

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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Farrar's contract not renewed

By Rob Nunley / staff

Middle Tennessee State officials announced yesterday that the contract of head men's basketball coach David Farrar will not be renewed.

The decision to dismiss Farrar was announced by MTSU Athletic Director Lee Fowler after a lengthy meeting with President James Walker.

The administration's decision was scheduled to be announced Friday after Farrar returned from an out-of-town trip. Farrar cancelled his trip, however, allowing the process of his dismissal to be concluded more rapidly.

"It is never a pleasant experience to let a coach go," Fowler said. "But the team's progress on the court had not been as great as we had hoped and there have been divisions among fans and supporters of the program. The decision for a change in leadership comes primarily from an effort to restore a sense of unity behind our men's basketball program."

Farrar, who coached the Blue Raiders for five seasons during which his overall record was 61-73, came to Middle Tennessee State in 1991 after five successful seasons as head coach at Hutchinson Community College in Kansas.

The 1995-96 Blue Raiders finished the season with an overall record of 15-12. Middle lost its last three games, including an 89-69 defeat at the hands of Tennessee Tech in the first round of this year's Ohio Valley Conference tournament last Thursday night.



Brian G. Miller / staff

In five years at the helm of the Blue Raiders, David Farrar led Middle Tennessee to a 61-73 overall record.

Blue Raider assistant coach Chris Starks, who joined Farrar's staff in the summer of 1993 as director of student life, commented on the Athletic Department's decision.

"I'm disappointed in the decision," Starks said. "I feel for coach Farrar,

and I especially feel for the players. I'll miss them and I'll miss the university."

"It was going to happen sooner or later," Starks said of the decision. "We knew it was going to happen, we were just waiting. We'll live through

this."

Farrar and two of his senior players fielded several questions on the topic of his job security after last Thursday's loss.

Please see FARRAR on page 2

Facilities adopt modified hours during holiday

By Christina A. Ginn / staff

Several campus facilities will shut down over Spring Break while others will operate on an abridged schedule.

The library will be closed Sunday and Saturday, March 16, according to Julie Height, assistant dean of Todd Library. It will remain open other days from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and regular library hours will resume Sunday, March 17.

The Recreation Center will close Friday at 6 p.m. and won't open again until 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 17, according to officials in the Recreation Center.

All cafeterias on campus will close Friday after lunch and will not open again until Sunday afternoon, according to Frank Meyers, assistant director of Food Services. The Grill will be closed except for Gretel's Sweet Shop. Gretel's will serve cold sandwiches, muffins and yogurt, Meyers said.

Students who live in dormitories will have to pay an extra \$43.50 to live on campus throughout Spring Break. The charge is \$49.41 for campus apartments. Housing officials said students should speak with their resident assistant or hall director to make any arrangements for the week.

The Office of Information Technology has reported that all MTSU Internet services will remain up and running. The office itself will also be keeping regular business hours.

***Campus police will be checking for illegally parked cars next week but won't be checking tag colors.

All university offices will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ●

Changes to Electoral Act finalized

By Heather Hybarger / staff

Changes suggested by administrators to the Comprehensive Electoral Act of 1996 were passed unanimously by both the Student Government Association (SGA) House and Senate this week.

The changes, requested by Vice President for Student Affairs Robert LaLance were presented to the Senate on Monday and passed by acclamation, while the House also voted unanimously on Wednesday.

SGA President Shane McFarland and LaLance must approve of the changes before they become a part of the Electoral Act.

There was no mention of changing the Electoral Act in accordance with the referendum passed by students last week in LaLance's list of suggestions.

The referendum specified the SGA Constitution be changed so spring elections could be held at any time during the spring semester. The constitution had previously required elections be held in March.

Due to Spring Break and Tennessee primary elections, voting booths could not be acquired in March for SGA elections.

According to Speaker of the House Jamie Groce, any references to March in both the SGA Constitution and the Electoral Act were changed to refer to the spring semester when the referendum was passed. ●

Proposed evolution bill fosters debate

By Mark T. Gibson / staff

The Raider Victory Fellowship sponsored Tuesday's debate "Evolution and Creation: Fact vs. Faith" to discuss a state Senate bill which would make illegal the teaching of evolution as scientific fact. The state attorney general has warned that the proposed legislation is illegal, and Hedy Weinburg, director of the American Civil Liberties Union, has been quoted as saying "we have teachers lining up to become the first ones to teach evolution as fact."

She has warned that the ACLU will sue the state if the legislation is passed.

Todd Whitney, president of Raider Victory Fellowship, said the purpose of the meeting was to "find out where the student body is as far as their opinion of evolution and where to focus our outreach."

