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INSIDE: Have lots of fun on spring break, but use your head

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An editorially
independent
newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

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Concern raised over lack of presidential candidates

Three candidates
join the race,
lists grows to 27

By James Evans
Editor in Chief

If all goes as planned, the Tennessee Board of Regents plans to have a new MTSU president named by May 16, but not everyone is happy with the current list of candidates.

Hubert McCullough, chairman of the Tennessee State

Board of Education and representative of District 6, which includes Murfreesboro, says the number of candidates for president is distressing.

"I have a real concern with the few number of applicants for a major university in the state of Tennessee," McCullough told reporters.

To date, 27 candidates have submitted resumes for the position.

Mary Morgan, director of communications for TBR, said the Presidential Advisory Committee - the group in

charge of sorting through the candidates - is not planning to accept any more applications after its next meeting, which is scheduled for March 26.

TBR Chancellor Charles Manning said MTSU is in good hands with R. Eugene Smith, the current interim president of the university. He could stay as long as needed until a president can be found, Manning said.

"If an appropriate president is not found, then a search could begin again," Manning told reporters.

J. Stanley Rogers, chair of the

advisory committee, said he believes not many people applied because of the funding problems for education in Tennessee. Rogers also said some may have been discouraged from applying because candidates are announced publicly.

Still, Austin Peay and the University of Memphis - both members of TBR - recently had to appoint new presidents. They both had more candidates than MTSU, which is currently the largest university in the TBR system. APSU had 42 apply, and

UM had 34.

Regardless, John Harris, director of Disabled Student Services and a member of the search committee, said the committee's goal is to have a president named by May 16.

"That is the goal, but a lot will be determined when we get into it," Harris said.

The committee members have also been instructed to examine all of the applicants and make their own priority list before Monday's meeting, Harris said.

The next step will be to whitt

le down the list to 10 or 15, and then down to three or five. The final candidates will be brought to campus to meet the community and go through the last interviewing rounds sometime early in May, Harris said.

Harris and Morgan both said no one is favored as of yet and all candidates are being considered equally.

"Everything is completely open," Morgan said. "Everyone is all for looking at these resumes."

Morgan said more candi-

See President, 4



Photo by Kristy Dalrymple | Staff

Gypsy Ray is signing an autograph for Rose Phillips Monday evening after the discussion about her exhibit. The exhibit, "Ireland: Different Views," featured black and white prints of two Camphill communities in Ireland.

Rescue squad sponsors open house

By Amy Calloway
Staff Writer

The Rutherford County Rescue Squad, which includes many MTSU students and graduates, will hold an open house April 1.

"We encourage local residents to attend the open house to learn more about the Rutherford County Rescue Squad, its mission and its volunteer opportunities," said Kevin Howell, RCRS director and 1998 MTSU aerospace administration graduate.

The open house will take place from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at

1504 West College Street and will include a viewing of the new \$63,000 rescue unit. The squad members will perform a vehicle demonstration at 3 p.m.

"This is the very first new vehicle we've had," said Lisa Rollins, RCRS volunteer. "We've always had hand-me-downs."

The squad made the first year's payments on the truck and the rest of the money came from donations.

Founded in 1967, the RCRS is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the needs of the community 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

The rescue squad's operations are funded in part by city and county contributions, fundraisers and donations from citizens in the community.

"The squad provides a valuable service to the city and county by allowing tax dollars to be spent in other areas of need," Howell said.

The open house is being sponsored by RCRS volunteers who wish to thank community members and leaders for their continued support.

Rescue squad members perform vehicle extractions, search-and-rescue missions, teach pub-

lic safety-related classes and provide many other rescue services.

"We're the only organization authorized to do vehicle extractions," Rollins said. The squad is first in line behind the fire department for high water rescues. All members of the squad are certified and must go through training classes.

"About one-third of the squad is currently attending or has graduated from MTSU," Rollins said.

Rollins serves as assistant director of MTSU's News and

See Rescue, 4

International culture focus of week's events

By Hagan Pratt
Contributor

The 11th annual International Culture Week, a weeklong series of events designed to show appreciation for MTSU's international students, will be held April 2-7.

The event "is being held in honor of international students attending MTSU and also to promote international awareness campuswide," said Jan Walker, coordinator of International Program Services. "This week will be made up of many separate events that celebrate multiple cultures, with activities throughout

the campus that are open to all students."

Sponsored by International Program Services, the annual event will begin April 2, with a Study Abroad Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second floor of the Keathley University Center.

"This is an opportunity for students interested in overseas studies to obtain information and literature on overseas educational opportunities available to them," Walker said. "It will also give students a chance to speak to MTSU faculty members who conduct classes in other countries."

Tuesday, April 3, a fashion

show featuring Vietnamese clothing begins at noon in the KUC courtyard. The fashion show will consist of Vietnamese students exhibiting clothing that they brought from their home country.

The fashion show will give students an opportunity to see and learn more about Vietnamese culture which they may not be familiar with, Walker noted.

An International Coffee Hour, held monthly for international students, will be Wednesday, April 4 at the James Union Building from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

"Coffee, hot tea and various snacks will be provided," Walker said, adding that the monthly coffee hour gives international students an opportunity to socialize with American students and faculty.

A traditional American cook-out, complete with hot dogs and hamburgers, will be the featured event Thursday, April 5, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the sundeck of the Recreation Center. There is no admission charge for this event and all students and faculty are welcome to attend.

See Culture, 4

Invention Convention spawns creativity, fun

By Angelica Journagin
Staff writer

Around 300 elementary students from Middle Tennessee have the opportunity to showcase their creative talents at MTSU's Invention Convention Thursday.

Tracy Ring, an associate professor in the department of elementary and special education, founded the Invention Convention nine years ago for fourth graders. It has since expanded to the fifth and sixth grades, and Ring hopes in the future it will be able to expand even further to include younger grades.

"The purpose of the Invention Convention," Ring said, "is to provide children with an opportunity to integrate many of their ideas into one product in a fun and unique way."

An added benefit is that participants are given a chance to visit MTSU.

"MTSU is a part of their community. The children get a reason to come besides a basketball or a football game," Ring explained.

Students participating in the Invention Convention can enter

an invention in two categories: "games" or "something to make life easier."

"The game cannot just be Monopoly done over again," Ring said. "It must be a brand new idea that they came up with all on their own."

The inventions do not have to be science or math related. This has led to a wide variety of submissions over the years.

One of the most memorable was a coloring book for blind children submitted the first year of the convention. A student used puff paint to outline the drawings so blind children could color without going outside the lines. At the bottom of the pictures were descriptions of the drawings in Braille.

Other inventions include pet feeders, learning games and a mailbox that opened at both ends so people on busy streets could get mail and not risk being hit by a car.

This year's Invention Convention is sponsored by State Farm Insurance and will take place in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. It will begin at 9 a.m. with a welcome from Ring and a guest speaker. The judging will start around 9:30 a.m. ♦

MT Poll: Tennesseans support lottery, Bush

Staff Reports

Twice a year, MTSU's Office of Communication Research conducts a statewide poll to determine how Tennesseans feel about various social and personal issues.

From February 19 to March 2, students interviewed 622 random Tennesseans age 18 or older.

The results indicate that 65 percent of Tennesseans favor a state lottery, while 25 percent oppose one. Ten percent of respondents were undecided on the matter.

About 47 percent of respondents said that government hasn't gone far enough to control gun ownership, while 38 percent thought it has gone too far. About 15 percent said they weren't sure. Eighty-nine percent thought that gun owners should be required to take a gun-safety course.

A majority of Tennesseans (55 percent) approve of the job George W. Bush is doing as

president, but 23 percent disapprove, and 23 percent say they are undecided. Only 40 percent of respondents approve of the job Gov. Don Sundquist is doing, while another 40 percent disapprove, and a significant 20 percent are undecided.

Eighty percent of respondents identified themselves as southerners, but when asked to choose between southern and American identities, 83 percent of respondents chose American, with only 12 percent selecting Southern.

More than half of the respondents (54 percent) consider the University of Tennessee Volunteers as the state's football team, while 35 percent chose the Tennessee Titans.

There are strong regional differences, however. More than half of those in Middle Tennessee (52 percent) thought of the Titans as Tennessee's football team, compared to 19

See Poll, 4

CRIME LOG

By Matt Kelly - Police Reporter

The following is a partial list of incidents responded to by the MTSU Police Department between March 14, 2001, and March 19, 2001. This log was compiled from the actual police reports.

