

MONDAY

March 8, 2004

36



50

Sunny



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com:
Do you have confidence in
President Sidney McPhee's leadership?



**BOBO
HURLS
NO-HITTER,
STRIKES OUT 10**

In Sports, 8

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Volume 79 No. 70

McPhee faces mounting pressure

Professors call for vote of no confidence in president; question leadership ability

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

Support has grown over the weekend for a no confidence vote by the Faculty Senate on the leadership of President Sidney McPhee at today's meeting.

Linda Wilson, chemistry professor, sent an e-mail Thursday asking senators to poll faculty in their departments on whether such a vote should be taken.

Wilson also provided her reasoning for why faculty should vote no confidence in McPhee.

"He is not able to properly lead the university and to properly represent us to the [Tennessee] Board of Regents and the public," Wilson wrote.



McPhee

One senator, Ted Sherman from the English department, sent out a survey to English faculty asking them to respond as to whether or not a vote should be held.

"As of Friday afternoon, out of 25 responses I had received, 23 were to have a referendum," Sherman said.

Sherman said that he has heard faculty from the sociology department, the political science department, biology department and educational leadership department have all taken their own votes on the issue.

Last week, when the issue was brought to the Steering Committee, which determines the agenda for the full Faculty

Senate, the committee commented that it was inappropriate to have a vote at this time, due to McPhee's current litigation with former administrative assistant Tammie Allen.

Sherman said it was unfair for the Steering Committee to make that judgment.

"I think it should have been sent to the full senate without any comment," Sherman said. "I think what they've done is the Steering Committee president prejudiced it in favor of Dr. McPhee."

There is no MTSU policy concerning a vote of no confidence, but Sherman said he thinks the result of such a

See Faculty, 2

President resigns post with council

Staff Reports

President Sidney McPhee resigned his seat on the National Council on the Humanities, a board that advises President George W. Bush's administration on issues of culture and the humanities.

McPhee said in a *Tennessean* story Saturday that he was stepping down to focus on commitments closer to home.

In the story, McPhee said he

was not asked to step down, but that he came to the decision on his own.

McPhee was appointed to the committee in late 2002. Congress created the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1965.

The NEH is a federal agency responsible for millions of dollars each year in grants to cultural institutions and scholars.

Appointments to the council normally last for six years. ♦

More items stolen from Rec Center

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

Campus Recreation was hit again on Tuesday night by an organized group of four thieves who attempted to steal another vehicle from keys found in unlocked lockers in the men's dressing room.

On last Monday night, a student's car was stolen from the Campus Rec parking lot after his keys were taken from his locker.

"It appears as if they were specifically looking for car keys with keyless entry systems," said Detective Sgt. Matt Foster in a press release.

The next night, Adam Lukasik saw that his keys had been stolen from his locker and went out into the parking lot.

According to the Public Safety police report, Lukasik saw the lights on his car flick on and off as if someone had disengaged the alarm system with his keys.

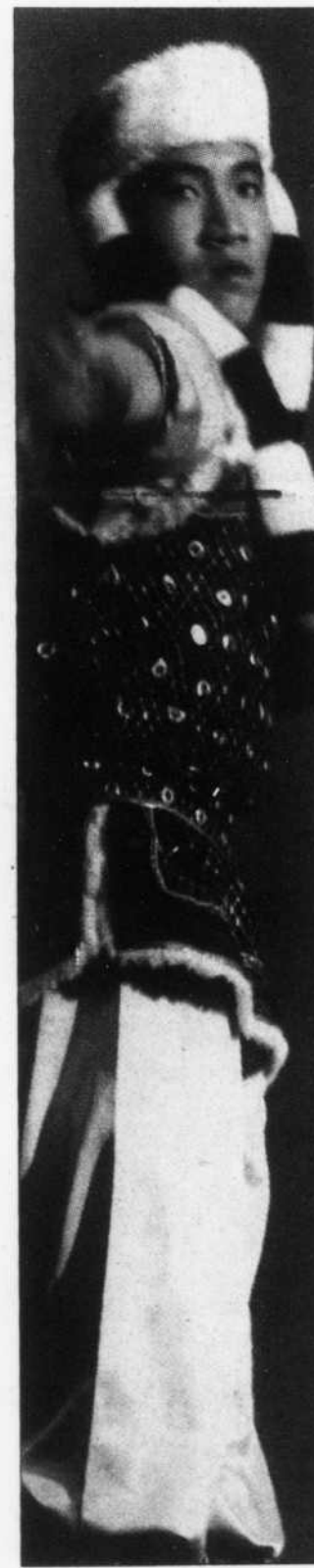
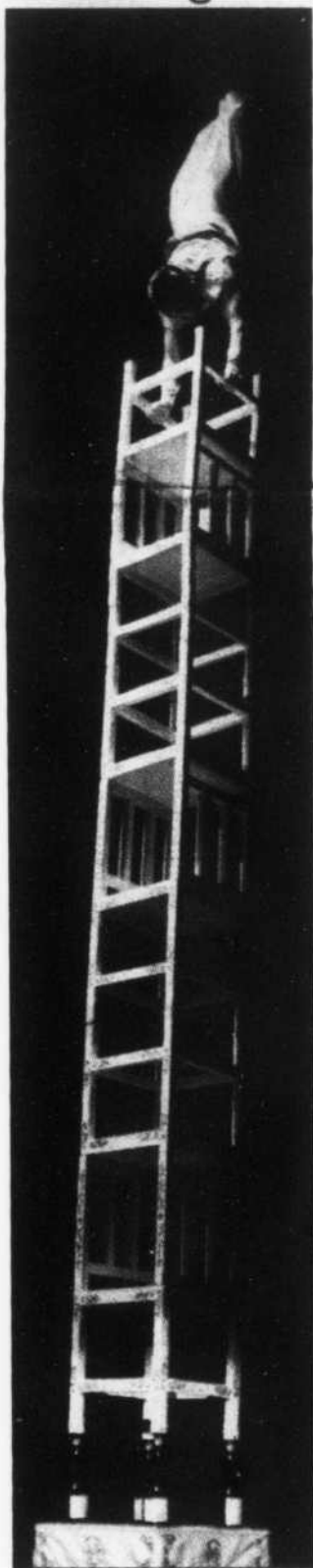
Lukasik also noticed that there was a green Toyota 4-Runner parked close to his car and he saw four black males inside. The car left when Lukasik approached his vehicle.

"Probably only one of the four individuals we now believe to be involved in these thefts would go into the Rec Center's men's locker rooms and go through all of the lockers that did not have locks on them," Foster said.

The first car, a green 2001 Chevy Malibu, was stolen from David Ezzelle. The car belonged to his father. Other items stolen that night reported to Public Safety were clothing, a wallet, cell phones, a pocket knife, student ID cards and keys.

See Theft, 2

Balancing act



The Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats balance and climb Wednesday in Tucker Theatre. The troupe hails from Cangzhou, Hebei province in China. They've performed in all 50 states and in more than 65 countries on five continents. The acrobats are currently in their 25th year of consecutive touring.

Photos by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Sheriff riled at 'Sidelines'

McPhee called
lawman about
line in editorial

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

A recent *Sidelines* editorial prompted a call from the university president to the Rutherford County Sheriff, who then threatened legal action against the newspaper and ordered criminal background checks performed on its staffers, according to the sheriff's lawyer.

A four-word phrase in the Feb. 18 editorial prompted university President Sidney McPhee to call Sheriff Truman Jones. The sheriff's department's general counsel, Edward Farmer, then sent a letter to *Sidelines* Editor in Chief Patrick Chinnery threatening possible litigation.

Chinnery said Farmer told him in a phone conversation March 1 that the department had performed criminal background checks on all *Sidelines* staff members listed in the staff box of the paper.

In the editorial, the *Daily News Journal* was described as featuring only "the happy news" of the community: "MTSU is great, the city of Murfreesboro and its mayor are great, the sheriff and his merry band of thugs are great and so on," the editorial read.

The phrase "merry band of thugs" led to the letter from the sheriff's office. The letter was written Feb. 23 after McPhee and Jones discussed the editorial, about which McPhee refused all blame and expressed regret.

In the letter, Farmer described the remark as "degrading" and an attempt to "libel the sheriff and the 327 members" of the department.

Farmer concluded the letter by saying he was concerned that a *Sidelines* staff member was using a position with the paper to pursue a "personal vendetta" against the sheriff's department.

Chinnery called Farmer, saying in a voicemail that he had never received any messages from the sheriff's department before the letter and asking that Farmer get in contact with him to discuss the matter.

At that point, Chinnery contacted Wendell Rawls, *Sidelines*' faculty adviser, to explain the

Glenn vetoes SGA bill requiring experience

By Austin Starchman
Staff Writer

Bob Glenn vetoed a Student Government Association bill that would require students running for an executive office to have held a position in the SGA for at least one semester.

Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs, has administrative veto power over the SGA. He told senators and officers during Thursday's meeting that such a bill would help perpetuate the image of the SGA as "a self-perpetuating clique."

He said a lot of government

officials are elected even if they have had little government experience.

"There'd be a lot of government people out on the streets," Glenn said. "Jimmy Carter, George Washington, even Arnold Schwarzenegger wouldn't have been able or be able to hold office, and, whatever you may think of the job they do or did, they were elected fairly."

Paul Fulcher, the senator who proposed the original bill, said the issue should have been opened up to students for them to decide.

"The students need to be

protected from unqualified candidates," Fulcher said, "or candidates simply trying to mock the SGA. This bill would allow them to have experienced leaders in the executive offices, by ensuring that candidates had experience in how the SGA operates."

Glenn questioned why the proposed legislation was needed.

"To my knowledge, there's never been a need for this legislation," Glenn said. "I've been given no examples of why this bill is necessary. Also, I'm worried that the student body

would take this bill as an attempt by the SGA to filter the candidates presented to the student body..."

Executive Vice President Amanda Newman read a letter written by Glenn that expressed his concerns about the bill.

