

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 24, 2003

22



39

Mostly Cloudy



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

Will the two recent nightclub
tragedies affect clubbing habits?

Like it, leave it, love it
Shakespeare gives it to you
'As you like it'

In Living, 4



An editorially
independent
newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 78 No. 71

Threat of war could affect students, faculty

ROTC will not deploy in event of war with Iraq

By Stephanie Hill
Staff Writer

While the ongoing threat of war with Iraq looms, many questions about the economy arise, as well as questions about the military aspect of going to war.

These questions concern how deployment of troops will

affect MTSU's recent graduates and the job market.

In the Feb. 20 edition of *Sidelines*, an article titled "War Creates Uncertainty in Job Market" reported a dismal outlook in the job market for graduating college students.

Additionally, the Feb. 24 edition of *U.S. News and World Report* suggested that now is the

best time to get a graduate or law degree or an M.B.A., which in the long run improves earning power.

The article "Sure it's still a rough job market: But with the right skills, you could hit the jackpot in health care, education, high tech, finance, and science" reported that those five areas are the five most secure

career tracks for 2003 graduates.

On campus, students can visit the Career Placement Center and see lists of internships for them. Internships can give an extra boost over fellow applicants when it is time to get a job after graduation.

Students involved in the Army ROTC or military science department will not be seeing action in the case of war.

"Our ROTC does not deploy," said Major Bryon P. Deel, assistant professor of military science. "A student who is a member of the National Guard or Army Reserves can choose to go, but it is all on an individual basis."

The same applies to the professors at MTSU.

"Deployment depends on an individual basis," Deel said. "You can get called up as a

deployable asset if you have special skills, but most of the time, it is individually your decision. The Army is not going to call up our entire staff and deploy us."

According to Deel, MTSU has had some professors step up and volunteer for possible deployment if necessary.

Along with economic and military aspects of the war,

See War, 2

Senate confirms McPhee on humanities board

Council will
advise president
on culture

By Dennis Sterle
Staff Writer

The U.S. Senate recently appointed university President Sidney McPhee to serve on the National Council on the Humanities. On this council, he will advise President George W. Bush on humanities and culture.

McPhee's appointment places him on the Education Programs Committee within the council, a committee which deals with funding for all education funded through national endowments.

Citizens from around the United States make up the council.

Each of the 26 members is anonymously nominated to the council, and they must undergo an extensive FBI check.

Once appointed to the council, members serve a six-year term. The council meets four times a year, though there may be additional meetings.

"MTSU benefits from Humanities grants that support the Center for Historic Preservation. The CHP defines itself as a research and public

service institution committed to the preservation, protection, enhancement and promotion of our historic environment," according to a Nov. 4, 2002 *Sidelines* article entitled "President Chosen for White House board."

"The NEH will fund \$89 million for the endowment's grant program in support of high-quality education, research, prevention and public programming in the humanities. NEH grants typically go to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television and radio stations, and to individual scholars," according to a recent press release from MTSU's News and Public Affairs.

"It is an important appointment, giving prestige to the university and the state," McPhee said.

Before McPhee's confirmation by the Senate, he was one of nine people Bush recently to serve on the council.

"I am honored to be selected by this distinguished group of people committed to the humanities," McPhee said in a press release. "Our own Center for Historic Preservation has benefited greatly from grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities."

"I look forward to this important responsibility," McPhee said.

For more information on the NEH, go to their web site at www.neh.gov/. ♦



McPhee

MTSU's new airplane is a gem



Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

University President Sidney McPhee and John Gauch of the Diamond Aircraft company unveiled one of MTSU's new Diamond Star airplanes to aerospace students, faculty and administrators. The plane, a single-engine four seat DA40, is identical to 11 of the 20 new airplanes the university will be receiving this semester.

Nashvillians camp out for peace

Demonstrators recreate living conditions in Iraq

By Rachel Edwards and
Rachel Amanda Cox
Contributors

Camping out in tents covered with pictures of Iraqis, American soldiers and Nashvillians ate only lentils and rice for a week in an attempt to achieve peace.

"Our Iraqi friends taught us how to cook the food," demonstrator Sean Siple said. "We used

the proportions that the United Nations gives these people of a quarter cup of lentil and a half a cup of rice."

Volunteers from the Nashville Peace and Justice Center think this approach will work. They are camped out simulating conditions from an Iraqi refugee camp to inform and provoke change.

"The purpose was to be an educational outreach," Nashville

resident Christina Van Regenmorter said.

Every day there will be a community prayer at noon, and at 5:30 p.m. guest speakers will speak on why America should not go to war with Iraq.

"Justice is a constant struggle, what defines us, what gives life meaning and redemption," said Tim Wise in a talk to assembled activists and spectators at Legislative Plaza early in

the week. Wise is a writer and board member for the Fisk Race Relations Institute.

Another reason for this demonstration, which organizers call "Faces of Collateral Damage," is to show that charity begins at home. Matt Leber, director of the Nashville Peace and Justice Center, says that he thinks money being spent on the war in Iraq could be used to help the poor in Tennessee.

See Camp, 2

Sports legend supports Boys and Girls Club with speech on campus

By Tasha Kirkpatrick
Staff Writer

Former Chicago Bears coach and current sports analyst Mike Ditka will visit MTSU today in the Murphy Center.

Ditka will give a speech for the 17th annual Boys & Girls Club Steak and Burger event. Organizers and supporters are attempting to raise \$150,000 for projects such as after school supplemental education, recreational and physical activities.

"This is the largest fundraiser of the year," said Susan Lyons, marketing director for the Boys and Girls Club. "It's very important that we raise this particular amount due to the fact that it's a quarter of our budget for the year."

In 1961, Ditka played with the Chicago Bears for six sea-



Ditka

sons. He spent two years with the Philadelphia Eagles and was then traded to the Dallas Cowboys.

He spent four seasons with the Dallas Cowboys and caught a touchdown pass that won Super Bowl IV over the Miami Dolphins.

"Ditka was a great speaker to choose for the steak and burger event," Lyons said. "Since this event appealed to men originally, we went through an agency that provides sports celebrities for special events such as Ditka."

Ditka retired in 1972, and Tom Landry of the Dallas Cowboys hired him as a special

teams coach and an offensive assistant.

Ditka later led his own Chicago Bears to the 1985 Super Bowl championship and coached the team until 1992. He also coached the New Orleans Saints from 1997-1999.

Individual tickets for the reception are \$150.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with a pre-event reception at 6 p.m.

"If there are any MTSU students that want to attend the event, they would receive a special discount," Lyons said. "This would help the 300 kids at our three locations, one in Murfreesboro and two in Smyrna. We would [like to] continue serving our kids and provide a safe environment for them to work and play." ♦

Fraternity sponsors ethnic discussion

Black History Month, community leadership topic of forums

By Mealand Ragland
Staff Writer

Men of all shades gathered to discuss Black History Month and its meaning "brother-to-brother" Thursday night.

Sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the discussion ranged from leadership to LeBron James. To chapter president Jimmie Wilson, Black History Month serves as a time for blacks to reflect on the "accomplishments of black men and women." Omar Smith uses it as a time "to remember where we blacks come from."

Moderator and financial secretary Dawson Braden posed a series of questions to those in attendance, one of which included why Black History Month is celebrated the way it

is. "Some people find it offensive that black people even have a month," Braden said.

Others felt differently. According to Wilson, many people don't know when Black History Month is.

"We don't take the time to plan and make it known ahead of time," he said.

Leadership in the black community also came into question. Outside of Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson, there are few leaders to look up to. Kelly Hawkins and LaShawn Lester had similar thoughts.

"The problem isn't the leaders, but the people who choose to follow," Hawkins said.

