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MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

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INSIDE: Sex offender lists aren't effective in curbing violence

Middle Tennessee State University

An editorially independent newspaper

SIDELINES

Volume 77 No. 13

Sex offenders may be required to register

By Charlene Callier
Flash! Editor

A bill requiring sex offenders to register their presence on Tennessee college campuses will be considered on the floor of the Tennessee Senate today.

SB 0917 would require that all sex offenders register not only with state and local law enforcement agencies, but also with campus police.

Senate approval would send the bill to the governor because it was passed by the Tennessee House last year. A similar bill is progressing in the Colorado legislature.

The registration requirement would apply to sex offenders who enroll, work or volunteer at institutions of higher education in Tennessee.

Sen. Tim Burchett, R-Knoxville, is sponsoring the Senate bill. Rep. Jim Boyer, R-Corvyn, was the House sponsor.

"It's a great bill because the offenders have to check in," said MTSU Police Chief John Drugmand. He said the campus has been an oversight because the offenders haven't been required to register with them.

Tennessee Board of Regents spokeswoman Mars Morgan,

however, said there was some question as to what purpose the law would serve.

"We have discussed it," Morgan said. "I think it's going to be a fairly big administrative burden on the campuses."

"Registering sex offenders is done for numerous reasons," said Pat Nation, MTSU associate professor of sociology. "One is to protect the general population because most sex predators will offend again. The university makes a good shopping mall for predators."

Another reason for the bill is to retain full eligibility for federal criminal justice grants. The

Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act passed by Congress in 2000 mandates that the state require campus registration of sex offenders by October 2002.

"A lot depends on what the bill requires of the state and university," said Robert Glenn, MTSU Vice. He said the change would be another unfunded regulatory burden that the university would have to comply with.

"We don't have the staff to handle a new regulatory requirement," Glenn said.

"Any time the university has to complete a list, it creates a

burden," said Ron Leadbetter, assistant general counsel at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. "The question is if it's worth the burden."

"One of the things that is helpful is that the bill gives women the opportunity to research and know who they are working and going to school with," said Sandra Harrell, coordinator of Project Safe at Vanderbilt University.

"There is also a flaw," Harrell said. "So many rapes are unreported, and people that we see every day could be a sex offender." While registration could be effective to monitor someone

who is a habitual sex offender, she said sex offender lists also have been used to harass offenders who have served their time.

Congress required in 1994 that sex offenders register with law enforcement. The law required offenders convicted of crimes against children to verify their address annually to law enforcement. Some states also require that sex offenders register each time they change their address.

"Anytime you can keep up with a sexual predator in your

See Offender, 2

Career fairs coming Wednesday

By Jennifer Dotson
Contributor

MTSU students who attend one of two career fairs Wednesday may walk away with jobs.

The Nashville Area College to Career Fair and the Nashville Area Teacher Recruitment Fair will be held at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Juniors, seniors and alumni of MTSU are eligible to attend the fairs.

Neither fair requires a registration fee, and parking at the fairgrounds will be free. Those wishing to attend may pick up free tickets from the Career and Employment Center, located in Keathley University Center, Room 328, or from Room S123 of the Business and Aerospace Building. Directions to both fairs can be found at www2.tntech.edu/career/map.htm.

The Career and Employment Center is sponsoring students at the fairs. The center provides a range of services to students and alumni, including help with resume writing, interviewing skills and career planning. Martha Turner, the director of the center, encourages attendance.

"Students should attend the fairs to start networking, meet

prospective employers, distribute their resumes and have on-site interviews," she said. "The fairs offer great opportunities to meet with many employers all on one day."

At the College to Career Fair, students will have access to more than 150 area employers. A list of participating employers can be accessed at www.mtsu.edu/~career/fairs.htm.

Coordinator of Career Placement Karen Austin believes students will benefit greatly from attending the College to Career Fair.

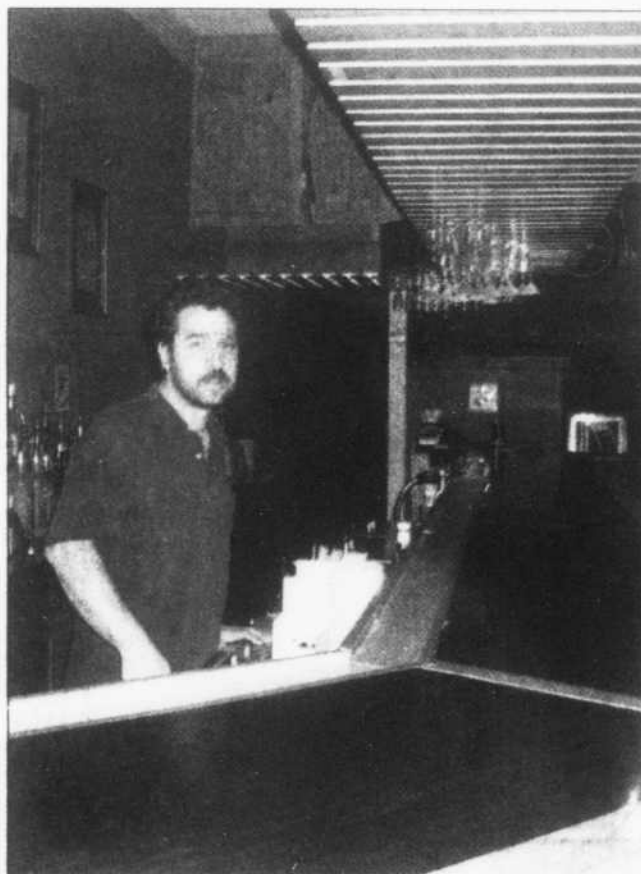
"This is a tight job market right now," she said. "These companies are recruiting for actual positions, current or pending, and anyone seeking employment in the next calendar year should be at the [College to Career Fair] to market themselves for positions and to network with the recruiters."

At the Teacher Recruitment Fair, more than 160 school districts and educational organizations from 23 states will be recruiting teachers for the next school year. The roster of employers is available at www.mtsu.edu/~career/teacher.htm.

Austin urges students who

See Career, 2

Student shows entrepreneurship



Mike Skordallos stands at his bar.

Student has success with local bar

By Amber Bryant
Staff Writer

While at MTSU, Mike Skordallos was a typical college student. He went to most of his classes, skipped some, did his homework and had fun when the opportunity arose.

It was also during his years in college that he decided to open his own business, a restaurant located in the heart of Murfreesboro — the square.

Skordallos graduated from MTSU with a bachelor's degree in business management in 1994. Two years later, he completed graduate school. He currently is taking the last class required for a master's degree.

"I've been on and off in school," he

said. "I had two classes [left to complete] my MBA so I said, 'why not?'"

Skordallos opened The Mediterranean Restaurant in 1990 at the age of 27, after two years of working from a leased building a few blocks down the street.

In 1996, the upstairs portion of the building became Sebastian's, named after Skordallos' son. Sebastian's featured comedians while the restaurant remained downstairs for casual dining. In 1999, the Mediterranean name was changed to Diana's, after his daughter.

Over the years, he has added live music and a brewery to the pub's many attracting features.

"Any night can be good or bad, really. I haven't been able to figure that out," he said.

While it may sound glamorous, Skordallos recalls it being somewhat difficult to be in college and run a business at the same time.



Photo by Steve Cross | Staff

Sebastian's and Diana's Brew Pub, located on the square in downtown Murfreesboro, was named for Mike Skordallos' children. Skordallos, who operates the bar, recently is taking the last class for his master's.

"I'd be working 60- and 70-hour weeks, and I'd be trying to go full time, 12 or 15 hours, in school, and then you expect to go out and have a good time, too," he said. "It didn't work. When you're young, you want to have a good time, and I think you should. Do your crazy stuff early on."

"Having your own business, it has its advantages and disadvantages," he said. "I have some 20-hour days."