In the letter, Glenn said he felt that the bill would deprive the SGA of experienced leaders from other universities and organizations.

In response, Newman said that, in previous SGA executive elections, there were several candidates running who were mocking the SGA.

"All of the officers here have put in a lot of time and work into the SGA," Newman said, "and we don't want to see what we've done mocked by someone running for the wrong reasons."

Fulcher said the SGA is taken seriously on campus and the elections should be taken seriously as well.

"I mean, we run the school," he said. "Do you want someone in office who doesn't understand their job? I do think that everyone should have a say in who runs for office here, but

See SGA, 2

See Sheriff, 2

Muslim students gear up for Islamic Awareness Week

Staff Reports

The Muslim Student Association will hold its major campus event this week — Islamic Awareness Week.

The week will include events geared toward helping the public understand Islam and its traditions.

All events will be held at 6 p.m. in Kirksey Old Main, Room 452. Events are free and open to the public.

Tonight, the MSA will present the Public Broadcasting System documentary, *Islam, Empire of Faith*.

The film is narrated by actor Ben

Kingsley. A question-and-answer session will follow the screening.

Tomorrow, Awadh Binbazim, from Vanderbilt University, will present a lecture titled "Science in the Holy Quran."

Binbazim is a well-known Muslim scholar. This is his first time speaking at MTSU.

A question-and-answer session will follow the lecture.

Wednesday, MSA will present the PBS documentary *Muhammad: Legacy of A Prophet*.

The film documents the life of Muhammad, a seventh century prophet who altered world history in 23 years.

Muhammad continues to shape the lives of millions of people.

The documentary also touches on the lives of Muslim Americans before and after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Questions and answers will follow the screening.

Thursday, James P. Dunlap, a Muslim student at MTSU, will speak about his own decision to convert to Islam. Questions and answers will follow.

For more information about Islamic Awareness Week, e-mail msa@mtsu.edu, call 275-7897 or visit www.mtsu.edu/~msa. ♦

Sheriff: Department lawyer denies performing background checks on staff of student newspaper

Continued from 1

situation. Later that day, Chinnery and Farmer agreed via voicemails to discuss the matter by phone at 10:30 a.m. March 1.

"At the beginning of the conversation," Chinnery said, "[Farmer] told me he had no intention to pursue legal action against me or my paper. He said he knew there were deputies on campus and he was concerned that they may be acting in an inappropriate manner. He said he wanted a chance to respond and he wanted to know what was going on."

Chinnery said he explained to Farmer that the piece was an editorial, a matter of opinion protected by the First Amendment, and not a news article alleging acts of wrongdoing.

"Do you want to know how this all got started?" Chinnery said Farmer asked.

"It all started when President McPhee called the sheriff and asked him if he had seen the editorial," Chinnery quoted Farmer.

According to Chinnery, Farmer then said that McPhee faxed a copy of the editorial to Jones' office.

Chinnery said Farmer told him that after McPhee faxed the copy, he called Jones to express his regret about the editorial

and told Jones that he should contact Chinnery.

"Then [Farmer] told me," Chinnery said, "that the sheriff requested background checks on everyone in the staff box."

The staff box identifies the newspaper's editors and other key staff members, with asterisks that denote who serves on the editorial board.

"He (Farmer) said the checks turned up nothing," Chinnery said, "except for one staffer having an indirect contact with the department because of papers being served from another county."

"Farmer asked, 'What's your production manager's name?'" Chinnery said. He replied that the production manager was Brandon Morrison, and Farmer said he wasn't positive but he thought that Morrison was the staffer.

Morrison, who is not on the editorial board, said that he has never been involved in any legal action.

Chinnery said that he then made an appointment at Farmer's office for 11:15 a.m., March 9, to discuss the matter further and for Farmer to turn over the background checks to Chinnery.

Three days later, McPhee denied that he faxed the editorial to Jones.

"I categorically deny that anyone from this office would

have done that," McPhee said, "Several people in the community call to complain about the content of *Sidelines* ... but I tell everyone that *Sidelines* is editorially independent and not a part of the university. I want to be quoted on this, that I have never crossed the line interfering with *Sidelines*."

McPhee said that he did not know why Farmer would say that he sent the editorial to Jones.

Sheriff Jones also denied that McPhee had faxed him the editorial.

"But [McPhee] called me and expressed his regrets about the article," Jones said.

"I know you are a bunch of kids who don't know anything about responsibility," Jones said in a raised voice, "but I don't appreciate this and I want to talk to whoever wrote the article."

In a follow-up interview, McPhee changed his position and acknowledged that he had called the sheriff shortly after the unflattering editorial appeared.

"I received several calls from people in the community and calls from alumni complaining about the article," McPhee explained, "and I became aware that the sheriff's department was upset about it. I called the sheriff to explain that the newspaper is independent and sepa-

rate from the university.

"He said that they (the department) were threatening litigation and I said I was sorry that he felt that way," McPhee continued.

"I did tell him [Jones] that I understood how upset he was to have his deputies described in such a way," McPhee said.

McPhee said that he was unaware of criminal background investigations until Rawls had told him about it that afternoon.

On Friday, *Sidelines* called Farmer at the National Guard base in Smyrna, where he had spent most of the week.

Farmer confirmed that he had a conversation earlier in the week with Chinnery. He said that while he could not recall what was said during the call, he denied that he ever told Chinnery that McPhee had faxed the editorial or that Jones had ordered background checks.

"I spoke with him this week but did not tell him about background checks," Farmer said.

"I never said anything about background checks. Background checks would have to be part of a full investigation involving the FBI and that did not happen."

Farmer also denies telling Chinnery that he would turn over the alleged background checks. ♦

SGA: Glenn says he might reconsider bill if amended

Continued from 1

people shouldn't be allowed to run for office with the wrong intentions."

Fulcher also said elections as they are now function as a popularity contest.

"People see a name, and they're going to

vote for the name, and you know that's true," Fulcher said.

"I mean, I totally agree with both sides of the issue, but this bill will let us prevent unqualified candidates from running."

Glenn's veto of the bill means that it has no chance of returning in its current form.

For the bill to be reintroduced, it would have to be fundamentally changed. Glenn said he would reconsider the bill if presented in an amended form.

The bill, which was introduced Feb. 5, was passed with just two dissenting votes. ♦

Faculty: 'Let chips fall where they may,' Sherman says

Continued from 1

vote would have a important impact on the university.

"If it were to come out against President McPhee, it will send a very clear message to the president, to TBR, to the governor and to the legislators that President McPhee does not have the confidence of the uni-

versity," Sherman said.

"This problem, coupled with the problem of presidential spending at UT the last few years, just gives a black eye to higher education in Tennessee," Sherman said.

Sherman predicted a lot of media would be present at the Faculty Senate meeting, scheduled for today at 4:30 p.m., but

he hopes it will not discourage senators from speaking.

"I could be a little intimidating, especially for untenured faculty who are on the senate," Sherman said.

Sherman also suggested to Dan Pfeifer, president of Faculty Senate, that Diane Miller, interim vice provost for academic affairs, and Kaylene Gebert,

executive vice president and provost, should not attend the meeting today.

"This is one of those issues where you have to stand on principle and let the chips fall where they may," Sherman said. ♦

Theft: Reports show total loss of property exceeds \$500

Continued from 1

Total loss of property on Monday night was \$528.54, not including the cost of the stolen vehicle, according to Public Safety police reports.

On Thursday morning, the Murfreesboro Police

Department recovered the license plate that had been on the Malibu.

The plate had been swapped with one off another car parked at an apartment complex in Murfreesboro.

"We have some strong leads we are working on at this time,

but the more information we have the quicker we will solve these crimes," Foster said.

Foster is requesting that anyone who has knowledge of these crimes contact Crime Stoppers at 893-7867 (STOP).

If your information leads to an arrest you will be eligible for

a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

"We are asking anyone who has not reported items being stolen from their lockers on Monday or Tuesday to please do so as soon as possible," Foster said. ♦

Osborne says U.S.-U.N. relationship can be saved

By Stephanie Hill
Staff Writer

Former ABC bureau chief Tom Osborne said Thursday that the United States acted too hastily in leading a unilateral invasion of Iraq without proof of weapons of mass destruction.

Osborne's lecture, titled "Still No Weapons of Mass Destruction: Preemptive Failures of the Past," was held in Tucker Theatre and sponsored by MTSU Student Programming.

Osborne, who is best known for his coverage of the United Nations for ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings, Good Morning America, Nightline and 20/20, said that the United States should have given the United Nations and their weapons inspection teams more time to complete their search of the country before announcing war.

He said he feels there is potential for the United States to repair its relationship with the United Nations.

"I believe that it is possible for the United States to regain credibility in the United Nations — it is going to take time, patience and diplomacy," Osborne said.

Osborne began the lecture by offering a brief explanation of U.S. foreign policy in Iraq and the success of the U.N. weapons inspection teams prior to the war. He also offered praise of former President George Bush, who expelled Saddam Hussein from Kuwait.

"The U.N. mandate didn't provide the removal of Saddam's regime as a member state of the United Nations," Osborne said. "However, Saddam voluntarily disarmed himself in 1992, due to the U.N. weapons of mass destruction inspectors."

"In the summer of 1995, the United Nations Special Commission reported that 90 percent of Iraq's weapons had been accounted for, eliminating Iraq's ability to produce weapons," Osborne explained.

He also explained that the purpose of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, which was created in December 1999, was to replace the former U.N. Special Commission and continue with the mandate to disarm Iraq. He said UNMOVIC also was created to monitor Iraq's compliance with its obligations not to reacquire the same weapons prohibited to it by the Security Council.

"The goal of UNMOVIC is to see how many weapons are undeclared in Iraq and how to prevent any from being produced in the future," Osborne said. "In January 2000, Hans Blix reported that Iraq as a whole had been cooperating with UNMOVIC and they had been allowed access to all of the places that they wanted to investigate."

Osborne said that the United States turned its back on the international community in deciding to invade and occupy Iraq.

