smokers have tried to quit. Beginning Feb. 16, students, faculty and staff who want to stop smoking will have an opportunity to attend a seven-week smoking cessation program.

The program is sponsored by the June Anderson Women's Center, the department of Human Resource Services, the School of Nursing, the MTSU Smoking Policy Committee and the American Lung Association. It will be held on Tuesdays in the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building, Room 124. Meeting time will be 12:30 until 1:45 p.m. ■

The state of independent film

Shall we mourn the death of the independent film? Mind you, it is not their non-existence I ponder; the "indies" are everywhere. I am calling into question the apparent vanishing of their artistic quality. Two years ago, "Jerry Maguire" was the only major studio film nominated for a Best Picture Academy Award. Now, the studios are fighting back, unleashing both big-budget explosion fests designed to sell tickets and little "artsy" movies designed to compete with the fashionable "indie" revolution.

The result, statistically, is inconclusive. No-brainers like "Godzilla," "Armageddon" and "The Waterboy" put backsides in the seats. Quality films originating from the studios achieve mixed results: the marginally great "Saving Private Ryan" receives a Best Picture nomination; the truly great "The Truman Show" does not.

What does this mean for independent movies? It means they need to get their act together. Miramax Pictures has accumulated the best track record, releasing such independent classics as "Pulp Fiction" and "The English Patient," and scoring a list of award nominations, including this year's "Shakespeare in Love." Miramax released last year's "Good Will Hunting" and Kevin Smith's "Chasing Amy," both critically lauded films.

But does Miramax really qualify anymore? They are, of course, owned by Disney. Must they relinquish their "indie" credentials? Not if we define the name "independent film" more broadly.

Let's do away with the studio connection and let "independent" encompass works of originality and vision, works that reflect a sweet mixture of uniqueness, personality

and technical talent. And with this definition, what do we have? Still more problems.

Take Kevin Smith, for instance. Granted, he's a clever writer, but he's a poor director. His shots are static. His scenes are blasé stares. He has interesting characters saying interesting things, but no interesting way to portray them.

This seems to be a problem with many of the up-and-coming auteurs. Every video store clerk with a camcorder aspiring to ride the wave of post-Tarantino "indie" frenzy can shoot a movie and inch his way into one of the many film festivals eager to snatch up anyone who can afford the entrance fee. The success of the reputable Sundance Film Festival has inspired Slamdance, Slam Dunk, and many other alternatives to alternative film fests. There are now opportunities to be rejected at a festival designed specifically for rejects.

This overflow of "wannabe" talent isn't the only problem the "indie" industry faces. Just as mainstream movies all seem to be remakes, "indie" films repeatedly regurgitate tired old formulas. After the success of Tarantino's "Reservoir Dogs" and "Pulp Fiction" (both of which, by the way, do not coincidentally reflect the conventions of Hong Kong action films, Spaghetti Westerns, and 70s blaxploitation flicks), the market was overcome with boring stories about heists and hitmen (many of them starring Eric Stoltz and/or James Spader). This is much like photocopying a page of text, then photocopying the copy, and so on — the first couple seem okay, but they gradually become hazier.

These days, there is a more prevalent problem than the pseudo-Tarantinos exists. I'll call

these guys the "shock artists." We trace their origins to the grotesque films of John Waters, but their work has gradually lost Waters' outrageous, bald-faced sleaze and acquired a hazy facade of seriousness. A more recent precursor to these movies, perhaps, is the work of David Cronenberg. His films "The Cook, the Thief, His Wife, and Her Lover" and "Crash" are just two examples of the atrocity of cinematic fixation on brutality and sexual perversion masquerading as art.

Writer/directors Harmony Korine, Neil Labute and Todd Solondz appear eager to capitalize on Cronenberg's (unmerited) critical success. Labute's last film, "Your Friends and Neighbors," was not visually shocking at all. But within his small cast of characters pulsed the dark heart of amorality. "Neighbors," without conscience and without even a splinter of a glimmer of hope, failed miserably as a testament to our despicable culture.

