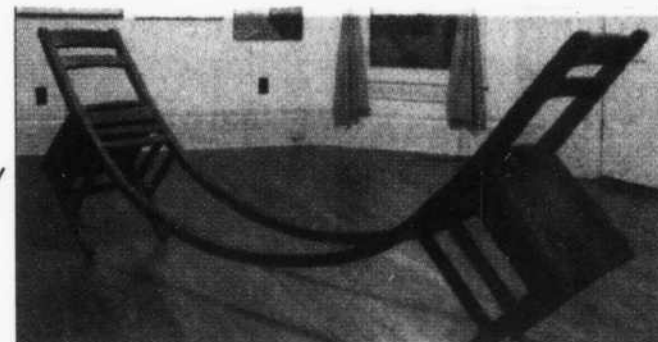


Blue Raiders open season with blowout

page 6

Art show proves trendy

page 5



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Volume 80 No. 40

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Senator advocates legal medical marijuana

By Alex Miller
Staff Writer

State Senator Steve Cohen, D-Memphis, will try to legalize medical marijuana next year.

If he succeeds, Tennessee will join a handful of states that have legalized the drug for medical purposes. Eleven states have passed medical marijuana laws, according to NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Passing a medical marijuana law won't be easy. If newly elected senator Jim Tracy, R-Shelbyville, has anything to say about it, Cohen's bill doesn't have a prayer.

"I wouldn't be for it, at all," Tracy said. He wants to see the details of Cohen's proposal, but he generally opposes medical marijuana. There are already prescription pain relief drugs available, he said, so patients don't need marijuana.

Tyler Smith, vice president of MTSU's Raider Republicans, echoed his sentiments.

"I don't agree with medical marijuana," Smith said. He harbors serious doubts about the state's ability to control the drug. If Tennessee can't even administer TennCare effectively, he said, how can it expect to regulate marijuana?

"I think there are alternatives out there," he said. "I don't see why anyone would need to step

out and use marijuana."

Bobby Bush, vice president of the College Democrats, said marijuana should be an option for seriously ill patients.

"The decision to use marijuana as opposed to other pain medications is a decision to be made between a doctor and a patient, not a politician," he said. He believes that opposition to medical marijuana is based on "moral values" and "gets in the way of decisions between

doctors and patients."

Lynn Parsons, director of MTSU's school of nursing, supports medical marijuana.

"As long as it is physician supervised, I am for it," she said. The people who would use the drug, such as cancer patients, endure tremendous pain, she said. "We should do anything we can to alleviate their suffering."

According to Parsons, prescription pain medications, including marijuana, all have

advantages and disadvantages. The side effects of pain medications like Fentanyl and Oxycodone can cause "profound respiratory distress," and marijuana users could experience hallucinations, delusions and paranoia.

In addition to pain relief, marijuana is prescribed to chemotherapy patients for nausea suppression and AIDS patients for appetite stimulation. ♦

Up 'Til Dawn raises goal for year

By Katie Garland
Staff Writer

Due to an overwhelming response from the student body, MTSU has raised its Up 'Til Dawn goal to \$100,000 this year.

Up 'Til Dawn is an event held annually at MTSU to benefit the children of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Last year MTSU was able to contribute just more than \$62,000 to the cause.

Jackie Victory, Up 'Til Dawn faculty advisor, attributes the boosted response to MTSU students having a desire to get involved on campus.

"A lot of students are looking to do something," Victory said. "This event is for anybody who wants to get involved."

Every year different organizations on campus form six-person teams who spend months raising the required \$750 participation fee.

Then, a final celebration is held for the teams from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. the following morning.

This year 55 teams have already signed up to participate in the event. Last year, only 36 teams participated.

Luisa Padro, a freshman mass communication major, is planning to be a part of this year's celebration with Lambda Theta Alpha, a group of girls who have expressed interest in starting a Latin American sorority on campus.

"It will be a chance for us to see what it is like to be involved as an organization on campus," Padro said. "To see what it would be like to actually be a sorority."

While some planning for the celebration itself is underway, the main thing on the mind of the Up 'Til Dawn Committee is the Great Lick-a-thon, a letter-writing campaign to raise money for Up 'Til Dawn.

The Lick-a-thon will be on Dec. 1 from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. in the Tennessee Room in the James Union Building. It is open to all who show up with their address books.

The goal is to send out more than 10,000 letters.

While the Up 'Til Dawn finale is scheduled to begin Feb. 25, events such as the Great Lick-a-thon are creating excitement among students for the actual night that Up 'Til Dawn will occur.

Chris Roach, a senior marketing major, got involved with Up 'Til Dawn three years ago

See Dawn, 2

Ride 'em Cowgirl

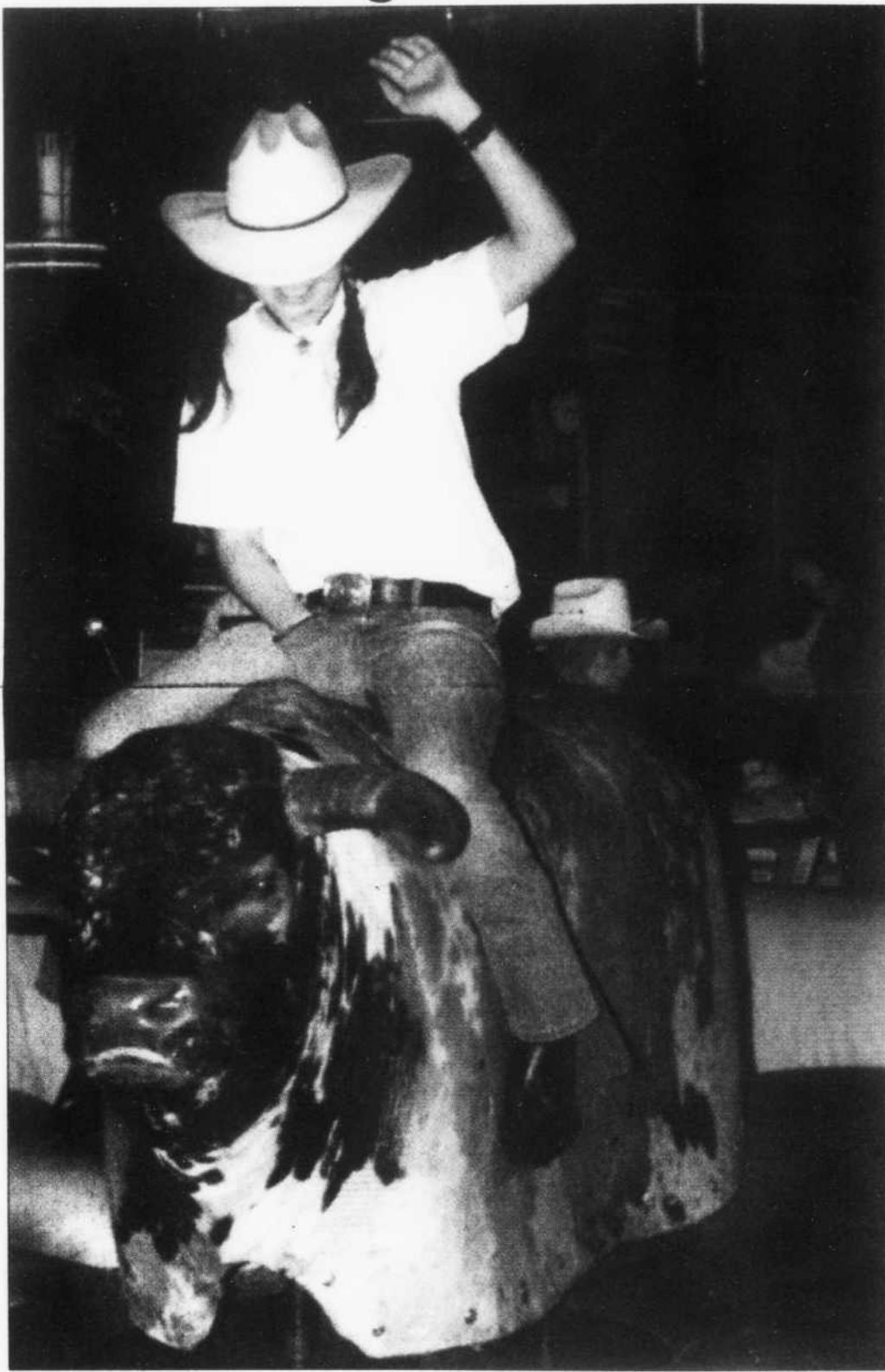


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Staff Photographer

Tina Barwick earns points for her sorority as she hangs on in a bullriding contest at Stampede Dance Hall and Saloon. The event was part of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity's 'Hay Daze,' an event to benefit Farm Safety just 4 Kids.

Students examine black culture clash

By Matt Anderson
Staff Writer

Students of all colors debated topics facing the black community Thursday night at The Great Debate: The Clash in Black Culture.

MTSU's African American Student Association hosted the debate.

One topic of debate was the use of the word "nigger." Is it OK to call a friend "nigga?" "I think you own it if you're black," Bert Brown, a junior liberal arts major, said. "You can say nigger. If that's a negative thing, you have to own it, because it will be that negative thing as long as they say that word."

"I hear brothers say that this is our word - we've made it powerful," said Adonijah Bakari, an MTSU sociology professor. "That's a wonderful thing when young people believe that they have power over something."

"They have a magazine called 'It's a feminist magazine.' Women can own that word because they're women. They can own that word because it's negative. Black people can own [the term] because it's negative toward them."

However, words vibrate beyond their intended meanings, Bakari said.

"When something vibrates, that means it goes into the universe," he said. "It places something there and it brings something back to you. There's no way you can remove the negativity from that by dropping some letters. That vibration is living in the universe."

"We say, 'Why did Tupac use it?'" he said. "Tupac is ignorant."

Period."

Others compared the ways in which other races deal with racial slurs.

"You don't hear Chinese people going around calling each other chinks," Joia Thornton, a junior mass communication major, pointed out. Baraki made a similar reference.

"One thing the Jews do well is remember," Bakari said. "Nobody makes money off the Jews' pain. There [are] other words we can use, like brother."

The debate then turned to hip-hop. Is it destroying the black community?

Many agreed that it was important to distinguish between rap and hip-hop.

"Rap is business music; hip-hop is cultural music," said Tim Kappel, a senior mass communication major.

"There's a big difference between hip-hop and rap," said Zedric Clayton, a freshman science major. "Hip-hop is the genre of music that is dying. Rap is the thing that makes a dude buy a Chevy and put 22-inch rims on his car, and his rims cost more than his car."

"Rap is making you want money - fast money, quick," he said. "It's not promoting education."

Before the debate, students took an informal survey on the night's topics. A majority said the images and messages of hip-hop had little or no effect on them, yet a majority said they had a moderate or substantial effect on their peers.

Jonathan Blanco, a junior recording industry major, said a lot of musicians are looking

See Culture, 2

Fashion promotion students put on show

By Lauren Buckley
Staff Writer

Members of the fashion promotion class put on a fashion show Saturday night in the Tennessee Livestock Center.