"If this is the first battle on the war on terror, it seems like a shot in the dark to the international community (since WMD were not found); and if this is a war, what type of war is it?" Osborne challenged.

"Prior to Iraq, the United Nations was irrelevant in the eyes of America," he said. "But now the question is how do we go back to the United Nations since the United States failed its mission at the United Nations, causing it to fade into the background with the situation in Iraq? When we choose [to let] the United Nations to fail, we fail with it," he continued. ♦

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Maney Avenue plan may affect students

By Simon Lynn
Staff Writer

Affecting around 1,700 properties, the Maney Avenue Comprehensive Plan has become the subject of recent debate.

Given the area and location covered by the plan, the discussion might only be warming up. The general public seems to be uninformed about the plan. Some MTSU students might be surprised to learn that the plan includes and affects their current residences.

In short, the MACP affects roughly two-thirds of the rental

property south and southeast of MTSU.

The area includes, from the town square north to Tennessee Boulevard, primarily those streets east of Main Street extending to Mercury Boulevard. The area covered west of the square includes everything behind the storefronts along Memorial Boulevard and north until Highland Avenue at Evergreen Cemetery.

How the plan affects residents, or more directly, property owners, is unclear. If approved, the plan would create a non-profit organization called the Community Development

Corporation in charge of enforcing new guidelines also adopted with the plan. These guidelines would mandate what types of structural improvements could be made and even what use any property could serve. The zoning board responsible for making these allowances would not give preference to those wanting to rent their property.

The plan reads, "Although rental opportunities are important to provide housing options for varying needs of the community, it is recognized in the Maney Avenue community that home ownership creates a dif-

ferent and oftentimes greater feeling of pride within a community. A restoration of this sense of neighborhood pride is one of the goals of the plan."

City Planning Director Joseph Aydelott said more properties in this area are rentals than in other parts of town, adding that problems with renters are partially to blame for the plan and proposed redevelopment of the area. Aydelott distinguished between tenants who rent and those who own.

"Owners will usually park in the driveway, whereas renters will more likely park on the street ... Renters may have to be

told to pick up trash in the yard," Aydelott said.

"With higher [numbers of] rental properties, you have a lower amount of neighbors that are interested in maintaining a quality appearance of the neighborhood. Renters are more likely to have bad habits."

Aydelott also noted that higher crime rates in the area correlated with the higher proportion of rentals.

Drug and crime activity is a key challenge faced if the plan is implemented. Other challenges include safety and security, substandard housing conditions and pride of ownership. These

challenges supposedly are met through the plan with improvement strategies.

The plan suggests drug and crime activity be managed through increased policing, anti-drug programs in local schools and self-policing concepts like Neighborhood Watch and Eyes on the Street.

Substandard housing could be eliminated through strict codes enforcement and the creation of the Urban Design Overlay District. Pride of ownership would be achieved with a Resident Enrichment program

See Maney, 4

Oakland High one win away from home game

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

The Oakland High boys basketball team is one win away from staying at home.

Home for the Patriots is a berth to the TSSAA State Basketball Tournament. The tournament will take place in Murphy Center.

However, Oakland has to win one more game tonight in the Class AAA Sectional tournament to earn one of the eight spots up for grabs.

The team standing in their way, Rhea County, knocked off Oakland 67-54 Dec. 19, 2003 in the Lebanon Blue Devil Classic.

Rhea County (27-10) finished second in the Region 3-AAA tournament losing to Bradley Central in the regional finals 55-50.

The top two teams from each region advanced to the sectional tournament to play another team from a different region.

The game will take place at Oakland and will begin at 7 p.m.

Oakland got to this point by winning the Region 4-AAA championship last Thursday night 59-53 over Shelbyville. The championship was the Patriots' first since 1997, and the seventh in school history.

Adareus Dixon scored 18 points to lead the Patriots, while Devin Boyd added 15.

The night before, Oakland finished off city foe Blackman 48-45 in the semifinals. The win was a payback from losing to the Blaze in the district tournament. Oakland has a 3-2 record against Blackman this season.

Brady Neal scored 10 points,

tops for the Patriots. Ben Sneed dropped in 15 points for Blackman. The Blaze's season ended with a record of 22-10.

The Lady Patriots did not have the same success as Columbia put Oakland out of the region tournament. Last Wednesday night the Lady Lions defeated Oakland 47-35 in the semifinals.

DeAndrea Bullock scored 20 points for Columbia, while Taran Hayes had 14 for Oakland. Hayes ended her Oakland career in second place in all-time scoring at the school with 1,720 points.

Oakland ended the season with a 22-7 record.

The Lady Lions were handily defeated in the regional finals by Shelbyville 70-29 last Thursday night.

However, with the format being the top two teams from each region playing in the sectional tournament, Columbia still had a chance to go the state tournament. Both teams earned a spot Saturday night with a win.

Columbia bounced back with a 59-47 win over Bradley Central to punch a ticket to the Class AAA State Tournament. In addition, the 11-time state champions, Shelbyville had no trouble with Cumberland County, winning 67-33 and advancing to the State tournament.

The TSSAA Girls State Tournament will begin on Wednesday and run through Saturday. The boys will start March 17. All the games will take place in Murphy Center. ♦

A walk in the park



Photos by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

David and Michelle Dunkley (above) spend a family day walking the Greenway with their sons Logan and Dylan.

The Murfreesboro Greenway will be seeing major improvements thanks to a \$9.3 million expansion. The path, which connects various historic and scenic sites across town, will be expanded to include more than six miles of new trails – a total of more than 10 miles of trail once the project is complete.

Rep. Bart Gordon (D-Tenn.) helped secure a large portion of the funding. He told the *Daily News Journal* that he hopes to connect the Murfreesboro Greenway to future planned projects in Smyrna and eventually have a trail that leads all the way to Nashville. Bridges and other areas of the Greenway are currently closed while under construction.



Social Security pending problem

By Maura Satchell
Staff Writer

The government has a daunting task ahead of it in addressing two serious fiscal problems: the ballooning federal deficit and the impending retirements of millions of baby boomers.

Bruce Bartlett, a staunch supporter of the Reagan administration tax cuts and trickle-down economic theory, said tax increases are inevitable and likely to come right after the elections, no matter which party is in office. Bartlett is a senior fellow at the National Center for Policy Analysis, a conservative thinktank.

In an article written for Townhall.com, Bartlett predicts some really bad times ahead, based on his reading of the 2005 federal budget drafted by the Bush administration.

"Buried in an appendix volume where reporters are unlikely to notice, it paints a chilling picture of long-term budgetary trends," he said in the article.

That section of the budget projects federal spending will increase from 20 percent of the gross domestic product to 52 percent in 2080, primarily due to interest on the national debt, Bartlett wrote, which expands to 20 percent of the GDP.

But will the current administration wait until after the elections in November to raise taxes?

"Oh, absolutely. They're not

going to do anything before the election unless their hand is forced by extraordinary economic events that can't be contemplated at this point," Bartlett told National Public Radio in an interview last Friday.

Bartlett said that most fellow Republicans misunderstand his motives by sounding the tax increase alarm.

"When I'm predicting tax increases, I'm not advocating them," Bartlett said. "I figure that to be forewarned is to be forearmed."

He said that it is wise to plan ahead to structure the inevitable tax increases to do the least economic harm.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan agreed in testimony before the House Budget Committee last week to a bleak assessment of the deficit situation, and called the impending retirement of baby-boomers "one of the most difficult fiscal situations we've ever faced."

In the House budget hearing, Rep. John Spratt (D-S.C.) said that the federal deficit is so large that to erase it by only applying spending cuts, the federal government would have choices: to slash Social Security benefits, cut Medicare spending and eliminate all federal monies contributed to Medicaid or to choose an across-the-board cut in all areas other than defense, homeland security, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid or to cut all domestic discretionary spending.

Middle Tennessee

Age Breakdown

by county

County	under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Rutherford	182,023	31,079	22,483	12,115	13,622
Davidson	569,891	93,499	75,034	45,082	63,444
Williamson	126,638	24,535	21,243	10,337	9,811
Cheatham	35,912	6,833	5,175	3,071	3,085
Sumner	130,449	22,218	18,955	12,708	13,916
Robertson	54,433	9,407	7,480	4,779	5,887
Wilson	88,809	15,969	13,276	8,673	8,580

Source: U.S. Census 2000

Greenspan's two hours of testimony before the House Budget Committee did provide some good news on the state of the nation's current economic health though:

"The U.S. economy appears to have made the transition from a period of subpar growth to one of more vigorous expansion, and prospects for sustaining the expansion in the period ahead are good," the Greenspan said. He cautioned, however, that the rosy short-term outlook is tempered by growing concern over the escalating federal deficits. He made three key recommendations.

First, he advised, Congress should reinstate balanced budget policies that were highly effective in the early 1990s. These include discretionary spending caps, and PAYGO spending controls which would prevent spending without equal cuts in other areas, and would prevent tax credits without tax increases in other areas. He also urged the House lawmakers to maintain the current tax cuts and make them permanent because reinstating them may slow economic growth.

"Tax rate increases of sufficient

See Security, 4

Seussentennial



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Kids stopped by Hastings Saturday to celebrate the 100th birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss. Children heard Gloria Nolen read some of Seuss's works, and they were even able to meet Seuss character the Cat in the Hat.

Tennessee signs IRS agreement on tax avoidance

Staff Reports

Tennessee is one of 34 states that signed a joint agreement last Thursday with the Internal Revenue Service to share information intended to reduce the number of abusive tax avoidance schemes, state tax officials said.

The city of New York also signed the agreement.

According to the Tennessee Department of Revenue, abusive tax avoidance schemes are defined as transactions that reduce the amount of taxable income without "meaningful change in the taxpayer's economic position."

The agreement is similar to one signed last year by 45 states, New York City and Washington, D.C., to share information about illegal tax schemes.