Skordallos' job often requires him to work from 10 a.m. until 4 a.m. every day except for Sunday, leaving him one day a week to spend time with his wife and children.

"There's a conflict there," he said.

While the sacrifices are tough, interacting with people and making them happy keeps him going, Skordallos said.

"If and when I get out, it's going to be hard, since it's been my baby for so many years," he said. ♦

Black History Month Lecture to highlight rap, politics

By Jessica Kent
Staff Writer

Several lectures will be held on campus this week in celebration of African American History Month.

"Rap and Political Knowledge," a lecture by Bakari Kitwana, will be held tonight at 6 in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room S305. Kitwana is the author of *The Rap on Gangsta Rap*, a book examining diverse issues such as black culture, male-female relationships, sexism, racism and violence in rap music.

Kitwana is responsible for getting *Source Magazine* to emphasize on the politics of the hip-hop community. He also has a book coming out this spring titled *The Hip Hop Generation*, in which he describes the people who make up the generation.

Ayanna Imani, a Reiki healer, will be speaking Wednesday about spiritualism in women and reconnecting with the feminine spirit. Reiki is an Asian art of relaxation, stress management and healing on physical, emotional, mental or spiritual levels. The lecture will be at 6 p.m. in BAS S330.

The author of *Mutiny on the Amistad*, Howard Jones, will be speaking Friday at 2 p.m. in the Keathley University Center Theater about the history of the Amistad. The story of the Amistad is the only instance in history where Africans, taken by slave traders, won their freedom and returned home. His book is the basis of the 1997 movie *Amistad*, which he aided in the making of. Amistad will be shown tonight and Wednesday at 11 a.m. and 2:15 p.m., and Friday at 11 a.m. Admission is free.

For more information on any of these lectures, contact Multicultural Affairs at 898-2987 or Adonijah Bakari at 898-2536. ♦

Statue pits history against diversity

By LaQunda Partee
Staff Writer

A statue based on the photograph of the flag raising by the three white firemen at the World Trade Center site is raising concerns.

The 19-foot bronze sculpture is being transformed to represent one white, one black and one Hispanic, rather than the three white firemen in the photograph.

Many believe that in their attempt to achieve political correctness, they are rewriting his-

tory. "There is danger (in) changing history when trying to be politically correct," said John Vile, chair of the department of political science.

"I generally favor being inclusive when [recognizing] people," he said. "Everybody who contributed should be recognized. They should be faithful to the photograph. When mixing fact and fiction, it's not any good because women were included as well."

The decision to represent

New York Fire Department, the makers of the statue and the property-management company that owns the department headquarters building and commissioned the work, according to a CNN.com news article.

"Given that those who died were of all races and all ethnicities and that the statue was to be symbolic of those sacrifices, ultimately a decision was made to honor no one in particular, but everyone who made the supreme sacrifice," fire department spokesman Frank

Gibbon told CNN.

Bill Kelly, an attorney for the firefighters in the picture, told CNN that the men are "disappointed because it's become something that is political as opposed to historical."

The \$180,000 sculpture is expected to be erected this spring at the Fire Department's Brooklyn headquarters in tribute to the 343 firefighters killed in the attack. It is based on the Sept. 11 newspaper photo of firefighters raising the American flag on about 20 feet of rubble. ♦

WORLD BRIEFS

Compiled By Jason Cox — News Editor

Ex-Taliban foreign minister turns self in, is highest Taliban official captured

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Taliban's foreign minister turned himself in to authorities in Afghanistan, giving American forces what could be one of the biggest intelligence prizes in the war so far.

Mullah Abdul Wakil Muttawakil surrendered Friday, the same day U.S. troops traveled to a remote site in eastern Afghanistan to determine whether top al-Qaida figures had been killed in a missile attack.

Muttawakil turned himself in to Afghan officials in the southern city of Kandahar, U.S. defense officials said. The Kandahar authorities transferred Muttawakil to the U.S. military base at the city's airport, where he was being held.

U.S. authorities were questioning Muttawakil, looking to gain valuable information, officials said. Muttawakil is the highest-ranking Taliban official known to be captured so far.

Enron former chairman Kenneth Lay could testify next Tuesday

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even though his former protegee was hammered by Congress, former Enron chairman Kenneth Lay may decide to testify after all to the Senate next week.

Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., chairman of a Senate Commerce subcommittee, says discussions over Lay's possible testimony are proceeding favorably.

Lay decided last Sunday not to testify at two scheduled congressional hearings, after a number of comments by senators and House members on TV talk shows about alleged criminality, including one that Lay had to know Enron was a giant pyramid scheme.

Lay's testimony would follow a difficult three-hour appearance for former Enron chief executive officer Jeff Skilling, who was told bluntly by some lawmakers that they didn't believe his story.

Princess Margaret, sister of Queen Elizabeth II, dead at 71

LONDON (AP) — Princess Margaret, the high-spirited and unconventional sister of Queen Elizabeth II, died Saturday after a life that echoed with regret and thwarted love. She was 71.

The princess died peacefully in her sleep at King Edward VII Hospital at 6:30 a.m., a statement from Buckingham Palace said.

Margaret suffered a stroke Friday afternoon and developed cardiac problems during the night. She was taken from Kensington Palace to the hospital at 2:30 a.m., the statement said.

"Lord Linley and Lady Sarah were with her, and the queen was kept fully informed throughout the night," the statement said.

A heavy smoker for many years, she suffered repeated respiratory illnesses and had part of a lung removed in January 1985. She had a mild stroke in February 1998 and another in March 2001.

Al-Qaida activists hooking up with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon

NEW YORK (AP) — Fleeing members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network are getting into southern Lebanon and hooking up with Hezbollah, according to Israel's defense minister, who called Hezbollah's purported No. 2 man "worse than bin Laden."

Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, head of the Israeli defense department and the second-most powerful man in the country, went a step further than U.S. claims that Lebanon could provide safe haven for al-Qaida activists.

"More and more information is coming that members of al-Qaida are entering Lebanon and joining Hezbollah," Ben-Eliezer told journalists at a breakfast meeting Friday in New York, a day after meetings in Washington with the Bush administration.

The leader of Hezbollah dismissed the claims.

Israeli troops remain in West Bank village for a second day

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli troops searched for militants in a Palestinian-controlled West Bank village for the second day Saturday, going from house to house and questioning people, Palestinians and Israeli military sources said.

The Israeli army entered Tamoun village Friday, just six miles

from Hamra, the Jewish settlement that was attacked Wednesday, resulting in three Israeli deaths.

About 20 Palestinians have been arrested, said Tamoun's Mayor Bashar Bani Odh. Military sources said about 15 people were held for questioning and later released.

Residents were forbidden from leaving their homes, while Israeli soldiers took positions on rooftops in the village and raised the Israeli flag, Odh said.

Cambodia to hold Khmer Rouge trial despite withdrawal of United Nations

PHNOM PENH (AP) — Cambodia says it still is determined to bring Khmer Rouge leaders to justice for genocide despite the United Nations' surprise announcement that it won't help the government establish a court.

"I think we have no problem at all," Cabinet Minister Sok An said Saturday, a day after the United Nations' decision.

The communist Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia in 1975-79 and are blamed for the deaths of 1.7 million people due to starvation, disease, overwork and execution. Their leader, Pol Pot, died in 1998 but many of his top lieutenants continue to live freely in Cambodia.

The United Nations said it was abandoning the 4.5-yearlong talks on their prosecution because there was no guarantee the tribunal would be independent and impartial.

Do you still believe in miracles: 1980 hockey team ignites Olympic flame

SALEE LAKE CITY (AP) — Twenty-two years later, there he was again: Mike Eruzione motioning for his "Miracle on Ice" teammates to join him in celebration.

At the height of the opening ceremony Friday night, Eruzione took the Olympic torch from skier Picabo Street and U.S. women's hockey captain Cammi Granato.