Like Labute, Todd Solondz's work hides under the cloak of social commentary. I enjoyed his first film, "Welcome to the Dollhouse," but avoided his second, "Happiness," like the plague. Just the idea of a sympathetic pedophile turns my stomach. Regardless of his alleged motives, the verdict on "Happiness" is in, even the critics who praised the film called it "sick." "The emperor has no clothes," claimed a disapproving critic in the magazine "Film Comment."

I am reminded of the words of C.S. Lewis, who writes, "No style can be good in the mouth of a man who has nothing, or nonsense, to say." How true. And G.K. Chesterton writes, "A good novel tells us the truth about its hero;

The Movie Guy



Jared Wilson
Staff Reporter

but a bad novel tells the truth about its author." Perhaps these works reveal more about their creators than they do about their subjects.

This is not to say that the "indie" industry is without its authentic auteurs. I suppose I should answer my opening question. Shall we mourn the death of the independent film? I don't think so.

We still have the perseverance of wonderful, strong writers like David Mamet, Christopher McQuarrie and writer/director Woody Allen. We still benefit from the supreme talents of directors Atom Egoyan, Ang Lee and Gus Van Sant. Even "indie" "it" boy Quentin Tarantino has proved his progressing genius with the smooth "Jackie Brown." John Sayles, the writer/director of 1996's "Lone Star" and 1998's "Hombres Armados" (both masterpieces, in my opinion), is an artist firmly outside mainstream studio sensibilities. He reflects the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Towering genius disdains a beaten path." As long as we have the quirky, yet immense, talent of the Coen Brothers, who haven't written a bad film since 1986's "Crime Wave," the "indie" will survive. Heck, as long as we have Spike Lee ("Girl 6" aside), the indie will thrive. ■

TAX

continued from page 6

In one box on the form, UNCC gave a total for 1998 tuition and fees that it believes qualify for the tax credit. In another box, it gave a grants and scholarships total, which a taxpayer deducts from the payments to figure the credit.

Many schools are refusing to advise students about what costs

are eligible, because they say IRS rules are unclear. And officials at some schools say activities and athletic fees definitely aren't deductible. IRS spokesman John Lenik agrees.

UNCC, however, is saying that all required general fees are deductible.

Olen Smith, UNCC's vice chancellor for business affairs,

points out that at most private colleges, all costs are lumped into a single bill and called tuition, which qualifies as a deductible expense.

"The bottom line is, a student who attends UNCC has no choice but to pay fees," he says.

If many students and parents are utterly confused by the prospect of wading through these new rules, many are also grateful.

"Really, it's giving (tuition) to you free," says Barbara Teitelzweig, a CPCC student who's planning to transfer to UNCC and get an education degree.

Teitelzweig figures she'll be able to take \$800 or \$900 off her taxes. She always keeps her receipts, so she doesn't anticipate much difficulty. "It's really a no-brainer," she said. ■