Under the terms of the agreement, federal and state tax agencies agreed to coordinate efforts and share data, including personal data, to uncover new schemes, share insight on new compliance thinking and point out potential candidates for

audits

Examples of illegal tax schemes for businesses and corporations include fictitious, overstated invoicing, shifting income to offshore annuities, offshore wagering and "kits" for Internet businesses that give the appearance that the company is foreign owned and operated.

"Combating the use of abusive tax avoidance schemes by high-income individuals and others is a top enforcement policy," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Emerson. "Coordinating our case work and sharing leads with the states is an important way to extend the reach of the IRS and help the states."

"Abusive tax schemes and transactions pose a real threat to our state's revenue," said Tennessee Revenue Commissioner Loren L. Chumley. "The department sees this partnership as a valuable addition to our ongoing aggressive discovery, tax enforcement and criminal investigation's programs." ♦

Maney: Residents uneasy about potential changes

Continued from 3

and increased owner occupancy.

Yet news of these potential changes does not sit well with some residents of the area. Tim Davis, resident and local business owner, believes the city is overstepping its bounds with the MACP. Davis said he has no problem with a decrease in crime or other possible outcomes of the plan. The rights of local property owners are his main concern.

"We need personal property rights protection ... even on a national level," Davis said. "This is happening all over the country."

Davis does not feel that the city has done enough to notify local residents of the plan or the changes proposed in it. "This plan has been organized under cover of dark ... secretly," he said. "We asked them to notify property owners and they refused. Then a couple months later they put something about it on the bottom of the water bill."

This method could be quite ineffective since renters typically receive the water bill and probably care very little to noti-

fy their landlords.

Davis is not backing down. Instead, he is organizing local property owners and concerned citizens to oppose the plan in its current form. More information about the plan and petitions are available at both Salt and Pepper Christian Bookstores in Murfreesboro.

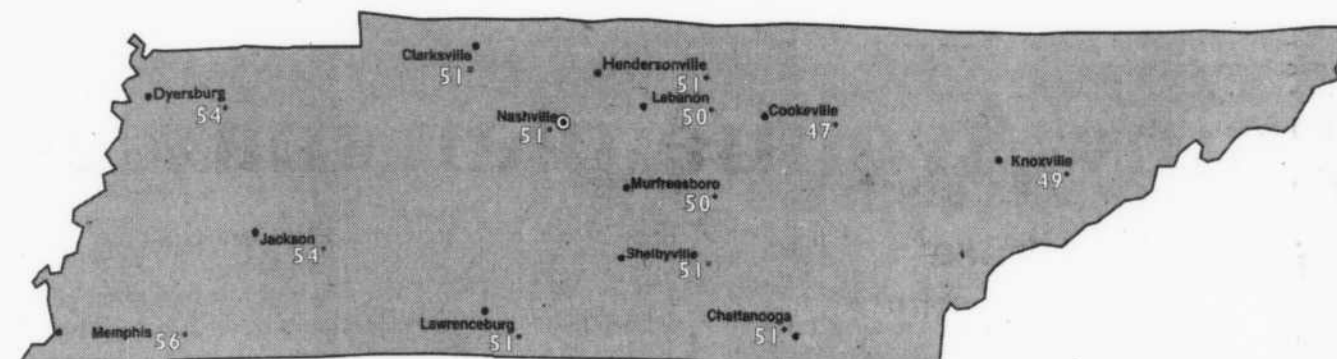
If approved, the MACP outlines many changes to the central area of our city and the community at MTSU. Two proposed parking garages near the Patterson Park Community Center could occupy space now used for public housing.

The primarily commercial area of South Maney Avenue could be transformed into "Mid-Town Village." Owners of properties bought, sold or inherited after the plan's implementation would face new restrictions on design and use. Thus, many houses now rentable to students and faculty would be limited to other uses.

The city is now encouraging public participation. A copy of the Maney Avenue Comprehensive Plan, along with details about two remaining meetings, can be found at murfreesborotn.gov. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Monday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Security: 'Boomer' generation major contributors

Continued from 3

dimension to deal with our looming fiscal problems arguably pose significant risks to economic growth and the revenue base," he said.

He called for bringing the budget back into the black from the spending side, through cuts in spending on entitlement programs but said that tax increases may be necessary to control the deficit.

The third recommendation proposed by Greenspan is to revise the Social Security benefits program, first by using a cost-of-living index which would be more realistic than the one currently applied and second by increasing the retirement age, which, for those retiring in the next two decades is set to increase to age 67.

In addition to the exploding federal budget deficit, due in large part to the costly wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Greenspan said he is very con-

cerned over the aging of the baby boomer population and how that will affect Social Security pension funds once that group retires.

Currently, the Social Security pension fund receives contributions from more than three persons to each individual retiree. In the coming decades, once the boomer generation checks out of the workforce, that number of contributors will fall to 2.25 per retiree.

"The degree of uncertainty about whether future resources will be adequate to meet our current statutory obligations to the coming generations of retirees is truly daunting," he said.

"Something must give. Either a decrease in benefits or raise taxes," said David Alan Penn Director of MTSU's Business and Economic Research Center, referring to social security taxes which are paid for by both the individual employees and employers too.

Penn said that Greenspan has broached the subject of social security cutbacks over the past ten years. It is coming to the point, however, where something must be done.

"If Congress does nothing, then in 10 years time, they are going to be forced to," Penn said.

A deeper and more complex problem is the long-term budget prospects laid out in the 2005 budget's appendix.

Both Bartlett and Greenspan agree that the worst problem, however, is Medicare. Bartlett said that President George Bush talked about reforming Social Security, but Medicare spending is the one that is going to get out of hand.

Many Middle Tennesseans are outraged by the swelling deficits and likely entitlement cuts. "The wake of financial slaughter gets ever longer," said Kenneth M. Burrows, 54, of Murfreesboro. "Veteran's bene-

fits slashed, a cartel-like stranglehold on Medicaid and prescriptions now touted as 'better than nothing'" and Iraq and Afghanistan, Burrows said, "drain our economy at a stellar pace."

"I think it is a crime that they are trying to use Social Security to 'feed the deficit,'" said Deb Principato of Walter Hill. "We need to be like Bredesen and Tennessee and spend what we have, not our future."

"Now, under the fiscally conservative, smaller government 'Bush,' we are almost \$600 billion in the red. Iraq and 9-11? I think not. Bigger government and breaks for the rich? I think so," said Joel Hausler, MTSU professor of educational leadership.

It should be noted that the Greenspan's recommendation to raise the retirement age is a practical solution which he takes to heart: he turned 78 last week. ♦

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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Monday, March 8, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 5

From the Editor

University's president 'ought not be here'

"Don't worry, you can trust me. I'll always be open and honest with you."

University President Sidney McPhee introduced himself to the *Sidelines* staff with those words when we first met, more than two years ago. I remember thinking at the time, "Never believe a man who tells you to trust him."

As the allegations, facts and denials come in, it's become apparent my concerns were justified.

As of press time, these are the acts the public knows about:

A long, detailed, thorough sexual harassment complaint was filed against McPhee in October 2003. His administrative assistant, Tammie Allen, alleges that the president sexually assaulted and accosted her at multiple locations (on golf courses, on a bus, in his office) from February 2002 through September 2003. Integrity?

In his denial, he said he believed Allen's motivation for filing the complaint to be that she was not selected to participate in a golf tournament. Credibility?

The day word of the complaint was leaked to the media, McPhee responded by trying to overdose on prescription medications and to drown himself in a river near Chattanooga. Although he was briefly hospitalized, he refused to take an extended leave. A man who tried to kill himself was back at work the next week, making decisions affecting the lives of 22,000 students and hundreds of faculty and staff members. Stability?

On Jan. 26, he preached to an assembled group of honors students that if they "ought not be here" was going on at this university, they "ought not be here." After referring to *Sidelines*, he demanded "if all you have to report [is] negative stuff about this institution, find another place." This is meant to be a place of academic freedom and skeptical inquiry. Leadership?

Last week, he flip-flopped regarding his involvement with the sheriff's office, before settling on the story that he called the sheriff to express his regrets over what we wrote in an editorial. Honesty?

Despite his public announcements of dedication to the students here, it was the sheriff he called to apologize, not the *Sidelines* staff to find out why the phrase was included in the first place. Commitment?

Allen's complaint was investigated by the organization he worked for immediately before his appointment to the university. The Tennessee Board of Regents found her allegations worthy enough to merit a salary increase of \$4,000 and a new position described as a promotion. The board also found the complaint credible enough to levy a punishment (albeit little more than a slap on the wrist) against McPhee. Guilt.

Integrity. Credibility. Stability. Leadership. Honesty. Commitment. Guilt.

Faculty senators take note: McPhee has exemplified only one of the above during the past four months. ♦



Patrick Chinnery
Editor in Chief

Gambling, lottery good for state

Today could be the day. Today just might be your day.

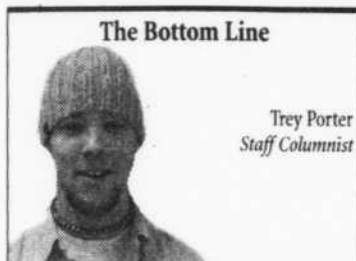
If you're feeling lucky, roll on over to your local mini-mart and play the Tennessee Lottery. There are a variety of games and ways to win.

Your financial obligations begin around 50 cents with games like Pick 3, and from there you can pretty much spend as much as you want. Many gamblers drop \$5 on the Jack Pot prize, which sits at about \$100,000.

I like gambling; in fact, I encourage it. I think the lottery scholarship is a wonderful benefit, and I'm also happy that Tennessee has finally shed some of its conservative roots on the entire issue.

I can't help but laugh, however, with regards to who plays the lottery. I have played a couple times. I love playing. I just don't always have those extra few dollars to spend.

Ironically, it seems the guy next to me with holes in his clothes and six kids in the car always has enough to play the lottery. Now, this is just sad. I just don't under-



The Bottom Line

Trey Porter
Staff Columnist

stand how the people who need to be holding onto their money are the fastest to spend it.

The positions we are as college students afford us the wonderful insight into the future of how and what not to do. We are blessed with an example of what not to be.