He gestured to his gold-medal winning pals and they came on the stage. Now graying adults, they wore replicas of their hockey jerseys from 1980, when they were college kids who overcame long odds to dethrone the Soviet Union powerhouse in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Eruzione, the team captain, summoned them to the medal stand back then. On Friday night, he high-fived each man and they leaned in together to ignite the base of the cauldron. ♦

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Career: Fairs on Wednesday

Continued from 1

attend either fair to be prepared. She recommends that students dress professionally, give a firm handshake and present themselves well.

"Prepare a 30- or 60-second commercial about yourself, including your name, major, school, work or internship experience, graduation date and goals," she said. "Speak clearly, and use proper grammar."

She also recommends that students have a professor or staff member from the Career and Employment Center review their resumes for format, accuracy, content and appearance.

"Have no less than 40 copies of your resume on good resume paper," she said. "You don't

want to run out."

Austin said students should expect the environment to be very fast-paced and chaotic. However, she said fair participants will not feel overwhelmed if they prepare well. She advises those who plan to attend to visit the Web sites listed and decide which booths to visit before arrival.

For further information on either fair, contact Austin at 494-8911 or visit her in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room S123.

For more information concerning the Career and Employment Center, visit www.mtsu.edu/career or call 898-2400. Regular office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. ♦

Sidelines is seeking a Student Government Association reporter.

To apply, come by JUB, Room 306.

Offender:

Continued from 1

community, it's hard not to accept," said Ed Yovella, chief of police at UTK.

He said if a student or campus worker has been convicted of a sexual offense, students and others in the university community would want to know about it.

"I'd rather have it on the front end and prevent it than have the crime occur and solve it," Yovella said.

"(We) don't have a choice because it's going to be a federal law next year," said D. L. "Mac" McNeely, director of Public Safety and chief of police at University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

McNeely said he doesn't see it as an administrative problem because the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation already has the files and the university would just have to create a Web site to post the information.

"The public and the community have the right to know if they are on campus," McNeely said. ♦

Faces' Music

Something for Everyone

Faces is rapidly becoming a hot spot for local acts by offering live music three nights a week. Each night is formatted differently to better provide a variety of music.

Tuesday nights offer the newer local acts a chance to debut. The Tuesday night theme is "2Bands for 2Bucks." Bands have a night to play for an audience and get their name out. The audience's incentive lies in the cheap \$2 cover, the drink special and the opportunity to support local music.

Thursday nights cater more to the college party crowd. Groove, funk and cover bands typically jam out on Thursdays.

Saturday nights offer a release for many students as metal bands such as Derailed, Kahl's Ego and Ricket's Madcore fill the bill.

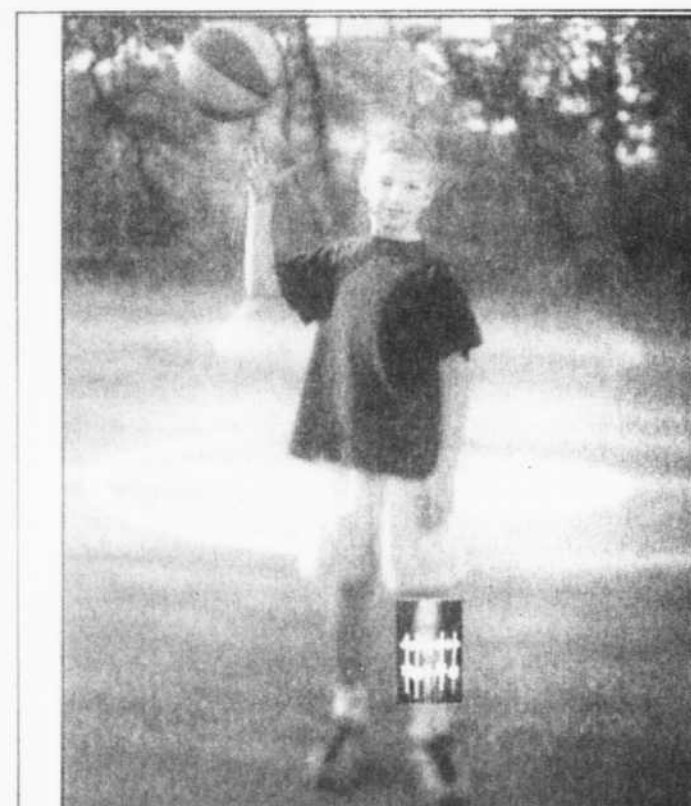
Even when the music is not live, Faces' digital jukebox plays the hits ranging from classic to progressive rock, from '80's glam to '80's dance, with a little Top 40 thrown in for good measure.

This Month, Faces hosts Split's Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday bash offering free beads and favors, as well as drink deals. DJ Mickey Cool-Aid returns to Faces on Valentine's Day to play a set full of sultry grooves.



February Faces

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| | 20 for 2 11pm | 19 Fat Tuesday 2/12 Beads, Specials & SPLIF 9:30pm | Valentine's Day 2/14 Hosted by DJ Mickey Cool-Aid | 20 for 2 11pm on ALL Taps | 22 For The Ladies | 16 DERAILED |
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Editorial

Sex offender lists aren't effective in curbing violence

It's possible today that the state Senate could approve a bill that will require all sex offenders at Tennessee universities – students, faculty or staff – to register with public safety and be placed on a sex offender list.

These lists would be kept on record with state and local law enforcement agencies as well as public safety departments at all higher learning institutions.

According to proponents of the bill (SB 0917), these lists will curb sex offenders from striking again by making their crimes public knowledge. Members of the campus community will be able to review the lists and know who around them has been convicted of a sex crime.

The idea of listing sex offenders for safety reasons probably was formed with the best of intentions, but it seems a little ineffective in curbing potential offenders from striking again.

A simple list of offenders posted online or in some dusty binder won't be viewed by enough people to make much difference. In the case of student offenders, the lists at best would serve to incline people to avoid or ostracize offenders, without helping to rehabilitate them or prevent them from committing further crimes.

As for the university hiring workers with sex crime convictions, we would hope that sex offenders wouldn't even make it past the first round of interviews, much less to a position where they would put students at risk.

We aren't completely clear on what policy the university has toward sex offenders, but SB 0917 specifically concerns employees of state higher education institutions, so it can be inferred that MTSU legally can hire sex offenders.

If a sex offender is hired to be a public safety officer or a maintenance worker or any other faculty or staff position, having the offender's name recorded won't make campus residents feel any safer. What would be knowing that the university doesn't employ sex offenders to work with young adults, period.

Perhaps the lists are the first step in a series of moves to increase awareness and heighten safety, but paying attention to and working to prevent sex crimes and all types of violence is an ongoing battle that needs attention from the government at all times in all places. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Church must provide child molesting victims' names



Everyone has heard a joke or two (if you're Catholic, probably at least that many every day) about priests and little boys. I've always assumed that these jokes were once based in fact but were becoming increasingly irrelevant.

However, recent events in Boston are proving just the opposite – that the practice of molestation in the Catholic Church is alive and well.

On Jan. 18, defrocked priest John Geoghan was convicted of child molestation. After the conviction, Cardinal Bernard Law, the spiritual leader of the archdiocese of Boston, announced that he would report all past allegations of child abuse to the local authorities.

Up to this point, the names of 80 priests have

been provided. However, the names of victims have yet to be made available to authorities.

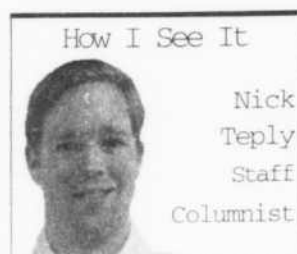
Now, that's a problem.

Without names of victims, prosecutors can't do their jobs. Without witnesses, it is impossible to convict, let alone put on trial, those accused of these most heinous of crimes.

Law says the diocese has 40 years of child abuse records that are currently being checked. However, I believe this is merely a stalling tactic, designed to limit the negative publicity of the church. Time should not now be spent on records from the 1960s because the statute of limitations is 10 years for individuals under the age of 16. Acts committed in 1965 cannot be prosecuted in 2002.