Lester said there is plenty of potential leadership, but no one is willing to step forward and

take responsibility

Leadership in the community has changed over the years. For instance, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X were considered great leaders for their time.

"Would they be effective today?" Wilson asked.

People see athletes and entertainers, such as Master P and Magic Johnson, as today's leaders.

"There's nothing wrong with having a celebrity as a leader, as long as they use their power to uplift the community," Smith said.

As soon as athletes came up, LeBron James became a topic. All those in attendance agreed that James needs a role model to help him handle everything he has on his plate.

"He didn't ask for any of

See Discussion, 2

Discussion: Minority talks held monthly

Continued from 1

the fame or talent he got. He was blessed. But he needs somebody to help him through it," MTSU rap talent Will 'Big Fella' Sims said.

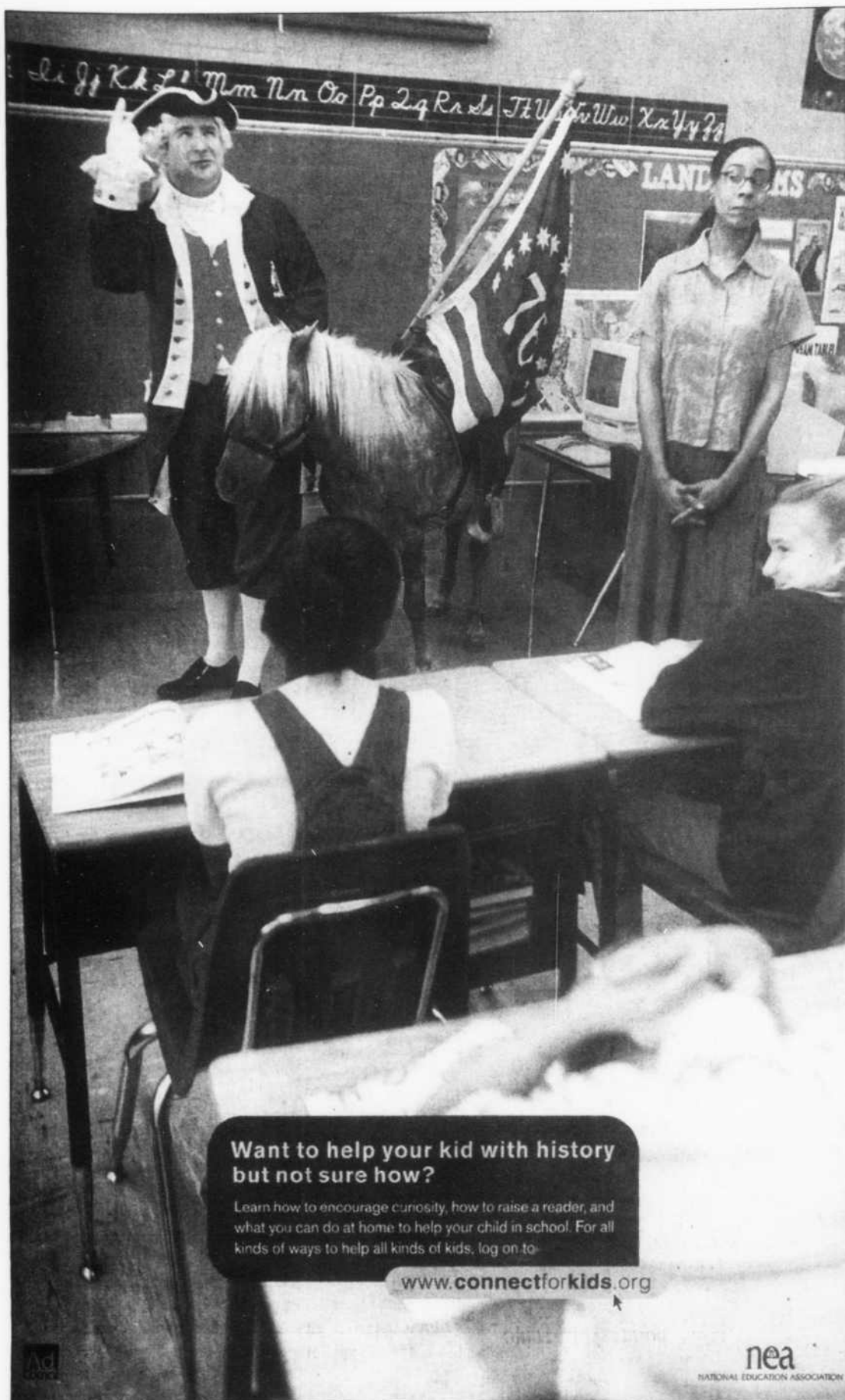
The night ended with a question: "How can we [blacks] keep

the dream of unity alive?" Braden said he sees unity as the major struggle facing blacks today.

Alpha Phi Alpha holds forums once a month. The purpose of the meetings, according to Wilson, is to "bring minority men together and talk about

anything that's on our minds."

Past topics include leadership in the black community and the importance of black men in families. More information on the chapter's activities will be displayed throughout campus as the semester continues. ♦



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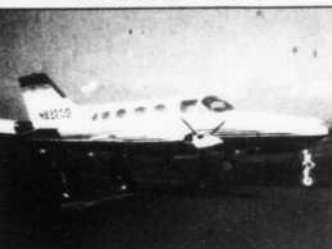
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who

anyone who is called to
minister to youth

War: University has emergency plan in place

Continued from 1

many protests have gone on locally, as well as nationally and globally, reflecting some viewpoints on the situation.

A protest was held in New York City Feb. 15 as part of an unprecedented worldwide anti-war protest. That day protesters around the world filled the streets in Athens, Rome, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Melbourne, Barcelona, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Auckland, Seoul, Manila and Tokyo in a demonstration against war with Iraq.

Locally, MT Solidarity is sponsoring a protest March 5, urging MTSU students to join students all across America for a day of protest and action against the war in conjunction with the National "Books Not Bombs" Student Strike.

Many professors expressed opinions on the possible war and what countries the United States needs support from.

"Our need is for other nations to join with us in declaring the kind of peace that will be preserved [in a war with Iraq]," said Richard Hannah, an

economics and finance professor. "This we cannot do on our own. The hope we should harbor is that all nations, including the U.S., can find better ways of reaching higher moral ground. If we don't produce students with more global views, then we condemn ourselves to smaller situations doomed to failure when stood on the global stage."

Political science professor Andrei Korobkov agreed with Hannah.

"We need Western Europe the future of NATO and Turkey to support this war," Korobkov said. "The problem, meanwhile, is that this conflict has become highly personalized on both sides, and the image of the president is practically irreparable in Western Europe. And, quite frankly, it is extremely profitable for the politicians out there to irritate him."

A war with Iraq would affect the university in many ways.

"A war with Iraq would impact the university as well as the nation," said university President Sidney McPhee. "We have a number of faculty as well as students in the military and could be called up; we would

have to adhere to the needs of the students by finding replacement faculty."

The university also has an emergency plan for any crisis and guidelines to address a crisis situation from the state's Homeland Security office.

"Our crisis management plan outlines how we would handle getting information to students if an attack occurred," McPhee said. "Student Affairs would also play a role in getting the communication out."

On an international level, many nations support the United States, but some of America's most important and long-standing allies expressed concerns about going to war with Iraq.

Ironically, Great Britain, one of the United States' key players in going to war with Iraq, stated that "More time and space is needed for UN inspectors" according to a Feb. 3 issue of *Time* magazine.