Victim loses \$895 worth of property in dorm burglary

March 14, 12:53 a.m. — Monohan Hall — An officer responded to a student's report that someone had broken into her dorm room and stolen her property. The victim told the officer that she suspected her former roommate who had checked out earlier that evening. A resident assistant and the victim had checked the room March 13 around 5 p.m., after the roommate checked out, and did not find anything out of place. The victim then left her room and, when she returned about eight hours later, found the door unlocked, the room a mess and her property missing. The RA said that he had locked the door when they left.

A witness told police that she saw the former roommate leaving the victim's room. She also observed the roommate's cousin take the carpet from the victim's room to her room. In addition, she saw the residents of an adjacent room in the victim's room.

Other stolen items include a yellow Nautica coat, a black leather Gucci purse, a phone cord, a Winnie the Pooh hat box, three Nintendo 64 games and a leopard print Beanie Baby collector's item. The items are valued at \$895.

Student hangs stolen sign on door

March 16, 12:33 a.m. — Schardt Hall — An officer was in Schardt Hall after escorting a student home and noticed a "TSSAA Bus Parking Only" sign taped to door of one of the rooms. The officer knocked on the door and asked the resident if the sign was his. After the resident confirmed that it was, the officer informed him that he was in possession of stolen property. The officer explained that although the TSSAA barrels sit beside the road every night that does not make them community property. The student was issued a dean's citation and released.

Intoxicated man hides dope in shoe

March 16, 2:47 a.m. — Kwik Sak on Greenland Drive — An officer was dispatched to a report of an intoxicated subject on Old Lascassas Highway. While en route, he was advised by dispatch that the subject had gone to the Kwik Sak on Greenland Drive.

Upon arriving at the Kwik Sak, the officer discovered a man standing in front of the cash register swaying back and forth and speaking incoherently. The officer asked the man, later identified as Richard L. Sanders, if he was all right and how much he had had to drink. Sanders said he drank about two 12-packs of beer. The officer observed that Sanders had slurred speech and that his eyes were bloodshot.

The officer asked Sanders how he planned to get home. Sanders said that his father had left him at the bar earlier and that he was going to walk home. The officer felt Sanders would be a danger to himself if left alone due to his extremely intoxicated condition and placed him under arrest for public intoxication.

On the way to the Rutherford County Jail, Sanders kept "rambling about something and repeatedly using the word dope." The officer asked Sanders if he had any drugs on him. Sanders first said that he could not remember if he had any drugs, but when the officer told

him that bringing drugs into the jail would result in a felony charge, Sanders "suddenly remembered" that he had a bag in his shoe. The officer found a bag containing plant material appearing to be marijuana in Sanders right shoe.

Sanders, 26, of 1715 Old Lascassas Road in Murfreesboro, was charged with public intoxication and simple possession of marijuana. His bond was set at \$2,750.

Solicitors told to stay off campus

March 19, 7:59 p.m. — Gore Hall — Officers responded to the report of two solicitors at Gore Hall. They made contact with two male subjects, a 19-year-old from Kentucky and a 17-year-old from Texas, who said they were trying to get people to sign up for magazine subscriptions. Neither subject was a student.

The officers explained that soliciting was not allowed on campus. Both subjects were issued trespass warnings and told that they would be arrested if found on campus again. The subjects then left without incident.

Distraught student assaults officer

March 17, 3:13 p.m. — Deere Hall — Two officers were dispatched to Deere Hall to check on a female student who had locked herself in her room and "was acting very disoriented." The first officer to arrive was speaking with three individuals at the entrance to the room when the second officer arrived. The second officer entered the room to speak with the disoriented student.

The officer observed a female "who looked distraught and emotionally unstable ... crying and acting hysterical." She was "calm one moment and then would start cussing and yelling" at the officers. She could not answer any of the officers' questions and did not seem to know where she was or who the officers were.

The officers believed the student was under the influence of some type of narcotic. Witnesses told officers that she was taking prescription medication and pointed out some pill bottles. They also said that the student smoked marijuana on a regular basis and may have smoked some earlier that day or the night before. Officers also learned that she might be upset due to problems with her boyfriend.

The student "became more verbally threatening" toward the officers and appeared to become more disoriented. When she stepped toward one of the officers, the officer put his hands up to keep her at a distance from them. She then slapped the officer's hands.

When the officer turned her around and attempted to handcuff her to prevent her from hurting herself or anyone else, she slapped the officer in the face.

The student was transported to the Middle Tennessee Medical Center for evaluation by a crisis team. Due to the student's apparent emotional problems, the officers did not charge her with anything, but did plan to contact the district attorney's office for advice on "possible legal action."

Wanted person arrested after traffic stop

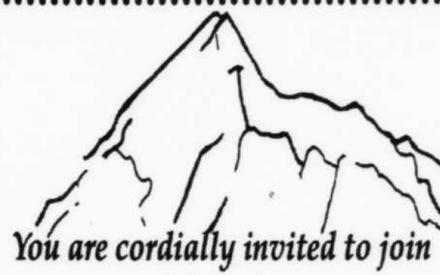
March 17, 2:48 a.m. — Bell Street and Crestland Avenue — While on patrol, an officer observed the vehicle in front of him on Bell Street swerve into the oncoming lane and remain there for several seconds.

See Crime Log, 4



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From the staff Have lots fun on the break, but be safe

Last year, during spring break two MTSU students videotaped other students partying and Channel 5 broadcast the segment during sweeps as the "The Spring Break Tapes."

A year later, Channel 5 is in the midst of lawsuits from parents of some of the students who claim the segments portrayed their children in a false light.

What's the lesson here? Don't try to boost your career during a time when we're all supposed to be doing nothing but taking it easy.

Every year, stories surface after this monumental week about students partying too hard and either getting arrested, killing someone in a car or both.

We all like to party, but sometimes we go a little too far.

We're in college. Hopefully, most of us will graduate. Either way, we're all considered educated. Not to imply that we're elitist, but we should be more mature than the average Joe.

Bottom line, hopefully everyone knows to be responsible, especially when alcohol and drugs are involved.

Go drink, party and have lots of sex if that's your thing, but get to the party location and make arrangements to stay there for the night.

If that's undoable, find the one who doesn't drink (there's one in every crowd) and get him or her to be the designated driver.

Just have fun and be safe. We're not advocating drug usage or casual sex, but if that's what you want to do, do it with some sense of responsibility. ♦

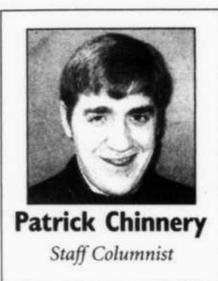
CANADIAN BACON

US heading for a recession

George W. Bush received a raw deal. I'm sure he expected to come into office, riding the good fortunes (and economy) of the Clinton administration, and coast through his four years in office as he's coasted through everything else in life (Yale, the Texas Air National Guard and Major League Baseball).

Then the threat of recession comes along and the country is in a panic. The nation's selective perception is leading the way to what I predict will be the largest recession since the '70s, perhaps even since the Great Depression.

Surely the warning



Patrick Chinnery
Staff Columnist

signs are there. Mr. Bear has decided to come feed on the tech stocks (the Dow is hovering around 9800 and the NASDAQ is at 1890 as I write this). Help from Mr. Greenspan isn't enough. We're headed for some trouble.

In the 1920s there was

a rampant growth, with few people contributing to their savings accounts. Now, similar to the '20s, people are buying stocks on margin and unable to pay back many of their debts.

In fact, American consumer debt is currently at its highest level.

Granted, our current financial world has safeguards that the 1920s economy hadn't dreamt of, like the FDIC for bank accounts. But will these be enough to save our floundering economy? I doubt it.

Unlike the global trading of the 1920s, which was barely a significant factor in the domestic

economy, the global vilage of the 1990s and early years of the 21st century is a force that cannot be ignored. The inevitable collapse of the Japanese banking sector and the struggling economies of other Asian countries like Indonesia and South Korea all foreshadow coming days of woe in the US.

Some people may say I'm a pessimist, but I say I'm a realist. Things throughout the world are only getting worse. Like President Hoover in the early 1930s, Bush is going to have to deal with angry citizens demanding a return to the roaring decades of old. But, he won't have the resources

to give it to them. I doubt that years from now we're going to have stories of Bushvilles springing up because people could not pay their mortgages. But I dare say Bush is not going to have a second term to fix what will be wrong with the country.

To everyone who reads this: Give the man an actual chance to fix what's wrong with our economy.