Holy Mother Church must act quickly in providing the names of victims from the past 10 years so that the monsters of evil hiding behind a thin white collar will receive just retribution for their crimes. ♦

My grandmother is not a terrorist



How I See It

Nick Teply
Staff
Columnist

My grandma, who turned 78 in October, does a lot of traveling. A couple of months ago, she and a friend took a jaunt to Vegas to play the nickel slots. She had no problems getting through airport security, but her belongings were searched thoroughly. I've known my grandmother all of my life, and she's not a terrorist.

Neither are the millions of other travelers on daily flights who are delayed in the name of national security. After the events of this past September, we all recognize the need for increased screening of airline passengers.

Most of us don't mind the extra hours or the inconvenience that increased security creates, but is intense scrutiny of everyone necessary?

Say, for example, that a murder has just been committed. You are the officer in charge of the investigation, and you have a few leads. In other recent murders, witnesses reported that a 7-foot man with red hair and a beard was seen fleeing the scene of the crime.

Do you then begin your investigation by rounding up short men with beards? How about the Asian school children or the Mexican gardener? You only have a limited number of officers and resources. You search for the suspect who fits the description of the murderer.

Nineteen individuals who fit the following description committed the mass murders of this past September: They were males between the ages of 18 and 40 and of Middle Eastern decent. The chilling facts are, that is also the description of other hijackers years ago. If screeners had paid more attention to persons fitting this description last

September, we could have circumvented a national tragedy.

The Department of Justice believes that the 19 did not act alone. Attorney General John Ashcroft has warned that there may be so-called sleeper cells, or people waiting in this country for orders to carry out another attack on America. Sleepers do their best to blend with the population. Of the 19 hijackers, 15 entered the country legally on temporary student visas, but many overstayed their welcome.

In late September, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., called for visa reform. This included a six-month moratorium on student visas, which would allow the INS sufficient time to develop a student tracking system.

The terrorists in the attack on America had used a lax student visa program to enter the country, but they subsequently didn't enroll or dropped classes (except for those in flight schools). After intense prodding by the

educational lobby, Feinstein dropped the request for a moratorium and settled instead for an international student database. A 1996 congressional measure for a nationwide database to track foreign students also failed with staunch resistance from the universities.

Early last month, Ashcroft began a program to find 6,000 people of Middle Eastern decent who are among some 314,000 "absconders" or illegal immigrants ordered deported. Civil libertarians cried foul stating that it was wrong to single out people of a particular ethnicity over another group. This "ethnic profiling" was wrong.

First of all, all 314,000 absconders are in the wrong for being here illegally. They have violated our immigration laws and should be deported. However, while the German girl studying art or the Chinese man studying medicine with expired visas are breaking the law, they do not pose the same

threat as, say, the Saudi who is enrolled in flight school.

Let's face it, the latter poses a clear and present danger to the United States. The fear of offense and political incorrectness is buried in the rubble of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Currently, there are more than 500,000 foreign students in the United States. The number of student visas should be reduced dramatically. No student visas should be issued to students from countries that harbor terrorism except under rare circumstances.

Along with stricter standards, a national database of foreign students with biometrics and personal information on smart cards should be required. As for airport security, increased security is necessary. Special examination should be given to those individuals who could potentially fit the description of a terrorist or conspirator. Hint: It is not my grandma. ♦

Letters to the Editor

U.S. policy is not imperialism

To the Editor:

Shasta Fites' column, "U.S. policy hypocritical," was one of the more asinine pieces I have read in *Sidelines* this year. It was full of hearsay and historical fallacy that I would expect a staff columnist would be more careful of.

On the point of comparing the United States to Spanish Imperialism, I found this particularly inaccurate. First of all, the Spanish intentions in the New World were riches, not to spread religion. That is why conquistadors, not cardinals, were the head of these campaigns. Pizarro and Cortéz were not interested in missionary work any more than what was necessary to garner support of the Catholic Church.

They were interested in gold and governorships to bring them power and to fill Spain's coffers. It is true that there was much missionary activity, but this is only part of the picture, not all of it as you made it out to be. You refer to the United States as being like Spain in that we have good intentions like the Spanish. The Spanish had no real "good intentions" from the get-go from a Native American perspective, nor did the Spanish have Boeing 757s flying into their residences in Barcelona. America is not trying to plunder the wealth of Afghanistan, North Korea, Iran or anywhere else. We just want to protect ourselves.

My second point of contention was on the John Walker Lindh part of the editorial. The statement that begins "I've heard that after being held without food and water ..." is an absolute travesty. That is a mighty allegation to make on hearsay, as well as an absurd one. Pure logic dictates the inadequacy of this statement in that a human can't live for seven days without water, but that's not all. In fact I've seen and read quite to the contrary about Walker's treatment. The film of him from CNN was taken in the first days of his capture. Perhaps they descended into the dark crypt where he was being kept for those interviews. Funny, he also appears to be receiving medical treatment.

To conclude, the realities of what is going on in the world are not pretty. Many countries do not like the developed countries in the world. The fact is that it is rage over the fact that we enjoy a standard of living that they do not, for whatever reason. I agree in some cases the United States may have played a role in their being held back, but most of the time that is not the case. Most of the rhetoric coming from these countries comes down to they are the have-nots and want what we have.

This is an ugly concept, but it is not off the mark no matter how many I just offended. To be fair, if Iran was the mecca of power and economy in the world and we were a third-world country, we would probably have the same problems with them that other countries have with us now, but as the cards are on the table, we are lucky. We have wealth and freedom that is incredible. Yes, both of these have their flaws, but in comparison with other nations, we're not doing too badly.

If that means that we have to expand our sphere of influence around the world to protect that for a time, so be it. If anyone wants to disagree with that policy at any level, so be it. That is your right as an American. All I'm asking is that you present a factual argument

instead of inflammatory hearsay, and present history as it is, not as how it can be bent to fit your argument.

Sincerely,
Lason Cain

No logic in Ridings' letter

To the Editor:

This is a response to the editorial of David Ridings. Ostensibly, he seems concerned with attacking the "ignorant and liberal views" of Erich Heinlein. However, his attack has more of an ad hominem agenda than an actual analysis of the flaws in Heinlein's so-called socialist plan.

Moreover, Ridings' argument has more contradictions than clearly explained substance.

Addressing Heinlein and the reader at large, Ridings asserts, "It is neither my responsibility nor my business clients' to fund your education."

Economically speaking, this is just plain stupid. Only people with money can be clients. Educated people have more buying power; consequently, a work force with more money (afforded them by the nice job, acquired through education) thoroughly benefits business. An uneducated work force earns low wages. They're concerned with survival, not luxury (for example, the average daily wage in Mexico City is about five American dollars, so necessities take priority over luxury).

Thus, I repudiate Ridings' ill-informed claim that "the goal of a business is to make money" only. It's an economically provincial view that doesn't consider the source of financial stability – a sound foundation of clients who benefit a company as much as they are benefited by a company. Therefore, educating people so that they eventually have consistently strong buying power is a sound business practice. And not to put too fine a point on it, but clients are humans and not abstract numbers, manipulated for the sole profit of a company. Such internecine practices that reduce people to fact sheets and big business to money-making machines ultimately undermine the very fabric of American free-market democracy, and I am sure that a number of currently unemployed Enron workers would agree.

Finally, Ridings has a problem with definitions. He wants them to change in order to suit his rhetoric. Yet, the only feasible semantic difference between business and company is perhaps that a company is a type of business. For Ridings, however, these terms do not refer to even associated concepts. So with little forethought, Ridings suggests that we work at Fed Ex because they will "pay ... educational costs."

However, didn't he disavow any such responsibility as a businessman (see the quote beginning the second paragraph). Isn't FedEx a business? As for Heinlein, I am glad he wants an educated populace. As for Ridings, he sounds like a future Kenneth Lay. As for Ridings' arguments, even divine intervention couldn't help them (not a typo), but a logic class might.