Canada, China, France, Germany, India and Russia stand in opposition to the war, as do Arab nations such as Egypt, Jordan and Syria according to *Time*. ♦

Camp: Citizens welcome to visit site

Continued from 1

Living conditions worsened in Iraq ever since the economic sanctions began after the Gulf War. The United Nations has verified that since June 1997, more than 1.2 million people in Iraq, including 750,000 children under the age of five, died because of the scarcity of food and medicine due to these sanctions.

The volunteers believe the issue of war can be solved peacefully, without bloodshed. To do this, Leber said, the U.S. government needs to stop the

sale of weapons and military aid to foreign nations and should remove the economic sanctions that withhold much-needed supplies in Iraq, such as chlorine for drinking water.

"We [the United States] need to support the United Nations in its work," Leber said, referring to the weapons inspection teams in Iraq.

Jennifer Rogers, an MTSU graduate observing the event Monday night, felt the demonstration and the speakers were very opinionated.


"I need more concrete facts, not just opinion [about the

pending war]. What do they propose our country do instead of war?" Rogers asked.

Wise describes "Faces of Collateral Damage" as "people who are killed or harmed without any prior planning." He also said that this war would not produce collateral damage, but a literal slaughter.

The rest of the week, people are welcome to visit, question and learn about Iraqi history, cultures and faiths.

For more information, call the Nashville Peace and Justice Center at (615) 321-9066. ♦



One out of every six children in America is living in a state of poverty. And that's one too many American dreams broken. One too many American childhoods at risk, threatened by the daily struggle to secure enough food, enough shelter, enough medicine just to survive. Nearly 12,000,000 precious lives hanging in a brutally uncertain balance. Sixteen percent of all our children — a poverty rate that's higher than any other age group. But who cares to notice?

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From the Editorial Board

Peace camp gives unique perspective

It's impossible to experience what an Iraqi refugee's daily life is truly like, but some peace activists are doing the best they can to find out and tell the rest of us about it.

This week in Nashville, these protestors of sorts will camp in tents and eat small portions of lentils and rice every day for a week, simulating life at an Iraqi refugee camp. The demonstration, "Faces of Collateral Damage," is intended to display both how many Iraqis spend their lives and to call attention to the poor and starving at home.

The demonstration also reminds people that the people who will suffer most in a war with Iraq will be the Iraqi people, many of whom do not support Saddam Hussein and who continue to suffer from economic sanctions and post-Gulf War hardship. That is, of course, if they weren't actually killed.

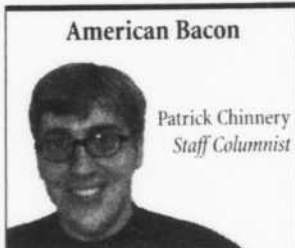
Participants have managed to do something that is all-rare in public protest – promote overlooked issues in a truly thought-provoking manner. While Hussein would most likely not stay in power in the case of war, the people of Iraq, like the Vietnamese, Germans and Japanese before them, would bear the brunt of the blow. The United States has not traditionally been very mindful of collateral damage – a term referring to innocent civilians killed due to combat and the inspiration for the demonstration's title – and this war would likely be no different.

By actually simulating the lifestyle rather than merely describing it, the protestors will be able to paint a more vivid picture for people to see. Any concept is more easily grasped when you can see the conditions and actually taste the food the Iraqis live with.

However, the very real fear that these people hold, both of Hussein's brutal regime and of President George W. Bush's forces, is impossible to demonstrate. On top of inadequate food, water and shelter, they also watch the skies for bombs and dread the possibility of one of Hussein's subordinates coming for them. As much as Americans would like to believe we live in a battleground, no one understands like the Iraqis.

Because of the absence of constant fear, the demonstration does not paint a complete picture, but it's still an interesting and raises important and unanswered questions. ♦

Hussein's evil follies justify war



American Bacon

Patrick Chinnery
Staff Columnist

Saddam Hussein deserves to be removed from power. If that means war with Iraq (and it probably does), so be it.

The latest episode in what has been up to this point a farcical weapons search by the U.N. team highlights Iraq's fundamental opposition to peace. Chief inspector Hans Blix issued a letter to the Iraqi government ordering the destruction of all their Al Samound 2 missiles.

These weapons exceed the firing range set forth in the U.N. sanctions installed after the 1991 Gulf War.

In a hastily-called press conference, Iraqi Gen. Hossam Mohamed Amin stated that his country hadn't expected the missiles to be ordered destroyed. He added that the reason some of the missiles flew past the 92-mile limit when tested was because they were not weighed down by guidance systems. That may or may not be true, but the U.N. order included no exceptions.

According to a Foxnews.com story, Iraq declared that it possessed 75 of these missiles. U.N. officials, however, say that Iraq has 120 to 125. If that country is willing to make a small lie, there's nothing to stop them from making use of a big one.

No anthrax in storage? Right.

We got rid of that VX.

Oh, well – it's best left alone.

After all, morally, there's nothing separating a big lie from a small one.

As the bodies of hundreds of thousands of murdered Kurds can attest to, Saddam isn't concerned with morals.

Many critics of the upcoming war have said that, because the United States was the nation that originally provided Saddam with the weapons of mass destruction in the 1980s, it doesn't have the right to make sure he can't use them.

This argument is flawed, however. When one makes a mistake, it's a grievous thing to not try and correct it. If circumstances dictate that a violent offender must be armed, once the conflict is over, it is foolish to leave him with a weapon.

Of course it's better to ask the criminal to give up his arms before forcibly

taking them. If he refuses, however, it's necessary and proper to use all the means required to disarm him.

It's also the responsible thing to do. Our country's leadership in this situation is taking a stand to right a wrong that previous leaders committed.

Critics like to claim that there is no noble motive, that the Bush administration is taking action only because it and America can benefit from a war.

Of course there will be a benefit – there's no reason to deny that there won't be.

It only adds to the list of reasons to go to war. When there is a moral cause to fight for, monetary and security gains are merely added bonuses.

International opposition is also cited as a reason to avoid war. But international support is not needed. It would be nice to have, as a larger fighting

force could make the war go faster. However, when standing up for what is morally respectable, it doesn't matter if one person, community or nation has to face the world alone. The important thing is that the cause be fought for valiantly.

War is never an easy undertaking, and too often nations engage in conflict for immoral gain.

However, it has been shown that Iraq is not only engaged in wicked acts, but is also a threat to our nation.

Action against that country is not only honorable, it's required if America wants to hold its head up high. ♦

Patrick Chinnery is a senior political science major and can be reached via e-mail at pwc2c@mtsu.edu.

Club incidents should serve as safety example



I'm Just a Girl

Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

After a long week of classes, many college students spend their weekend evenings at various clubs.

Never being a fan of the club scene, I don't really see the appeal of having your ass grabbed by a random drunk. However, I imagine going dancing with friends could be an enjoyable pastime.

Provided, of course, that nothing goes wrong.

The clubbing scene came under scrutiny recently in light of two recent fatal events.

The first occurred roughly a week ago in Chicago. From what I've read (though an investigation is currently underway), the fire-code-violating second floor of a nightclub with too few exits was packed with people. A fight of some sort erupted, and nightclub security attempted to break up the fight with pepper spray.

Panic ensued.

The patrons of the club began frantically trying to escape. Of course, because of the aforementioned too

few exits, this was not an easy task.

With nowhere to go to get away from the evil pepper spray (again, according to the most recent account I could find), people did the only thing resembling logic at the time: they started running over one another.

People trampled each other in their attempts to get down the stairs and out of the door. Twenty-one people died.

I must ask myself, is it really worth it? Dying at a club? You've got to be kidding me.

Granted, I've never given that much thought to my own death, but I'd be pretty pissed if I were out one night and then suddenly thought, "You know, I don't think I'm going to make it."

Less than one week later in Rhode Island, 96 people died in a nightclub fire.