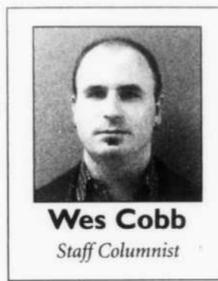
And to Mr. Bush: I hope, for your sake, they listen, or, like Hoover, you'll be gone in four years. ♦

Look for 'Canadian Bacon' every Wednesday in 'Sidelines.'

CRANIAL SMORGASBORD

Give us a warning next time, okay

Thursday night, during one of my classes in Peck Hall, a woman came in late and seemingly very upset. After a moment, she announced to the class there was a man in camouflage clothing and a ski mask downstairs. He was apparently holding a gun of some sort as well. As can be imagined, this revelation upset the class and our professor moved everyone on our floor (Thankfully, there were very few people since it was about 7:30 p.m.) into



Wes Cobb
Staff Columnist

one of the office corridors while she phoned the police. When the law officers arrived, they engaged in some banter on their

walkie-talkies and a vague explanation was given that this supposed maniac with a gun was actually part of some sort of exercise or demonstration. I believe it was said that whoever was in charge of the exercise forgot to inform the campus authorities. I can only assume it was an ROTC exercise of some sort.

I find it inexcusable that no one was informed of this exercise. The woman who saw the camouflaged man stated that they made eye contact, but

he made no move to identify himself (which was extremely foolish on his part), which could have saved everyone in Peck Hall a lot of stress that night. Whoever was in charge of the exercise could have at least put an announcement in Sidelines or posted some flyers telling people not to be alarmed if they see someone who looks like an armed terrorist running around campus after dark.

Don't misunderstand

I'm a supporter of a strong and well-trained American armed forces, but (assuming that this was indeed an ROTC exercise, forgive me if I'm wrong) to run a military exercise of this sort on a college campus without telling anyone about it seems to be a blatant act of immature machismo on somebody's part. ♦

Look for 'Cranial Smorgasbord' every Wednesday in 'Sidelines.'

SIDELINES

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Dear Annie Feeling Lonely

Dear Annie,
I am feeling lonely. I live alone. I don't have a boyfriend. All my friends have serious boyfriends. Whenever I go out with the group I am always the one without a boyfriend. The few nights that it's just me and the girls, they only talk about their relationships. I can't stand being alone. How can I stop this lonely feeling. - All Alone

Dear All Alone,
Stop the pity party!
Let's focus on the positive aspects of being alone.
Celebrate! You live alone. You can do whatever you want. Take a long hot shower - using up all the hot water - or blast your favorite obnoxious song while dancing around the house in your underwear. Have fun. Enjoy your freedom.
Be glad you don't have a boyfriend

right now. We're all so busy trying to fill our lives with serious relationships. Now is the time to explore what "life" we've begun to live. It's important to discover you're great all by yourself.
Boyfriends consume your extra time, which could be why your girlfriends don't have anything else to talk about.
GET A LIFE. Now is the time to try new things. Fill your life with new adventures and worthwhile activities. Try taking a pottery class, learning to play golf or volunteering at a hospital. Then you won't have time to sit around feeling sorry for yourself.
Learn the difference between the words lonely and alone. You aren't really "all alone." You do have friends. It's important to be comfortable by yourself. Don't rely on someone else to make you happy. Find your own joy alone. I know it's difficult, but you can do it.

Email your questions to
DearMtsuAnnie@aol.com



Letters to the Editor

Mail your comments to Box 42, drop them off at JUB 310 or e-mail them to stupubs@mtsu.edu.
Letters may be edited for length, grammar or content.

Drivers should have more consideration for pedestrians

To the Editor:
I'm sure you've heard this spiel before, but this is an ongoing problem. I'm talking about getting nearly run over by cars while crossing the street on campus.
I have a little boy who I sometimes pull behind me in his wagon as we trek across campus. I have to stand there and wait for someone to be nice enough to stop and let us across the street. Most people don't even stop when they see me standing there with a baby in a wagon, waiting to cross. All I'm asking for is a little consideration here, folks. Most people seem to take their cars for granted. How would you feel if you didn't have a car and had to walk everywhere like me?
So if you drive on past without stopping when I'm standing there at the crosswalk waiting, don't be surprised if I yell "Hey, you're supposed to stop, dumbass!"

Sarah Burdette

Crime log invades privacy

To the Editor:
I am a student at MTSU and I have to say that I am very disappointed with the *Sidelines* that was published on Thursday. The majority of the time, this paper is respectful to the people and organizations that are written about, but I feel that the "CRIME LOG" is an invasion of privacy. Yes, these students were in the wrong for driving under the influence of alcohol, but they are paying for what they did and publishing their names and addresses in the paper is disrespectful.

As much as society wants to deny that college students drink and drive, it happens and it happens frequently. Why not start publishing all the names of every student who fails a test. They obviously are not being responsible enough to study and put forth any effort towards their studies, so why not publish their names and let everyone look down upon them for making a mistake. If my name had been published, I would be irate! The students involved never were allowed to give their side of the story, or even given a warning that their name, address and the mistake that the made was about to be in the paper for anyone to read.

If the *Sidelines* is brave enough to publish this, to the students written about in the "CRIME LOG", I am sorry that this has happened to you. You have paid for your mistake in far more ways than you should ever have had to.

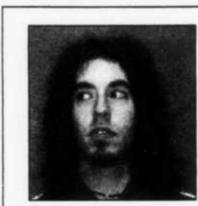
Catherine Owen Davis

MIND MANIFESTATIONS

MTSU drops the ball on athletic fee

Last week in Sidelines we told you about a fee that may be imposed on the student body next year. On the surface, this \$20 tax seems like it might be a good idea. Surely if every student was paying another \$20 out of their already tight budgets we would benefit from it in some way. This money could go towards many things, including a parking garage, improving academics or buying chalk for the teachers. (finally!)

But that's not the case. The last thing I thought the administration at MTSU would charge us for is athletics. This has to be the silliest proposal I



Brian Spencer
Staff Columnist

have ever heard since I've been in this school. Charging the student body \$20 for sports is a low-down idea that must be stopped.

The arguments from the people behind this scheme are probably already lined up, just like

they were about the TSSAA.

They'll probably say, "It's only \$20. Look at what athletics does for the school. If we succeed in sports, it will bring money into all areas of the school."

I'll be the first one to admit that athletics is one of the biggest fundraisers a university has. But this is only because alumni want to see a football team that is on their bible station, ESPN. They want to see their basketball team in the Sweet 16. Academics don't get national attention, so who cares?

I say, to all the thick-headed administration

that thinks this is a good idea, think again. I hate to tell you this, but a very small portion of students here actually care about athletics. Dare I say that some students chose this school for reasons other than the football team? I know most college students choose their education based on their like or dislike of sports teams, but that's shallow and shouldn't be justified.

How is MTSU going to charge us \$20 for something we obviously don't care about? Does the athletic department actually need MORE money? It's already received a new baseball stadium, a club-

house complete with whirlpools, a new football stadium, a new track, etc. And of course, students can't use any of these facilities, not even the track.

Isn't it enough that the athletic department tries to make us actually feel bad for not going to MTSU athletic events? Attendance is so low at home games you'd think it'd give up and wisely try to build our school's reputation as an academic institution instead. Is it going to take this \$20 fee and use it to start paying people to go to the games? That might be the only way it can get people to

attend.

At a university that is desperately trying to get the student body involved in athletics, a person would think the last thing the department would do is charge us even more money for sports. In my opinion, this would keep even more students away.

It's funny how quick the department proposed this fee for sports, but won't consider fees for other things that would benefit everybody.

Let's see, the art building won't be done for a few more years. Oh, that's right, art doesn't involve a ball and big muscle guys. Administration has the

nerve to tell us that a parking structure is an eyesore on campus. That argument makes me laugh till my sides split. I think that big football stadium is much more grotesque, especially when it's empty during a home game.

MTSU: wise up. We don't need your sports, and we don't want to give you our money for it. ♦

Look for 'Mind Manifestations' every Thursday in Sidelines (because of there is no Thursday issue this week, this column is running early).

Letters:

Continued from 5

Quit complaining, MTSU is cheap

To the Editor:

I've read and heard many people complaining about the "outrageous costs" and "unreasonable fees" we are charged to come to

this school. Quite frankly, I'm sick of it.