Respectfully,
Charles M. Johnson

Sound off at www.mtsusidelines.com.

SIDELINES

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FEATURES

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Monday, February 11, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Valentine's comes early to Care Center

Students join in third anniversary celebration

By Leslie Fike
Features Editor

Valentine's Day came early this month for the residents of the Murfreesboro Residential Care Center.

Carrying red roses and handmade cards and dressed in their Sunday best, members of Beta Theta Pi and Delta Zeta brought smiles of joy and laughter to Bob Petty, Irma Lentz and other residents of the Care Center.

It all began with a phone call from Beta Theta Pi's Vice President Travis Blunt to Brenda Irwin, the center's administrator.

Blunt, wanting to bring the need for more volunteers at nursing homes and assistant living to light, decided to have his fraternity participate in a Valentine party for the care center's residents. Upon hearing about Blunt's idea, the women of Delta Zeta decided to join in.

"I feel like it was a prayer answered," Irwin said. "One of our goals is to always increase the number of activities and to always increase the number of events that connect us to the community somehow."

Irwin said the Care Center's location inhibits quite a few people from knowing about its services.

"We call it the best kept secret in town," she exclaimed with a laugh.

Located at the end of Middle Tennessee Christian School Road on the left, right behind MTCs, children in the first and second grades at Middle Tennessee Christian School can easily walk over and visit the residents during holidays, bringing them homemade cards. In return, the residents package candy and make cookies for the children to take home with them.



Delta Zeta members Sarah Allen and Rachael Raymer visit with resident Fann Knight.

Irwin said the residents love to give back to the community.

"Even though they live in assisted-living," she said, "they want to still be a part of the community."

For the first time in the care center's three years of service Saturday, the residents were visited by the MTSU community.

The instant the clock struck two, the members of Delta Zeta and Beta Theta Pi walked through the front doors of the care center and surprised the residents with cookies, punch, roses and cards.

The faces of the residents lit up with expectation and excitement as the students sat down and chatted with them for the rest of the afternoon.

Irwin, the center's staff and the students didn't let the residents stay seated for long, though, as they each jumped to their feet and asked the residents to dance.

One by one, laughter and "Ah's" spread through the group

as the couples slowed dance and tried to bust moves to J. Frank Wilson's "Last Kiss."

Susan Hall, a full-time employee of the center, said she enjoyed walking around the dining hall and seeing the expressions on not only the residents' faces but on the students as well.

Cheek-to-cheek and holding hands, the students' and residents' faces radiated with delight as they switched partners.

It was apparent that the afternoon had proven to be as good of an experience for the students as it was for the residents, just as Delta Zeta President Sara Plott had hoped.

Plott said Delta Zeta tries to do different service events every year and the Valentine's Day dance at the Care Center was something new to try.

Some of the students, including Plott, nevertheless, were surprised about how enjoyable the party was and the number of students who attended.

"I was surprised at the amount (of students) who danced," commented Plott, a junior.

Senior Sarah Allen, who spent a portion of the afternoon with resident Fann Knight, said she was a little nervous at first but was glad she decided to come to the party.

Beta Theta Pi members expressed their unexpected enjoyment of developing friendships with the residents as well.

"I thought it would be boring," said Brian Pickle, "but it turned out to be a lot of fun."

Kai Thietje, president of Beta Theta Pi, said he hoped several of his brothers would return for future visits with the residents at their own will.

Saturday was not only a Valentine's Day party, though.

Each month, the care center celebrates its residents' birthdays together by picking a day that doesn't fall on anyone's actual birthday, Hall said.

"That way we're not singling out anybody," she added, "but

there's jealousy that goes on."

The jealousy is bound to be expected, though, Hall said. It's just like any other individual wanting to have attention on his or her birthday.

To the residents' surprise, however, the members of Beta Theta Pi and Delta Zeta were well aware of the monthly tradition.

Midway through the afternoon, as students and residents decided to rest their dancing feet, Blunt presented a birthday cake he had brought for the residents who have February birthdays. As students and staff gathered and sang "Happy Birthday," the birthday residents blew out their candles.

Clapping and cheers rang through the air, only to be followed by laughter, as everyone dove into the delicious yellow cake decked in white icing and pink hearts. They also indulged in other refreshments, such as heart-shaped, pink-iced cookies and fruit punch, which also were provided by the students.

As the party continued, residents expressed their own delight at having the students

Center for three years.

Bob Petty, a resident for the past two years, seemed to be taking in every minute of attention he could get from the girls of Delta Zeta.

"He's probably thinking, 'Oh, I haven't told you my fish story,'" Irwin said as she watched Petty through her office window that peers into the dining room.

Petty loves to talk about the fishing trip he took with his wife, who passed away, and how they caught the two biggest fish of their entire lives.

Before the party concluded, many of the girls had become curious enough about the amount of actual truth to Petty's tale that they walked back to his room. What they found were two huge fish, stuffed and mounted on wooden backs, with the lures still attached to their lips, hanging on the wall over his television.

Petty gladly took his wife's fish down to show the girls while commenting with pride that he caught the bigger of the two.

Even as it reached dinner



Bob Petty shows off the fish his wife caught during a fishing trip. The bigger fish on the wall behind is his.

there.

"I'm thrilled to have these nice young people here," said Lentz, who has been at the Care

time, many students and residents still seemed to have

See Center, 5

Sizzling gifts of love

By Magdeline McGee
Contributor

Wonder how to top the heart-shaped Chia Pet given last year for Valentine's Day?

Fear not, this Valentine's Day offers an abundance of great gifts, from the ordinary to the outrageous.

Some MTSU students recently were asked about gifts they have given or received for some ideas.

Traditional gifts, such as candy and flowers, are popular for this holiday.

These gifts are available just about everywhere. From Wal-Mart to Mapco, fresh flowers and candy abound.

If flowers sound like the way to go, the Internet has a remarkable selection.

Also, there are pictures of the flowers for sale, reducing the risk of sending a vase of weeds.

Flowers.com has a great variety in both styles and prices. Choose from two dozen roses with a pound of pralines for \$99.99, or a more affordable \$29.99 European-style spray of roses.

If this idea seems a little cliché, there are ways to spruce it up.

Ruth Brown described how her boyfriend used the traditional gift of roses and gave it new life by putting the petals in a bath.

Another way to give Valentine's Day gifts a punch is to rethink giving gender-specific gifts, like Monica Rucker did.

"I gave one long-stemmed rose and some candy," Rucker said. "I thought it was too feminine to give a guy, but he took it."

If the men out there are not flower lovers, then a stuffed animal could be a consideration. Target has chenille teddy bears ranging from \$4.99 to \$9.99.



Illustration by Lucas Antoniak | Staff

To break out of the flower and candy tradition, but still get a gift that is festive, Target has some great items. From foot spas and colorful lingerie to decorative candles, which cost from \$5 to \$50, Target offers various choices.

For those who are creative or artistically inclined, there is no better time to let those talents show.

The old idea of a mixed tape has changed with the popularity of CD burners and downloadable music.

Sophomore Anna Weir remembered a gift she received a couple years ago.

"He made me a couple of CDs arranged by mood," she said.

She was touched by the gift because it took time and thought.

Another girl, who did not want to spoil her gift by giving her name, is making a pillow for her boyfriend.

Effort certainly counts for something.

Recording industry major and senior Chevis Jackson was impressed by the huge card his girlfriend made him.

"It was poster sized, filled with little scraps of sayings and slogans from magazines and newspapers, with stencils and crayons, and my name in bubble letters," Jackson said. "It

must've taken her hours."

If the gift ideas for this Valentine's Day are ambitious, there are options to meet the challenge.

Eric Parker, a senior, made a present out of an entire evening for the woman who is now his wife.

"We went to the park and had a candlelight dinner," Parker said. "Then we walked around."