Great White, a heavy metal band, played at a Rhode Island club. The band used pyrotechnics in their show. However, this time it went completely awry.

After the fireworks went off (inside the club – extreme genius thought here), the club went up in flames.

Imagine that – setting off fireworks inside could

cause a fire. Note to self.

Panic ensued.

Those inside the club (thought to be more than the club's capacity would allow) began rushing towards the exits to escape the quickly-growing blaze.

More than 200 people were injured and 96 died from either burns or being trampled while trying to exit the club.

Is there an end to this madness?

Perhaps clubs should pay more attention to how many people are inside at a given point. This could definitely save lives in the event of an emergency.

I would suggest emergency evacuation practice, but I fear a fire drill would only cause more innocent people to die for no reason.

Instead, patrons of nightclubs should always be aware of their surroundings and the quickest exit, should an emergency present itself.

In the meantime, I'll continue to avoid nightclubs, and I hope that bands playing in nightclubs will avoid setting things on fire because it looks cool. ♦

Wendy Caldwell is a sophomore math major and can be reached via e-mail at VISA717@aol.com.

Letter to the Editor

Immoral to ignore reproductive rights

To the Editor:

Since I started classes at MTSU last semester, I've flipped through almost every edition of *Sidelines*. For the first time, I felt the need to respond to a column. I'm referring to the blatantly amateur column written by Wesley Jackson ("Ministers of Death," Feb. 20).

Before publishing a column, any journalist worth mentioning knows his or her words will be analyzed. Jackson obviously did not take such matters into account. His column is both vague and condescending and not even clear regarding of whom he is speaking. He accuses an unnamed party of masterminding some apocalyptic propaganda campaign, bent on the destruction of humanity.

Jackson says "[they] urge the increase of second- and third- trimester abortions." The latest a mother can legally abort a birth is approximately week 15 of gestation (which is the beginning of the second trimester). Third-trimester abortions only take place if the unborn child has an anomaly, which will cause its death immediately after birth, or if the life of the mother is jeopardized during pregnancy or birth. These are called partial birth abortions and, if the need arises, any physician will argue its necessity.

If Jackson believes it immoral for a woman to have an abortion, then I believe it immoral to ignore the lives of the eight women in the world who will die in the next hour due to an unsafe abortion when there is no safe medical environment to have it performed (www.cath4choice.org/abortionfr.htm). A woman's right to choose isn't the "virtue of a progressive society," but has always existed. Women have aborted births since the beginning of civilization. According to HopeClinic.com, the first recorded recipe for a means of abortion through the use of a drug was in 2600 B.C.

If Jackson claims that someone would refer to a fetus as a "blob of tissue," then I suggest he provide a direct quote from a prominent figure, because he's the first to refer to a fetus as a "blob of tissue." I also recommend that he conduct a more thorough investigation and carefully contemplate such serious matters before writing his next blob of a column.

Brad Geary

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines'
occasional
watch for
tunon-heads.

This week's Schmuck is a little something special for all you communists out there.

North Korea has built a model of modern engineering – a 100-mile road that extends from the capitol, Pyongyang, to the demilitarized zone that symbolizes the North Korea-South Korea border. The road was carved out of the countryside, through mountains and valleys, marshes and dry land. It's a wonderment to behold.

Something is a little off, however. As a writer for *Reuters* noted on a recent North Korean government-sponsored trip down the road, the only other vehicles on the road belong to the military, and there aren't many of those.

Why is this marvel so underutilized? Because the oppressive communist government refuses to allow private citizens to own automobiles. The only cars on the road are owned by the government, or are gifts to gold medal-winning Olympians and famous actors. A new brand of car, Hwiparam, has set up shop in the dictatorship of Kim Jong II, but, since no one can buy its products, we can all agree that was a waste of money.

We can bicker all we want about whether or not our country is doing enough to help its



poverty-stricken residents, but when it comes down to it, corrupt third world leaders are the ones who waste millions and millions of dollars on inane projects while millions of their citizens search in vain for enough food to feed their families.

Don't forget their nuclear weapons project, either. There's only one way that it will produce extra food for North Koreans, and that's if there's a terrible accident. We really hope Kim Jong II isn't considering that as an option.

The *Reuters* article noted that one of the vehicles they passed was carrying a dozen people, including some soldiers, resting on sacks of wheat donated by the European Union. If the nation's leadership cared even a whit for the people that keep them in power, they would focus more on feeding them.

Nuclear weapons or not, it's time the United States, and any other nation with a conscience, put more pressure on Kim Jong II to stop starving his people.

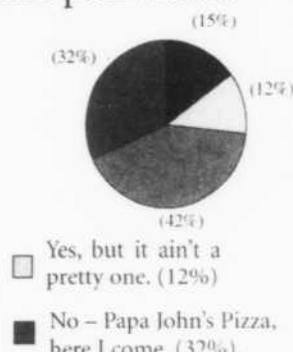
Story from the *Reuters* news agency published Feb. 19. ♦

Sidelines online poll results

Last week, we asked readers, "Have you secured a job after graduation?"

Yes – I have a generous starting salary in my future. (15%)

No – the job market is so horrible, I'm staying in school for another four years. (42%)



Visit www.mtsusidelines.com to answer this week's poll question, "Will the two recent nightclub tragedies affect your clubbing habits?"

Hey man, did you watch the Grammys last night? Tool.

slopinio@mtsu.edu

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Like it, leave it, love it

Shakespeare gives it
to you 'As You Like It'

By Stephanie Hughes
Features Editor

Happiness and love dwell in the souls of all men and women. Seeking them out is the hardest, and sometimes, most painful thing we must do.

"I believe the major theme of 'As You Like It' is that each person has a path to happiness and spiritual fulfillment that is very individual," says Lone Smith, director and adjunct professor of speech and theatre at MTSU. "As You Like It," performed at the Murfreesboro Center for the Arts this past week, is a play about finding happiness and love despite the cost. It mixes satirical romance with the everyday problems and difficulties that come along with love. Happiness manifests itself within the confines of friendship as well as romantic love.

And what better time period to place the play than in the 1960s. It was a flower power

version of "As You Like It," complete with hippie clothing, bean bags, '60s style furniture and oldies music.

Songs such as Elvis' "All Shook Up," The Beatles' "All You Need Is Love" and Sonny and Cher's "I Got You Babe" played during certain scenes and mixed the 60s theme with the pursuit of love.

The music, the scenery of the sets and the lighting combine beautifully and help set the tone of the play.

The play centers around Orlando, son of Sir Rowland, and Rosalind, daughter of Duke Senior.

In the opening scene, Orlando (Josh Croft) is fighting with his brother Oliver (William Fancher) over their inheritance and their father. Orlando is banished from the court just before he falls in love with Rosalind and after he wrestles with Charles, a wrestler for Duke Frederick. The banishment



Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer
Various characters gather in The Forest of Arden to escape the pressures of their individual societies and lives.

forces Orlando to go in search of something greater than wealth or power — love.

The play is set mostly in The Forest of Arden, complete with the people that inhabit it and those who the audience meets along the way. The forest symbolizes freedom and happiness, and those dwelling there are the

epitome of that. The characters come to love the forest and eventually find their true identities.

Rosalind (Ashley Heaston) is the central character and the one who teaches the others about authentic love and happiness. Her enthusiasm for life is evident as she waits for Orlando

to come back to her. After Duke Frederick banishes her from the court because she's in love with Orlando, Rosalind and her cousin Celia (Christina Mahan) leave together in search of happiness. Or, as Celia says, "We go to liberty and not to banishment." The court had become a place of misery and power.