The proceeds from the event are given to Special Kids, Inc.

"We cover all our expenses, and the money from tickets goes toward the Special Kids program," said fashion promotion instructor Christine Kennard.

Special Kids focuses on special needs children through rehabilitation, nursing and social services.

"We have an arrangement with retailers to provide the clothes. They are not bought but loaned from the stores," said Augustine Collier, a junior accounting major and fashion promotion student.

The stores from which clothes were borrowed include Charlotte

Russe, Dillard's, Simply Divine Boutique, The Funky Munky, The Limited, Buckle, Phillips Bookstore, Elrod & Company and David Meister.

Along with apparel loaned from retail stores, creations from six apparel design majors were presented in a special segment of the show.

MTSU students served as the models for the show.

"We had 38 applicants for modeling. We accepted 23," said Bobbie Jo Davidson, a member of the model selection committee. "Previous experience didn't matter, but it helped."

Davidson has had experience in modeling, so she helped the models by showing them how to walk and turn on the runway.

Tanja Gangwishe, one of this year's models, has had previous modeling experience.

"Yeah, I did it last year. I found out about it through a flier in the girls' bathroom. I'm with a [modeling]

agency in Nashville," she said.

Gangwishe stated that she was nervous about the design she had to model.

"It's a really risqué dress, to put it that way, but it's a good dress," she said.

The dress was a low-cut halter style with a cutout around the bust area and a high slit going up the front of the dress.

"Do you remember the Versace Dress Jennifer Lopez wore that was gathered together right at her belly button? My inspiration was part from that," said designer Leah McDonald. "I also wanted to put red carpet glamour with it. I wanted to show a lot of skin."

Production of the dress took about 40 hours, McDonald said.

Jubrae Watts attended this year's fashion show to support her sorority

See Fashion, 2



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Staff Photographer

'Style in the Making' included clothes from stores such as Charlotte Russe, The Funky Munky and The Limited.



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com

Do you think marijuana should be
legalized for medical use?

Opinions 4 • Living 5 • Sports 6 • Classifieds 7

Country contributor



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Staff Photographer
Rodney Crowell performed at the Tom T. Hall Writers Series Thursday night.

Dawn: Letters raise money

Continued from 1

and is now serving as the committee's executive director.

According to Roach, the event will tentatively involve a live band, a celebrity guest speaker, blow-up games, door prizes and team relays.

While these events may seem fun and exciting, the focus of

the night will still be about the kids, according to Roach.

"At this hospital, the kids don't have to pay," Roach said. "Without organizations like this and people giving their time and money for a cause like this, the hospital wouldn't be able to continue."

While the bulk of the money raised is from the letter-writing

campaign, *Sidelines*, Aramark and Papa John's have also provided support for Up 'Til Dawn.

MTSU was the second school in the nation to adopt the Up 'Til Dawn program and continues to be a model program for other schools around the country. ♦

Fashion: Personalities apparent

Continued from 1

sister.

"It's a different crowd, so I don't know exactly what to expect," Watts said.

The show was divided into six segments.

Students modeled apparel from Phillips Bookstore in the "School Spirit" segment.

In "Night and Day," models showed how pieces of clothing could be carried from daywear to nightwear with just a few changes in accessories.

The announcer described the segment "The Next Step" as "What will take the next professional to the top." Men in crisp, collared shirts and females in tailored business suits lined the runway.

Evening attire was displayed in "Night Life," and the student models let their personalities show in the section "Sugar and Spice."

Ryan Robinson, sophomore from Tullahoma, even started break dancing.

Tennessee State University

student Shayla Jackson attended the fashion show to see her cousin.

"It was okay," she said. "Compared to last year, I liked last year's show better. There was more of a variety with clothes and with models this year though."

Jackson called attention to the shift in styles from last year to this year.

"There were more skirts this year," Jackson said. "The style was stripes this year, and it's plaid this year." ♦

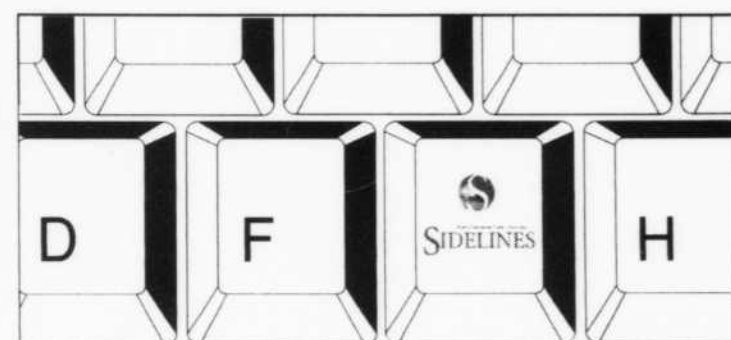
Culture:

Continued from 1

for money, regardless of genre.

"What I hear when people try to record is 'let's make something that will get us rich,'" he said.

"Hip-hop and rap are [expressions] of this culture. They come from the bad neighborhoods, but I think that the main point is, sadly, it's all about money," Blanco said. "People are wanting to make money, and they're forgetting about the essence of the work." ♦



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1. Forms must be submitted by deadline to be considered for publication. Campus Events run each Monday in the News section, so forms should be submitted by Friday night.
2. Every attempt will be made to run your announcement as often as possible, but priority will be given to events with the most immediacy.
3. We reserve the right to limit announcements to campus events only.
4. *Sidelines* does not guarantee placement of *any* submission.

Name of person placing this notice _____ Date _____

Organization _____ Event _____

Date of event _____ Time _____ Location _____

Contact name _____ Phone no. _____

Notes _____

Return this form to *Sidelines*, MTSU Box 8, or bring to Mass Comm Building, Room 269

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Fill out the form by noon on Friday so your ad will appear in the following week's paper.

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Council votes to annex land for subdivision

By Laura Lindsay
Staff Writer

The Murfreesboro City Council passed four ordinances Thursday night involving land near Kimbro Road and Southridge Boulevard.

The first two annexation requests were by David Parsons for 743 acres along Salem Highway and Kimbro Road and 39 acres along the north side of Kimbro Road. The council passed both requests on first reading.

The third request was for 95 acres along the south side of Kimbro Road. Council approved this ordinance on first reading.

The developer, Daniel O'Brien, discussed his plans for the subdivision.

Heather White, of Kimbro Road, expressed concern about what may happen to her property when the subdivision and a five-lane road are developed.

"We are concerned about all the blasting which is going to be taking place," White said. "It will be right in front of it and beside us. I bought this property for the farming community... and the peace and quiet which is going to be ruined."

City Planning Director Joseph Aydelott said the proposed five-lane road, referred to as the Southern Loop, will be extended off Kimbro Road.

"The [Kimbro Road] area is changing, but the market says the area will be developed by the city or the county," Aydelott said.

He added that he is satisfied with this development, which will include a swimming pool and clubhouse, as well as a common area which will be supported by a third-party homeowners association that residents will be required to join.

Aydelott said there are wetlands on the property of the planned single-family subdivision, which are going to be preserved, although a parking lot will be built adjacent from its location.

Mayor Tommy Bragg said the area is "an attractive setting" and shows western growth of the city.

The subdivision will be developed within five to eight years.

Council also approved, on

first reading, an ordinance to rezone, for residential use, 18.7 acres immediately north of Southridge Boulevard. The change was requested because the developer discovered wetlands on a portion of the already zoned property.

The applicant is also the developer of the Southridge subdivision.

Leah Golden, of Painted Pony Drive, said she was concerned about increased traffic flow in her neighborhood, which would result from a proposed road connection to Southridge Boulevard.

She suggested that a gate or barrier for emergency use only be erected across a second entrance into the proposed subdivision, but Aydelott said it would not be feasible.

"The convenience is not just for emergency vehicles, but it is for other people as well," Aydelott said. "It is an opportunity for other people to have more than one way to get in and around their subdivision."

He also said services like the garbage pick up shouldn't have "to go in circles and loops to get from one subdivision to the next." Residents should have additional exits available other than from Southridge Boulevard.

Council member Bill Shacklett said there should be increased police monitoring in the area because of an expected high volume of traffic over the coming years.

He said this should be done so there are not unnecessary hazards to current property owners. Aydelott agreed that should be done.

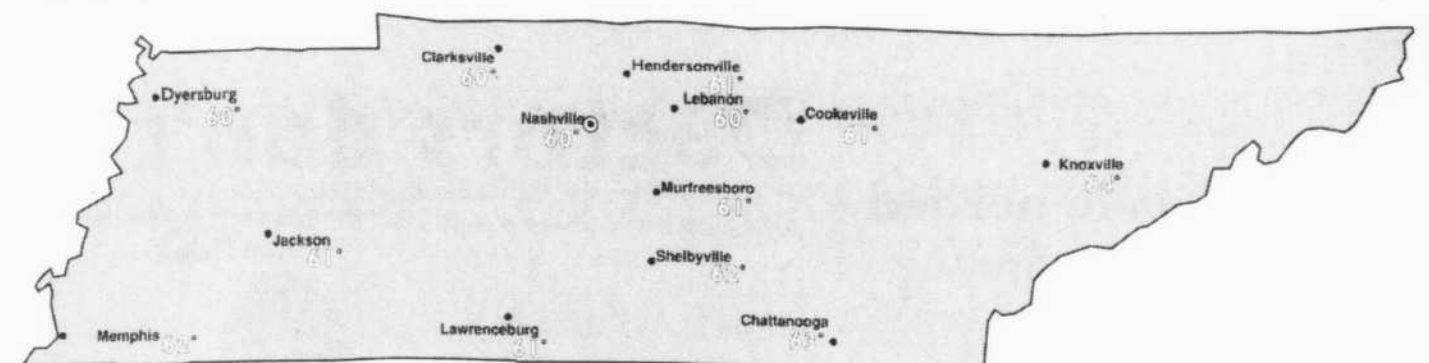
In other business, the council announced that a series of public hearings would be held on Jan. 13.

These hearings will be to consider annexation/zoning along Manson Pike; annexation west of Florence Road; zoning along Kimbro Road simultaneous with annexation; zoning along Dill Lane; annexation/zoning along Osborne Lane; and annexation/zoning along Florence Road.

Council members asked that the public continue to notify other of any concerns regarding other proposed developments. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Monday's Highs

From the Associated Press

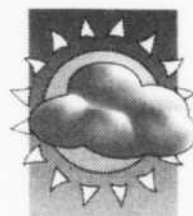


Tuesday



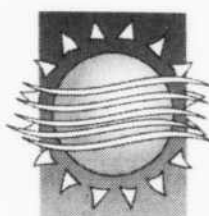
65°
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Wednesday



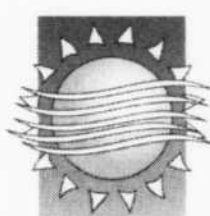
62°
33°

Thursday



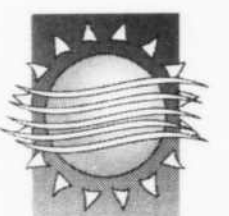
48°
32°

Friday



56°
40°

Saturday



56°
46°

Drug costs must be cut to save TennCare

Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Gov. Phil Bredesen and the leading advocate for TennCare enrollees may have their differences, but they both agree controlling the health care program's skyrocketing drug costs is key to saving it.