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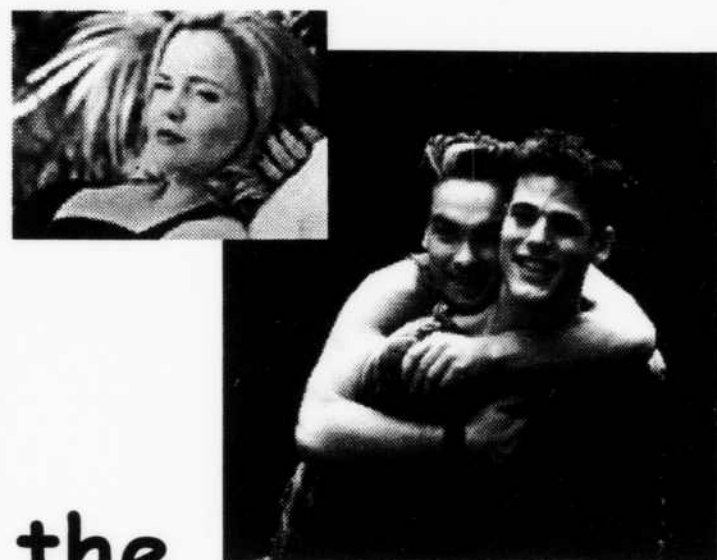
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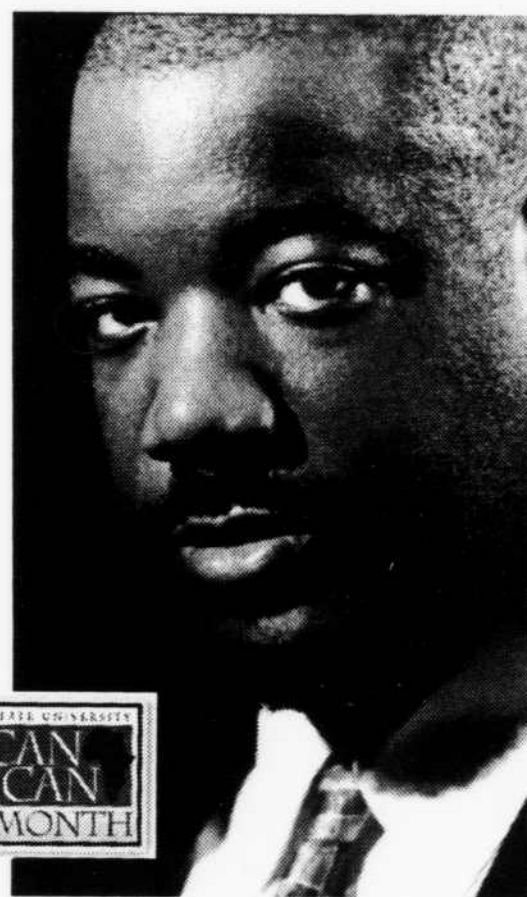
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MONDAY, FEB 15, 1999

SPORTS

8 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

Raiders beat both Tigers and Govs

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

The MTSU men made a clean sweep of their opponents last week when they battled the Tennessee State Tigers and the Governors of Austin Peay.

On Thursday, the Raiders battled their arch rivals in the Tigers. TSU came into the game one game ahead of the Raiders in the conference standings and were looking to avenge their loss to the Raiders in January. However, MTSU is starting to pick up steam heading into the post season.

TSU was set back earlier in the month with the loss of leading scorer Jamie Roberts. Roberts is second in the league in scoring with an 18.8 per-game average.

The Raiders started the game in a nip-and-tuck battle with the Tigers. The men battled back and forth trying not to let the other team get an advantage.

However, the Raiders would make a run to close the half and take a 35-26 lead into the locker room. Lee Nosse led all scorers at the half with 10 points.

The second half would belong to

TSU on the score board. TSU continued to battle the Raiders, and eventually they caught up to MTSU. Late in the game, Kent Ayer, like he had ice in his veins, hit the biggest three-pointer of the year to put MTSU in the lead for good.

Finishing the game with 17 for the Raiders was Cedrick Wallace. Nosse poured in a career high of 18 and Gerald King came off the bench to score 15.

The Raiders converted 92 percent of their freethrows in that game and 16 of 18 in the second half. That is phenomenal for a team to shoot 92 percent from the line. It won them the game. The final score was MTSU 78, TSU 74.

The second game of the week took place on Saturday at the Murphy Center against Austin Peay. Austin Peay is led by Trenton Hassel and Jerome Jackson. Those two are perhaps the best guard combinations in the OVC. However, there is one other player that did step up and have a big night for the Govs.

Hassel was shut down in the first half, and his partner Jackson was also, but Nick Stapleton came out of the gates by hitting a three-pointer right away to put the Govs

ahead. As a matter of a fact, Stapleton hit eight three pointers on the night. That is one three-pointer off the OVC record of nine set by Joe Sibbitt last year when the same Governors played UT-Martin.

With the game tied at half time, the scene was set for a dramatic finish.