Along the journey, Rosalind and Celia meet many people including Touchstone, a clown, Audrey, a country girl, Silvius, a shepherd and Phebe, a shepherdess. These characters learn much from Rosalind. At this time, Rosalind had disguised herself as a man so she could test Orlando's love for her when he didn't know it was her.

One of the most memorable scenes in the play is toward the end when Rosalind displays great character by standing her ground in the face of adversity. She teaches the other characters that no matter how love manifests itself, if it is true and pure, than that is all that matters.

"The play is about understanding and recognizing love," says Elyce Helford, an MTSU English professor who played Phebe. "The true lovers manage to get past all the superficial stuff."

One of Helford's favorite scenes is when Silvius declares

his love for her (Phebe) and shows that "love is about gentleness, kindness and compassion, not lust." Even before she accepts his love, and even when it hurts him, he continues to declare it by saying, "It is to be made of all sighs and tears, and so am I for Phebe."

After Rosalind tells Phebe to "get down on your knees and fast for his love," she also teaches the other lovers to hold on to what they have no matter how crazy it might seem. And some of it truly is crazy.

Celia and Oliver's love is spontaneous, Touchstone and Audrey's foolish, Silvius and Phebe's pure and Orlando and Rosalind's genuine. Nevertheless, all are still in love. And in the end, they all end up with the ones they love.

"In many ways, the play has a sweet and uplifting plot," Smith says. "It's saying that in a real relationship you have to take the good with the bad and the bad with the good."

"As You Like It" teaches its audience that no matter how you love, love as you like. ♦



Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

Orlando, played by Josh Croft, is assisting Adam, played by Ben Hornsby, after he has passed out. "As You Like It" was performed by various MTSU students and faculty at the Murfreesboro Center for the Arts this past week.

Overcoming Obstacles

Brandy Pounds lives life to the fullest in a wheelchair

By Melanie Blair
Contributor

Brandy Pounds hasn't always been in a wheelchair.

On the evening of July 30, 2000, she took off with her brother Tony and some of his friends on a four-wheeler in her neighborhood. When she miscalculated a turn, the four-wheeler flipped and Brandy landed on top of her head and then on her left shoulder. Tony tried to get her up.

"I can't," she told him. "I can't feel my legs."

Just 24 years old, Brandy was taken to Middle Tennessee Medical Center in Murfreesboro where doctors told her she had fractures to her T-6, T-7 and T-8 vertebrae, two broken ribs and a punctured lung. She was paralyzed from her lower back down and would never walk again.

She was taken to Shepherd Center in Atlanta where she underwent a four-hour surgical procedure on her spinal cord. After therapy and rehabilitation, she came home two and a half months later.

Brandy is now an average junior at

"I'd rather people just come up and ask me why I'm in a wheelchair and get all the awkwardness out of the way first, and then we can just be friends."

— Brandy Pounds
Junior

Middle Tennessee State University except that she goes to class in a wheelchair instead of walking. About 25 to 30 students at MTSU are in wheelchairs, according to the office of Disabled Student Services. Because MTSU is a relatively flat campus, it is more accessible for disabled students than hilly campuses.

Instead of being "a bitter person in a wheelchair," as Brandy puts it, she motivated herself to overcome her disability and live a successful life the best she can.

With a positive attitude, she is a full-time business administration student,

works at State Farm Insurance in Murfreesboro and went through sorority recruitment to join Alpha Delta Pi.

"You're going to have good days and bad days," Brandy explains, "but the most important thing is to separate yourself from the injury. It is out of your control."

Brandy is always willing to talk to people about her accident.

"I'd rather people just come up and ask me why I'm in a wheelchair and get all the awkwardness out of the way first, and then we can just be friends," Brandy says.

She recently sat down with all her

sorority sisters to tell them about her accident and answer their questions in hopes of educating them on disability awareness.

Friend and sorority sister Stephanie Culpepper had the opportunity to work very closely with Brandy this summer.

As the accessibility coordinator for MTSU Campus Recreation, Stephanie asked Brandy to help her come up with events for students with disabilities to participate in. Together, they planned movie outings, a trip to a Nashville Sounds game, picnics and swimming at the Recreational Center, along with other activities. Every activity was completely accessible for people with disabilities.

"I have spoken with Brandy many times about her disability, but never once has she been pessimistic or discouraged," Stephanie says. "I have watched Brandy encourage others and lift up people's spirits, including mine, when many times you would think we should be encouraging her!"

Brandy asked Stephanie to go with her one weekend last July to a camp sponsored by the Shepherd Center.

They met other people with spinal cord injuries and participated in activities such as water skiing, scuba diving, rugby and basketball.

The camp is held at the same lake Brandy learned to ski on with her family before her accident.

Brandy admits that it was hard to attend the camp the first year and learn how to ski all over again at the same lake, only this time using an accessibility apparatus.

"It was as though my past met my present to become my future," Brandy says.

Another friend, Grace Henrikson, says that Brandy has taught her to feel comfortable asking people about their disabilities.

"Brandy's perspective and outlook is a constant source of inspiration," Grace exclaims. "Instead of letting her disability rule her life, she overcomes it."

"Instead of letting it make her bitter, she thinks of it as a way to better herself and the other people around her. She is more than happy to tell people about why she is in a wheelchair if they

See Brandy, 5

Campus Events

Feb. 24 – Mar. 1

MTSU Fine Arts presents "Bowling for Columbine" in the Keathley University Center Theater. "Bowling for Columbine" is a film about the violence and bloodshed in American society today. The film starts at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and at 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. For more information, call 898-2551.

Feb. 24

"Word Beat," a project that combines compositions and words by various authors, will be taking place tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the Cyber Café. The evening will include poetry, African chants and various gospel works. The event is free and open to everyone.

The Spring 2003 Honors College Lecture Series, "Cultures and Customs" presents "An American in Paris." The lecture will be given by Shelley Thomas, French professor, from 3-3:50 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 109A. For more information, call 898-2152.

Feb. 27

The MTSU Night with Nashville Predators will be taking place at the Gaylord Entertainment Center on Thursday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. Admission is \$17. For more information, call 904-8564.

Feb. 27 – Mar. 1

A Women's Conference will be held in the James Union Building. For more information, call 898-5961.

Brandy:

Continued from 1

only ask."

And Brandy wants people to ask.

"If I could just educate one person so that if they see someone in a wheelchair they don't see the chair first ... that you could ask why they're in it, get it out of the way and go on. That's what I want," Brandy says.