"The pharmaceutical costs are the fundamental problem in TennCare," Bredesen told reporters while in Chattanooga last week. "Without the ability to reform what we're paying for drugs, we have no chance at making TennCare work in anything like its current form."

Bredesen announced about two weeks ago that he intended to end TennCare and return to traditional Medicaid to control soaring costs he blamed on court rulings won by the Tennessee Justice Center for TennCare enrollees.

Eliminating TennCare — the \$7.8 billion health care program for the poor, uninsured and disabled — would leave 430,000 people without health coverage

and might reduce benefits for another 900,000.

Records show the average TennCare enrollee has more than 30 different prescriptions each year, more than three times the national average. Pharmacy use grew 24 percent this year, and drug costs in the program totaled \$2.4 billion.

More than half the growth of TennCare's overall budget is attributed directly to prescription drugs, officials said.

While he agrees ballooning prescription costs are a big problem, TJC Executive Director Gordon Bonnyman disagrees with Bredesen on how to reduce the costs. He said the state could save "hundreds of millions of dollars" if TennCare fully implemented a process called retrospective drug utilization review.

While he agrees ballooning prescription costs are a big problem, TJC Executive Director Gordon Bonnyman disagrees with Bredesen on how to reduce the costs. He said the state could save "hundreds of millions of dollars" if TennCare fully implemented a process called retrospective drug utilization review.

What they lack is feedback," Bonnyman said. "Using peer-to-peer counseling to move prac-

tice patterns toward more economical care delivery has been shown over and over and over again to be effective. Most doctors want to be perceived by their colleagues as conscientious. They don't want to be perceived as not good doctors."

State officials say they began a contract with First Health Services Corp. this summer to begin the DUR process, but it will only save about 1.1 percent of TennCare's drug costs.

Bredesen said the solution to controlling massive drug spending is requiring physicians to obtain prior authorization before writing certain prescriptions.

"We need to use the same tools other states are using and commercial plans are using," he said. "(DUR), it's a nice idea, but you just don't get anything like the savings that you do by setting a bunch of standards on the front end."

Health policy experts say Tennessee isn't alone in trying to cut health care costs. Across

the country, the budgets of state Medicaid programs are expected to grow nearly 13 percent, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The two biggest reasons: prescription drug costs and payments to nursing homes, said Arturo Perez, a fiscal analyst for the Denver-based organization.

"When drug costs rise 20 or 25 percent in a given year, that's going to have an adverse effect on state Medicaid budgets," he said. "Some of the costs are out of the state's control."

Bredesen said last Wednesday that negotiations with TJC over TennCare are at an impasse, although he vowed to continue working in private on a compromise.

A federal judge suggested Friday that former Gov. Ned McWherter, who created TennCare while governor in the 1990s and earlier this month tried to broker a deal to save it, take a formal role as mediator.

Both sides said they would consider the judge's suggestion. ♦

State says students commit more drug offenses

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee students committed a record number of drug offenses last year, leaving officials at a

loss to explain the increase.

The number of offenses for using, selling or carrying drugs in schools across the state went up 502 cases, to 2,793 in the 2003-2004 school year.

Drug offenses made up 67 percent of the state's 4,196 zero-tolerance offenses, which are serious enough to warrant expulsion or transfer to an alternative school.

"We had a pretty significant increase in drug offenses last year," said Mike Herrmann, director of school safety for the state Department of Education.

State officials couldn't explain the increase, but pointed out that many schools have cracked down on drug usage with more security personnel and other crime fighting tools.

"We're very serious about

drug activities in schools. They are a catalyst for other activities that affect learning for everybody," said Woody McMillin, spokesman for Metro schools. "It also imports into schools other problems, particularly crime."

Officials said the most common drugs are marijuana and prescription and other pills. Harder drugs, such as cocaine and heroin, rarely show up.

"Students are aware that we're consciously looking. We're looking for things that would tip us off to drug use," said Ivan Duggin, principal of Holloway High in Rutherford County. "We do have noses. There are some things we can smell."

The number of drug offenses statewide appeared to be going down slightly until last year,

when they shot up.

They had dropped from 2,345 in 2000-01 to 2,291 in 2002-03.

The schools reported that, following drugs, the most common was students using or carrying a weapon other than a gun followed by battery of a teacher or staff member.

Remaining the smallest category, making up just 2 percent of the incidents reported in each of the past four years.

Decreases were seen in offenses for threats of violence, and sexual battery and harassment — which dropped from 42 cases four years ago to 14 last year.

Males were three times more likely to commit serious offenses. ♦

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From the Editorial Board Serious debate needed on medical marijuana

Sen. Steve Cohen's attempt to authorize the use of marijuana for medical use should be viewed with open minds, and we hope that our legislators are willing to listen to all sides of the argument concerning this issue. While the general consensus is that there is not enough knowledge on the subject to make a conclusive decision either way, the National Institute of Medicine concluded differently.

While there are certainly other pain medications on the market that alleviate suffering associated with cancer and other chronic or simply painful conditions, some have responded well to these medicines, and some have not. The same is true with marijuana. Both have side effects that are considered undesirable by some, such as disorientation.

Marijuana and other substances, such as opiates, both have potential for dependency. However, the general conclusion amongst medical professionals is that adverse marijuana withdrawal symptoms are generally short-lived and has milder side effects than those of opiates (such as Oxycontin), benzodiazepines (such as Valium) and stimulants (such as Ritalin) – all of which are legal for prescription use.

By this logic, the government had better get busy outlawing most benzodiazepines, nearly all opiates and every stimulant currently on the prescription market, from Ritalin at the school house to cocaine at the dentist's office.

The greater problem is the way that this issue often becomes a debate on full legalization, which should be separated from this dispute. People will lean one way or the other based on how they feel about marijuana as a recreational substance instead of discussing its medicinal use. We need the most concrete answers we can get. Therefore, more research conducted by an unbiased group of medical professionals should be funded, and legislators need to take a non-partisan look at the issue and decide for themselves.

If marijuana can alleviate the physical suffering of any sick person who cannot find relief otherwise without severe side effects, our state legislators – who are, above all, charged with the duty of looking out for the well-being of Tennessee citizens – should be willing to consider the issue openly without regard for what the party's press office has to say about the matter. ♦

From the Opinions Editor Don't dodge big deficits while the dollar dives

It seems that the corner that everyone said we were supposed to turn loops back onto itself, much to the dismay of most of the nation.

Reuters reported yesterday that the sudden jump in stock prices that came with Bush's re-election is being worn away by a plethora of negative influences on the U.S. economy.

What most worries economists is that the value of the dollar is losing ground to foreign currencies. A weak dollar could slow the flow of investments by foreign businesses and drive the trade deficit – one of the most important indicators of the nation's international financial standing – higher.

President George W. Bush has pressed other countries to remove barriers to free trade in the hopes that this will provide a kick to the backside of the U.S. economy.

The odds that this will happen, however, are very poor unless investors have the assurance that their investment in the United States is money well spent.

Instead of trying to press other nations to continue to bankroll the United States, the White House needs to turn its focus towards cutting the federal budget deficit. With more money in the nation's "bank account," the United States will need to depend less on foreign investment to keep the government from running further into a sea of red ink.

Unfortunately, it seems that a few would rather pretend the deficit doesn't exist and that everything is going okay, all while asking if Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan would please stop scaring the markets.

Regardless of whether we are heading towards a financial crash or just another downturn in the markets, it would do the country well to have real money to pump back into the hands of consumers.

After all, I think everyone can agree that having more money in your pocket is always a good thing. ♦

Matthew Adair is a sophomore art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

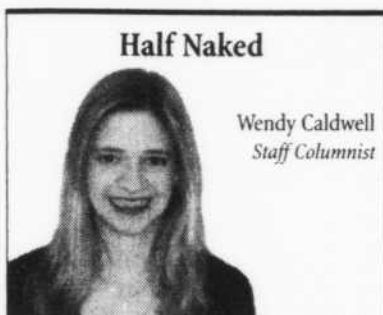
Doctors don't kill; governors do

Ever wonder who's been executing people in Kentucky? Well, rest assured – it's not your general practitioner.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher is stirring up controversy in the Blue Grass State by signing a death warrant. Apparently this is a big no-no, because Fletcher is also a doctor.

According to a story by the Associated Press posted on globegazette.com, "American Medical Association guidelines bar doctors from taking part, directly or indirectly, in executions. And Kentucky requires doctors to follow AMA ethical guidelines."

In Kentucky, death row inmates convicted after March 31, 1998 are executed through lethal injection. Those convicted before then have the option of electrocution or lethal injection. My question is who, if not a doctor, is performing these lethal injections?



Half Naked

Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

I understand the AMA's logic in their stance on executions. If someone has committed his or her life to practicing medicine, perhaps he or she shouldn't be involved in killing people. I also understand that it doesn't take a doctor to administer an injection. In fact, it's a rarity for me to have any kind of injection administered to be by an actual doctor – it's usually a nurse. However, I'm sure at one point or another some doctor had to be involved in some way. The death warrant in question is

for Thomas Clyde Bowling, set to die by lethal injection Nov. 30.

"OK, Mr. Bowling, because doctors aren't allowed to be directly or indirectly involved, here's how this execution thing is going to work. We want you to swallow these five gallons of bleach. Then we're going to inject two liters of cyanide into your bloodstream. We're also going to throw in this strain of ebola, just for good measure. What, ebola's airborne? Aww, geez, I knew we should've consulted a doctor."

I don't think this is as dramatic as people are making it out to be. Obviously, someone forgot to read the law. It happens. In fact, it's a good excuse that might keep you out of jail.

"You mean that's illegal? Gee, I'm sorry, officer. If I had known that, I never would've gone for a joyride in your car. I'll be more

mindful of the law next time."

Something will have to be done about this, because I'm sure the current governor isn't the only one who's going to have a medical license and will have to sign a death warrant. It's bound to come up again.

Now, I am in no way in favor of lethal injection or any other means of execution. I mean, throw them all in prison – eventually they'll piss off enough lifers to get one stabbed in the neck one day at no added government expense. No one's got a guilty conscience, no Kentucky doctors are putting their licenses at risk – everybody wins.

Well, everyone except the dead guy, and, well, dead guys never win. ♦

Wendy Caldwell is a junior mathematical sciences major and can be reached at wkc2d@mtsu.edu.

Back away from games, let students get work done

By Stephanie Vass
Guest Columnist

It is that time again when students are running around like crazy, trying to figure out their class schedules for spring. There are normally three tools that are needed for this process: scheduling books, an adviser and computers.

Now for those of you who don't have a computer, you would normally depend on the computer labs in the Business and Aerospace Building or the Walker Library to research teachers and needed scheduling. It seems that around this time of year when scheduling occurs, it is impossible to find a computer anywhere that isn't being occupied.