I transferred here last fall from a school in West Tennessee that costs just under \$16,000/yr. You don't know how good you have it. People gripe and complain about having to pay technology fees, dorm fees, and many other types of fees. When the cost (that YOU pay) is \$16,000, then you can start complaining. Just imagine how much you'd be shelling out every semester if the State of Tennessee wasn't putting so much toward the cost of your education. I don't know the figures but I'm sure someone in The Administration knows.

People here are no different than those all across America.

Well, there is one difference. People here complain about fees and how they "rob" the students. The rest of America complains about taxes and how they are "robbing decent, hard working folks." One question, if there were no fees (or taxes), how do you expect the "services" you rely on to operate?

I think that before people complain about fees, taxes, whatever, they should know what they're talking about.

Sincerely,
Sean Lankford
loaf89@hotmail.com

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The Two Minute Drill



R. Colin Fly Sports Editor

Lady Raiders head to Atlanta

By Colleen Cox
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders cracked Collegiate Baseball's top 30 poll for the first time in 19 years.

Their 22nd ranking is the first time they've been on the poll since 1982, when the squad was ranked 14th in the nation after nearly making the College World Series.

The team's ranking partly because of their 15-2 record, which included wins over previously ranked Memphis, as well as winning its first series in the Sun Belt Conference against Arkansas State.

Middle Tennessee's record is the best start in school history in one of the nation's top 5 baseball conferences.

Middle Tennessee received five votes in the Baseball Weekly/ESPN Coaches' Poll. The 25th-ranked team, Sun Belt rival Florida International, received 71 votes.

That poll is selected by 40 Division I head baseball coaches representing the American Baseball Coaches Association.

The Blue Raiders will hit the field for five games, all at home, this week.

MT plays Samford on Tuesday and UAB on Wednesday with both games beginning at 7 p.m.

Middle Tennessee takes on conference foe New Orleans this weekend for a three-game set. The Friday game is scheduled for 7 p.m. while the team plays Saturday at 2 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m. ♦

The Lady Raider softball team heads to Atlanta this weekend with a newfound confidence.

Middle has had superb pitching all season, but has lacked offensive production. That is until this past weekend at the Winthrop Ringor Tournament. The bats heated up in a major way in Rock Hill. Erica Buhl and Lindsay Azevedo really stepped it up. There were times when the offense did just enough, but all in all they produced. This gives the Lady Raider offense confidence going into the Georgia Tech Buzz Classic.

This weekend's tournament will provide some tough competition for Middle Tennessee. East Carolina University has a 26-8 record and a powerful offense. Keisha Shaperson leads the ECU offense with a .366 batting average, a .559 slugging percentage, a .454 on base percentage and 19 stolen bases in 20 attempts. Right behind her is Angelo Manzo. She posts a .525 slugging percentage, .396 on base percentage, and .364 batting average. Eva Herron adds to the speed with 17 stolen bases in 18 attempts. Speed and power

make for a lethal combination. ECU also has great pitching in the arm of Laurie Davidson. She has a phenomenal 0.98 earned run average to go with 149 strikeouts.

Georgia State (20-10) is another tough team. The offense is powerful. Carrie Roberts has an .802 slugging percentage, a .511 on base percentage, and .444 batting average to go with 13 stolen bases. Cheryl Bodziony has a .625 slugging percentage. Andrea McNary leads the pitching staff. She has a 10-1 record with a 2.20 ERA. Opponents are batting .235 against her.

The Lady Raiders will also face Florida A&M (7-20). Tonya Minick heads up the offense with a .547 slugging percentage and .400 batting average with 13 stolen bases. Tenyse Tasby pitches the majority of the time for A&M. She has a 4-9 record with a 4.46 ERA. Opponents bat .329 against her.

Jennifer Martinez, Stacy Praytor, and Amanda Kendall should all see time on the mound for Middle Tennessee. If the offense can produce again this weekend, the Lady Raiders should be successful. With the team's newly found confidence this should be the case. ♦



Photo by Kristy Dalrymple | Staff

The Raiders will play in the Georgia Tech Buzz Classic.

MT wins silver flight of tournament

Staff Reports

The Lady Raider put all facets together in winning the silver flight championship at the Winthrop Ringor Tournament in Rock Hill, S.C.

Round robin play was delayed Friday after rain on Thursday night made playing conditions bad. Middle Tennessee started their first game five hours late. The late start seemed to have no effect on Middle as they handed Elon a 3-1 defeat.

Amanda Kendall pitched six strong innings scattering five

hits and allowing only one run. With two runners on in the final inning, Jennifer Martinez came in and sat down all three batters for the save.

Lindsay Azevedo sparked the Lady Raider offense. She had a home run, double, and 2 RBI in a 3-for-4 performance. Lisa Sherman and Ashlie Way each had two hits.

Saturday Middle Tennessee split their two games defeating Kent State 2-1 and losing to Mississippi State 4-3.

Stacy Praytor tossed seven innings, seven strikeouts, two-hitter against Kent State. Way

homered in the third to get Middle on the board. Steffi Silva singled home Erica Buhl in the fourth with the winning run.

The Lady Raiders weren't so lucky against 2000 College World Series participant Southern Mississippi. Jennifer Martinez gave up four runs and two hits all in the first inning.

Kristina Heib drove in two of Middle's three runs. Martinez was 2-for-2 at the plate.

Sunday was a perfect day for the Lady Raiders as they won all three of their games in capturing the title. Middle Tennessee

took victories over the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Charleston Southern, and Mercer.

Praytor threw another two-hitter against UNCG. This time she tossed an eight-strikeout shutout. The offense waited until the final inning to produce a run. Azevedo hit a single to score Buhl for the win.

In the semifinals, the offense came alive early. Middle pounded out 13 hits in the 7-5 victory. Azevedo again led the charge. She went 2-for-3 with 4 RBI. Buhl had two hits and an RBI.

Martinez picked up the win. She pitched five innings giving up three hits and allowing one run.

The final game proved not to be much of a contest. Martinez went the distance striking out 13 batters, giving up two hits, and recording the shutout.

With the Lady Raiders already up 5-0, Buhl smashed a grand slam. She had 6 RBI for the championship game and was named the tournament's MVP. Azevedo and Martinez received All-Tournament team honors. ♦

Collegiate Baseball's NCAA Div. I Poll

(As of March 19, 2001)

Rank	(Record)	Previous
1. Rice	(21-5)	1
2. Stanford	(18-5)	3
3. Arizona St.	(19-5-1)	4
4. Georgia Tech.	(17-5)	7
5. Nebraska	(16-4)	5
6. Miami, Fla.	(21-6)	9
7. South Carolina	(19-4)	2
8. Notre Dame	(13-2-1)	8
9. Louisiana St.	(17-6-1)	11
10. Clemson	(14-5)	10
11. Tennessee	(20-3)	20
12. Southern Calif.	(15-8)	13
13. South Alabama	(22-3)	17
14. Stetson	(20-3)	16
15. Central Florida	(21-5)	14
16. Florida St.	(18-6)	18
17. Oklahoma St.	(19-5)	12
18. Pepperdine	(16-7)	6
19. Mississippi	(18-5-1)	-
20. East Carolina	(18-5)	19
21. The Citadel	(20-6)	-
22. Middle Tenn. St.	(15-2)	-
23. Baylor	(18-7)	26
24. Wake Forest	(17-4)	30
25. Texas	(16-12)	-
26. Alabama	(16-7)	-
27. Tulane	(18-5)	22
28. UCLA	(15-7)	27
29. Cal. St. Fullerton	(13-9)	28
30. Va. Commonwealth	(18-5)	-

Nick's Picks

By Nick Hefley
Staff Writer

What a wild week of action in these two regions. It all started on the tourney's opening day when Utah State stunned Ohio State, but lost in the second round to UCLA.

Lefty Dreisell got a chance for retribution when he defeated last year's Final Four surprise, Wisconsin, and was matched against Maryland, who survived a scare from the 14 seed George Mason. However, Maryland showed up against their old friend and will go on to the Sweet 16 to face Georgetown.

A couple of teams are looking strong, however, after what was a very hectic first day of tourney action. The most surprising upset coming when 15 seed Hampton beat Iowa State. Also, Kent State was down for most of the game to Indiana, but in the end, the Golden Flashes pulled it out against the Hoosiers.

Duke seemed to be the only team in these two regions who never really had a great threat against them in the first two rounds. They had a scare from Missouri, but in the end, Jason Williams and company won.

In round one I was 20-12 in picks and in round two I was 10-6 for a 30-18 record through 46 games. ♦

Sweet 16

East

Duke vs. UCLA

This looks to be a great matchup in what could be one of the best games of the tournament.