Rick Walters, introduced as "a campus minister," moderated the discussion. Walters said he is an employee of Campus Ministries International headquartered in Norcross, Ga.

"What I really want to talk about tonight is: is evolution science, fact, theory or is it faith?" Walters said. "I'll say right up front that my belief is that evolution is faith."

"Evolution . . . is taking facts in the present and [saying] we can figure out what happened in our past, how we got here: the origin of man, the origin of life, the origin of our world and our universe," Walters said. "It is taking things in the present and extrapolating back to the past and saying this is how we got here."

"All we have in the present is the fossils, the earth's strata, everything we've got to look at. That does not

prove anything about the past. They can give us an idea or we can solve the mystery [or] possibly give us an indication about what was in the past, but no one was in the past to watch the origin of life."

"So, my contention is that evolution is not science," Walters said.

Walters said evolution research is similar to a "murder mystery" novel where a reader might assume that "the butler did it" and then "look for evidence" to support that theory. Walters accused scientists of "presupposing" that evolution is the truth and then altering facts and ignoring contradictory evidence in order to support their theory.

Walters told the group that evolution is not scientific because there is no predictability or experimental testability of the theory. Patrick J. Doyle, MTSU professor of biology, disagreed with Walters' comments, and Doyle refuted several of Walters' points.

Doyle said the evolution theory predicts that bacteria might adapt to become resistant to antibiotics, citing several strains of bacteria-caused disease which are now antibiotic resistant.

Walters conceded that "micro-evolution" is observable "and obvious," but it in no way supports "macro-evolution" because the bacteria are still bacteria and do not evolve to become another life form.

Walters said Gregor Mendel had experimented with pea plants, and his subjects remained pea plants after his genetic experiments.

"The Bible says that we were all created in kinds," Walters said. "A monkey and a human cannot reproduce; they are not the same kind."

Biology student John McGhee said



Brian G. Miller / staff

Rick Walters, a campus minister from Norcross, Ga., speaks during Tuesday's debate "Evolution and Creation: Fact vs. Faith."

the analogy was incorrect because some monkeys cannot breed with each other.

Denise Weyer said that human mutations are known to occur, but Walters said that extreme mutations could not mate with each other and so could not be a mechanism of evolution.

Walters said, "It's been shown that Ramapithecus, Australopithecines, Peking Man, Java Man, Piltdown Man, Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon Man were all hoaxes" or have been "thrown out" as proof of evolution.

Many students disagreed intensely with that statement, noting that only

the Piltdown Man has been shown to be a hoax, and none of the cases cited are considered counter-evolutionary. Walters did not change his statement, and said that "it's well-known that Neanderthal Man was just some guy with rickets."

Rickets is a disease caused by a vitamin deficiency.

Although many of the arguments grew heated, no one appeared angry.

When asked if he believed it appropriate to teach religion in the science classroom, he said, "faith is already in the science classroom, and we want creationism to be taught side-by-side with it." ●

INSIDE

Artist brings mixed-media 'Rite of Dreams' Page 3

WEATHER

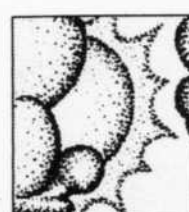
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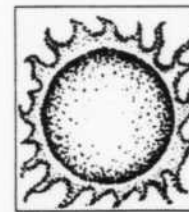
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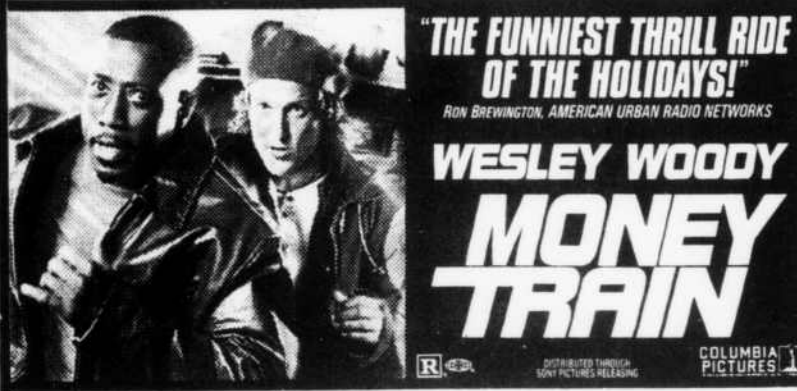
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SPORTS

Lady Raiders lose OVC title to Austin Peay Page 7

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Mad Insanity, + Ghetto Souljahs
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FARRAR: players opposed to coach's dismissal

continued from page 1

"I think that if one game was to determine my future than I would say that wouldn't be real good because we weren't very good today," Farrar said. "I never have felt the pressure to win one game. If that's the evaluation of what we do at Middle Tennessee State, then that's the way it will go."