Now that the latest round of scheduling is over, I have realized that it is hard work to go all over campus and find the help and needed tools that one might need. The week of scheduling seems to be very stressful for a lot of people. Scheduling is hectic, because it is at the end of the semester while work for classes starts piling up.

"I don't have a computer at home and it is frustrating when I search the four floors of the library, plus the bottom computer room, and 15 percent of students are playing games or shopping," said Drew Lewis, a senior graduating in the spring.

Computers, around this time of year, should be used for scheduling purposes only. The library should be used as a research area, not an entertainment center.

"I think there should be an area in the library that consists of computers for those who want to play games and check e-mail,"

said Emily Cafego, a senior.

Seriously, the end of the semester is a crazy time and no one needs the stress of having to find a computer on campus.

During the time of scheduling, I think the library should have a certain station of computers that are to be used only for scheduling. Now that TRAM is not being used, the only way to schedule for classes is through the Internet. There are a lot of students who live on campus and use the BAS or the library, because they don't have a computer.

Everyone please keep in mind that when you are using a computer in the library, someone might have to do some homework or research. Save the shopping and game playing for later hours. If someone looks stressed or in need of a computer to either print off something or do some research, take a break from the game and let them use the computer. This could happen to you someday, so think about it coming back on you.

Remember, the library is supposed to be used for a research tool, so try and keep it that way for those who actually need to do research. With all this said, when class scheduling comes around again during the spring, let's try and keep ourselves from being stressed out.

Just remember during this one week games can be put on hold. Leave the computers for those who actually need to do something involving school. ♦

Stephanie Vass is a junior mass communications major and can be reached at smv2b@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Patriot Act protects freedom, lives

To the Editor:

With the close of the elections, and the victory of President George W. Bush, many misconceptions about the draft, economy, and the Patriot Act have been thrown carelessly about in this paper. The latest of which is the Patriot Act.

Opponents of the act say that the Patriot Act is un-American, but because it protects the American public, and it is stated in the Constitution that protecting the people is a responsibility of government, it is a very American declaration.

The Patriot Act can be compared to security measures taken when entering a courthouse, for example. An individual is asked to step through a metal detector and surrender their bags for searching. To an extent, this could be considered an invasion of privacy. However, security is not accusing you of having a weapon, they are simply eliminating the possibility. And those of us that enter without a weapon should be grateful for such a measure. It is in place for our protection.

Some have argued that the Patriot Act is unconstitutional. Check your Supreme Court precedents: *Near vs. Minnesota* (1931), and *Schenck vs. The United States* (1919) both state that exceptions must be made in times of war, a state we are undoubtedly in. I am not a terrorist, but if I happen to engage in an innocent conversation with a stranger in chat room X, and that stranger is a terrorist, I have no problem with the government monitoring our conversation. Bottom line: If you aren't doing anything wrong, then you have nothing to worry about.

Have we all forgotten what happened on September 11, 2001? A mere three years later our tears have dried and we have become petty once again. Sadly, it takes something as catastrophic as 9/11 to show us that measures like the Patriot Act are necessary.

Kara Watkins
Sophomore, College of Mass Communication

Lack of truth leads to growth in hate

The U.S. military raided a mosque in Baghdad during Friday prayers last week. They killed at least four worshippers and wounded about 20, according to the Inter Press Service.

The U.S. military began the assault on Falluja this month. Within one week of the attack, 38 Americans had been killed and 275 others were wounded. They claimed 1,000 to 1,600 insurgents had been killed. No one has any idea how many civilians are dead. The U.S. military does not count civilian casualties because they like to hide things they do that everyone in their right mind knows is wrong.

This past August, when Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt was asked about images on Arab TV showing Iraqi children being killed by U.S. soldiers, he brushed off the issue like a true patriot. "My solution is quite simple: Change the channel. Change the channel to a legitimate, authoritative, honest news station. The stations that are showing Americans intentionally killing women and children are not legitimate news sources. That is propaganda and that is lies. So you want a solution? Change the channel."

Fittingly, the government the United States has set up in Iraq shut down the Baghdad office of Al Jazeera, the Arab satellite television network that the United States loved when they were telling the truth about the atrocities of the Taliban, but grew to hate when they started telling the truth about the atrocities of the U.S. military.

It is absurd that these atrocities happen. They happen because the masses allow them to happen. The people of this country allow the powerful to prey on the weak. They allow it out of ignorance, they allow it out of apathy and they allow it out of ethnocentrism.

The fact that President George W. Bush is a conservative Christian probably helped him win the election more than anything. Many people like to call this place a Christian nation.

If by Christian nation you mean the majority of our citizens are Christians, then it is. If by Christian you mean we love our neighbors and our enemies, then it is not. I don't understand how so many Christians can allow such a murderous government to represent them.

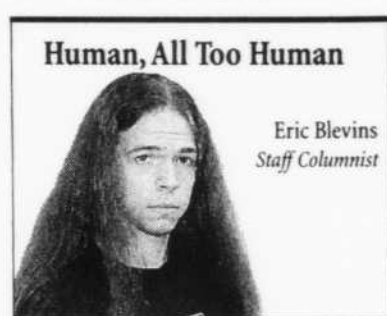
I also don't understand how people can think the war on terrorism makes them safer. Bush has escalated the factors that make terrorists and many others hate the United States. We have been pushing around third-world Arab countries for decades. It has continued under Democratic and Republican presidents alike.

The first World Trade Center bombing didn't wake us up. The attacks of September 11, 2001 didn't wake us up. Why can't people really see what is causing this?

Violence begets violence. That is why Christ said to turn the other cheek. That is why Buddhist monks pray for the enlightenment of those who harm them. That is why fanatics fly planes into buildings.

That is why extremists invade sovereign nations and bomb civilian populations. That is why we must all do what we can to make this cycle end. ♦

Eric Blevins is a senior recording industry major and can be reached at ericblev@hotmail.com.



Human, All Too Human

Eric Blevins
Staff Columnist

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Sidelines online poll results

Do you agree with embryonic stem cell research?

- Yes. Any kind of science that could potentially prevent or cure disease is worth a shot. (50 percent)
- Yes. What's all the controversy about? (12 percent)
- No. Regardless of its potential benefits, stem cell research is morally and ethically wrong. (21 percent)
- No. We're not ready for the potential consequences it could lead to. (8 percent)
- I'm gonna stay out of this one ... (12 percent)



Visit www.mtsusidelines.com to answer this week's poll question, "Do you think marijuana should be legalized for medical use?" 195 people voted. Results are not scientific.

Art show proves trendy

MTSU art teachers enlighten community with one-night art show, Art a la Carte

By **Rachelle Morvant**
Staff Writer

Christie Nuell was thinking globally and acting locally, as she described it, when she and a group of local artists successfully picked up on a trend. Her yellow one-story rental home on Maney Avenue was temporarily converted into Murfreesboro's most popular art gallery for one night.

On Oct. 23rd, Nuell, a screen-printing teacher at MTSU, and seven other artists – including digital imaging professor Marc Barr and sculpture professor Michael Baggarly – put together a one-night art show and sale called Art a la Carte.

The art included metalwork, screen print, photography, painting, lithography, sculpture and ceramic. There was even a fire sale – several smaller photographs and paintings stacked in an empty fireplace ready for quick acquisition.

Nora Hibbard, a contributing photographer, called this a "hit-and-run show." She said these types of one-night shows are an "urban trend" she's seen in the North that is starting to catch on here.

The setting was personal and casual. The hardwood floors glowed in the incandescent light as the high ceilings made room for many works of art, some larger than one's arms, could stretch.

"I love the light colored walls and the high ceilings," Hibbard commented.

"A lot of us had large pieces, so it's nice to have a large wall to display them," said Jennifer Balance, a contributing painter.

Artists and patrons wandered around conversing with

each other about the art and energy that surrounded them.

Michael Baggarly's Detached Attachments, which reached from floor to ceiling, and Stretch, were woodworks made of chairs that took up large portions of the two main show-rooms (the living room and the bedroom). The colors of the abstract paintings were bright and brilliant as they reached out from the wall to slap the face of the viewer.

These crafts did not display typical puppy-in-a-basket-on-a-farm type of subject matter.

Space and color were challenged to prove themselves, and if a successful show was poor enough, then space and color can take a week off.

More than \$18,000 worth of artwork hung on the un-leased walls. The two larger pieces were Baggarly's wood sculptures, both marked "price available on request." The art listed on "le menu" varied in cost from \$25 to \$1,500 (not including the fire sale).

The show required little effort to plan, with exception of the combined years of work, sweat and tears needed to produce the art.

"We had a couple of info meetings and then we just got together yesterday and hung it," Hibbard revealed on the night of the show. Fliers were printed and distributed, information was sent to the local papers and wine and cheese was waiting in the refrigerator. The artists had no idea what to expect.

The group of creative minds began meeting together to show their personal work and critique each other. Nuell's rental house was empty for the moment, so they went for it.