The husband of sociology major Terry Major went above and beyond the call of duty. He made her a metal heart with a lock in the middle and a key for it. Inside the heart was some of his poetry and a watercolor painting.

If none of these ideas seem interesting, attainable or reasonable, there's always the option of giving a gift they've said they want.

Megan McRae said she received a dozen long stem yellow roses in a box and a heart locket necklace that she had wanted for a long time.

No matter the person's taste, there is most likely a Valentine's Day-specific gift available at most stores.

From Pass Pets to the Gap, the mall is brimming over with red, white and love.

Old Navy, for example, offers Valentine's Day mugs, dice pillows and notebooks, all of which sell for less than \$5.

Does nothing sound good yet?

That's OK.

There's no rule that states Valentine's Day gifts must consist of roses and candy. Buy something that can be used after Feb. 14.

There's no law being broken by buying an unromantic CD.

Whichever gift is given, though, sincerity is the best wrapping. ♦

Dear Annie

Invasion of privacy is forbidden

Dear Annie,

This is not a normal letter for your corner of the paper, but I figured you might be able to help me out.

I already have a girlfriend who is younger than me, which plays a role in dealing with immaturity, but I feel that what she has recently done is a bit too far, and I'm not sure how to handle it.

My girlfriend's parents are divorced, and she has this fear that I'm going to treat her the same way. The reason I know this is because I have an extremely close girl that is just a friend and this bothers my girlfriend.

I've mentioned to her that we are like brother and sister and if anything else was ever there between us, we would lose our friendship. Also, I have friends of both sexes on my Internet chat systems, and she hacks into my e-mail account and reads the e-mails that I send to make sure I'm not saying anything I shouldn't, which, I don't. There have been some things said that she has taken the wrong way and once she lets me explain what they mean, she understands.

Here recently she has gotten into my e-mails quite frequently and called me out on quite a few of them. She gets mad at me for certain things I say, and I get mad at her for getting into my e-mail system.

It seems like a never-ending battle. Even when we close out an argument, she loves to bring it back up two months later. I'm at my wit's end on this situation, and I'm searching for any amount of help. What would you suggest?

— Giving Up

Dear Giving Up,

I'm surprised you didn't "give up" when she first started reading your e-mails. She is invading your privacy.

Why haven't you changed your account or your password?

It seems like your girlfriend has a lot of issues she needs to deal with. Her biggest problem is that she comes from a divorced family. I don't know her situation, but she has some serious trust issues. She doesn't want you to be like her father. That's OK, but she can't watch you 24/7 to make sure you are being a good boy. Basically, this is her problem. You can't fix this. The only thing you can do is be trustworthy.

Have you ever given her any reason not to trust you?

I'm not really convinced that this girl is just a friend. You said, "If there was anything between us we would lose our friendship."

Is that the only reason why you're "just friends?"

I'm not excusing your girlfriend's jealous behavior. However, if you are playfully flirting with this other girl and telling her things that you haven't told your girlfriend, maybe she does have a right to be a little suspicious.

I still can't believe she is reading your e-mails. This has to stop. Her own

insecurities have taken over her good judgment. She can't win this fight. She snooped through your stuff. Just explain to her that this is a boundary issue. Everyone has personal boundaries. This would be your privacy boundary.

Do you read her e-mails?

Well, I hope not! Obviously, you care very much for this girl. There are a lot of issues you need to work out. Suggest she seek professional help about her parents' divorce. She doesn't trust you. You can't have a relationship without trust. I don't have much hope for any relationship where old arguments are used continually to inflict emotional guilt and punishment.

There are a lot of things that need to change before this relationship has a chance to survive. You need to decide if you are willing to wade through the mud or if you're ready to give up.

Please e-mail your questions to
DearMtsuAnnie@aol.com.



Illustration by Lucas Antoniak | Staff

Center: Cupid aims arrows of friendship

Continued from 4

every ounce of energy they started with at 2 p.m., if not more, as they went back to the dance floor for one last round.

Shockingly, some of the residents commented about the students not being able to keep up with them. The students would just nod "yes" to this statement and say they were right – some of the residents could wear them out.

Overall, the party seem to be a success.

Suphomores Jessica Jackson and Heather Cantrell, who visited nursing homes and assisted-living centers in high school, said they planned to come back to the care center for additional visits.

Thietje, a senior, said he was happy to see so many members of the sorority and fraternity participate in the party and thought the event had a good turnout.

He added that all the credit for Beta Theta's participation in the party goes to Blunt, who organized the event, with the help of Irwin.

"I hope we'll be able to do this again this semester," Thietje said.

The exchange of hugs between the students and residents, in addition to the thanks from the staff to the students, was proof enough that Blunt's idea had worked.

"The director seems very pleased," Blunt said.

He also said he hoped the event encouraged students to spread the word that volunteers are needed at centers for senior citizens, and that they would return for future visits to the Care Center.

Irwin said she was very pleased to see the students and residents connect so well.

But Valentine's Day is not just another holiday for the Care Center or Irwin.

Three years ago, on Feb. 14, Irwin transferred from the Shelbyville Residential Care Center, which she opened, to

Murfreesboro to open the Murfreesboro Residential Care Center.

Cupid's day is not just about affections of the heart, it also celebrates another year of success for the Care Center.

Irwin said her goal for the center, which can house 24 residents, is to not make it an institution.

"We try to keep it small and homey," Irwin added. "So it doesn't make them feel intimidated."

"They can walk from their rooms to the dining room even if they are somewhat frail and have arthritis."

Irwin, who has had to choose a home for a family member of her own, said she made the center a home where others will feel comfortable and secure having their family members live.

If just a few words had to describe the Care Center's atmosphere, they would be, "there is a land of pure delight," a song title from *The Broadway Hymnal* that lies open on the piano in the Care Center's living room. ♦

CAMPUS EVENTS

Compiled by Leslie Fike | Features Editor

Monday, Feb. 11

The Survival Honors Lecture Series will feature Padgett Kelly discussing "Surviving Extinction?" in Peck Hall, Room 109A from 3 to 3:50 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 898-2152.

Wednesday, Feb. 13

The Center for Popular Music and the Middle Tennessee Popular Music Studies Group invite the university community to "Music at Mid-Week," a lecture series on popular music topics. This week's guest speaker is recording industry professor Paul Fischer, who will discuss popular music and public policy. Each lecture will be in the Dean's Conference Room (241) of the John Bragg Mass Communication Building from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m.



The Golden Key International Honor Society will have a meeting in Dining Room C of the JUB from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Interim Greek Life Director Maggie Prugh will speak on the topic of "Get Over the Fear of Public Speaking," and a brief meeting will follow the discussion. Anyone interested is invited. For more information, call 898-2815.



MTSU Films presents *Serendipity* in the Keathley University Center Theater at 7 and 9:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Admission is \$2.

Scholarship

The Amy Spain Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$5000, will be awarded this spring to a graduating senior planning on attending law school this fall. Amy Spain was an alumni of Middle Tennessee State University and an active Alpha Delta Pi from 1982-1986. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree she went on to graduate with honors from the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. Amy obtained a position as an Assistant United States Attorney in Memphis. She held this position until a tragic automobile accident ended her exceptional life.

To continue Amy's legacy, some of her friends and family have established this scholarship. The Memorial Fund will be used to further the education of an MTSU Greek female who plans to attend Law School. Candidates must demonstrate the leadership, dedication, commitment, and integrity which characterized and dedicated Amy.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, please obtain an application from Betty Smithson, Associate Vice President and Dean of Student Life Office, Keathley University Center Room 212. Deadline for applications is March 4, 2002.

Friends of Amy Spain.

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Sports Briefs

Compiled by David Hunter
Staff Writer

New Middle Tennessee soccer coach hired

Middle Tennessee Athletics Director Boots Donnelly named Aston Rhoden the new Blue Raider soccer coach Tuesday, replacing Scott Ginn who resigned in December. He is the third head coach in MT's history.