I had journalism professor Ed Kimbrell for a class last year. He always said that as college students, our main objective for the next four years was to learn. I know people work, and sometimes learning is very far from our to-do lists. However, we should all try and live by that.

The next time you're standing in line for beer and thinking about whether or not your fake ID is going to work, look around and make a few notes.

Note to self: If buying that lottery ticket means putting the gallon of milk for the family back on the shelf, don't buy it.

Also, if you walked to the gas station, don't play the lottery - save your money for a vehicle. Obviously, the lottery is a great way to get rich quick. That's the appeal. However, the majority of people who play the lottery compared to people who win the lottery aren't close to equal.

Many people who were against the lottery from day one, minus the religious ones, were against it for reasons just like those. Gambling can become addictive. It's tragic the way it consumes some people.

So let's make money off of those poor gambling addicts.

There are hundreds of thousands of children who are now going to be afforded the opportunity to go to college simply because of the lottery. It's not just a free ride either. There are certain standards that a student has to meet before qualifying for some lottery money via the HOPE

Scholarship.

If you work hard, the money is there. I think it's a wonderful thing that younger generations are going to be afforded these secondary education opportunities. I don't qualify for the lottery scholarships. I'm too old, but so is the guy shorting his family by playing the Sizzling 7s game.

Everybody wins with the lottery.

The kids win because there are thousands of adults out there pouring dollars into their college futures. The college students win because we see shining examples every day of how to manage our money.

Finally, those poor gamblers win, because whether they know it or not, they're contributing to a positive future. The bottom line is gambling is good for Tennessee, and what's good for Tennessee is good for you and me. ♦

Trey Porter is a sophomore journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at yellowcardsweep@yahoo.com.

Embrace your inner child

Do you still sleep with a stuffed animal, or do you still have an object that reminds you of childhood? If you do, it's OK. I don't think you're cheesy.

I sleep with a teddy bear and baby blanket. I also collect Baby Bear items, because when I was little, that was my favorite cartoon. I'm not ashamed.

These items of positive memories can help us feel safe while we learn how to relate and survive in the adult world. They can help us remember that though the world is big there's still fun to be had.

Another thing these items can do is ease emotional tension. You can throw them, yell at them and squeeze them, but they will never fight back. They're good listeners and don't call you a crybaby when crying is all you can do. In short, they're the



Kacey's Corner

Kacey Hercules
Staff Columnist

perfect friends to all who will give them a chance.

Also, they're good bed buddies. Most people will sleep with their stuffed pal until they marry. Some people may laugh, but you have to admit that its better then being alone. If you kick them out of the bed, it may be a sign that you need to work on your bed manners before you put a human body beside you.

If we didn't have these cherished items from childhood, we'd be like every other boring adult. When we were kids and said adults didn't understand us, we were right.

Most adults have lost their inner child. That's the saddest thing that can happen to an individual. I challenge you to be the generation who doesn't lose the child within.

Even if you don't have a stuffed animal or collect toys, you can still enjoy the simple life. Eat a bowl of ice cream before dinner or go play in the park.

If you're embarrassed to go because of your age, find a little kid to go with. I'm sure they won't care to tag along. Plus, the opposite sex always loves to watch a potential mate reach out to a child or just connect with the inner one. ♦

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

Letters to the Editor

McPhee should resign from MTSU

To the Editor:

MTSU is in the news again, and it's not good news. Our president is being sued for sexual harassment and several other things associated with it. This is after an initial spate of embarrassing publicity, after we were told that there was going to be mediation to resolve the conflict, after McPhee was anything but forthcoming about his alleged suicide attempt and after the Board of Regents investigated and punished him. The negative publicity has returned, the mediation obviously did not work, we still do not know about the president's illness and the "investigation" and "punishment" appear to have been flawed and inadequate.

It is clear that both parties have suffered from this situation, and I am sorry for them about that. What is very clear is that our university has and will continue to be punished for their problems. The community's and the region's perceptions of MTSU are very strongly influenced by the behavior of the president.

When the news about this complaint first broke last fall, I was questioned, often very critically, about "What is going on at MTSU?" This happened at schools in Woodbury, stores in McMinnville, professional offices here in Murfreesboro and even by professors I know in Virginia and New York who read the news in national publications. I have had students, including students from out-of-state, tell me that they went home for Christmas break to people saying that their MTSU degree has been devalued by these problems.

It is hard to believe that McPhee will be as effective as a fund-raiser with this going on. It is already clear that he has been unable to provide the leadership to resolve other complaints of sexual harassment and sexual discrimination. MTSU has been injured, and the ongoing legal proceedings are not going to give us an opportunity to heal.

It is time for McPhee to act in the best interests of the university he says he loves. It is time for him to put that love above his selfish desire to maintain his position. It is time for him to make the decision to resign. If he is not able to do so, it is time for the TBR to take him back and give us a chance to select a leader who will contribute positively to our reputation and our ability to move away from this unfortunate situation.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sanborn
Associate Professor

Thanks for the record "full house"

To the editor:

Feb. 26 was a record-setting night at Murphy Center. Even the snow could not stop us! The students stood and cheered the entire game, bringing back the great atmosphere of the '70s and '80s. The MTSU team led from start to finish. So many positive comments have been received, and I'm sure the night will have great carry-over value. The only negative comment read or heard was from the WKU coach!

It was a heart-warming night for me, I assure you. Thanks to the students, faculty and staff and all who supported Operation: Full House.

Aaron W. Todd
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines'
occasional
watch for
mutton-heads.



There's nothing we hate more than an over-reaching government organization that tries to intimidate a group of citizens and people who won't fight back.

We're talking, of course, about the Federal Communications Commission and the drips over at Clear Channel.

The FCC labeled some material by the "Bubba the Love Sponge" show as indecent. Instead of fighting the Man, Clear Channel paying a \$755,000 fine.

The media conglomerate also fired the disc jockey and has "ended its association with shock jock Howard Stern," according to an Associated Press article.

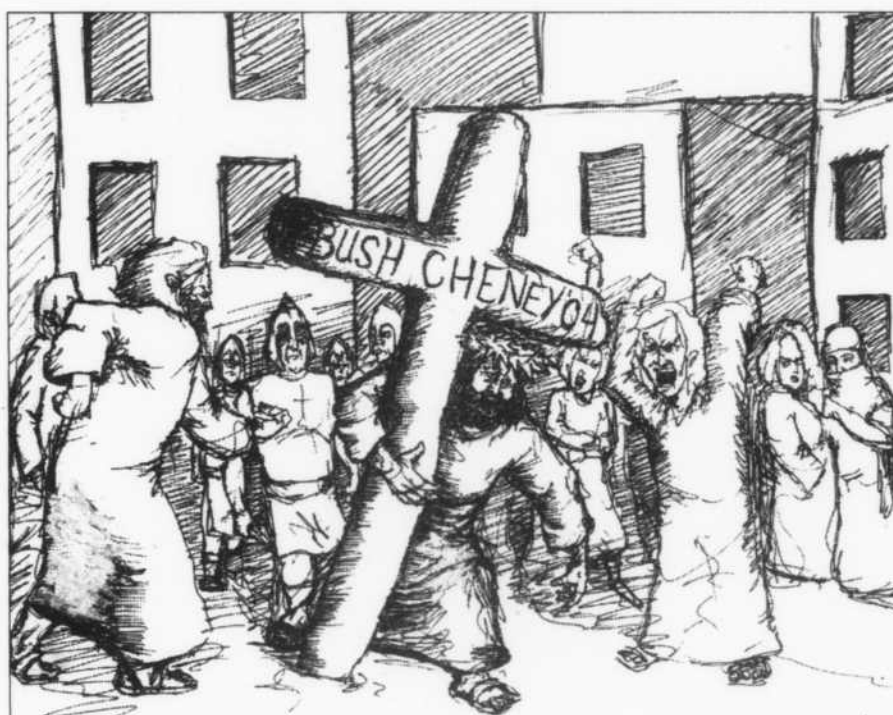
While Clear Channel has every right to decide who they want to employ and to take its stations in

a "family-friendly" direction, to do so because a renegade, conservative-moral-enforcing bureaucracy tells them to is pathetic.

The better way to handle this situation would've been to demand the FCC develop less-intrusive regulations, or, better yet, start fighting to get rid of the FCC all together.

Dictating what children should and shouldn't hear not only violates the right of businesses to develop their own products, but also absolves parents of their responsibility to raise children in an appropriate setting. ♦

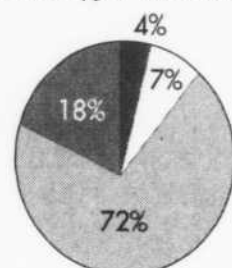
Original story by the Associated Press, via sfgate.com, posted Thursday.



A new version of *The Passion* set to come out in November.

Sidelines online poll results

Last week we asked readers, "Was Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* worthy of all the hype?" Here's what you had to say:



- ☒ I liked the movie, but didn't care for the source material.
- ☐ I like the source material, but thought the movie was too much.
- ☐ The movie was perfect from start to finish.
- ☐ I'd rather watch *Jesus Christ, Superstar*.

SIDELINES

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Leader of the Pack

Lightning, MTSU's mascot, boosts Blue Raider fans' morale at sporting events, within community

By Trey Porter
Staff Writer

Historically, winged horses have not been associated with raiders.

But instead of listening to history, MTSU decided to make its own six years ago with the creation of a new mascot.

On January 17, 1998, MTSU revealed its brand new mascot and logo during a basketball game at the Murphy Center.

It was on that evening that Lightning became the official mascot of Blue Raider athletics.

The idea for Lightning comes from Greek mythology. The winged horse, which was called Pegasus in the Greek myths, possessed uncanny cunning and speed.

The horse carried lightning bolts from the gods that could only be harnessed by a man, pure of heart.

For all of the mythological tradition and fable that surrounds this character, there's also a completely different side that few Blue Raider fans ever get to see — the man behind the mask.