"We knew each other; we

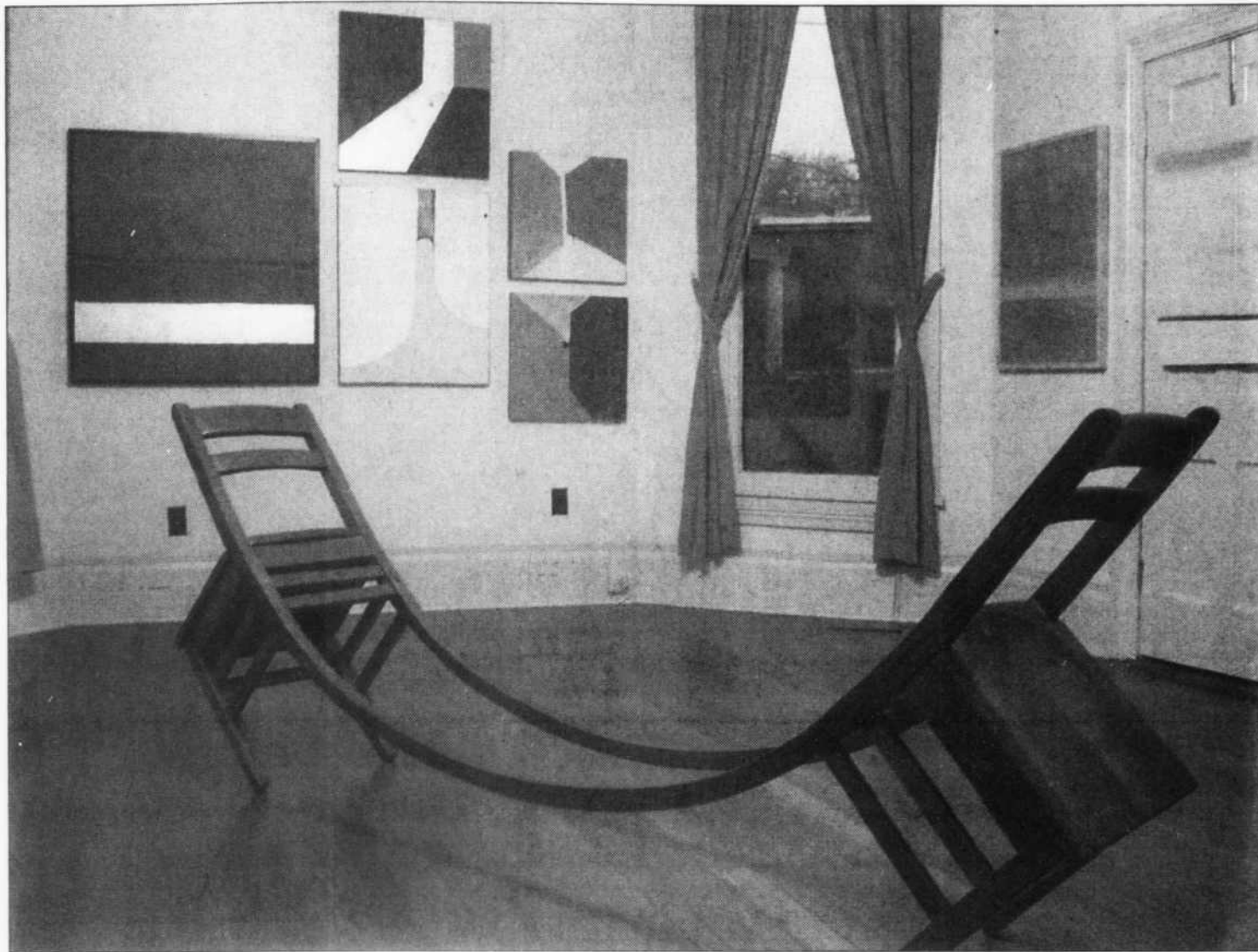


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Staff Photographer

Stretch, a wooden sculpture by Michael Baggarly, was just one of the innovative pieces displayed at Art a la Carte.

were working together, and we had a space available," said Balance, who enjoys the personal time that can be spent with an artist at an opening and feels it's important to the appreciation of the art.

"Getting to know other artists is always a good idea," Hibbard said.

"I think it's really fun to talk to someone about why they did what they did," Balance said.

"Generally, that's what you're making art for, is that kind of communication," she adds.

She described the event as having the personality of an art opening, claiming that the days that follow an opening are never as exciting as the first.

More than 100 people attended Art a la Carte. Nuell said she sold a few pieces and was pleased with the new com-

mission work she received because of the show. Nuell even had a former art student drive from Athens, Tenn. to attend. She happily claims that the show "exceeded [their] expectations."

It's quite an accomplishment to attract that many people in Murfreesboro without cheap beer.

The artists have discovered an alternative to Murfreesboro's

traditional venues. Instead of depending on the Art Barn or Red Rose's gallery space, they successfully created their own gallery.

"Murfreesboro is ready for more to happen in the arts, especially if it's a little different," Nuell advises.

She and the group are considering another show in a different location around April. ♦

Sociology Symposium heightens student interest

By **Tabitha Turner**
Staff Writer

Today's college students are asking tough social questions. Does gender have anything to do with attitudes towards racial diversity? How does the American government and educational system affect immigrant students? What part does religion play in students' opinions about homosexuality?

These questions and many more were addressed at the 13th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium.

This event, which was sponsored by the MTSU's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, was held in the campus' James Union Building Nov. 15 and 16.

Providing opportunities for roughly 60 undergraduate students from several local universities to give presentations on a variety of social subjects, it aimed to encourage student concern in the scientific study of human commerce.

"I had to go to this (the symposium) for my class, but now that I've been here awhile and see what it's about and all the things they're talking about, it seems pretty interesting. I used to think sociology was really boring," sophomore advertising major David Terrall said.

Students could attend any of the free activities of the seminar during its two-day duration. Some of the scheduled events were: "Classical Theory Applications to Contemporary Problems: Issues in New Forms of Latino Immigration," moderated by Vicki McLean, and "Hate Groups and Hate Crimes," which was moderated by Ben Austin, associate professor of sociology.

These two programs represent only a sampling of the presentations that allowed students to give their research findings on a broad assortment of social science topics in anthropology, archaeology, social work, sociology and political science.

There was also an address on "Fossil Fuels, Climate Change and Foreign Policy in the 21st Century," given by Andrew Austin, as well as video productions done by Appalachian studies.

"I really liked the videos, especially the documentary on the Cumberland County Playhouse," junior sociology major Sandra Goldwyn said.

The highlight of the symposium was the panel discussion "Global and Local Environmental Justice." Students discussed contemporary environmental issues and continued the year's theme of "Environmental Justice."

The four panelists were Andrew Austin of the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay, Angela Mertig of MTSU and Scott Frey and Bobby Jones from the University of Tennessee.

Achieving environmental justice would neces-

sitate both companies and private citizens respecting the environment by living up to the standard put in place by environmental laws. This can only be accomplished when all citizens are equally protected from environmental hazards, despite barriers of cultural or financial difference.

"Environmental justice is a huge issue," junior anthropology major Chris Griffiths said. "A lot of people believe it's a sort of utopian idea of both human society and the environment existing simultaneously, that it's unrealistic, but it can be a reality if people are willing to work for it – though it won't come cheap."

The 13th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium was an enlightening learning experience for any student willing to

“Environmental justice is a huge issue. A lot of people believe it's a sort of utopian idea of both human society and the environment existing simultaneously, that it's unrealistic, but it can be a reality if people are willing to work for it – though it won't come cheap.”

Chris Griffiths
junior
Anthropology major

attend the seminars. It provided a chance for social as well as intellectual communication and coalitions of ideas. Although the symposium is over, it will be held next year and again be sponsored by MTSU, promising to be as stimulating as the previous years.

"I plan on coming back to this (the symposium) next year," undecided freshman Famika McNash said. "I didn't know sociology was so interesting. I hadn't decided on a major, but now maybe I'll try sociology." ♦

Turkey Dinner

Items needed: A roasting pan (Wal-Mart sells disposable roasting pans), four T-pins or meat pins (look for these in the grocery store, near the turkeys – they look like 4-6 inch, heavy duty, straight-pins with a T or O-ring at the top), a meat thermometer, turkey baster, aluminum foil, celery flakes (in the spice section), poultry seasoning, dried bread cubes (seasoned or unseasoned, according to preference), medium onion, celery, butter or margarine, salt and pepper.

The process: Thoroughly clean your counter tops to prevent food-borne illnesses.

Each end of a turkey contains a cavity. Meat processors store the excess fat, neck and giblets in these cavities. Reach in and pull them out, but don't throw them away.

Rinse the bird with cold water inside and out. Rinse the plate. Return bird, on the plate, to the refrigerator.

Remove the giblets from their paper bag. Place them and the neck in a medium saucepan. Cover with water to two inches above the meat. Add a teaspoon of salt and two tablespoons of celery flakes. Cover and simmer for one hour.

Chop onion and celery – one-half cup of each per bag of bread cubes. Be sure to rinse the celery stalks before chopping.

Microwave one stick of butter or margarine in a microwave-safe bowl at 30 second intervals until melted. Add chopped onion and celery. Microwave at one minute intervals until soft but not mushy.

Remove bird from refrigerator. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

In a large bowl combine the bread cubes and cooked butter/celery/onions. Stir. Remove neck and giblets from broth and put on a plate. Add warm broth to the bread cubes, one-half cup at a time, and stir. Keep adding broth and stirring until the bread cubes are moist but not mushy. If you use seasoned bread cubes, additional seasoning may not be needed. Otherwise, add poultry seasoning one-half teaspoon at a time until you get the desired taste. Do this with salt as well. If desired, cut up the giblets and add them to the stuffing.

Stuff the dressing into the front and back cavities of the turkey. Secure loose flaps of skin with meat pins. Put stuffed turkey on broiler pan rack, with the breast side up. Make sure the wing tips are tight against the turkey. Secure with pins if need be. Melt one-half stick of butter or margarine in the microwave and pour over top the turkey.

Insert a meat thermometer into the thigh, making certain you do not hit bone. Cut a 10-inch-by-12-inch piece of foil and fold it in half lengthwise to form a tent. Place over top of bird.

Put the roasting pan on the second to bottom rack in the oven. Bake according to turkey package directions or use 25 minutes per pound as a guide. Meat is done when the thermometer reaches 185 degrees.

After the first hour, remove the turkey from the oven, remove the foil and with a baster, suck the juices from the bottom of the pan and drizzle them over the turkey. Replace the foil and return turkey to the oven. Do this every 30-40 minutes until the turkey is done. Remove the foil during the last 30-45 minutes. Remove turkey from pan. Spoon the stuffing into a bowl before carving the meat.

Send your cooking question to: juanitathouin@hotmail.com. ♦

Cooking 101

Juanita Thouin
Staff Columnist



Most of us will pack our bags and head home for Thanksgiving. However, jobs or the prohibitive cost of an airplane ticket make keep some still hanging around the 'Boro. If that's the case, grab a few dorm or apartment mates and fix your own turkey dinner.

Tip: Each pound of turkey will serve one person. For instance, an eight pound turkey will serve eight dinner guests.

Tip: DO NOT attempt to thaw a frozen turkey the day before Thanksgiving. An eight-10 lb. turkey requires at least two days to thaw. Thawing an 18-20 lb. bird will take nearly five days.

Tip: ALWAYS thaw a frozen turkey in the refrigerator. Setting the bird on the counter for several hours invites bacteria. Leave turkey in its bag and place on a plate in the refrigerator – it will drip juices during the thawing process.

Tip: If you don't have time to thaw a frozen turkey, buy a fresh one. They generally cost a bit more but as the old saying goes, "time is money."



Fans need to support men's team this season

Sports commentary



Jonathan Hutton
Staff Columnist

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

Blue Raider basketball fans should have high expectations for this year's team as the 2004-2005 season is now underway.

Already picked to finish first in the Sun Belt Conference East Division by the conference coaches, the Blue Raiders should be a contender to represent the SBC in the NCAA tournament in March.

Here's why:

For starters, this year's squad features a group of players who can hit the three-point shot whenever needed.

Senior guard Mike Dean and junior forward Michael Cuffee will lead the offensive scoring attack, and they are a problem for any defense that faces them.

Point guard Brian Smithson, who is coming off a great freshman season, has excellent court vision and can also be an offensive threat off the dribble.

The big men down low have done nothing but improve, and experience and knowledge will play a big role at that position. Forwards Kyle Young, Keith Christmas and Alex Weekes provide the depth that MT needs to succeed.

Now we get to the transfers, which is the point in this column that gets exciting if you're a Blue Raider fan.

Most people don't realize the players that MT signed have come from big programs.

Transfer Marcus Morrison, who played at South Carolina in 2002, had a great game against Lambuth Friday night, scoring 18 points with five rebounds. You should see him in the starting lineup every night.

Guard Jonathan Loc played in 18 games at Ole Miss in 2002 as a freshman. He should be a big factor off the bench with his good shot from the outside arch.

Steve Thomas will be a big factor in the paint once he is eligible to play. The 6-foot-9-inch, 245-pound center played at Georgia from 2000-03.