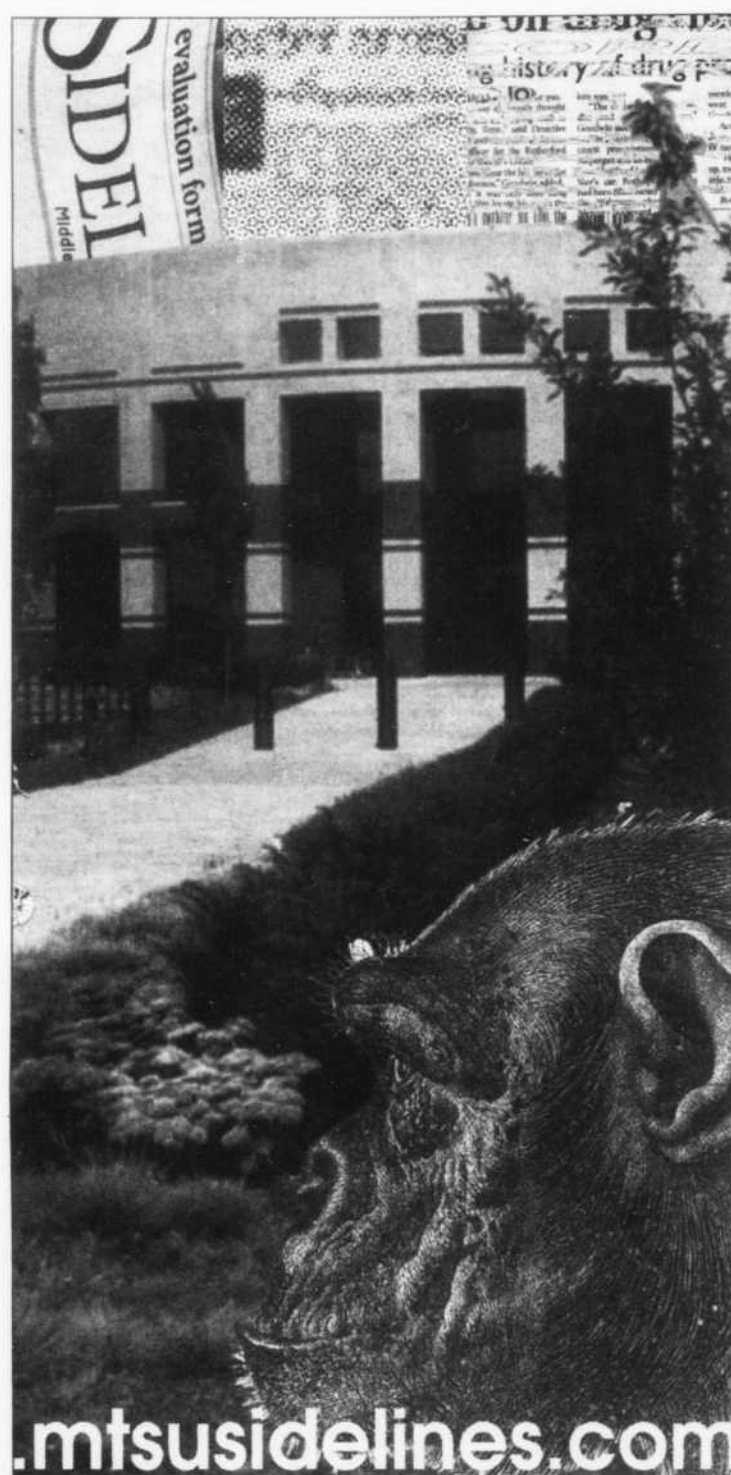
She wants to inform and educate people about spinal cord injuries and also encourage people to look past disabilities to see the real person within.

Brandy had a lever added to her car that she pulls down for gas and pushes forward to brake. She is able to get around in her wheelchair and do many things on her own.

She has never felt that she can't overcome the challenges she faces because of her disability.

"Disability is the condition which one may have, but a handicap is a limitation placed on an individual by themselves or by society," Brandy explains. "I have a disability and I have handicaps, but I'm not handicapped."

Brandy admits that being in a wheelchair affects many aspects of her life. Every day isn't always a good day, and sometimes she is in a great deal of pain. But she keeps rolling along and always keeps a smile on her face. ♦



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Lady Raiders clinch first round bye with win over Panthers

By Osby Martin
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee (16-10, 9-4 SBC) clinched second place in the Sun Belt East division and a first round bye in the tournament with a 61-57 win over Florida International (16-9, 7-5 SBC) on Saturday at the Murphy Center.

MT honored seniors Mia Parviainen and Paula Penttila in the final home game of the season. The duo returned the favor with a solid effort on the court. Penttila hit a monster trey with 55 seconds left to play that gave the Lady Raiders a four-point

advantage.

"I missed all of my other three pointers, but that was the important one. I am just glad that I hit it," Penttila said. "This was a really big win. We were focused on this game, and we had a really good game plan."

However, the Lady Raiders would not be denied the win. Penttila hit a pair of free throws and guard Patrice Holmes was clutch, knocking down three of four free throws to ice the game. The Lady Raiders have won five in a row and seven of their last eight contests. The win for the Lady Raiders was big in many ways.

"It [the win] is big for us because it gave us five [wins] in a row for the first time this season," said head coach Stephany Smith. "The seniors got to go out on a winning note in their final game at the Murphy Center."

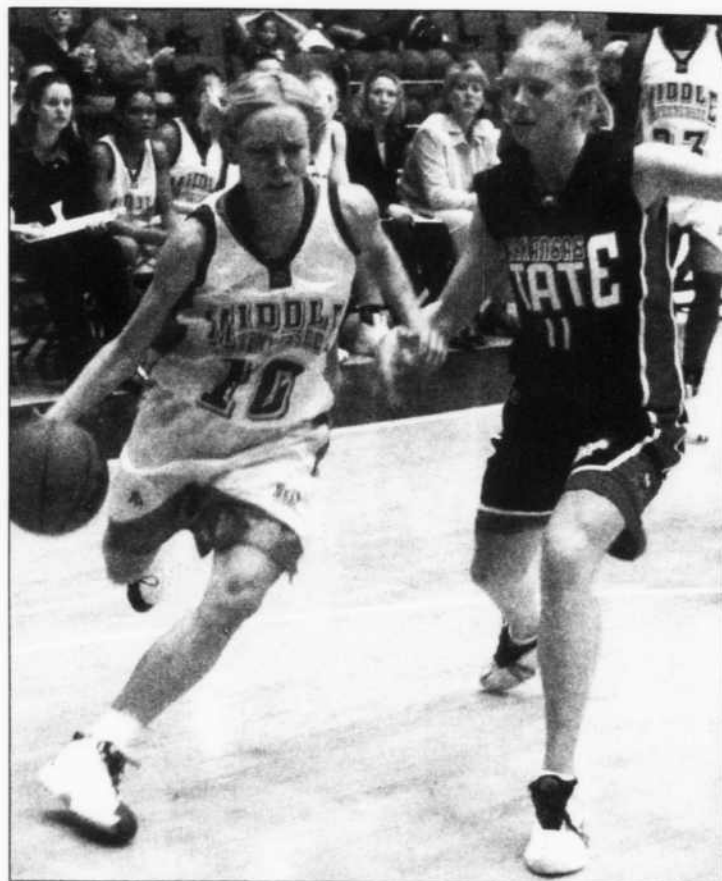
"We finished with No. 2 seed and a first round bye in the conference tournament which is big because it put us on the opposite side of the bracket from FIU and Western Kentucky."

Tia Stovall led MT with 16 points (10 in the first half), Holmes recorded her fourth double double of the season with 15 points and 11 rebounds

and Penttila also added 11 points in her final home game.

Cormisha Cotton led FIU with 16 points and 11 rebounds, Ivelina Vrancheva chipped 12 points and Anita Heller added 11 with 10 points.

Middle Tennessee closes out the regular season on Saturday, March 1, when they travel to Bowling Green, Ky., to take on Western Kentucky. Tip-off is set for 12:30 p.m. in E.A. Diddle Arena followed by the men at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are still available for the games. Go by the ticket office or call 1-800-YES-MTSU to purchase the tickets. ♦



File Photo

Paula Penttila made the last shot in Saturday's game.

Seniors Paula Penttila and Mia Parviainen play final home game as Lady Raiders

By Trey Porter
Staff Writer

Saturday was a day of closure for two Lady Raiders as Middle Tennessee hosted Florida International at the Murphy Center.

Prior to the game, friends, coaches and administrators rec-

ognized seniors Paula Penttila and Mia Parviainen at half court. This was their last home game.

Penttila, a 5-foot-9-inch guard from Finland, has done tremendous things since she became a Blue Raider. As a freshman, Penttila played in all 29 games and made six starts.

In the opening game of her sophomore season against Tennessee State, Penttila had a career-high six steals. She finished sixth in the league in assist/turnover ratio.

Penttila's junior year was all about consistency and leadership. Against New Mexico, the Finland native took eighth place

on the three-point list with two bombs from outside, which put her tally up to 212 on her career.