"It is one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had," Steven Helton, the student who becomes Lightning before every game or event, says.

Helton is a junior from Viola, Tenn., who is working toward a double major in agricultural business and agricultural education.

"Athletics and the effect it has on school spirit is awesome," Helton says. "I wanted to be a part of that."

Helton's interest was sparked when university officials came to the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and asked if anyone would be interested in trying out for Lightning.

"I had a lot of support from my [fraternity] brothers in both putting together the skit and encouragement," Helton recalls.

Most students and sports fans think of mascots as directly relating to the game or athletic event they are entertaining for.

Helton, however, soon found out that there were many more opportunities for Lightning in and around the campus community.

"I have been to many local elementary schools to participate in all sorts of events," Helton says.

Wilson Elementary, Central Middle and the Campus School are a few of the local schools that Lightning has visited.

Lightning is very popular with the children and this is a role and responsibility that Helton relishes in.

"It's all for the kids," Helton exclaims. "They all love Lightning and it gives you a great feeling to know that you are this little kid's hero."

Many people around campus feel that Helton has done great things since becoming the mascot, such as community involvement, participation and awareness.

The current mascot receives praises from

“

Lightning
is great for
this school,
and great for
the ball teams,
too.”

Courtney Corlew
sophomore recording
industry major

university representatives and students alike.

"He has definitely taken it to a new level," former Lightning mascot Luke Naylor says.

As MTSU fights to stay alive in NCAA Division I-A competition, it is imperative that each game's experience and atmosphere be exciting.

"He is energetic and I believe he has done great things for the student community in terms of involvement," Inter-Fraternity Council President Kasey Talbott says.

Others agree.

"I think he has played a big hand in making the game-time atmosphere more electric," Michelle Butler, Student Government Association President, says.

Although the position has taken a lot of time and energy, Helton feels strongly that he has gained a lot from his experiences.

"Being on the road — seeing kids faces light up all the time — I'm just truly thankful," Helton says.

Helton adds that it's rewarding to work with good people. He mentions everyone from security guards to custodial people.

He feels that working with these people was a big joy of the job.

"When you work with good people, it makes you better," Helton says.

Though being MTSU's mascot may seem like a dream job, Helton admits there have been some trying times.

"During football season, sometimes I felt like I lived on the bus," he recalls.

One of Helton's most memorable stories from the road was driving by the Arch in St. Louis, Mo., and waking up in the livestock center parking lot on campus.

As the student population grows so does the tradition and affection for the university and its pageantry.

"Lightning is great for this school and great for the ball teams, too," sophomore recording industry major Courtney Corlew says.

The MTSU traditions get deeper as the school grows larger and older.

Lightning has become a fan favorite and a very important part of the community.

Helton carries on and expands the tradition of Lightning each and every day. ♦

Photo by Josh Jordan | Staff Photographer
Lightning plays a key role in getting the crowd going in Murphy Center.

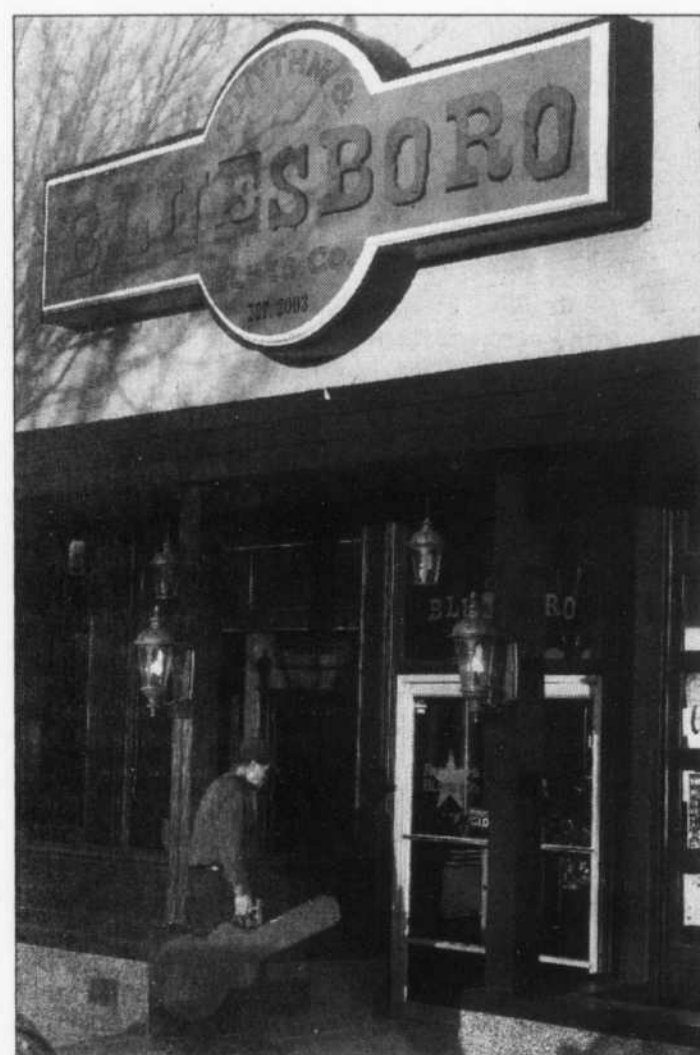


Photo by Josh Jordan | Staff Photographer
Bluesboro, located on the town Square, boasts of serving the best barbeque in town and a unique atmosphere.

New venue adds to music scene

Bluesboro brings barbecue, blues-inspired songs to the mix

By Melissa Coker
Staff Writer

Murfreesboro has been singing the blues since the recent arrival of Bluesboro.

This restaurant, bar and music venue provides a soulful-slanted makeover for the face of the town's square.

Bluesboro, with its mantra "Eat — Drink — Listen," not only offers a full bar, but cooks up a menu eclectic enough to leave its patrons pondering why they'd ever get the blues.

From shrimp to Vietnamese potstickers to chicken wings, the Bluesboro Rhythm & Blues Company prides itself on its barbecue.

The restaurant doesn't use sauce because it's believed to cover "a lot of mistakes," according to Bluesboro's Web site. They can serve sauce on the side, but you may just not need it.

Bluesboro guarantees one of the most tasty barbecue products ever. They've dubbed the

style "sophisticated redneck barbecue," featuring four different types of meat (chicken, two types of sausage and ribs).

The restaurant seats approximately 200 guests and the kitchen dishes out food daily from 4 p.m. to midnight.

However, the music is the main course.

The stage, which primarily features blues or blues-leaning music (like blues-based rock), is the biggest in Murfreesboro, according to General Manager Doug Bolin.

The venue also has a state-of-the-art lighting and sound system for the acts who perform there and their audiences.

Bluesboro opened on the square near the end of November and has received an outstanding response so far.

"This is right in a lot of people's own backyard," Bolin says. "Everyone has commented that it's exactly what Murfreesboro needed — they don't have to go to Nashville to hear great blues."

Although its owner, Rob

Fortney, also owns Inferno Bar, you wouldn't know it, considering the cool performances that take place at Bluesboro. The atmosphere is quite different.

Bluesboro hosts artists who cover songs from Stevie Ray Vaughan to the three Kings — B.B., Freddie and Albert, to be exact.

It's become a favorite for the Jefferson Street Bluesmen, whose members have played with Otis Redding, Little Richard and Jimi Hendrix.

Legendary Johnny Neel, who has performed with the Allman Brothers, appeared last month. Guests were charged a \$6 cover.

Murfreesboro's own Roland Grisham jazzes things up weekly with Smooth Jazz Sundays from 8 p.m. until midnight for a \$3 cover.

Additionally, each night delivers a specialty show.

Thursday is catered specifically to the MTSU crowd, showcasing local artists starting at 9:30 p.m. Past performers have included Under Shade and

Common Ground.

Wednesday wields the power of karaoke, while Two-for-Tuesdays are hosted by "the funniest rock 'n' roll group on the planet," The Butter and Sugar show. There are two-for-one house specials on drinks all night, and two-for-one appetizers until 10 p.m., when the music begins.

Monday pens a writer's night hosted by Don Clark, where the music plays starting at 9 p.m. Fridays feature a live WRLT Lightning 100 radio broadcast from 8-10 p.m.

"We're equal-opportunity entertainers," Bolin says, smiling.

Bluesboro's hours are 4 p.m. to 3 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday, from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Monday and 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Sunday.

For more information, call 907-1115 or visit bluesboro-live.com. ♦

Word Search

S L D N U O R G Y A L P
 C U B U T B A F E H A L
 I E N E K C I H C R P O
 N A C S Q S N S K B W W
 C A B G H I K S J I A S
 I C F I M I L Z B A G K
 P T N C M T N A S N A O
 H A M M O C K E I H T V
 N N T S O Y K W J M W X
 R O E Y L K S E E S A W
 E E W G B L U E S K Y I
 B F N N M U N I T S U J

Word Bank:

Bees
 Bloom
 Blue sky

Chicken
 Fishin'
 Hammock
 Parks
 Picnic
 Playground

Plow
 Seesaw
 Sunshine
 Swings
 Tan
 Tag

Campus Calendar

Monday, March 8

Honors Lecture Series
 Paul W. Martin Honors Building
 Room 106, 3 p.m.
 Topic: "Non-treatment Orders: Do Not Resuscitate,"
 Robert Rucker, social work
 For information, contact
 898-2152

Jazz 2004 Kirk Whalum
 Tucker Theatre, 7 p.m.
 For information, contact
 898-5610

Vickie Riggan, speaker
 James Union Building
 Hazelwood, 4 p.m.
 898-2569

Tuesday, March 9

Perspectives on Popular Music
 "Seal: Black British Pop Breaks Into America,"
 Mike Alleyne, recording industry
 Bragg Mass Communications Building
 Room 241, 12:30 p.m.
 For more information, contact
 898-2449

Winona LaDuke, speaker
 Keathley University Center Theater, 3 p.m.
 For information, contact
 898-5961

Wednesday, March 10

"U.S. Military, Asian Women"
 Jid Lee, English professor
 JUB Room 100, 3 p.m.
 For more information, contact
 898-2657

Thursday, March 11

Retired Faculty Coffee
 Foundation House, 9:30 a.m.
 For information, contact
 898-2052

Breakfast with Champions
 JUB Hazelwood, 7:30 p.m.
 For more information, contact
 898-8253

"Female Music Journalist"
 Business and Aerospace Building
 Room 102, 3:30 p.m.
 For information, contact
 898-5150

"Diverse Dialogue on Gender Perspectives
 from Influential Women in the Social
 Sciences"
 Carson-Kennedy Nursing Building
 Room 107, 3 p.m.
 For information, contact
 898-2125

Friday, March 12

"Women in Pharmacy"
 BAS Room 102, 1:30 p.m.
 For information, contact
 898-8253 or 904-8253

"Culture Shock"
 JUB Room 102, 1:30 p.m.
 For information, contact
 904-8275

Saturday, March 13

"Ders Un Purpose" play
 Tucker Theatre, 2 p.m.
 For information, contact
 217-6394



Sidelines is now accepting application for...