And freshman forward Brian Lake has already shown what he can add to the team, as he put up 12 points against Lambuth.

I said all that to say this: Blue Raider fans, this team needs your support. Students had a great showing for Friday night's game, and we need to keep it up. MT will bring a solid team to play every time they take the court. With the Blue Raiders playing behind emotion from the home crowd, winning at Murphy Center should not be a problem.

"The student-body crowd was great and they were in it from the start and kept up their energy," MT head coach Kermit Davis said after the game. "I mean, to have almost 4,000 people there against Lambuth on a Friday night in November, that's great."

Come out and watch an MT team with a great chance to play further than the regular season. Be a part of the NCAA tournament run as MT hopes to get their date to the dance. ♦

Jonathan Hutton is a sophomore mass communication major and can be reached at jdh3x@mtsu.edu.

Blue Raiders open season with blowout

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

The largest season-opener crowd in four years at Middle Tennessee saw the Blue Raiders claim an easy 95-54 victory over Lambuth Friday night.

The estimated crowd of 3,719 was the largest for a season-opening game since 1999.

"That student-body crowd was great," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "I mean, to have almost 4,000 people there against Lambuth on a Friday night in November, that's great."

The Blue Raiders, behind the enthusiastic crowd, built a 28-6 lead in the first nine minutes. Bryan Smithson led the Blue Raiders with constant pressure on the point and forced Lambuth to make early turnovers.

"I thought Bryan Smithson totally took over the game," Davis said. "Their point guard has played pretty well. Just from a defending standpoint, they really couldn't get into to anything because [Smithson] was picking them up beyond the halfcourt line."

Smithson was one of six Blue Raiders who scored in double figures, including all five starters. Mike Dean led the Blue Raiders with 19, and Marcus Morrison scored 18 points, had five rebounds and three assists in his MT debut.

Michael Cuffee scored 13, freshman Brian Lake added 12 off the bench and Smithson and Kyle Young each had 10.

"I just let the game come to me. I fed off of my teammates," Morrison said. "They played with a lot of energy. I am not

trying to come out and just score. I come out to play defense and rebound."

The Blue Raiders shot 52 percent, including 11-of-27 from three-point range, while holding Lambuth to 33 percent shooting.

The Blue Raiders finished with 25 assists on 35 field goals. Smithson led the Blue Raiders with eight assists and had no turnovers. The Blue Raiders only had 12 turnovers on the night, while Lambuth finished with 18 turnovers.

"We just came at them hard," Smithson said. "I don't think [Lambuth] is in this kind of atmosphere too often. We give a lot of credit to the fans coming out this early in the season. They were a little timid and we just took advantage." ♦



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

MT's L.T. Lockett scored three points in Friday's victory.

TROY 37

MIDDLE TENNESSEE 17

Trojans claim Palladium with win

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

Mythology was unkind to Middle Tennessee on Saturday night as the Blue Raiders threw three interceptions and fumbled once in a 37-17 victory over Troy.

The Blue Raiders began the game playing from the other side of the field, where twice during the first quarter the MT offense was inside their own five-yard line.

Another struggle for the Blue Raiders came on third down conversions. The Troy defense held MT to two of 15 on third down tries.

Troy got on the board first when freshman quarterback D.T. McDowell found Jason Samples for a 25-yard touchdown reception to give the Trojans the 7-0 lead.

They extended their lead with 7:05 left in the first quarter when once again McDowell found Samples on a 44-yard catch for a touchdown.

The Blue Raiders appeared finished after spotting the Trojans 14 points, but DeMarco McNair gave MT hope with 11:59 left in the first half. On the second play from scrimmage at the Blue Raider 33 yard line, Clint Marks ran the option pitch to McNair, who blew his way past Troy defenders for the 67-yard touchdown. An extra point from Colby Smith cut the Trojan lead to 14-7.

Smith would kick a 27-yard field goal with 5:20 left to cut into the lead, and the teams went to the locker rooms with the score at 14-10 in favor of Troy.

Troy came out of the halftime break to score three times and hold MT to another scoreless third quarter.

"At halftime we talked about what we wanted to do," Trojan head coach Larry Blakeney told Troy Media Relations. "We wanted to generate something the first five minutes of the third quarter and stop all the silly penalties."

After a Gregg Whibbs 22-yard field goal for Troy, the Trojan defense stepped up,

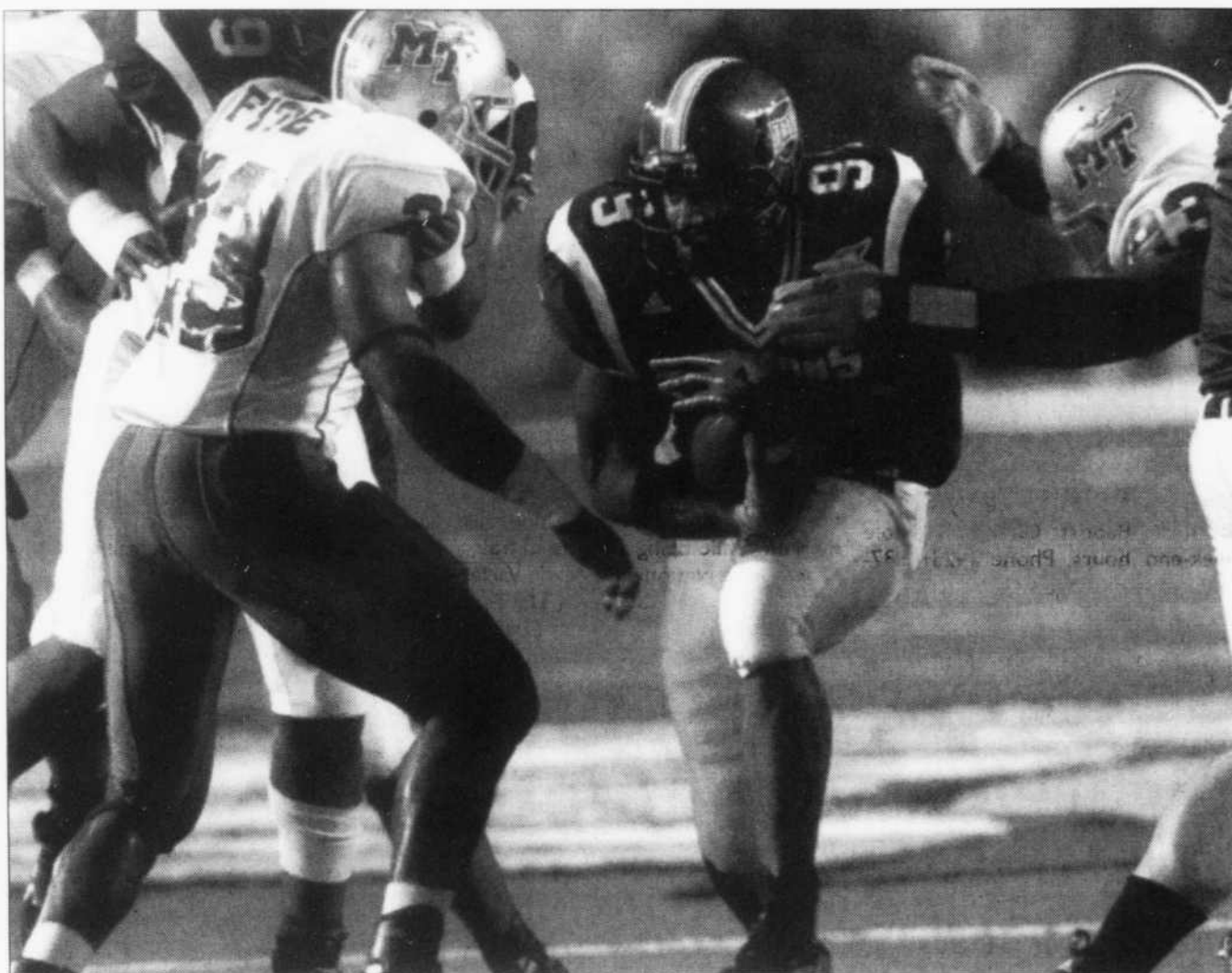


Photo courtesy of Troy Media Relations

Troy running back DeWitt Betterson ran for 123 yards on 22 carries as the Trojans defeated MT 37-17.

scoring the next two touchdowns.

Senior linebacker Robby Farmer took a Clint Marks pass the other direction for 29 yards and then senior safety Derrick Ansley added to the cause with a 16-yard interception return.

At the end of the third quarter, the Trojans had all but held up the Palladium trophy, leading 30-10.

Both teams would then swap touchdowns in the final quarter to give the Trojans a 20-point victory.

"This win tonight was a great win for our program," Blakeney said. "We've always played there and we haven't won. The Palladium is a good thing

that I hope will help the sportsmanship of college football."

Kerry Wright caught a 10-yard touchdown reception from Josh Harris, making Wright the all-time touchdown reception leader in Blue Raider history. The touchdown would make the score 30-17 and give the Blue Raiders a glimpse of hope.

However, the Trojan offense denied them the chance of a comeback, as Richardson scored on a 66-yard run with 3:43 left in the game.

The Trojan running attack was a huge factor in the game, as running back DeWitt Betterson led the way with

123 yards on 22 carries.

For the game, Clint Marks was 17-of-32 for 131 yards and three interceptions for MT before Harris came into the game.

Harris went 10-for-14 with 62 yards and a touchdown.

The running game for MT tallied 139 total yards with DeMarco McNair leading the way. McNair had five carries for 73 yards, and fellow running back Eugene Gross had seven carries for 48 yards.

The Blue Raiders finish the year at 5-6 overall and 4-4 in the Sun Belt Conference, while the Trojans conclude their regular season at 7-4 overall and 5-2 in the SBC. ♦

Lady Raiders roll over FAU

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team defeated Florida Atlantic 85-63 Friday night at the Murphy Center.

Despite the blowout, MT head coach Stephany Smith still saw room for improvement for the Lady Raiders.

"I thought we improved in the second half from the first half," Smith said. "The first half of basketball was almost embarrassing to me, because we played very sloppy and undisciplined."

After going into halftime up 39-33, the Lady Raiders scored the first seven points of the second half en route to the victory.

MT's Krystle Horton scored 19 points and grabbed eight rebounds in the victory.

"In the first half we didn't play good team ball. We just were sloppy," Horton said. "We were expecting FAU to play man-to-man and they jumped out in a zone, so we just had to get used

to that and to the flow of the game."

Nobody on the team was expecting FAU to come out in a zone defense, including Smith.

"I really was not expecting them to play zone, because they are not a zone team," Smith said. "But it doesn't matter what another team's weakness or strengths might be. You have to play to your strengths, so we adjusted the situation."

Lady Raiders Tia Stovall, Patrice Holmes and Starr Orr each scored 12 points. Chrissy Givens finished with 10 points.

Part of MT's success could be contributed to the fact that all five starters scored in double figures. The strong output from the starting lineup allowed freshmen like Orr to have a chance at the end of the game.