Before coming to MT, Rhoden was the head coach at the University of North Alabama. In five seasons there, he led UNA to 39 wins, including a couple of 11-win seasons.

Rhoden played soccer for the University of Alabama-Huntsville from 1985-1989. He received the leadership award in 1988 and Outstanding Student-Athlete in 1985-86. The year following his playing career he was a graduate teaching assistant at UAH.

The Jamaica native's playing experience includes being on the Jamaican Youth National Team in 1980-81, playing on the real Mona FC, Division I Major team in Jamaica from 1981-84 and playing on the Shamrock FC, Division I Adult Soccer League team in Huntsville since 1990.

The Blue Raiders begin the 2002 season with three road games before their first home game Sept. 6 against the University of Southern Mississippi.

Vandy win is Sports Moment of Year

Middle Tennessee's football victory over Vanderbilt was named the top sports moment in Middle Tennessee Thursday at the annual Dinner of Champions. The Blue Raiders upset the Commodores 37-28 at Dudley Field Aug. 30.

The MT victory beat out the opening of the new Nashville Superspeedway in a vote by the awards committee. That included a sellout of the first-ever Indy race in Tennessee.

The win over Vandy was MT's first-ever victory over a team from the Southeastern Conference and helped the Blue Raiders get out to a 5-0 start this season.

Three names listed for coordinator

Head football coach Andy McCollum named three candidates to fill the offensive coordinator vacancy.

The position opened up when Larry Fedora left to join the University of Florida's staff.

Auburn offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone, San Jose State offensive coordinator Norm Joesph and North Carolina receivers coach Gunter Brewer are the candidates mentioned so far.

McCollum has not set a timetable for filling the position. The Blue Raiders begin spring practice March 6.

White team wins the Blue-White game

Jennifer Martinez knocked in the winning run with a base hit to centerfield to lead the white team to a 2-1 extra-inning victory over the blue team.

The Lady Raiders will scrimmage Motlow State Tuesday at 2:15 p.m. MT starts the regular season at the Mardi Gras Classic in Monroe, La., Friday.

Women's 4 by 400 relay honored by SBC

After last week's victory at the Indiana Relays in Bloomington, Ind., the Middle Tennessee women's 4 by 400-meter relay team was honored as the Sun Belt Conference Track Athletes of the Week.

The relay team of Kishara George, Lanora Gray, Bromeka Holmes and Rosemary Okafor set a conference best time 3 minutes, 47.08 seconds this season at the meet. It was the second victory for the team. ♦

Track teams win nine events, place in eight more at weekend home meet

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee men's and women's track teams combined to win nine events in their meet at Murphy Center Saturday.

MT also had eight second-place finishes at the meet.

Freshman Rosemary Okafor and All-American senior Godfrey Herring won two events.

Okafor ran a season-best 24.49 seconds in the 200-meter dash for the victory. She won the 55-meter dash in 2.43 seconds.

Teammates Kim Freeman and Kiki Deckard finished just behind Okafor in the 55-meter dash, placing third and fourth, respectively.

The Lady Raiders took all the top four spots in the 200 with Bromeka Holmes, Kishara George and Lanora Gray following behind Okafor.

Nicolette Jarrett won the 400-meter dash, running a season-best 57.84 seconds.

Coleen Parker ran a season-best 2 minutes, 16.98 seconds in the 800-meter dash to take a second-place finish.

Kelley Smith finished second

in the 55-meter hurdles with her best time of the season in the event at 8.08 seconds. Amanda Forrester jumped 5 feet, 4 inches to win the high jump and tie her best mark this year.

The Lady Raiders finished second through fifth place in the triple jump. Freeman placed second with a team season-best jump of 41 feet, 3 inches.

Stephany Reid jumped 40 feet, 3.75 inches to take third place. Deckard and Rolanda Howard took the fourth and fifth spots with jumps of 38 feet, 08.50 inches and 37 feet, 8 inches, respectively.

In the men's competition, Herring won the 400-meter dash in 47.16 seconds. He also won the 200-meter dash in 21.37 seconds.

Jasper Demps and Brad Orr took first and second place in the 55-meter hurdles, running times of 7.47 and 7.59 seconds, respectively. Chris Koger won the high jump, jumping 6 feet, 10 inches to tie a season-best. Greg Jones automatically qualified with a jump of 46 feet, 9.75 inches in the triple jump.

MT will host the Sun Belt Championships Feb. 23-24 at the Murphy Center.

This will mark the first time Middle Tennessee has hosted the conference championships since joining the conference prior to the 2000-01 academic year. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer
Kim Freeman jumps to her second place finish Saturday.



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer
Jasper Demps jumps over the hurdle in the 55-meter.

Lady Raiders take two victories

By Justin Ward
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team improved their Sun Belt Conference record to 6-5 with two conference wins last week against Arkansas State University (9-14) and Arkansas-Little Rock (6-17).

The Lady Raiders came out strong in the first half Saturday night. Arkansas-Little Rock tied the game up at 2 right at the start, but that was as close as they would get the rest of the night. The score was 49-18 at the half.

Senior Lady Raider Jamie Thomatis had 12 points in the first half alone. Eplunus Brooks led the Trojans in scoring in the first half with 8 points.

The second half of the game was a completely different story from the first half. The Trojans outscored the Lady Raiders 45-32. Darci Cassidy went from 2 points in the first half to 20 in the second half for the Trojans. Shemeka Strong followed suit and scored 12 in the second half compared to 2 in the first half. Brooks also had 12 points for the Trojans. This effort, however, was not enough for the win as they lost 81-63 to the Lady Raiders.

"There were way too

many people in here," said Lady Raider head coach Stephany Smith, "and way too much excitement and enthusiasm taking place for us to play as well as we did for the first half and then just totally turn it into something different in the second half."

Thomatis led the Lady Raiders for the night with 18 points and 9 rebounds. Patrice Holmes and Jennifer Justice added 11 points each.

"We don't want to lose sight of the fact that we did win, and we won by a good margin," Thomatis said. "We didn't play up to par in the second half, but we're not going to let out of here feeling like we lost the game."

The Lady Raiders started their sweep of Arkansas Thursday night with a 79-64 win over ASU. The Indians finished the first half up 33-32 to the Lady Raiders. Rae-Anne Smith had 11 points for ASU in the half. Justice led the Lady Raiders with 10.

The game was tied at 48 points with 13:16 left in the second half. The Lady Raiders took the lead and never let go of it. They finished the game 79-64.

Keisha McClinic led the Lady Raiders in scoring with 16 points. Justice was behind her with 15 points. Holmes had 14 and Thomatis had 11.

"One of our main keys

See Lady Raiders, 7



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer
Tiffany Fisher goes skies for the jump shot against ASU, while Jamie Thomatis waits for a possible rebound.

MT ladies shut out MSU

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee women's tennis team swept Murray State University 7-0 to win its second straight match Friday night at the Murfreesboro Racquet Club.

Verena Preiss and Jennifer Klatschka led the Lady Raiders' doubles teams, taking an 8-0 win over Jennifer Ward and Jaclyn Leeper. In the No. 1 position, Manon Kruse and Stacy Varnell beat Melissa Spencer and Kerry-Lea Glass 8-3 to improve their doubles record to

7-2 for the spring. Michaela Gridling and Carlen Center defeated Maria Alonte and Annette Steen 8-5, earning the Lady Raiders the doubles point.

"I was impressed with our doubles," said Lady Raider head coach Randy Holden. "They are the strength of our team."

No. 1 player Kruse sat out of singles action to rest an injured right arm. Freshman Klatschka stepped into the No. 1 position and won 6-2, 6-4 against Steen.

Preiss took a close victory in the No. 2 spot, beating Glass 6-7 (6), 6-1, 6-2. Gridling defeated

Leper 6-1, 6-2.

Venter beat Alonte 7-5, 2-6, 6-3. Varnell dropped the first tiebreaker but came back for the 6-7(6), 6-3, 10-3 win over Ward.