Editor in chief

[1855-60, Amer.] *ed/itor* *in chief*, *n.* *pl.* editors in chief, the policy-making executive or principal editor of a publishing house, publication, or group of publications. [1870-75] *ed/itor* *ship* (*ed/itor* *ship*), *n.* 1. the office or function of an editor. 2.

Summer/Fall 2004
 May-December appointment

Qualified candidates must:

- Be a student at MTSU, registered for classes at the time of application.
- Have a 2.3 cumulative GPA at the time of application.
- Have worked on staff at least two semesters or have comparable media experience.
- Provide three letters of recommendation, a current transcript and no more than five examples of their work, professionally submitted.

Deadline for
 Applications:
 Friday
 April 2, 2004
 at 12:00 p.m.

Editors receive a full tuition scholarship and a salary tenure. Applications may be picked up from the MTSU Sidelines office, JUB 310, 9 am - 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Return the applications to Jeri Lamb, Sidelines Business Manager, in the Sidelines office, JUB 308B



Political correctness
 doesn't exist on Talk Radio.

Kruse sets career wins record as women roll

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

Manon Kruse's spectacular senior season got even better Friday when she became the all-time winningest singles player in Middle Tennessee history as the Lady Raiders defeated Murray State University 5-1.

Kruse collected her 72nd career win after defeating Melissa Spencer 6-0, 6-0 in the No. 1 singles match. Her ninth straight victory moved her ahead of Amy King, who played at MT from 1995 to 1998.

Kruse, ranked No. 50 in the nation by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, has won all her matches in straight sets this spring, including a 6-1, 6-2 victory over then-No. 23 Aibika Kalsarieva of the University of Kentucky Jan. 24.

Kruse and her doubles partner Carien Venter defeated MSU's Spencer and Jaclyn Leeper 8-3 in No. 1 doubles to win their seventh straight match. The No. 35 duo in

the nation moved their overall record to 8-1 this spring, meaning Kruse has lost just one match in 18 appearances.

The rest of the Lady Raiders (7-2) also took care of business as MT swept the doubles matches to go up 1-0. Emily Vest and Ana Maria Cibils started the Lady Raiders off with an 8-1 victory over Jennifer Ward and Casady Pruitt at No. 3. After Kruse and Venter's victory, Jennifer Klaschka and Laura McNamara defeated twin sisters Anna and Rachael Lask 8-5 in No. 2 doubles to also move to 8-1 on the season.

In singles, No. 86 Klaschka defeated Leeper 6-2, 6-2 at No. 2 in her first career match with a singles ranking. McNamara defeated Ward in straight sets 6-2, 6-3 at No. 4.

The teams split a pair of three-set matches, with Venter defeating Anna Lask 6-4, 3-6, 10-4 at No. 3, while Rachael Lask defeated Cibils 6-1, 1-6, 10-4 at No. 5.

The No. 6 singles match between Pruitt

and MT's Jacqui Williams did not finish after the Lady Raiders had clinched the victory. Pruitt had won the first set 7-5 when the match was suspended.

The Lady Raiders won their fourth consecutive match, while the Lady Racers dropped to 8-10 on the season. MT's next match is March 10 against the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Miss. ♦

Special Tennis Notice

The women's tennis match pitting Middle Tennessee against Georgia State University was postponed Saturday. The match was scheduled to take place Sunday, March 7 in Murfreesboro. The match is expected to be rescheduled, but a date has not been set. ♦



Photo by David McCombs | Staff Photographer

MT senior Carien Venter prepares to return a backhand in Friday's match against Murray State. MT won 5-1.

Bobo hurls no-hitter, strikes out 10



Photo by Julie Madewell | Staff Photographer

MT sophomore designated hitter Muriel Ledbetter checks her swing against Lipscomb University Thursday.

Lady Raiders drop second game of doubleheader

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee pitcher Crystal Bobo was nothing short of dominant Thursday as the Lady Raider softball team split with visiting Lipscomb University 9-0 and 5-4.

The junior transfer from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville gave up no hits and struck out 18 in 10 and 1/3 innings of work on the day.



Bobo

Bobo got off to a slow start, walking the first two batters she faced, but recovered to strike out 10 of the next 16 batters. The only other runner for Lipscomb on the day was a hit batsman in the fourth inning.

"Yeah, I guess it was same old, same old," senior second baseman Courtney Mitchell said. "She pitched great and we played well. It's a shame it took us three innings to wake up in the second game."

Mitchell also played with Bobo at nearby Ezell-Harding High School, where both were multiple all-state selections.

With the Lady Raiders clinging to a 2-0 lead, the offense erupted in the bottom of the fifth inning for seven runs,

capped off by Katie Tompkins' two-run shot over the right field wall to end the game with the eight-run mercy rule.

The win gave Bobo her first by the Lady Raiders since Jenn Dorais accomplished the same feat last season against Tennessee State University.

"I felt early on I wasn't warm," Bobo said. "But then I got loose and started throwing well, and was able to spot my pitches."

In the second game, the Lady Bisons roughed up MT starter Muriel Ledbetter for five runs in 1 2/3 innings. After freshman Trish White was ineffective for two batters, Lady Raider head coach Cindy Connelley put

Bobo back in and she pitched 5 1/3 innings, striking out eight.

Mitchell's solo home run in the bottom of the fourth cut the lead to 5-1, and Angie Huebner's base-clearing double in the bottom of the fifth brought the Lady Raiders (7-3) to within one run. Sara Meek retired the final six Lady Bisons (9-11) the win.

"Crystal pitched really well today," Connelley said. "I think that's 23 straight innings without allowing a run. She gave us a chance to win, which was good, but as far as the offense, I'm not too concerned because the tendency is to over-think this early in the season." ♦

Track members vie for NCAAAs

By Brad Jameson
Staff Writer

Blue Raider runners set school records in the women's 400-meter relay and the men's 1600-meter relay Saturday at the Last Chance Invitational in Ames, Iowa.

The meet, held in Iowa State University's indoor facilities, was the final hope for competitors to qualify for the upcoming NCAA Indoor Championships.

Junior sprinter Rosemary Okafor finished the 400-meters in a personal-best 52.93 seconds to take second in the event. Her time eclipsed the 54.26 mark set by Kishara George last week in the Sun Belt Conference Indoor Championships. George also improved on her time Saturday, finishing in fifth place with 54.13, her new personal best.

Okafor's time will most likely be good enough to qualify her for the NCAA Championships next weekend.

The men's 1600-meter relay team finished in fifth place with a new MT record of 3:08.32, also below the NCAA provisional mark. The team improved upon its winning

performance of a season-best 3:10.15 at last week's SBC Championships, which ranked No. 14 nationally. The team, consisting of seniors Tim Hicks and Xavier Darden, junior Victor Okorie (running for senior Mardy Scales, who rested this weekend in preparation for the NCAA Championships) and sophomore Sean Waller, may have secured its spot in next week's NCAA meet.

Darden also set a personal best in the men's 200-meters with 21.29, earning him fifth place in the event.

Waller finished the 400-meters in sixth place with an NCAA provisional time of 47.23, also setting a new personal best for the sprinter.

Only two other MT athletes competed on Saturday. Senior Garland Martin and sophomore Linnie Yarbrough both ran in the 60-meter hurdles. Martin's best time of 7.78 this season ranks No. 9 nationally, while Yarbrough's 7.82 is No. 23. Martin and Yarbrough finished Saturday's prelims with times of 7.97 and 7.96, respectively. Neither time was fast enough to make finals.

Qualifying athletes for the NCAA Indoor Championships will be announced today. The event will be held March 12-13 in Fayetteville, Ark.

The outdoor season begins the following weekend, March 20-21, in Tuscaloosa, Ala. ♦



Okafor



Upcoming Track Events

- NCAA Championships Fayetteville, Ark. - Mar. 12-13
- Alabama Relays Start of Outdoor Season
- Mississippi State Invitational Tuscaloosa, Ala. - Mar. 20-21
- Starkville, Miss. - Mar. 27

McKenry's grand slam leads MT sweep over SLU

By Matthew Adair
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee has propelled

themselves ahead in their series against the Southeastern Louisiana University Lions, winning the first two of three matches in Hammond, La.

The first game in the series remained locked in a 2-2 tie until MT junior Eric McNamee reached second on a passed ball. Senior outfielder Marcus Taylor shot a pitch to reach second, sending McNamee home on the play when SLU's Corey Penedo threw the resulting ground ball into the first base dugout.

MT's comeback began to wear down Lions starting pitcher Chad Pendarvis. The SLU starter played into the beginning of the eighth inning before he was relieved by Paul Garner.



McNamee

Pendarvis walked and struck out four in the game, giving up four runs on six hits.

The Blue Raiders continued their run for victory with consecutive singles from Brett Carroll and Josh Archer, allowing Taylor to come home. Nate Jagers walked to load the bases, and freshman Michael McKenry fired a grand slam over the left-center fence to put MT up by the score of 8-2.