"[With] Starr, the most aggressive she got was in the last five minutes in the game, when she was out there with the other three freshmen," Smith said. "Plus, it was nice to see her do some things that we saw when we were recruiting her."

Jackie Brown led the Lady Owls (0-1) with 18 points, and Shontavia Williams added nine.

MT takes on Alabama today at 7 p.m. in the Lady Raiders' first road contest of the season. ♦

Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
MT's Lakira Boyce (31) and Starr Orr battle FAU's Shontavia Williams for the ball.



Aggies claim second straight volleyball title

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's volleyball season ended in the opening round of the Sun Belt Conference Volleyball Championships in New Orleans, and New Mexico State won its second consecutive title.

The Blue Raiders, who were the No. 4 seed, lost to No. 5 seed and host New Orleans 3-2 (30-28, 28-30, 30-27, 26-30, 18-16) in the opening round. The tournament was held at Kiefer Lakefront Arena in New Orleans.

In the decisive game, the Blue Raiders jumped out to a 13-8 lead and were two points from moving on in the tournament. The Privateers fought back with five straight points, however, to take a 14-13 lead thanks to four MT errors during the run.

The Blue Raiders were able to stop UNO on three match points until Hillary Carr and Jaci Bayley teamed up for a score on a

block to end the match and MT's season.

"This is one of the best matches that we have played all year against a really good team," Privateer coach Julie Ibieta told UNO Media Relations. "We battled to the end and we never gave up on ourselves. I am glad that we came out tonight, gave our best effort and came out with the win."

KeKe Deckard had 32 kills while Andressa Lyra added 28. Megan Sumrell had 73 assists as the Blue Raiders finished the season with a 17-14 record.

Deckard and Dara McLean were selected to the All-Sun Belt First Team the night before the tournament started.

NMSU then defeated UNO 3-1 (30-18, 30-17, 23-30, 30-15) in the semifinals.

For the third straight year, NMSU and Western Kentucky met in the SBC tournament final. WKU defeated Denver and Arkansas-Little Rock to reach the championship game, while NMSU took care of North Texas and UNO.

The Aggies swept WKU 3-0 (30-28, 30-25, 30-24) to advance to the NCAA tournament with an automatic bid for the second consecutive year.

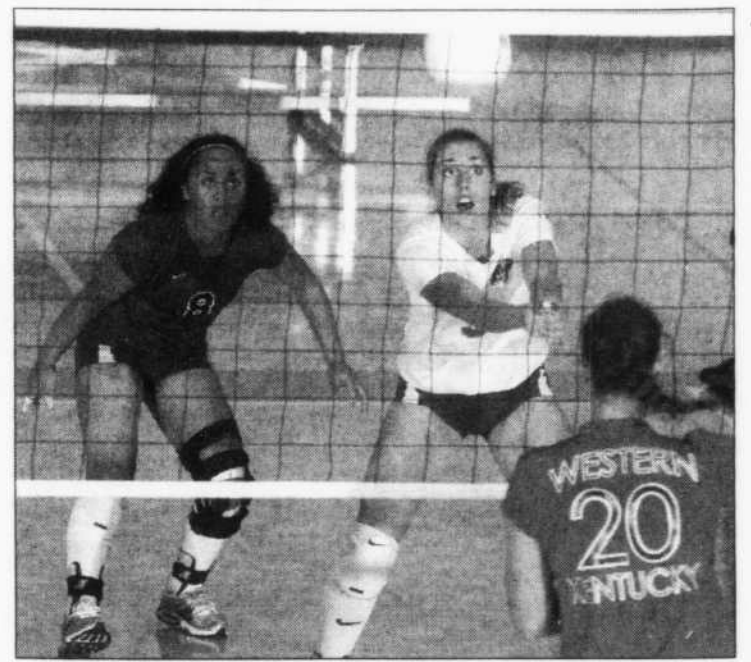
NMSU's Stevi Adams had 18 kills in the victory, which earned her SBC Tournament Most Outstanding Player honors.

"We just made some great plays today," NMSU head coach Mike Jordan told sunbeltsports.org. "Western Kentucky is just so strong, and you certainly don't expect to sweep a team like that. That's a tribute to how well we played today."

Amanda Cecil led WKU with 13 kills and 11 digs.

The last time the Aggies were defeated in SBC conference play was the 2002 championship game, when NMSU lost to the Lady Toppers.

NMSU will know its first-round opponent on Nov. 28 during the NCAA tournament selection show on ESPN2 at 5:45 p.m. ♦



MT's Dara McLean (right) was named to the All-Sun Belt First Team along with teammate KeKe Deckard.

Fans, players equally at fault in Pistons-Pacers debacle

Sports commentary



David Hunter
Staff Columnist

Last Friday night one of the most disturbing sporting events ever took place between the Indiana Pacers and Detroit Pistons. The melee has been all over the television, including non-sports channels, during the entire weekend.

The fans and the Indiana Pacers players stepped out of bounds

with the all-out brawl that took place with less than a minute to go in the game. The Pacers were ahead 97-82 when Indiana's Ron Artest committed a hard foul on the Pistons' Ben Wallace.

Wallace pushed back and a small scuffle ensued, but order was seemingly restored relatively quickly.

All hell broke loose just seconds later, however, when an idiot threw a bottle at Artest as he was lying on the scorer's table, trying to cool his emotions.

Of course, Artest went after the fan, and the fighting started. Luckily no one was seriously

hurt, but chairs and drinks were thrown at the players. The police were eventually able to control situation, but the damage had already been done. The game was over, but the story was just starting.

Whose fault was it? All of the parties involved should take part of the blame: the fans for throwing things at the players, the Pacers for attacking the fans, and Wallace and Artest for starting the whole thing with their confrontation.

It's really sad that a few fans and players have put the NBA in a negative light. Those fans

should know better than to throw stuff at the players, even though they were upset at Artest.

These players have to put up with all the comments and the name-calling that takes place in the game. They shouldn't have to worry about something being thrown at them.

My guess is that those few unruly fans wanted to be on TV since the game was on ESPN. And some of them were probably drunk and not thinking clearly.

I'm glad the NBA is taking a harsh stance on the players that caused the fight. You know that the police will take care of those

fans that were involved.

I hope others will learn from this and think before doing anything this stupid. Just keep it up, and we might be watching the games with the players locked inside a cage so the players and fans won't be able to touch each other.

Hopefully, this situation never comes to a solution so harsh that it would hurt the game and push the players and fans further apart from each other. ♦

David Hunter is a junior mass communication major and can be reached at dah2c@mtsu.edu.

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21-yr-old female seeking roommate to share 2bd/ba at Oak Park

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2BD/2BA apt. @ Raiders Crossing. Lease is from Jan 1-Aug 13. Completely furnished to include full-size washer/dryer, fridge, microwave, dishwasher, & stove. Also included: high-speed internet, private balcony, pool & hot tub, volleyball court, BBQ grills, fitness center, tanning bed, and computer lab. All inclusive rent \$485/person pays for water, sewer, trash, pest control, internet, modern furniture, electricity, premium cable, and intrusion alarm. Awesome deal. Call 615-504-5963 or 615-542-2820.

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Louisiana-Monroe finishes tied for third in SBC

Compiled by sunbeltsports.org

Hawaii 52, Idaho 21

HONOLULU (AP) — Timmy Chang threw for 376 yards and a career-high six touchdowns as Hawaii kept its bowl hopes alive by defeating Idaho 52-21 Saturday night.

Jason Rivers caught all four of his touchdowns in the first half and finished with nine receptions for 167 yards for the Warriors (5-5).

Down 14-10, Chang threw touchdowns of 22, 16, 13 and 15 yards in the decisive second quarter to give the Warriors a 38-21 lead at halftime.

At the break, Chang was 15-of-21 for 292 yards and five touchdowns. He sat out most of the fourth quarter and finished 23-of-31.

With his six-touchdown performance, Chang overtook Marshall's Chad Pennington for fourth on the NCAA career touchdown pass list. The fifth-year senior now has 105 touchdowns and is chasing Ty Detmer's NCAA mark of 121.

Chang already owns the NCAA career marks for passing yards, completions, attempts and interceptions thrown.

The Vandals got off to a quick start, using trickery to score on their first two possessions.

A fake field goal kept the Vandals' drive alive and led to an 8-yard touchdown pass from Michael Harrington to Bobby Bernal-Wood that gave Idaho a 7-3 lead.

Five plays later, wideout Desmond Bellon caught a lateral pass and threw a 26-yard touchdown pass to fellow receiver Christian Populis to put Idaho up 14-10 after one quarter.

But Hawaii's passing game erupted in the second quarter.

Chang threw two touchdown passes of 22 and 16 yards to Rivers and connected with Britton Komine on a 13-yard pass to give the Warriors a 31-14 lead.

Hawaii scored its fourth touchdown of the second quarter on a 15-yard touchdown pass to Rivers.

The Warriors, who have one of the worst defenses in the nation, shut out the Vandals in the second half.

Idaho picked off two of Chang's passes in Hawaii territory, but was unable to convert. The Vandals also blew a chance to cut Hawaii's lead just before the half when Willie Sipolua fumbled on the Warriors' 5-yard line.

Bernal-Wood had nine receptions for 139 yards for Idaho. He needed just eight receptions in the game to break the school's 35-year-old season record of 95 catches set by Jerry Hendren.

The Vandals (3-9) closed out their first season under coach Nick Holt and final year in the Sun Belt Conference. They are joining the Western Athletic Conference next year.

The game also concluded the career of legendary Vandals voice Bob Curtis, who began announcing Idaho games in 1947. Curtis, who turns 80 next month, called 540 consecutive Idaho football games.

Hawaii must beat Northwestern and Michigan State the next two

weeks at Aloha Stadium to qualify for the Hawaii Bowl for the third straight year.

Louisiana-Monroe 13, Louisiana-Lafayette 10

MONROE, La. (AP) — Ragan Walters kicked the game-winning field goal with seven seconds left in the game as Louisiana-Monroe beat Louisiana-Lafayette 13-10 on Saturday.

Louisiana-Monroe (5-6, 4-3 Sun Belt Conference) scored first with Chaz Williams scoring on an 80-yard fumble recovery with 3:06 left in the first quarter. The fumble recovery was the third of the season for Williams and his second recovery returned for a touchdown.

The Ragin' Cajuns tied the score at seven with 3:11 left to go before halftime on an 8-yard Bill Sampy touchdown pass from Jerry Babb. ULL (4-7, 2-5) went 87-yards in 11 plays taking 4:42 off the clock in the drive.

In the last 59 seconds of the first half, the Indians drove 65 yards to set up a Walters field goal. Walters' 22-yard field goal kick was good, putting ULM up 10-7 at halftime.

Both teams remained scoreless through the third quarter. Louisiana-Lafayette tied the game for the second time with a field goal two minutes into the fourth quarter. Sean Comiskey hit a 32-yard field goal tying the game at 10.

The Indians missed a chance to take the lead with 7:27 left in the game as Walters missed a 47-yard FG.

ULL missed two opportunities to score on the next drive: a touchdown was called back on a Louisiana-Lafayette illegal motion penalty and Comiskey missed a 44-yard field goal.