Pick: Duke

USC vs. Kentucky

USC is surprising a lot of people, but Kentucky seems to have it altogether in March.

Pick: Kentucky

West

Stanford vs. Cincinnati

The Cardinal had a tough time getting by St. Joseph's, could it be the same way with Cincinnati?

Pick: Stanford

Maryland vs. Georgetown

Maryland is looking very streaky and Georgetown is a team that has size and strength.

Pick: Georgetown

Midwest

Illinois vs. Kansas

Kansas is looking very strong now that they finally have all their players healthy and Illinois will be hard-pressed to match them with their size.

Pick: Kansas

Ole Miss vs. Arizona

Ole Miss has looked very shaky at times in their first two games while Arizona has been dominant throughout.

Pick: Arizona

South

Michigan State vs. Gonzaga

A David vs. Goliath game, in which the Zags could pose some problems for last year's champs.

Pick: Gonzaga

Temple vs. Penn State

Temple's zone defense has caused major shooting problems so far and Penn State has been known to go through bad shooting spells.

Pick: Temple

The Elite 8

East Regional Final

Duke vs. Kentucky

A re-match of the 1992 game, could this game be anything like that historic match-up.

Pick: Duke

West Regional Final

Stanford vs. Georgetown

If Stanford can go to an up-and-down game, they should win.

Pick: Stanford

Midwest Regional Final

Arizona vs. Kansas

This game has the make-up to be one of the classic NCAA Tournament games and the teams match-up very well against each other.

Pick: Kansas

South Regional Final

Gonzaga vs. Temple

Gonzaga, a 12 seed, looks to be the highest seed to ever reach a Final Four while Temple looks to tie the record for the highest seed ever to reach the Final Four at 11.

Pick: Gonzaga

Final Four

Duke vs. Stanford

Stanford beat the Devils earlier in the year when Duke was up big early, but is Duke too good?

Pick: Duke

Gonzaga vs. Kansas

The Jayhawks has too many options here and have finally got the "monkey off their back."

Pick: Kansas

National Championship Game



Duke Blue Devils vs. Kansas Jayhawks

Two of the most storied collegiate programs face off in Minneapolis with both teams on a major roll, but who will come out ahead?

Pick: Duke



7 Day Sportscast

WEDNESDAY

Baseball

Blue Raiders vs. Samford
Murfreesboro, Tenn., 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

Baseball

Blue Raiders vs. New Orleans
Murfreesboro, Tenn., 7 p.m.

Softball

Georgia Tech Buzz Classic
Atlanta, Ga., all day

Golf

University of Alabama Classic
Montgomery, Ala., All day

SATURDAY

Baseball

Blue Raiders vs. New Orleans
Murfreesboro, Tenn., 2 p.m.

Men's Tennis

Blue Raiders at Georgia St.
Atlanta, Ga., 2 p.m.

Outdoor Track

Alabama Relays
Tuscaloosa, Ala., TBA

Softball

Georgia Tech Buzz Classic
Atlanta, Ga., all day

Golf

University of Alabama Classic
Montgomery, Ala., All day

SUNDAY

Baseball

Blue Raiders vs. New Orleans
Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1 p.m.

Women's Tennis

Lady Raiders vs. Auburn
Murfreesboro, Tenn., noon

Softball

Georgia Tech Buzz Classic
Atlanta, Ga., all day

Outdoor Track

Alabama Relays
Tuscaloosa, Ala., TBA

Golf

University of Alabama Classic
Montgomery, Ala., All day

MONDAY

Baseball

Blue Raiders at Memphis
Memphis, Tenn., 7 p.m.

Softball

Lady Raiders vs. Alabama A&M (DH)
Murfreesboro, Tenn., 2 p.m.

FLASH

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

sidelines

Ratdog infests Nashville on March 28

By Brian Penix
Staff Writer

Although it has been over five years since the loss of Jerry Garcia and The Grateful Dead, old and new fans are still yearning to hear the music.

The Grateful Dead is the

founder of the so-called "jam band" scene, spawning such groups as Phish and Widespread Panic. Combining jazz, blues, country, funk and rock to the music, The Dead never played a song the same way. Never having a set list, its music was always live, reflect-

ing the environment that surrounds.

The Dead has over 50 live/studio albums, played over 35,000 songs and performed over 2,000 shows over a 30-year career. It also developed an incredible group of loyal fans (Deadheads).

Twirling girls, jittery guys, tie-dyes, dread-locks, young kids, old hipsters and smiles seem to surround you while experiencing a Grateful Dead concert. Those same faces and vibes still flow at a Ratdog show.

Former Grateful Dead

vocalist/guitarist Bob Weir and his band Ratdog bring new flavor to The Dead's music, and they have some songs of their own. Ratdog will perform at the Ryman Auditorium Wednesday, March 28.

See **Ratdog**, 10

From post office to art gallery Frist Center for the visual arts opens April 8

By Leslie Carol Boehms
Flash Editor

The old main post office in Nashville has recently been converted into a full-scale art museum. The Frist Center for the visual arts has been a vision of the Nashville Agenda Steering Committee since 1994. The vision has now become reality and the official opening of the museum will be April 8.

The facility features a main level exhibition gallery that covers a massive 11,000 square feet. There are also two art studio classrooms and one computer lab, an auditorium with a 250-seat capacity, a café open to the public, an education gallery, a media and technology resource center and many other unique features that make the center both educationally accessible and entertaining.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Frist Jr. are the namesakes for the new center. The Frist family has always been an advocate of teaching art to their own children and therefore realized the importance of art for children of all ages. The Frist Foundation chose the development and

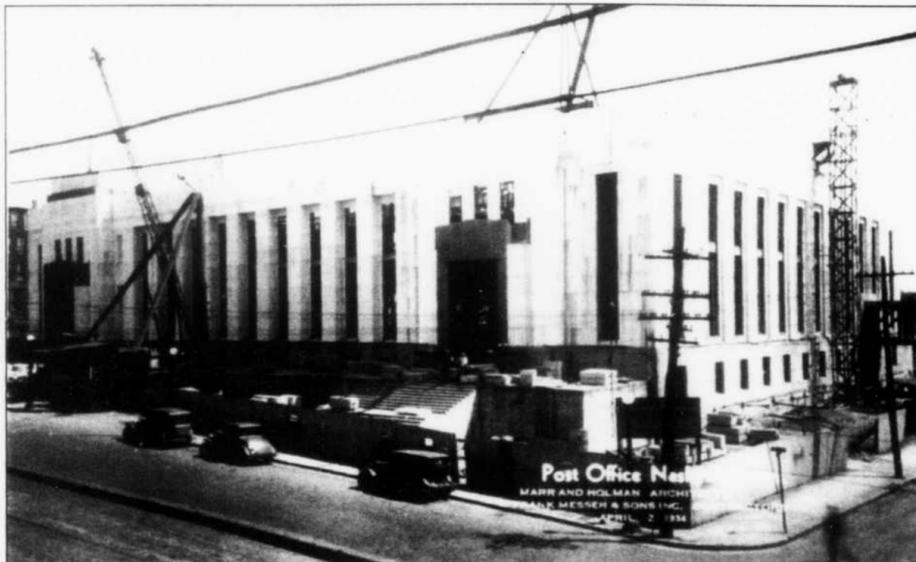


Photo Provided

Pictured above: "From Post Office to Art Center: A Nashville Landmark in Transition." The photo was taken during the original construction of the downtown post office on April 4, 1934.

vision for the new gallery. The Foundation also adamantly required that the primary mission of the new art center would be education.

Nashville's former main post

office, located at 919 Broadway - next door to the Union Station, opened in 1934. When a new main office was built in 1986 only part of the three-story building was being used.

In 1995 when the Frist Foundation was searching for a home for the art center, the historic area around the downtown post office was preferred due to its character and accessibility.

will run from April 8, opening day, until July 8. The second collection featured from April 8 until March 10, 2002 will be an

See **Frist Center**, 9

Wanting more than truth

By Leslie Carol Boehms
Flash Editor

Though the number of electronic bands in the Nashville area is small, the quality, talent and eccentric nature of the existing few is enormous.

This stunning quintet is the combined effort of Russ Chamberlain (bass & synths), Gary Swearingin, Jeff Bruner (vocals, synths/programming, guitars), Ken Barr (guitar) and Jay Contrino (drums).

Otherness has spent much of the last year working on their forthcoming album *Apology For The Truth*. The album is due in local stores at the beginning of April. *Apology for the Truth* contains live sets that were recorded in a matter of weeks. However, the band has been working on the actual production of the album for the past year.