The Raiders played very well in the second half and seemed to have the game under control, when Nick Stapleton hit another three-pointer. The Raiders came back and answered his shot with one of their own, but then Trenton Hassell pulled up from 35 feet and buried a three-pointer.

The game was beginning to become in doubt, when the Raiders hit clutch free throw after clutch free throw. In all, MTSU hit 21 of 23 from the line in the second half.

Lee Nosse topped his career high with a huge night. Nosse poured in 25 points against the Governors, while grabbing 11 rebounds.

Kent Ayer scored 15, while Dale Thomas scored 12, and King and Duncan scored 11 and 10 respectively.

In the end, MTSU won the game 87-81, improving their record to 9-8 in the OVC ■



Johnny Cobb squeezes between three Tennessee State University players Thursday night as Cedrick Wallace observes.

Lady Raiders top Lady Govs

Josh Ezzell
Staff Reporter

The Lady Raiders overcame 27 turnovers and defeated the Austin Peay Lady Govs 69-43.

Defense was the key for the Lady Raiders early as they held the Lady Govs to no field goals in the first eleven minutes.

During this time, the Lady Raiders built an 18-6 lead. Bama Burrell and Erica Lufkin sparked the run, with Burrell scoring eight and Lufkin contributing four.

Tiffany McCarley finally ended the Lady Govs drought with a short jumper, making the score 18-8. At this point Carlita Elder answered with two straight layups.

The first was set up by a beautiful pass from Cyndi Ainsworth.

Burrell set the second one up with a sweet back door pass, making the score 22-8 with 7:44

remaining in the first half.

What followed is something that does not happen very often. Angelica Suffren hit a long jumper for Peay, which made the score 22-10. Unfortunately for Peay, Tiffany McCarley was called for a push off. Dana Conner went to the line and hit both free throws, making the score 24-10. Behind Kelly Chavez the Lady Govs embarked on a 9-3 run, cutting the lead to eight at 27-19 with under five minutes left in the half.

Jamie Thomatis ended the Peay run by scoring three straight points, which extended the Lady Raiders lead to eleven at 30-19 with 2:57 left to play in the half. Both teams traded baskets to end the half, with the Lady Raiders leading 33-21.

In the second half, Angelica Suffren and the Lady Govs cut the lead to nine at 39-30 with 12:47 remaining in the second half. This is as close as Peay got.

Behind Jamie Thomatis, the

Lady Raiders would pull away. She scored 14 of her 19 points in the second half, enabling the Lady Raiders to prevail 69-43.

Jamie Thomatis led the Lady Raiders with points and eight rebounds. Angelica Suffren led Austin Peay with 14 points.

The Lady Raiders played spectacular defense holding the Lady Govs to 34 percent from the field, while forcing 32 turnovers.

"I'm proud that we were able to win all of our conference home games. I'm also proud of the seniors. They've accomplished great things and had great careers," said Coach Smith.

The Lady Raiders remaining games are against Morehead State and Eastern Kentucky, both are on the road.

Following these games, the Lady Raiders will participate in the OVC tournament; with the first-round game being played at the Murphy Center ■

Elder scores her 1,000th point

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

She started at MTSU in 1995, and has continued to be a very valuable asset for the Raiders. One thousand points later, she has helped take the Raiders to the top of the Ohio Valley Conference standings.

Carlita Elder is a Murfreesboro native that was a three time all-district competitor and an honorable mention All-State selection. She was the Rutherford County Athlete of the Year for the 94-95 season, and is a member of the 1,000 point club for Oakland High School.

From the start of her career at MTSU, Carlita has been a key part of the Raider scheme since her freshman season when she hit the game winning shot against Ole Miss. In the NCAA tournament, Elder scored 19 points against Kansas in the 95-96 season. In her sophomore season, Elder scored 22 points in a game against TSU, which was a career high.

Carlita Elder is a team player. Throughout all the success she has had at MTSU, Elder remains consistent in the fact that she plays for the team goals and not for her own.

She continues to be motivated by team goals and not by the individual goals.