As a senior, she continued to lead by example on and off the court. Penttila was accepted to medical school in Finland last year and could have started this

See Seniors, 8

Men's basketball looks ahead to SBC tourney

By Osby Martin
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee (14-12, 9-4 SBC) clinched at least a second place finish in the East Division of the Sun Belt Conference with an 80-70 win over Florida International (7-18, 1-11 SBC) in Miami Saturday night.

The Blue Raiders started the contest with a 17-2 run and never looked back. MT was on fire, shooting the basketball especially well in the second half. As a team, they shot 60 percent from the floor (73 percent in the second half), 62 percent from the three-point line (making all four attempts in the second half) and 82 percent from the charity stripe (with an 85 percent clip in the second half).

"We played awfully well tonight. We played about as well as we have all year in stretches, especially offensively," said MT head coach Kermit Davis. "We executed our set plays really well, and I think that our assist-to-turnover ratio was pretty good. William Pippen was just outstanding tonight."

The win marked the eighth time in the last 10 games that the Blue Raiders won. MT will need some help to win the East Division. MT's win over FIU, combined with Arkansas-Little Rock's loss to UL-Lafayette,

gives MT at least second place in the East Division of the Sun Belt and a first round bye in the conference tournament. If the Hilltoppers drop next Tuesday's contest against the Ragin' Cajuns, MT could play for first place in the season finale at Western Kentucky.

Tommy Gunn scored 17 points, leaving him only one point shy of the 1,000-point mark for his career. Should Gunn score again this season, he will become the 26th player in school history to reach the millennium milestone.

William Pippen led MT matching his career-high 32 points (four of five from three-point land), Tommy Gunn added 17 points and seven rebounds and Napoleon Rhodes and John Humphrey chipped in with eight points each.

Junior Matias led FIU with 20 points and eight rebounds. Eulis Baez contributed with 18 points and nine rebounds, and Fab Fisher added 15 points.

MT will conclude the regular season in Bowling Green, Ky., March 1 against Western Kentucky. Tip-off is set for 3 p.m. Tickets are still available for the game and tickets include seats at the women's game as well. Go by the ticket office or call 1-800-YES-MTSU to purchase the tickets. ♦

Rugby



Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

MT Mooseman Cayo Nicolau attempts to grab the ball in the 81-6 rout of Western Kentucky. The Moosemen played in the USA Rugby South Playoff tournament over the weekend at Vanderbilt University. Results from the tournament were not available at press time.

Tyson knocks out Etienne in 49 seconds

By Tim Dahlberg
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — There's still some badness left in Iron Mike after all.

Saturday night, Mike Tyson showed he could still punch with devastating effect, flattening Clifford Etienne just 49 seconds into the fight with a savage right hand reminiscent of Tyson in his prime.

Etienne turned out to be easy. Tyson's problems outside the ring remain a riddle he can't solve.

"I've got issues I've got to deal with," Tyson said. "I'm in pain, and I've got some serious demons I am fighting."

Tyson returned to the only place he knows solace — a boxing ring — to knock Etienne out. This was a win Tyson desperately needed to keep hopes of future big fights with Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield alive.

Tyson knocked Etienne flat on his back in the middle of the ring, and he lay there as referee Bill Clancy counted him out. The fight that seemed destined never to happen came to a sudden end.

"I cancelled too many fights

in my career," Tyson said. "I wasn't afraid. He needed the money. I always need money."

Tyson then leaned over and helped Etienne to his feet as the crowd of 15,171 in the Pyramid Arena erupted in glee.

"Maybe I'm just a domesticated animal," Tyson said.

Fighting in the same ring where Lewis gave him a beating last June, Tyson went right after Etienne, who cooperated by standing in front of Tyson and punching back.

Doing that proved a mistake when Tyson threw a right punch that landed flush on Etienne's jaw and sent him sprawling to the canvas.

It was the sixth quickest knockout for Tyson and the 16th in the first 1:33 of the first round or less. He needed it badly.

"To be honest, I'm not ready to fight him [Lewis] at this time," Tyson said. "I need more fights. I don't want to get beat up again."

While Etienne was on his back, Tyson was complaining about his.

"I broke my back. I don't even know how I'm standing.

See Tyson, 8

Raiders washed out in home opener against JSU

Staff Reports

The weekend's wet weather postponed two games of Middle Tennessee's three game series with Jacksonville State University, but it was the visiting Gamecocks that washed the Blue Raiders off the field 11-5 in Friday's home opener.

MT (0-1) dropped their first home opener since 1996 after they jumped on top of JSU (2-3) early in the first inning with a three-run homer by sophomore Nate Jagers. But an eight inning hitting drought dried hopes of a Blue Raider win as JSU poured on 11 runs of 15 hits over the next six frames.

MT showed early season fielding problems in the contest as they placed four marks in the error column next to JSU's zero. The Gamecocks, who came into the game with the advantage of having playing time on the field already in 2003, had scored 16

errors in their first four outings this year.

JSU hurler Jessie Corn was instrumental in the Blue Raiders' collapse at the plate, as the Gamecocks pitcher sat down 21 straight MT batters. Junior John Williams got the nod from MT head coach Steve Peterson to start the game from the mound. The lefty fought control problems in his four innings of work, tossing three walks and giving up three runs off six hits.

JSU and MT stayed knotted at three all until the fifth frame when the Gamecocks took advantage of Blue Raider hurler Chase Swing. Swing gave up four runs on two hits in three innings of work to take the loss for MT.

Jacksonville had two more runs gift wrapped by MT after a fielding error in the eighth

See Baseball, 8



Photo by Kevin Jones | Staff Photographer

A Blue Raider slides into home during Friday's game.



By David Lawrence
Staff Columnist

Only three things in life are certain: death, taxes and Ron Harris' inability to wrestle.

Yet he proved us wrong during last week's Total Nonstop Action performance when the Harris Twins, Ron and Heavy D, challenged America's Most Wanted for the World Tag Team titles. A.M.W. won, but what amazed me most in this match was that Ron Harris really tried to wrestle for a change. James Storm and Chris Harris still carried the match though.

Raven and Low-Ki teamed up to fight the Sandman and Steve Corino. TNA has done more with Raven in two weeks than the WWE did in two years. The match was better than the singles match Raven and the Sandman had last time. My only complaint was that it ended too soon. For about five minutes, Raven nailed the Sandman with a DDT to win. But for those five minutes, it was like ECW all over again.

The biggest match of the night was NWA World

NWA:TNA Wrestling Insider

Heavyweight champ Jeff Jarrett fighting challenger A.J. Styles. There was some interference, mostly by the Harris Twins and Sonny Siaki, but Jarrett was able to continue the match and pin Styles cleanly for the win.

X-title champ Kid Kash and Trinity took on Paul London. The match was short and sweet, and Kash retained his title against London.

There was a surprise appearance this week, as Leon "Vader" White made his TNA debut. Vader sided with Dusty Rhodes, and the two of them are set to challenge the Harris Twins next week.

Jerry Lynn fought the Spanish Announce Team, Joel and Jose Maximo, in a handicap match. Konnan has allied himself with the S.A.T.s and it looks like the feud between the Luchadores and the X-division is heating up, especially after Lynn defeated both Maximo brothers.

In yet another surprise appearance, TNA welcomed Jonah, who first appeared on the wrestling scene on the television show "Tough Enough."

In his debut, Jonah "No Last Name Needed" turned down Vince Russo's offer to join S.E.X. and got into a fight with Mike Sanders. The match itself was decent, but Sanders brought "fighting dirt" to a whole new level as an unnamed woman distracted Jonah by flashing her breasts at him. Unable to cope with the sight, the younger man was easily pinned by Sanders.