The album's title, *Apology For The Truth*, contains a bit of a story.

"The truth is something that you should never have to apologize for," said Chamberlain. "Yet we spend most of our lives doing just that - apologizing for the truth."

"I feel that the title sums up the overall feeling of the album and all of the experiences that we had during the making of this album," said Bruner. "The songs are very honest and in your face. I wrote about the things that I observed daily in other people's lives, as well as given some insight (to the listener) into my own life."

Q: What is the origin of the name Otherness?

Jeff: We actually got the name from a Cocteau Twins EP. The Cocteau Twins are one of our guitarists' biggest influences, and the name seemed fitting as it is also a type of philosophy, which talks about being "other than" the norm.

Q: When, where and how did the band form?

Jeff: The band started out in 1996 as a side project of another band. Ken [guitarist] and I met in this other band and discovered that our tastes were similar, though they were different from what we were doing at the time. I had had some demos that I had recorded as BELIEF (an early



Photo Provided

Pictured from left to right: Jeff Bruner, Ken Barr and Russell Chamberlain.

incarnation of OTHERNESS) that I played for him, and it took off from there.

Q: How would you describe your music to someone who has never heard it or anything like it before?

Jeff and Russ: Electro-pop

Gary: Synth-based melodic rock?

Jay: Music with drums (laughing)

Q: What's it like being one of the few electronic bands in Nashville?

Jeff: It's funny you ask that because, until very recently, we were the ONLY electronic based band here. If there were others, we didn't know about them, since we played most of our gigs the first two years with shit metal bands.

Russ: It's very frustrating, [because] we don't have a lot of outlets to play with other bands.

Jay: The cool thing about being one of the only electro bands here is that we get a lot of support from the DJ scene.

Q: What are the ideal future plans for Otherness?

Jeff: Move to Los Angeles.

Gary: It would be a dream come true just to be able to focus on the band full time.

Russ: Open for Ratt (hysterically).

Q: What are some songs (in general) you absolutely can't live without?

Jeff: Kent, "747;" Depeche Mode, "Enjoy The Silence;" The Cure, "To Wish Impossible Things;" Styx, "Mr Roboto."

Gary: Clan of Xymox, "Louise;" Radiohead "High and Dry;" the

Smiths, "Last Night I Dreamt that Somebody Loved Me;" Otherness, "X-song (Normal Life)."

Ken: Anything by the Magnetic Fields or The Cocteau Twins.

Russ: The Cure, "Trust;" REM, "Country Feedback;" the Smiths, "There Is A Light That Never Goes Out;" The Posies, "Dream All Day."

Q: How do you view mainstream music?

Gary: I'm pretty disillusioned with it. I can't listen to the radio anymore. I don't know if it's just me getting older, but I just can't get into most of the stuff that's popular right now. But there are some really good bands, like Van and Coldplay, that are getting a lot of attention, so it's not a hopeless situation yet.

Jeff: I am tired of boy bands.

Q: What musical direction do you think the record industry will take next?

Gary: Hopefully hip-hop, "alternative" rock, and bubble-gum will take a back seat to something new and a little more innovative. We'll see.

Q: Growing up, who were some of the bands you remember idolizing and eventually influencing you?

Jeff: My earliest synth influences were from Styx, though the bands that motivated me to do what I do now are The Cure, Depeche Mode, New Order, The Smiths, Clan of Xymox, etc.

Gary: The first album I bought

See **Otherness**, 10

LINE UP

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

DJ JOLBY, DJ DICK DIAMOND and DJ CHAD EHLERT: 9 p.m., Faces Restaurant & Lounge.

MONSTERS OF POP: feat. Miss Fortune, Jonathan Brite, & Radio Riley, Exit/In, \$5.

THE NATIONALS: 10 p.m., The Boro Bar & Grill \$5.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

ERYKAH BADU: w/Musiq Soulchild & Talib Kweil, 7:30 p.m., Ryman Auditorium, \$35-\$48.50.

SPIKE & MALLETS: w/ Fluid Ounces, 10 p.m., The Boro Bar & Grill.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

RIMSTOCK 2001 FEAT. TERRANCE SIMIEN: w/Coolbone, 9 p.m., Exit/In, \$20. (Proceeds benefit MTSU's Department of Recording Industry).

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

JANIE GREY: 10 p.m., The Boro Bar & Grill.

AC/DC: w/Slash's Snakepit, 7:30 p.m., Gaylord Entertainment Center, \$38.25-\$48.25.

N2O: 10 p.m., Wall Street, \$3.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

ANTHEM BOY w/ PFLANZ: 8 p.m., Indinet Record Shop, \$5.

ABRAID: 10 p.m., The Boro Bar & Grill.

RIMSTOCK 2001 FEAT. DEL MCCOURY BAND: w/ The Cluster Pluckers, 9 p.m., Exit/In, \$20. (Proceeds benefit MTSU's Department of Recording Industry).

J MASCIS & THE FOG: 8 p.m., 328 Performance Hall, \$14.

REDGRASS: 9 p.m., Faces Restaurant & Lounge.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

BO DIDDLEY: 8 p.m., 328 Performance Hall, \$25.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

BILLY BLOCK'S WESTERN BEAT ROOTS REVIVAL: feat. Michael Kelsh, Jason Wilber, Kent Agee, Chelle Rose, Jody Owens, & Danny Tate, 7 p.m., Exit/In, \$5.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

RATDOG: 7:30 p.m., Ryman Auditorium, \$28.75.

BASTARD SONS OF JOHNNY CASH: w/Jeff Finlin, 8 p.m., Exit/In, \$5.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

KELLY'S HEROES: 10 p.m., The Boro Bar & Grill.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

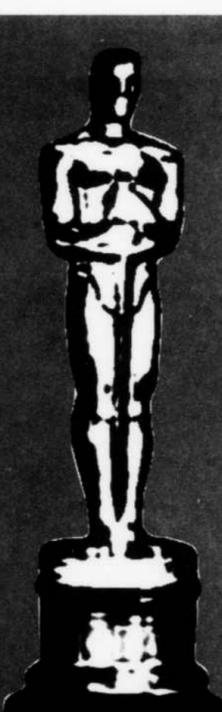
EMBODIMENT w/ RUGURIGATION, FLESHTIZED and BLOOD STAINED: The Outer Limit.

YOUNG ANTIQUES: w/Kudzu Kings & Whirlybird, Exit/In.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

GOVT MULE: 8 p.m., 328 Performance Hall, \$21.

THE JUAN PROPHET ORGANIZATION w/ INFRADIG ENSEMBLE: Sebastian's & Diana's Brew Pub.



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inside p. 10

A
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FOSSE
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Fosse brings 'All that Jazz' to Nashville

Rachel Robinson
Staff Writer

Dancing across the nation, Fosse, the Tony Award winning musical, strutted its stuff on the stage of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center March 13-18.

Fosse highlights the talents of the late director/choreographer Bob Fosse. The traveling production of the musical is directed by Richard Maltby, Jr. and Ann Reinking, who has been the leading force behind the new touring production. Reinking, with Chet Walker, recreated the choreography showcase of Fosse's legendary works.

Winner of the 1999 Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Lighting and Best Orchestrations, Fosse is currently playing to sold out audiences at the Broadhurst Theatre on Broadway. Off-Broadway performances began September 1999 at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, and at the Oriental Theatre in Chicago, Ill.

"When arranging our Broadway Series each year, we always seek to secure a Tony Award Winner in the Best Musical category, so we were very pleased that we were able to present Fosse this year," said

Steven Greil, TPAC's president and chief executive officer. "Nashville area residents are familiar with Fosse's style as they have seen his work on television, in films from *Sweet Charity* to *Cabaret*, and in the Broadway musical *Chicago*. Fosse is a highly entertaining work of musical theater."

Bob Fosse became known for his innovative ways of using the stripper-like dance movements that he grew up around when he performed in strip clubs throughout his younger years along with integrating the style and grace of theater dance. Inward knee thrusts, protruding hips and wrist emphasis are all part of what make Fosse's style unique.

The sultry voices of Reva Rice and Linda Bowen bring Fosse to life with songs like "Life is Like a Bowl of Cherries" from *Big Deal*, 1986 and Mein Herr from *Cabaret*, 1972. Audience members leave the auditorium thinking that their voices can match those of the divas.

The true highlight of the musical is "Mr. Bojangles" from



Photo Provided

Tony award winning musical Fosse stripped through Nashville March 13-18.