McKenry's grand slam was his first career run. In five at-bats Saturday, McKenry also scored four RBIs and two strikeouts.

The Lions took advantage of MT stumbling in the first as SLU's Russell Taylor scored from third on a pitching error committed by Carroll. SLU picked up its second run in that inning with a bases-loaded walk by Ryan Spencer and proceed to go without scoring until Randy Roth scored an unearned run in the eighth.

SLU would score twice in the ninth as MT took the 10-5 victory against the Lions.

MT pitcher Chris Mobley played his longest outing as a starter, playing

seven innings. After allowing two unearned runs in the first, Mobley struck out nine, tying a career record.

Travis Hirschel took over for Mobley in the final two innings, allowing three runs on three hits against the Blue Raiders.

MT's John Williams proved to be the dominant force in the second match of the Blue Raiders' three-game series. Williams struck out 11 in eight-plus innings Saturday night, allowing only one run. The Blue Raiders took advantage of Williams' pitching to give them an edge as they scratched in four runs to take the 4-1 victory and the sweep of Saturday's doubleheader.

The game was Williams' second this season with double-digit strikeouts as well as his sixth of his career. Williams came within one pitch of matching the 12 strikeouts he threw against IP-Fort

Wayne Feb. 21.

Junior Chase Swing relieved Williams in the final inning after the Lions loaded the bases. Chase produced the game-ending ground ball and secure his second save of the season.

MT got on the board in the fifth when Tony Harp sent the ball down the left field line for a double. McNamee sent the runner to third with a ground ball and Harp ran for home on a wild pitch to break the game's scoreless streak.

The Blue Raiders took an additional point in the sixth. Jagers took advantage of a two-base error committed by SLU right fielder Tony Suarez, then advanced to third with a sacrifice bunt by Shane Kemp. Jagers came home on a line drive to center by Jeff Beachum to give MT a 2-0 lead.

Archer gave MT two insurance runs in the seventh by slamming a ball out to the right field wall, plating Harp and McNamee with two outs against him.

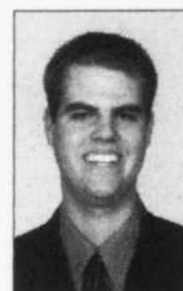
After an incident in which the Lions' head coach Dan Canevari was thrown from the game for an argu-

ment with home plate umpire Tommy Morse, the Lions mounted a rally in the ninth with two outs against them. SLU plated Jason Waguespack, then pro-

ceeded to load the bases against Williams with singles from Anthony Garibaldi, Colby Tyler and Trent Herbert.

Swing then forced a ground-out to second to deny the Lions' comeback and earn the Blue Raiders their first doubleheader road sweep since besting the University of Arkansas-Little Rock on April 15, 2001.

The Blue Raiders will continue their road matches with games at Lipscomb University on Tuesday and Belmont University on Wednesday before returning home to Reese Smith Field to take on Southwest Missouri State University in a three-game series next weekend. ♦



Swing

TSSAA Girls High School State Tournament

All games will be played at Murphy Center

Class A			
Wednesday 11 a.m.	Clay County		
	Perry County	Friday 11 a.m.	
	Cosby		
Wednesday 12:30 p.m.	Peabody		
	Unaka	Saturday 3 p.m.	
Wednesday 2 p.m.	Clarkrange		
	Huntingdon	Friday 12:30 p.m.	
Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	Summertown		
Class AA			
Wednesday 7 p.m.	Loretto		
	Seymour	Friday 2 p.m.	
	Crockett County		
Wednesday 8:30 p.m.	McMinn Central		
	Oliver Springs	Saturday 5 p.m.	
Thursday 11 a.m.	Cheatham County		
	Gibson County	Friday 5:30 p.m.	
Thursday 12:30 p.m.	Livingston Academy		
Class AAA			
Thursday 2 p.m.	Greeneville		
	Wilson Central	Friday 7 p.m.	
	Shelbyville		
Thursday 5:30 p.m.	Jackson North Side		
	Columbia	Saturday 7 p.m.	
Thursday 7 p.m.	Craigmont		
	Brentwood	Friday 8:30 p.m.	
Thursday 8:30 p.m.	Powell		

Lady Raiders build early lead into win in Sun Belt tourney

MT Media Relations

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Middle Tennessee (21-7), the No. 4 seed, used a 27-point first half lead to control North Texas and picked up a Sun Belt Tournament quarter-final win 81-66 Sunday over No. 5 seed North Texas (11-17).

In the first nine minutes of the game, the Lady Raiders held North Texas to just five points as the Lady Raiders put together a 20-point effort. In the final 11 minutes of the game, Middle Tennessee ran off another 22 point, only allowing North Texas 10 to lead 43-15 at the half. The 15-point output by North Texas in the first half was the lowest Middle Tennessee has allowed this season.

North Texas attempted a rally in the second half and outscored the Lady Raiders by 12 points (51-39) but the huge lead in the first half proved to be just enough cushion for Middle Tennessee. After shooting only 26.9 percent in the first half, North Texas shot a scorching 57.1 percent in the second half to attempt a comeback.

Patrice Holmes scored a game high 22 points and also had three assists and three steals. Freshman Chrissy Givens had a coming out party as she scored a career-high 18 points, with 11 coming in the second half, and was 4-of-5 from the free throw line.

The dynamic duo of Tia Stovall and Krystle Horton also scored in double figures as they had 14 and 12 points respectively. Senior Keisha McClinic continued to add to her steals total as she snagged five

against North Texas and has 99 on the season.

Middle Tennessee will compete in the semi-finals Monday at 11 a.m. against Denver. The Lady Raiders defeated the Lady Pioneers 68-56 earlier in the year.

-Givens scores big: Freshman Chrissy Givens scored a career-high 18 points against North Texas. It was the third time she has scored in double figures this season.

-Holmes loves the tourney: When it's tourney time is when Patrice Holmes shines as she led all scorers against North Texas with 22 points. In her last four tournament appearances, dating back to last season, Holmes has scored 20 or more points in three of the four games.

-It should be a crime: Keisha McClinic's five steals against North Texas gives her 99 for the season and 233 for her career. It is also the most steals she has had in a tournament game.

-In the opening round: Middle Tennessee is now 3-0 in the opening round of the Sun Belt Tournament.

-The last time we saw them in the tourney: The Lady Raiders lost to Denver 78-63 in the teams last meeting at the 2002 Sun Belt Tournament. Overall, the Lady Raiders are 2-3 against Denver but have won the last two meetings.

-Tidbits: The Lady Raiders shot 50 percent or better from the field for the 12th time this season. The Lady Raiders will be on TV for the second time this season when they face Denver on Monday. ♦

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Blue Raiders starts weekday games

By Michael Bailey
Staff Writer

Although the Blue Raiders will have nine games under their belts by the time they play Lipscomb University tomorrow, Middle Tennessee head baseball coach Steve Peterson believes that's when the real baseball season begins.

"Baseball is a game you have to play a lot to be good at," Peterson said. "Doing well in these games determines if we have a good record overall, so we need to get some good starts from our fourth and fifth starters."

The game at Lipscomb's Dugan Field will be the Blue Raiders' first midweek game of the season. Midweek games represent a challenge for the entire squad, but especially the pitchers.

Peterson plans to insert players who have been chiefly relievers during the weekend series into the rotation, which simultaneously reduces the resources for the weekend and forces the coaches to be more judicious with the pitching staff.

"Now, I have to consider who will be available for the midweek games," Peterson said. "We don't want to have to recycle starters from the weekend."

These games are crucial for the position players as well. In fact, it could mean the difference between sitting at home and traveling to a conference series. Sun Belt Conference rules allow a maximum of 25 players to travel to away games.

"I am going to be evaluating our position players very closely now," Peterson said. "It's tough



MT junior pitcher Steve Kline delivers a pitch in a 4-0 win over IPFW Feb. 22.

to make a switch early in the year when they are only playing on the weekend, but if I put someone in the lineup and he does well, that could make a difference in who travels."

The Blue Raiders will take on a familiar foe in Lipscomb, located less than 45 minutes away in Nashville. The two teams have regularly faced each other in the past and will meet

again April 14 in Murfreesboro.

"Lipscomb is a good rivalry," Peterson said. "We have a great tradition dating back to the '60s. It's also kind of an added rivalry because most of the kids know each other or have played with each other before."

Lipscomb has struggled out of the gate this season en route to a 2-7 record. The Bisons split a doubleheader against the

University of Central Florida Saturday, winning 4-3 in the first game before falling 5-2 in the second.

Last year MT took three of four from Lipscomb, and Peterson hopes for similar results this season.

"It's always fun to play your friend," Peterson said, "but it's much more fun to beat him." ♦

Blue Raiders manage win in Sun Belt tourney without leading scorer

Sun Belt Sports

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Despite missing its leading scorer, fifth-seeded Middle Tennessee pulled off the first upset of the 2004 Aéropostale Sun Belt Conference Men's Championships with a 76-62 quarterfinal win over No. 4 seed Western Kentucky Sunday evening at E.A. Diddle Arena.

With the victory, MT (17-11) advances to Monday's 5:30 p.m. semifinal against No. 1 seed Louisiana-Lafayette.

Michael Cuffee led the Blue Raiders with a game-high 22 points and nine rebounds. Bryan Smithson, one of four MT scorers in double figures, added 16 points and eight assists.

The Blue Raiders were play-

ing without second-team, All-Sun Belt guard Mike Dean, who suffered a broken hand in practice Thursday. Dean averages 16.2 points per game, which is third-best in the league.

Sun Belt Player of the Year Mike Wells paced WKU (15-13) with 19 points and nine rebounds, while league Newcomer of the Year Nigel Dixon had 14 points and 10 boards.

WKU led for much of the first half until MT finally took the lead on a Smithson layup with 4:53 left. The Blue Raiders never trailed again.

The loss snapped Western's nine-game win streak in conference tournament play. The last Hilltopper loss in the Sun Belt Tournament came March 6, 2000 against South Alabama. ♦

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