"I just want to play the best I can," Elder said, "and win the OVC out right."

Even though she did just score her 1,000th point, Elder says that she is more concerned with her defense. Her success has been tremendous here as a Raider.

I think my determination has helped me to be successful," Elder said. "I feed off my teammates, and I like to play defense."

Florestine Elder has played a major role in Carlita's development as a player and a person. Carlita says that her mother has always been there to help her out.

"When I feel like basketball is too tough, she is always there to give advice; but, she always lets me

make the decisions."

Carlita is the youngest of four children and she says she is most proud of just being a senior. Carlita has defied the odds and is going to graduate. Basketball has played a big part in her staying in school and getting her degree.

After she scored her 1,000th point, Carlita gave the credit to her teammates.

"I could not have gotten it with out my teammates."

After school, Elder wants to continue in basketball in some fashion. Her major is secondary education, and that will enable her to be a teacher and a coach on the high school level. Carlita will continue to effect lives following college while being successful high school coach.

She has affected many lives while in a Blue Raider uniform. Some of them she knows of, but some of them she doesn't.

She is the kind of person that effects the young lady that she has never met, but does just by her example on and off the court. ■



Staff photo by Derrick Wilson

Senior Carlita Elder slides by a Tennessee State player to get an easy basket Thursday night.

Five sign with Lady Raider soccer team

Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee soccer coach Colette Gilligan has announced five signees to the Lady Raider soccer program for the fall of 1999.

Elizabeth Maskey, an incoming freshman from Oakton, Va., will compete for playing time at the forward position. Maskey, a senior from Oakton High School, played for the Team America Club. During Maskey's tenure with Team America, the squad placed third in the Nationals, were Region I champions, and were State Cup Champions.

Gilligan said, "Within our system, she has already got the attributes necessary to contribute right away. She turns extremely well with her back to the goal and that usually takes a while to teach, but she seems like a natural at it already."

Breann Nevins, a sweeper/midfielder from Newburgh, Ind., has also signed a National Letter of Intent. Nevins prepped at Castle High School and played club soccer with the Evansville United. Nevins was named first team All-District, first team All-Conference, and All-State Honorable Mention. Nevins was also named the defensive most valuable player for Castle High School's team. Nevins also participated in the Indiana Olympic Development Program in 1996 and 1997.

"Breann reads the game very well. She is strong defensively, she tackles hard, and her air game is very impressive. We are looking for her to become an impact on the field for us right away," Gilligan said.

Alisha Williams from Soddy Daisy, Tenn., is set to join the Lady Raiders this fall. Williams prepped at Chattanooga Baylor where the team won a state championship in 1997 and were runners-up in 1996. During her career at Baylor, Williams' teams in 1997 and 1998 were ranked as high as number four nationally in the Umbro/USA Today poll.

Williams also played with the Knoxville United Stars club team. Williams, a defender and midfielder, has participated in the Tennessee Olympic Development Program since 1996.

"Alisha has a tremendous work ethic. She is like an engine that doesn't stop. She is very aggressive, especially for someone of her size. She has good speed and has the mentality to attack once she gets the ball," Gilligan stated.

Twins Allison and Sarah Schultz round out the early signees. Both players hail from Brentwood, TN and prepped at Division II State Champion Father Ryan High School. Allison, a forward, was voted Father Ryan's Best Offensive Player, and was named First Team All-State and First Team All-Metro. She participated in the Tennessee Olympic Development Program in 1997 and 1998.

Sarah, a defender, was voted Father Ryan's Best Defensive Player. She was named First Team All-Region and participated in the Tennessee Olympic Development Program. Both Allison and Sarah played for the Music City Sting club team.

Gilligan said of the Schultz twins, "Allison has a great work rate. Her talent is raw, but she should round into an outstanding player for us very soon. Allison also has a very good shot on goal, and she is capable of scoring from anywhere on the field."

"Sarah is a good man to man defensive player and can isolate players and take them out of the game. She reads the game well and has no problem in going forward with the ball. Her air game is also very strong."