Dancin', 1978. This song/skit and dance number portrays an elderly, crippled man, played by Cassel Miles, and his younger more energetic spirit, Darren Gibson confronting each other with an afterlife-like feel. Viewers have to wait until the end for this one, but it is well worth it.

Fosse keeps its patrons attention from the opening note until the last foot has stopped tapping. Afterward if you haven't had enough, strap on your dancing shoes, warm up your voice and rent *Cabaret*. That been-there-done-that feeling will return, but this time you will know were it was coming from all along. ♦

Frist Center: Exhibits for education

Continued from 8

exhibit entitled "An Enduring Legacy: Art of the Americas from Nashville Collections." The exhibit, "From Post Office to Art Center: A Nashville Landmark in Transition" will be presented from April 8 until Feb. 24, 2002. "Michael Aurbach: The Administrator" will run from opening day until Aug. 19.

Opening events for the Frist Center for the visual Arts will

begin Sunday, April 8 with a performance by the Nashville Symphony at 1:30 p.m. Following the symphonic celebration the Fisk Jubilee Singers and Nashville's W.O. Smith School of Music children's chorus will kick-off the ribbon cutting ceremony at approximately 2 p.m.

Free passes to the opening day ceremony will be allotted to guests at a first come, first serve basis. The passes will be available

at noon from tents that will be located on the Demonbreun Street side of the Frist Center.

Admission to The Frist Center for visual arts will be free for youth 18 and under. Adults will be charged \$6.50, Seniors (age 65 and over) \$4.50 and college students with identification \$4.50. For a current exhibition schedule call (615) 244-3340 or visit the Frist website at www.fristcenter.org. ♦

SKY SONG

by Robert Desnos

The flower of the Alps told the seashell:

"You're shining"

The seashell told the sea:

"You echo"

The sea told the boat:

"You're shuddering"

The boat told the fire:

"You're glowing brightly"

The fire told me:

"I glow less brightly than her eyes"

The boat told me:

"I shudder less than your heart does when she appears"

The sea told me:

"I echo less than her name does in your love-making"

The seashell told me:

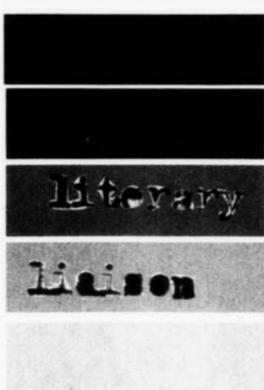
"I shine less brightly than the phosphorus of desire in your hollow dream"

The flower of the Alps told me:

"She's beautiful"

I said:

"She's beautiful, so beautiful, she moves me."



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Ratdog: Bringing home The Dead

Continued from 8

Ratdog has been performing together since 1996. The band formed from the longtime collaboration of Bob Weir and bassist Rob Wasserman. After playing as a duo for a number of years, the group decided to put together an electric band.

Although Ratdog only started doing a few Dead songs, the band is now playing many songs.

"They're great songs, and they're fun to play," says Wasserman. "Being that Bob is a former member of The Grateful Dead, he knows from experience what the music is about. From that, we get to have our own take at reinterpreting the tunes."

Weir is singing to a fourth generation of fans. More people are discovering The Grateful Dead's music every day, mostly through trading bootlegs. Although you can't see The Dead live anymore, Ratdog provides a similar outlet for the music. Their music is full of freedom, happiness and sorrow. They also possess the ability to improvise.

"It is exciting to be able to still

hear the songs of The Dead live and in the moment," says Deadhead Shelly Waynick. "You never really know where the music is going to take you, which is what always keeps me coming back for more."

Wasserman says, "We do love to see young fans at our shows, but I see old fans too. In fact, I see whole families at our shows."

A driving force behind the band, Wasserman helps give the music a spicy sound with his unique style of upright electric bass.

"I have never connected with a bass guitar. It's a guitar. It requires a whole different technique than playing a bass," said Wasserman. "Playing an upright bass stretches the limitations of our music. I can stretch things even further by playing with a bow."

Wasserman studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He has played bass with artists such as Lou Reed, Ricky Lee Jones, David Grisman, Elvis Costello, Willie Dixon, Van Morrison, Branford Marsalis and Oingo Boingo. He shares a Grammy with Bobby McFerrin for a song on one

of his solo albums, *Duets*. Wasserman's other solo albums include *Solo*, *Trios*, *Weir/Wasserman Live* and the recent *Space Island*.

"People say my bass playing makes them feel good. That's probably because I feel so good playing it," said Wasserman.

Ratdog also features Jay Lane on drums. He is a member of the Bay Area's Freaky Executives and the Uptones. Lane introduced the band to the jazz pianist Jeff Chimenti.

Guitarist Mark Karen came to the band after playing with Weir and The Other Ones on the 1998 Further Festival Tour. Saxophonist Kenny Brooks is the group's latest addition. Brooks is a longtime member of the Charlie Hunter Quartet and a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music.

By adding the bop of Brooks, the sliding style of Wasserman, the caress of Karen, the "gift" of Chimenti and the power of Lane, Weir has been able to create another realm for The Grateful Dead's



Photo Provided

Ratdog will be performing March 28 at the Ryman Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

music to explore. Working with a band like this has not only inspired Weir to revive his older music, but to write new material. Last September, the band released their first studio album, *Evening Moods*.

Ratdog's upcoming show at the Ryman will be the second appearance of a 20-show tour. Although Garcia is not around anymore, Weir provides a new world of exploration for The Grateful Dead's music. This is a tradition that has been thriving for nearly 35 years, and the fans still show up to dance.

As Weir still sings, "The Music Never Stopped." ♦

Otherness:

Continued from 8

with my own money was Tears For Fears' *Songs From the Big Chair*, which is a great record. When I got a little older, I started listening to bands like the Cure, Depeche Mode, New Order, and the Smiths, and it just branched out from there. Those bands are still my favorites.

Russ: REM.
Q: If there was one thing you could change about the state of music today what would it be?

Gary: The really great underground bands would be getting a lot more exposure, and the boy bands would be getting a lot less. Is that two things?

Q: What band/CD are you listening to right now?

Jeff: Kent, *Hagness Hill*; Mesh, *Fragmente*; Depeche Mode, *Exciter*;

The Smashing Pumpkins, *Adore*.

Gary: VNV Nation; Empires, *B! Machine*; "Infinity Plus;" Faith Assembly, "Ghosts I Have Been;" Clan of Xymox, "Medusa;" Otherness, "Apology for the Truth."

Russ: New albums by U2 and Radiohead; Covenant, "United States of Mind;" Apoptygma Bezerk, "Welcome To Earth."

Ken: Red House Painters; The Magnetic Fields, "69 Love Songs;" Diablo II Soundtrack.

Jay: Stuff with drums!
Q: If Otherness were a book, what would the title be?

Gary: *Pushing the Madness Deep — the Otherness Story*.

Jeff: *My Life*.
Ken: *A Night at the Cannery*.

Jay: *Synths with Drums*.
Russ: *Why Nashville?* ♦

Oh Oscar, why have you forsaken me?



Will *Gladiator* be able to sword off *Crouching Tiger*? Don't forget to watch the Oscars March 25.

By Zack Hansen
Staff Writer

As an enormously insane film fan, I regularly look forward to the Oscars with much anticipation. Normally, a decent mix of mainstream and independent fare is honored, and most of the time, the show is predictable but fun. Occasionally, we will even see an upset, like a couple years ago when *Shakespeare in Love* beat out favorite *Saving Private Ryan* for Best Picture.

Although this year's productions cannot be compared to the bounty of imaginative movies put out in 1999 (*Being John Malkovich*, *Magnolia*, *American Beauty*) there was still enough quality work done that there could have been a wild Academy Award run. However, those stodgy old academy members refused to honor remarkable, lesser-known films such as *Requiem For A Dream*, *Dancer in the Dark* and *George Washington*

for major awards. The sole reason being that they will not bring the desired television ratings.

Instead, we must settle for crowd pleasers such as *Gladiator* and *Erin Brockovich*, which may possibly sweep this year's ceremony. While both films are entertaining and not necessarily poor quality, there is an important difference between entertainment and art. I'll put up with it this one time, but if something like this happens again next year, I don't know if I can handle it.

Here are the six major categories, who will win and who SHOULD win.

Best Supporting Actor:

Benicio del Toro will win for his Spanish-speaking role in *Traffic*. His performance was extraordinary and would deserve to win any other year.

But this year, my vote goes to Willem Dafoe for *Shadow of the Vampire*. He was very convincing as actor Max Schreck, who may have been a real life blood-

sucker.