The Indians used the final three minutes of the game to drive 54-yards, setting up the Walters field goal.

It was the Indians' best finish since the 1999 season and they posted their best-ever finish in the Sun Belt Conference, tied for third place with New Mexico State.

The loss was Louisiana-Lafayette's third straight.

Utah State 34, New Mexico State 25

LOGAN, Utah (AP) — Chris Forbes rushed for a career-high 131 yards and two touchdowns, helping Utah State to a 34-25 victory over New Mexico State Saturday.

Utah State (3-8, 2-5) came into the game averaging just 63.4 yards rushing per game, but finished with a season-best 201 yards. Forbes broke his old rushing mark of 74 yards set against Louisiana-Monroe on Nov. 6.

After trailing 12-0 at halftime, Utah State did all of its scoring in the second half, including a 20-point fourth quarter.

They went ahead 27-25 after Jarrod Jakubiak kicked a 29-yard field goal with 2:02 left in the fourth quarter.

New Mexico State (5-6, 4-3) was only down by two and had time for a late field goal, but their drive was interrupted when Toriano Taulougo intercepted a Buck Pierce pass and returned it 44 yards for the game's final touchdown.

Pierce completed 21 of 35 passes for 295 yards and one touchdown. He also had a rushing touchdown, gaining 35 yards on 11 carries.

New Mexico State's Jared Quick led all receivers with 130 yards on five receptions.

It was the last game for both teams as members of the Sun Belt Conference. They join the Western Athletic Conference in 2005.

North Texas 31, Arkansas State 7

JONESBORO, Ark. (AP) — Scott Hall passed for three touchdowns to lead the University of North Texas to a 31-7 victory over Arkansas State in a Sun Belt Conference game Thursday night.

The victory was the 25th straight Sun Belt win for the Mean Green (7-4, 7-0), which will represent the league in the fourth annual Wyndham New Orleans Bowl on Dec. 14 against a team from Conference USA.

Freshman rushing sensation Jamario Thomas sat out the game with a hamstring injury. Thomas is the nation's top rusher, averaging 189.89 yards per game.

But even without Thomas, the Mean Green capitalized on miscues by Arkansas State (3-8, 3-4) to continue their dominance in the league.

ASU lost three turnovers and was penalized for 88 yards. The Indians' offense has scored just one touchdown in the final nine quarters of the season. North Texas had no turnovers.

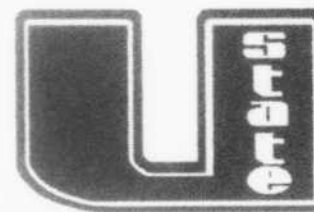
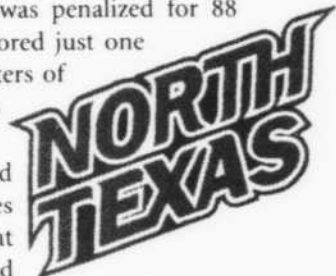
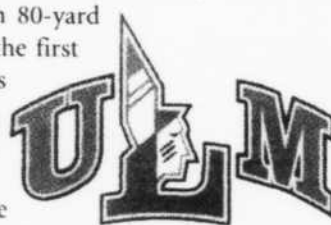
Hall passed for 188 yards and rushed for 21 more and James Mitchell, subbing for Thomas at tailback, gained 166 yards and scored a touchdown.

North Texas, with two first-half touchdowns, owned a 14-0 lead at intermission. On the opening drive, Hall hit Andy Blount with a 25-yard touchdown pass with 13:50 left in the first quarter. With 19 seconds left in the first quarter, James Mitchell — subbing for Thomas — scored on a 3-yard run.

Arkansas State opened the second half with a drive that cut the margin to 14-7. The Indians' Gary Vincent scored on a 4-yard run with 12:23 left in the third quarter.

The Indians' next two possessions ended in a Nick Noce interception and a bad pitch that resulted in a fumble. The fumble was recovered at the Indian 13 with 7:01 left in the third period and led to the Mean Green's third score, a 1-yard pass from Hall to Johnny Quinn.

North Texas followed that with another Hall-to-Quinn pass for a touchdown, from five yards out. The Mean Green tacked on a 19-yard field goal by Nick Bazaluda with 8:45 left in the game. ♦



MT takes on Crimson Tide tonight

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

Tonight the Middle Tennessee women's basketball team heads south for a showdown with the Alabama Crimson Tide.

Last season the Raiders upset the Tide at Murphy Center in a 65-61 victory.

Alabama (1-0) kicked off its 2004-05 regular season at home last Friday night with an 81-79 overtime win over Michigan.

"It was a heck of a way to start the season," Alabama head coach Rick Moody said after the win. "I don't think last year that there was any way we could have won this game."

Sophomore guard Marverly Nettles led the Tide with a career-high 25 points, including the buzzer-beater three-pointer that gave Alabama the win.

Nettles is quickly emerging as a premier player in her first season of Southeastern Conference play, but the sophomore has been turning heads of basketball fans since high school.

The transfer student from the University of Chicago was named to the All-State squad three times at Erwin High School in Illinois and led EHS to championship titles two years in a row.

In addition to Nettles, nine players on Tide's 14-member roster are freshmen and sophomores, making Alabama the second-youngest team in the SEC behind South Carolina.

"They played with a lot of freshmen last year that are now sophomores, so there'll be a little more experience on the basketball

team than there was a year ago," MT head coach Stephany Smith said. "However we're better than we were a year ago; we have better size than we did a year ago."

The Lady Raiders (1-1) earned their first victory of the season with an 85-63 win over Florida Atlantic at Murphy Center last Friday.

MT was able to restrict the Lady Owls to 39 percent shooting from the field and forced 25 turnovers.

Sophomore forward Krystle Horton led the team with 19 points, followed by Starr Orr, Tia Stovall and Patrice Holmes, who netted 12 points each.

This past week in practice the Lady Raiders have been concentrating on fine-tuning their defense in preparation for the upcoming match against Alabama.

"[We're] trying to execute our plays better, trying to box out better on defense, and pinch the gaps a little bit harder," Smith said.

Though this season the Raiders have eight freshmen and sophomores, the team also has three returning starters in Holmes, Stovall and Horton.

"Alabama's a very strong team... they're used to night-in and night-out tough competition," Smith said. "But we have a very good core returning. But it'll be an extremely tough contest." ♦

Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

MT freshman Starr Orr scored 12 points in the Lady Raiders' 85-63 victory over Florida Atlantic last Friday.



Busch wins title after tough start

By Mike Harris
AP Motorsports Writer

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Kurt Busch overcame a broken wheel early in Sunday's race and came back to win the closest championship in NASCAR history.

Busch had to go into overtime to win it, with a late caution flag forcing NASCAR to run four extra laps to finish the race under a green flag. It made no difference, though, as Busch held on to finish fifth and wrap up the Nextel Cup title by just eight points over Jimmie Johnson and 16 over Jeff Gordon.

The new champion came into the season-ending Ford 400 leading Johnson by 18 points and Gordon by 21. It looked as if that might not be enough when the right front wheel broke on his Roush Racing Ford, nearly putting him into the wall separating the pit lane from the racetrack on the 93rd of 271 laps at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

Somehow, Busch kept his car off the wall, made a stop for repairs and managed to stay with the leaders, finally fighting his way back. That was just good

enough for the 26-year-old driver to win his first Cup title.

The closest previous 1-2 finish came in 1992 when Alan Kulwicki beat Bill Elliott by 10 points.

Johnson and four-time champion Gordon gave it everything they had, finishing second and third after Greg Biffle grabbed the lead on a restart on lap 270, held off Johnson in the last race in NASCAR's new 10-man, 10-race playoff-style championship.

Tony Stewart was trailing Ryan Newman when a deflating tire sent Newman into the wall, bringing out the 14th caution flag of the race on lap 267, just three laps from the scheduled finish.

Busch had to overcome mistakes and mechanical failures several times, but won the championship by being the most consistent driver in the Chase for the Cup, finishing in the top 10 in nine of the 10 events.

The championship battle was too close to call through most of Sunday's race, with the lead changing several times — sometimes on consecutive laps. At one point, with 75 laps remaining, the top four drivers were separated by only nine points. ♦

McNair leads Titans over Jaguars

By Mark Long
AP Sports Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Steve McNair returned to the lineup, and the Tennessee Titans returned to form.

McNair threw a touchdown pass, directed two other scoring drives and the injury-plagued Titans beat the Jacksonville Jaguars 18-15 Sunday.

McNair finished 18-of-30 for 209 yards despite showing some signs of rust.

The reigning league co-MVP was back in the starting lineup for the first time in a month. He bruised his chest Sept. 26 against Jacksonville and re-aggravated the injury a month later against Minnesota. He missed the last two games.

He was off at times, but came through with the game on the line in the fourth quarter.

McNair underthrew Drew Bennett several times deep, was picked off twice and was sacked three times, including once for a safety with about nine minutes to play. The safety gave the Jaguars (6-4) a 15-10 lead.

Josh Scobee missed a 44-yard field goal on the next possession that would have put the Jags up eight points. It turned out to be costly.

McNair led a 59-yard touchdown drive

in 37 seconds that put the Titans (4-6) ahead 16-15. He connected with Erron Kinney for 30 yards on fourth-and-1. Then Antowain Smith, starting in place of Chris Brown, scored from 1 yard out. Smith finished with 95 yards rushing.

McNair ran for the 2-point conversion.

The Jaguars were forced to punt on the ensuing possession but got the ball back in the closing seconds. However, Rich Gardner intercepted David Garrard with 17 seconds left to seal the victory.

McNair's comeback may have spoiled any chance the Jaguars had of winning the AFC South, especially with the way Indianapolis is playing.

But the Jags should get quarterback Byron Leftwich back next week at Minnesota. Leftwich missed the last two games with a sprained left knee.

Garrard, his replacement, played well again but didn't make many plays against Tennessee's banged-up defense.

Garrard ran for a touchdown and directed two other scoring drives. He finished 13-of-27 for 129 yards and added 34 on the ground. The late interception was his first turnover in two starts.

Fred Taylor ran for 103 yards, his second straight 100-yard performance and third in

the last four games.

But Jacksonville's defense, coming off a dominating outing against the Lions, wasn't nearly as good against the Titans. The unit allowed 295 total yards.

All the early scoring came on four consecutive drives.

The Titans turned Taylor's fumble into a 3-0 lead in the first quarter. The Jags answered with a 72-yard drive that ended with Josh Scobee's 35-yard field goal.

Tennessee went back on top with McNair's 37-yard touchdown pass to Derrick Mason. It was McNair's best throw of the day.

Scobee cut the lead to 10-6 just before halftime with a 48-yard field goal.

Garrard's 5-yard scramble late in the third made it 13-10.

The Titans were without seven regular starters, including Brown. He missed the game with turf toe. He was unable to practice the last three weeks because of the injury to his left foot but managed to play. Not against the Jags, though.

He was in a walking boot during warmups, leaving Smith to make his first start this season. ♦

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