Middle Tennessee completed its third year of soccer with a 10-8 record overall, which equated to the best in the history of the program.

The team also finished 2-2 in the inaugural season of Ohio Valley competition. The team will return two First Team All-OVC players and four Second Team All-OVC players.

Next season's schedule will feature OVC opponents Tennessee Tech, Eastern Illinois, Morehead State and Tennessee-Martin along with first year program Southeast Missouri.

Middle Tennessee will also face non-conference opponents Belmont, Chattanooga, Samford and East Tennessee State among others. ■

What's the word ?

Commentary by Michael Edwards/ Staff Reporter

Sportmanship is Raider's key

For the men's and women's basketball teams, this season has been two totally different tales.

The women have been playing good basketball all year, while the men have had more than their share of disappointment.

However, there has been one thing that has been consistent among these young men and women, and coaches.

There has been one thing that, for the most part, has been the same through famine or feast. That which I speak of is sportsmanship.

The women's basketball team has had a lot of success this year. In the case of many teams, success brings the act of being cocky or having a bad case of a swollen cranium.

Fortunately, this team, in particular, is being coached by a very classy person.

Coach Stephanie Smith is the head coach of the Lady Raiders, and it is clear that some of her personality and ability to stay calm has rubbed off on the team.

Whenever this team has been down, not once have I seen a player get a bad attitude or pout on the court. A player may get frustrated, but that is natural in the game of basketball.

This team is full of players that have a lot of class. Another, Bama Burrell, never seems to get angry on the court

or on the bench. She is very even keel, and seems to take everything in stride.

Erica Lufkin is another Raider that always has a smile on her face. Even in the game against Austin Peay, she made a turnover on a fastbreak, and it was a time that she could have shown her anger, however she turned around with a big smile on her face.

Erica Lufkin, Coach Stephany Smith, Bama Burrell, and the rest of the Raiders play the game like it is supposed to be played. MTSU's Lady Raiders always have a mild demeanor. This is a classy, and fun team to watch.

In the other locker room in the Murphy Athletic Center is the MTSU men's team. The Blue Raiders have struggled this season, but they remain with high spirits.

No matter what happens the team does not seem to let anything get to them. That is proven by the efforts that they have put forward this season. This team has lost 10 games by 10 or less points. That is just mean.

When something that happens it would not be uncommon for a team to lay down a just take it easy the rest of the season.

However, this team has not done that. They have continued to battle, night in and night out.

That has had a lot to do with

the seniors that are on the team. Kent Ayer, Richard Duncan, and Ali McGhee have been the instrumental forces behind this team's will to win. Richard Duncan plays with more emotion than anybody that has walked into the Murphy Center.

Oh he may not be the best, but he will not give up. Ayer is the same way. That's why he is the Murphy Center favorite. Ali McGhee is the human high light reel.

It does not matter how good or bad this team plays they always want to play better, and in the case of Center Lee Nosse they always give the opposing team the credit they deserve.

Everytime that Nosse is interviewed by any reporter or radio personality, he continues to say that the other team played well.

Even after a tough loss he has given the opposition credit and said that he and his mates just need to play better.

Not only does he give the credit when it is do. He seems to always have a great attitude following a win or a loss.

These men and women have been working for their entire lives to be able to play college basketball.

The dreams have come true. However, through the blood, sweat, and tears all of these players seem to have picked up something else on the way. Its called class. ■