Credit is also due to Jeff Bridges in the otherwise shabby *The Contender*. His room service ordering and bowling antics brought the film some much-needed comic relief.

Best Supporting Actress:

Although Kate Hudson won the Golden Globe, I'd give the edge to fellow *Almost Famous* actress Frances McDormand, based on seniority rule.

Surprisingly, this category is one of the few where the probable winner is also deserving of the award. Although this is partially based on the fact that I haven't seen the other actresses' work (oops!), McDormand nailed the role of an overprotective mother. If either she or Hudson was victorious, I would be satisfied. *Almost Famous* deserves to win something.

Sadly, there weren't enough good supporting roles for

See **Oscars**, 12

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- Have a 2.0 cumulative GPA at the time of application.
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- Provide three letters of recommendation, a current transcript and no more than five examples of their work, professionally submitted.

Interviews will be held April 6 at 2 p.m.
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A Grocery Story

Kristy Adams
Staff Writer

When it comes to necessities like food, college students are generally cheap.

I visited several local grocery stores to see which one is the most beneficial to MTSU students.

My first visit was to Kroger, located at 831 S. Tenn. Blvd.

This specific Kroger is equipped with a large floral department, a Ticket Master outlet, a video rental section, pharmacy and a deli/bakery.

Prices seem reasonable here. The Kroger brand bread is \$1.39, and only \$1.09 if you have the Kroger Plus Card, which saves you money on selected products. A half-gallon of milk is \$1.79.

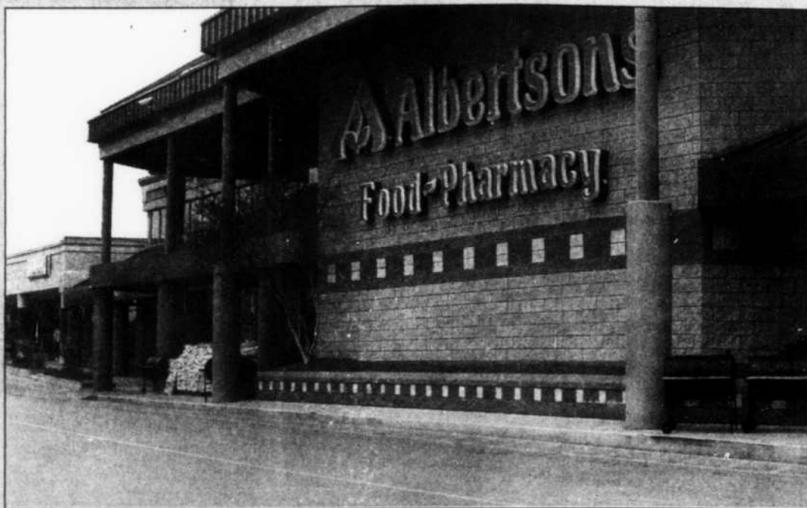
The store's customer service was impressive. It was not difficult to find a floor employee.

When it comes to cleanliness and organization, Kroger also scored high points.

Its pharmacy has flexible hours — 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

At Kroger, customers are not forced to wait in long lines if they're just purchasing a few items. They can check themselves out at the Express Lane.

My experience with Food



Matthew H. Starling | Chief Photographer

Local grocery store Albertson's was rated along with several other grocery stores.

Lion, 1114 Mercury Blvd., however, was a bit different.

This store's quality is not in tip-top condition.

As a smaller store, Food Lion offers less for its customers.

Compared to the other grocery stores I visited, its prices on certain items are lower. Food Lion bread is only \$.85 but a half-gallon of milk is \$1.89.

Customer service was fairly good. The only problem is that it took me a while to find an

employee.

I don't know who decided the organization of this store, but it was terrible. On one aisle, customers can find toilet paper, bread and beer.

A neighboring aisle contained paper plates and milk, while another had bottled water with cookies. The organization was just horrible.

Food Lion also has a savings plan called the MVP Bonus Card. With this card, customers

receive discounts on specific items they purchase.

Overall, I was not impressed with Food Lion.

The Bi-Lo located at 1691 Memorial Blvd. is another grocery store I inspected.

Like the other two stores, Bi-Lo has its own discount card called the Bi-Lo Bonus Card. It also has a large floral and deli department and a pharmacy open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. A

U-scan is available for customers who want to check themselves out.

Bi-Lo's prices are similar to Kroger's. A half-gallon of milk is \$1.79 and its bread is \$1.29.

In the area of customer service, however, this store is lacking. I was unable to find any floor employees after walking across the store twice. Finally, I went to the customer service desk, but the lady was unsure of where the product was located exactly.

All 12 aisles, overall, were clean and organized.

Wal-Mart, located at 2000 Old Fort Pkwy., was the next grocery store I visited. This store has almost anything you may need. Not only is it a division one department store, but it also has a full-size grocery section.

Like other grocery stores, Wal-Mart also contains a bakery/cake department, deli department and floral department.

The Wal-Mart brand bread is an incredible \$.68, which is the cheapest of all six stores.

Due to its large size, there were many floor associates. The lady I spoke with knew where my requested product was, but she wasn't real friendly or eager to help me find it.

Wal-Mart's numerous aisles were somewhat organized and clean.

With all that Wal-Mart has to offer its customers, it's not surprising that so many people

shop there.

Next, I went to Albertson's, located at 710 Memorial Blvd.

The first thing I noticed here was the space. The whole store, especially the frozen and fruit sections, have extremely wide aisles.

This grocery store is also very clean. Behind the deli and seafood areas, all the shelves had been wiped down and neatly organized.

Although Albertson's is not the biggest store I visited, it has a lot to offer its customers. The store includes a large floral department, bakery cafe, pizza and hot foods department, seafood department and a pharmacy.

This store did lack in customer service, though. It took me a while to find an associate.

Albertson's milk is \$1.79 and its brand name bread is \$.79.

The last grocery store I visited was Jr's Foodland at 323 E. Main.

Because the store is compacted, with only a few aisles, space is not a possibility. For having so little space, though, it was very organized and clean.

Its prices are normal, both the milk and bread are \$1.79.

The store wasn't lacking in customer service. Even with its small size, it had quite a few employees. When customers walked in, the cashiers greeted them with friendly smiles.

I recommend Jr's Foodland if you're wanting a new and different grocery experience. ♦

Oscars: Will the best and brightest take home Oscar gold?

Continued from 10

women this year, leaving it the weakest major category.

Best Actor:

Okay, I can admire future three-time winner Tom Hanks for being effective as the only person on screen for a good portion of *Cast Away*. But give someone else a chance to win, for the love of God!

I prefer Geoffrey Rush's energetic performance in *Quills*. As the Marquis de Sade, the man

really frightened me, but made me laugh as well.

If Russell wins, I will cry for a few days and then go into a period of mourning.

I have to say that Mark Ruffalo in *You Can Count On Me* is the real winner of this award, although he was not nominated, which is unfair.

Best Actress:

This category epitomizes everything that is wrong with the Academy and awards shows in general. Julia Roberts will win. I

hate Julia Roberts. She can't act and ruined her. But I suppose being cute and sassy can get you anything in today's Hollywood society.

For a real performance, the voters should take a look at Ellen Burstyn in *Requiem for a Dream*. Her transformation from chubby, loving grandmother-type, to whacked-out junkie then a vegetable still blows my mind after seeing it five times.

And by the way, where's

Bjork? At least I have her performance with Thom Yorke to look forward to! Excitement!

Best Director/Best Picture:

These categories are the closest to call.

Steven Soderbergh's dual nominations for *Erin Brockovich* and *Traffic* get automatic cancellation for the reason of split votes. Stephen Daldry's Best Director selection for *Billy Elliott* loses out for a lack of Best Picture nod.

Likewise, *Chocolat's* Best

Picture nomination, a result of Miramax's infamous extreme advertising, is voided for not being recognized for direction.

This leaves Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and Ridley Scott's *Gladiator* to fight it out. While *Crouching Tiger* is by far the better of the two and the most critically praised, *Gladiator* made more money and is more appealing to the voters than the subtitled Asian picture.

I'm going to be optimistic

here, hoping the Academy has some sense left and says *Crouching Tiger* will take both awards.

I believe that, for once, quality will be chosen over quantity. *Gladiator* is a mediocre action-movie while *Crouching Tiger* is a cinematic masterpiece, and is the most gorgeous film I have seen this year. It deserves to win and, with any luck, will sweep this year's Oscars. ♦

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