Finally, The Gift, formally known as Disco Inferno, revealed the exact reason why he was chasing after "The Flying Elvis" Jorge Estrada: he needed the jumpsuit for his protégé-Disgraceland. To prove himself worthy of such a great opponent as The Gift, Disgraceland took on Shark Boy and a fried peanut butter and banana sandwich. Disgraceland devoured both opponents in the ring, although he only pinned Shark Boy.

As always, if you want to see the magic live, head on down to Sports Arena at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. General Admission is \$10 and ringside seats are \$15. ♦

Lady Raiders pull off wins over East Tennessee State University

By David Lawrence
Staff Writer

In their first home game of the season, the Lady Raiders earned a solid victory over East Tennessee in the front end of a doubleheader.

The Lady Raiders started off strong last Wednesday getting three runs in the first inning and keeping the advantage the entire game, winning six to five.

Sophomore Dani Camino hit the first home run of the season during the first game, the fifth home run of her career.

Cortney Mitchell, a transfer student from the University of Arkansas, made a big impression on the crowd when she hit a home run over the fence near the bottom of the sixth inning, breaking the 4-4 tie.

The Lady Raiders won the second game of the doubleheader, beating East Tennessee again, seven to six. Scoring three runs in the first inning, the Lady Raiders kept the heat on the other team. ETSU managed to score one run in the top of the first inning, and the rest of the game was evenly matched. The Lady Raiders tied in the fifth, 5-5, but they regained the lead in the sixth inning, going on to victory.

Sadly, mother nature was not on the team's side. The highly anticipated game against Samford, which would have been part of the MT Classic, and the later game against Spalding were both cancelled

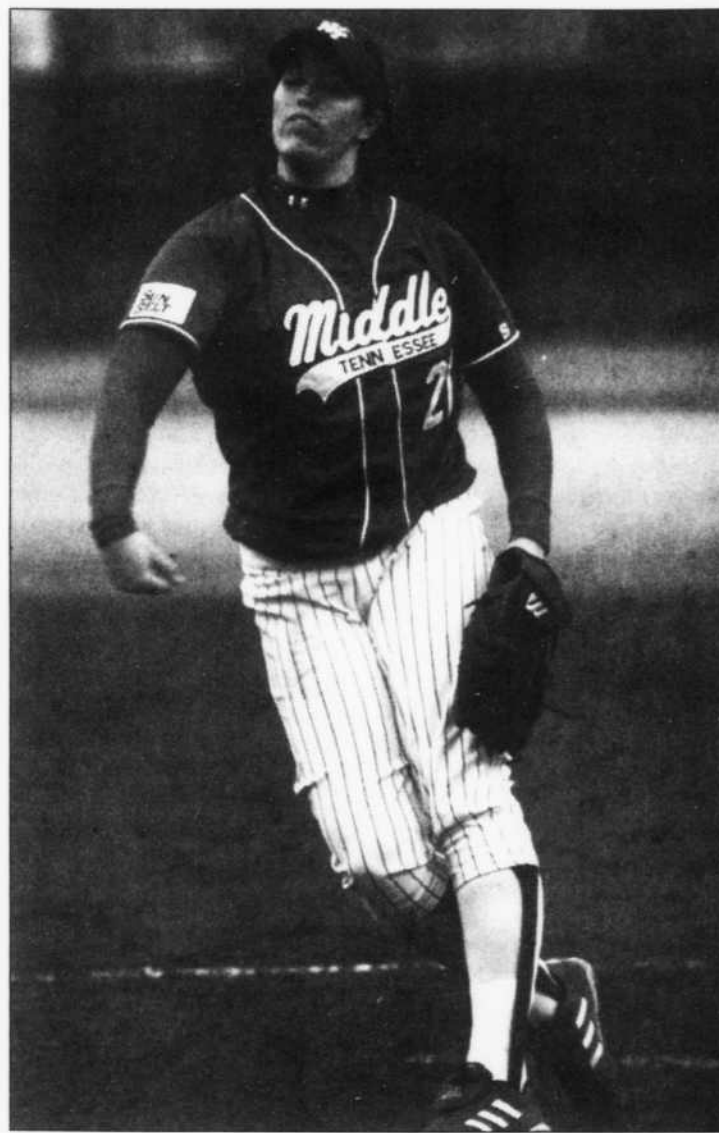


Photo by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer

Senior Lady Raider pitcher Stacy Preator started during both games against East Tennessee.

due to rain. The games have yet to be rescheduled.

The Lady Raiders will go to

Nashville to play Belmont University on Feb. 26. ♦



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Seniors: Lady Raiders face Hilltoppers on Saturday

Continued from 6

fall. She chose to come back and play out her senior year.

"It really shows her commitment to basketball and the kind of senior leadership we can expect from her," head coach Stephany Smith said.

Mia Parviainen is a shooter. The 6-foot-1-inch guard and forward played good ball for Middle Tennessee the past four years. As a freshman, Parviainen played in 25 games with six starts.

Her sophomore year she played in 30 games with 12 starts, including eight straight minutes through the season. Parviainen had surgery on her hamstring in late June 2001 and minor surgery on her right foot in September. Those injuries hindered her performance early

and throughout the season.

Changes came with her senior year on the court. She was asked to move positions.

"Mia is being asked to step outside her normal position and play a power forward position instead of shooting guard. It really shows her willingness to do whatever is needed to make the team the best it can be," Smith said.

In the senior finale on Saturday, the Lady Raiders triumphed over Florida International 61-57, in part by the stellar leadership and play of their two seniors. Parviainen turned in a tough defensive effort, while Penttila drained a three-pointer with 0.55 seconds left to play to seal the win for MT. It was a great ending for two great players. ♦

Baseball: Jaggars' pitching key in Jacksonville State win

Continued from 6

before earning another pair of runs off a Bobby Hicks two RBI double. Hicks went 4-for-5 in the contest from JSU.

Jaggars, who grabbed a second homerun knock of the afternoon in the ninth, and

Chuck Akers' pair of singles led Middle Tennessee at the plate. JSU's B.J. Burns also had a straight steal of home for Jacksonville.

Middle Tennessee and JSU were scheduled to remake the final two games of the series Sunday afternoon. ♦



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Tyson: Former heavyweight champ wants more fights

Continued from 6

"It's a miracle," Tyson said, adding that it was an injury from an old motorcycle accident. "The doctor took me to the pain center, and I wasn't supposed to fight. But, what am I supposed to do? I'm going to take care of my family."

A doctor later said Tyson's back was a chronic problem, but nothing that would keep him from fighting.

His problems outside the ring might, though, just as they almost ruined this comeback fight.

"I like doing other things," Tyson said in a rambling post-

fight press conference. "I like getting high, hanging out with my kids. I like drinking. I like doing other things."

When the fight began, Tyson came out slugging, landing a few punches before Etienne grabbed him and pushed him into the ropes.

The two wrestled, and Tyson

fell to a knee.

The action resumed, and Tyson missed with a left hook before connecting with the punch that ended the fight.

"I can't say it was an exciting performance. It didn't last too long," Etienne said. "But it was two warriors in the ring." ♦

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Deadline for Applications:

**Thursday
March 6, 2003
at 4:00 p.m.**

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



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Research Coach gives students an opportunity to seek help at all steps in the research process. The coaches will provide guidance in selecting most appropriate resources, brainstorming for topics, proper citation, creating bibliographies, and a deeper understanding of information seeking.



Research Coach

The first season of Research Coach will be February 17, 2003 - February 28, 2003

The hours will be from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Call Kaye Condit at 904-8530 to schedule an appointment

Bring your assignment with you!