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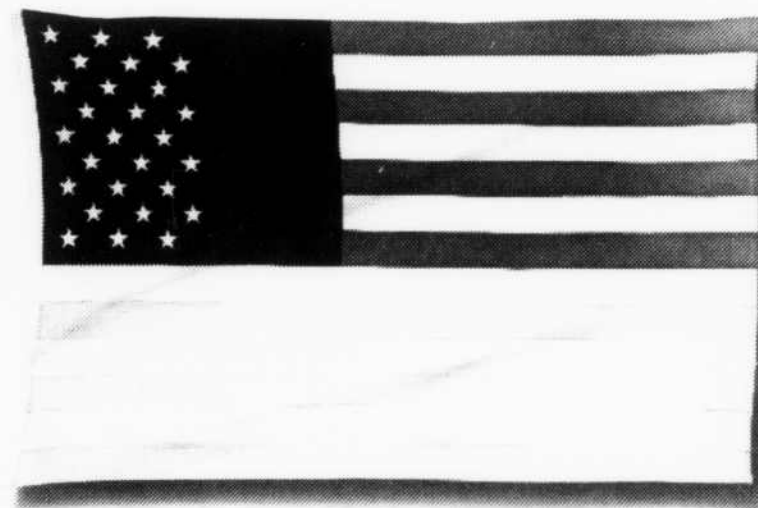
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For details, visit Room 5, Forrest Hall or call
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**2 & 3 Bedroom
Specials***

- conveniently located across from Murphy Center

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Ford Model Agency's MODEL SEARCH

Friday, February 19
6:30 PM • Center Court

The Ford Model Agency's New Faces Director from New York will interview aspiring models for these divisions:

Children (ages 5 - 12)
Men (ages 13 & up) Women (ages 13 & up)

Recent photo and application required.
Application available at mall office and Customer Service Desk.

Co-sponsored by Advantage Models & Talent.



1720 Old Fort Parkway • Information: 896-4486

Hours: Mon. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sun. 12 - 6 p.m.

Great shopping.
Only better.



STARTING FEB. 22... LET'S PLAY IT SAFER

With the reopening of Faulkinberry Drive— and to ensure the safety of all campus pedestrians— the MTSU departments of Public Safety and Parking Services agree that the section of Loop Drive that runs along the east side of the Cope Administration Building to Peck Hall should once again be closed to vehicular traffic.

Therefore, the traffic "arm" east of Cope will again be activated Monday, Feb. 22, closing East Loop to all vehicles except safety vehicles and campus shuttles.

When Faulkinberry Drive was closed for the stadium construction, it was necessary to provide another access route into campus— and east Loop Drive was opened in order to reduce traffic congestion.

With Faulkinberry Drive now accessible, the large tree-lined, grassy area that is the original part of campus will once again be a safer environment for campus pedestrians.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. If you have any questions, please contact Public Safety at 898-2424 or Parking Services at 898-2850. Thank you.

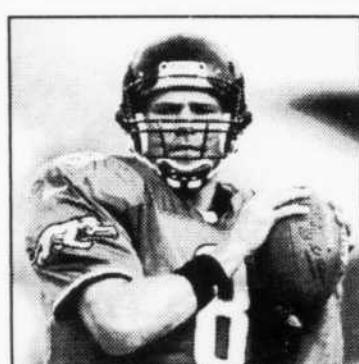
COMING TO MURFREESBORO

TWO NIGHTS THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE!!!

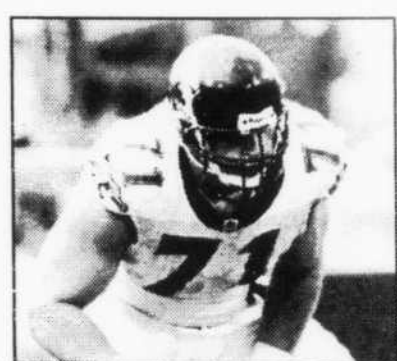
Wed Feb 17th
@ 7:00PM IN THE MTSU
MURPHY CENTER

A NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS!

FEATURING:



Mark Brunell
Quarter back
All-Pro for the
Jacksonville Jaguars



Tony Boselli
Offensive Tackle
All-Pro for the
Jacksonville Jaguars



Special Music by
Kevin Singleton
Recording Artist

Free Admission!!
Child Care Provided

Sponsored by the

Rutherford
County Family



Champions for Christ/The Victory Church & Raider Victory.

Thur Feb 18th
@ 7:00PM IN THE MTSU
LRC AUDITORIUM



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