Tanja Buchtheim rounded out the singles victories, defeating Steen 6-2, 6-4.

"I was very proud of our team playing one spot above what they normally do, and we were still able to dominate the OVC's champion from last year without playing our top player," Holden said.

See Tennis, 7



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer
Stacy Varnell returns a Murray State serve Friday.

Women's basketball standings

East division

| | SBC games | All games |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Florida International | 11 1 | 20 5 |
| Western Kentucky | 8 4 | 14 9 |
| Middle Tennessee | 6 5 | 14 10 |
| Arkansas State | 4 7 | 10 14 |
| Arkansas-Little Rock | 0 11 | 6 17 |

West division

| | | |
|---------------------|------|-------|
| North Texas | 9 3 | 15 7 |
| South Alabama | 7 4 | 17 6 |
| Denver | 7 4 | 11 12 |
| New Mexico State | 5 7 | 10 13 |
| New Orleans | 5 6 | 9 14 |
| Louisiana-Lafayette | 1 11 | 6 17 |

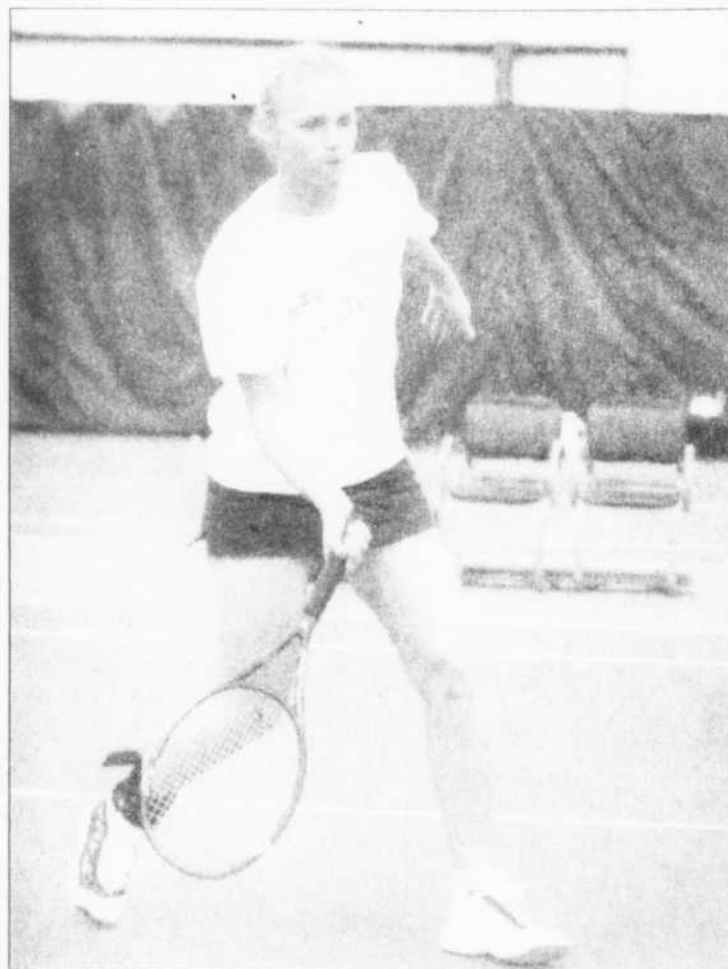


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Manon Kruse scoops down to hit the ball against MSU.

Tennis: Lady Raiders travel

Continued from 6

The Lady Raiders played Louisville yesterday. Results of the match were unavailable at

press time. MT hosts Georgia State Friday at the Murfreesboro Racquet Club. The match starts at 2 p.m. ♦

Lady Raiders: Win two games at home

Continued from 6

tonight was to box out and keep them off the boards offensively," McClinic said. "Tonight we were able to do that, which gave us a lot of transition offense, and we picked up our defense a lot, which helped."

Smith overwhelmingly led the Indians with 25 points in the game, followed by Jolie McKeirnan with 12 points.

"Even though we beat Arkansas State at their place and we had success with them here," Smith said, "they are a very good basketball team. They are really good on the offensive boards. They're athletic, they defend extremely well and I thought we did a lot better job here than we did in Jonesboro attacking the basket and being more aggressive with our offense."

The Lady Raiders have three more conference games before the Sun Belt Tournament in March. They have a Valentine's Day match-up with South Alabama at the Murphy Center Thursday night and go on the road to play Denver and finish the regular season at Western Kentucky. ♦

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Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Mia Parvianinen drives to the basket against ASU Saturday.

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Blue Raiders drop two in Arkansas

By Justin Ward
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team's five-game winning streak ended last week with two Sun Belt Conference losses against Arkansas State University and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

The Blue Raiders went to

UALR Saturday night to face the Trojans for the second time this season after a 68-65 win at the Murphy Center earlier in the year. The Blue Raiders didn't make as strong of a showing this time against the Trojans, losing 71-52.

Sophomore Tommy Gunn was held scoreless Thursday night against ASU, but Saturday

night led the Blue Raider effort with 18 points and 6 rebounds. He was also a perfect 8-of-8 from the free-throw line. Junior John Humphrey played big Saturday with 15 points on 5-of-7 shooting. This is Humphrey's most since scoring his season-high 17 points against UALR earlier this season.

"We could not get any shots to fall in the second half," Gunn said. "We were only down five and had the ball but just could not get any momentum. We played hard but could not make any big plays. We have definitely learned a lesson on this road trip."

The Blue Raiders had their second-best free-throw shooting outing Saturday night, hitting 13-for-15. They were 9-for-9 in the second half.

Thursday night the Blue Raiders' climb up the Sun Belt Conference ladder came to an abrupt halt with a loss to the

team that began their five-game winning streak - ASU. MT won 83-64 in their last meeting at the Murphy Center. This time, though, the Blue Raiders lost 83-51 to the Indians.

"Arkansas State played a whale of a basketball game tonight, especially offensively," said Blue Raider head coach

"We played hard but could not make any big plays."

-Tommy Gunn,
MT guard

Randy Wiel. "Everything they shot tonight seemed to go in, and on the flip side, we could not get anything to fall. When you are on the road, the one thing that cannot leave you is your offense, and it did tonight."

Lee Nosse led the Blue Raiders with 14 points and 7 rebounds. He hit 6-for-11 shots from the field. Eric Parham equaled his career-high in steals for the second game in a row. He had 4 steals against ASU to give him a team-best 36 for the season.

"They came out tonight and shot the ball incredibly well, and we dug ourselves a hole early and just could not recover," Nosse said. "It wasn't as much what they did to us, but what we did to us. We had too many turnovers and missed opportunities."

"It just wasn't our night tonight."

The Blue Raiders come home Saturday to play Denver at the Murphy Center. Then they travel to play Western Kentucky University for the last game of the season before the Sun Belt Tournament in New Orleans, La. Tip-off is 7 p.m. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Tommy Gunn looks for a shot or a teammate to pass to.

| Men's basketball standings as of Feb. 10 | | | | |
|--|-----------|----|-----------|----|
| East division | | | | |
| | SBC games | | All games | |
| Western Kentucky | 11 | 1 | 22 | 3 |
| Arkansas-Little Rock | 6 | 4 | 15 | 7 |
| Middle Tennessee | 5 | 7 | 12 | 13 |
| Florida International | 4 | 8 | 10 | 16 |
| Arkansas State | 4 | 6 | 13 | 12 |
| West division | | | | |
| | SBC games | | All games | |
| Louisiana-Lafayette | 7 | 3 | 14 | 8 |
| New Mexico State | 9 | 3 | 17 | 8 |
| North Texas | 6 | 5 | 12 | 11 |
| New Orleans | 5 | 6 | 11 | 13 |
| South Alabama | 2 | 10 | 6 | 17 |
| Denver | 2 | 8 | 7 | 15 |

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11 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Tennessee State Fairgrounds
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