The Blue Raiders were on probation for NCAA violations for the first two years of Farrar's tenure at Middle Tennessee.

The fact that the probation period may have been a factor in delaying the Raiders' return to success was stressed by Tim Gaither, Farrar's first high school recruit.

"I think it's crazy," Gaither said of his coach's situation. "He came in when things were down, I came in when things were down. Our team was on probation and I don't think he's really ever been given a fair chance."

Farrar admitted that his

"The way in which this has been handled has made it very unenjoyable for our kids, and that is the biggest shame of the entire thing."

David Farrar
Former MTSU head
basketball coach

program, which finished the season with 15-12 record, was not as successful as it possibly could have been.

"We won 15 games, we could've won some more," Farrar said.

"We were in every game we played until this one. I like my kids so much that I think we did have the possibility to be a really good basketball team."

"We were a very competitive basketball team, but our kids and myself feel like we should have won some more games."

"How other people choose to evaluate me or our players doesn't really influence us," the coach added. "We're the hardest critics that we have. I evaluate my program, and if you went to put down 10 things that are important, winning would be one of them."

"That one remains to be questionable in my opinion. The other nine by anybody's imagination or anybody's evaluation would be very, very high."

Both Farrar and his players admitted that the question of his job security proved to be distracting on the court this season.

"I do think that for whatever it's worth that the way in which this has been handled has made it very unenjoyable for our kids, and that is the biggest shame of the entire thing," Farrar said.

"It should not rest upon a kid's performance in terms of how their coach is evaluated, although it ultimately does for everybody. I don't think our kids have been able to have some of the fun that they would have had otherwise."

"Being a senior, I've had a lot of the guys come up to me all year and ask me 'have you heard anything'," said center Brent Secrest.

"The way our team is and the way he's handled us, we're a really tight group."

"It's hard to play through," Secrest said of this year's coaching controversy.

"We play through distractions every day, but it's been a distraction we couldn't overcome."

Fowler said that the search for a new head coach at Middle would begin immediately, and expressed hope that the hiring process could be completed as soon as possible allowing the new coach to have as much opportunity as he can to recruit and prepare for next season. ●

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CAMPUS CAPSULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

MTSU Art Barn Gallery will present "The Rite of Dreams: An Awakening," an installation by MTSU Art Professor Janet Higgins, March 4-29 (excluding March 9-17). The opening reception will be March 4 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. In addition to the opening, special viewing times have been established when all aspects of this multimedia show will be working: March 7 from 11:30-12:30, March 19 from 2:30-3:30, March 20 from 2:30-3:30, March 27 from 11:30-12:30, March 28 from 12:30-1:30 and March 29 from 3:30-4:30. Regular gallery hours are 8-4:30 Monday-Friday.

Portraits for Midlander will be taken in KUC Lounge, across from the Grill from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Seniors should make an appointment for their portraits by calling 898-2478 or 898-2815. Underclassmen will be taken on a first-come-first-serve basis. It's free- no sitting fee.

All May 1996 Graduating Seniors: As a condition of

graduation, you are required to take the ACT-Comp. the test will be given on in the James Union Building- Tennessee Room. On these dates you may choose from the following test times: 8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. or 6 p.m. The test should take approximately two and one-half hours.

Social Work Forum will meet from 1-2 p.m. in KUC Room 312.

Placement and Student Employment Center is hosting an Interview Preparation Workshop from 11 a.m.-noon and 2-3 p.m. in KUC Room 318. It is a workshop for developing interview skills and professional dress.

A leadership development seminar entitled "Motivation" will be held at 3 p.m. in KUC Room 314. The seminar will feature John Thurston, Consultant for First Tennessee Bank, and Brent Holland, Staff Training Director at Stones River Center. They will address apathy, stimulating interaction and participation, different approaches to motivate individuals,

identifying the readiness of individuals to be motivated, and the best way to motivate.

Travis Smith, Graduate student from the College of Mass Communication will be defending his thesis "Campus Watch: Campus Crime and the First Amendment on at 3:30 p.m. in Room 150 of the Mass Comm building.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

MTSU will be hosting the Tennessee Women's Leadership Conference for college women on Friday, March 8. The keynote speaker will be Harriet Woods, the first Woman Lieutenant Governor of Missouri and former Missouri State Senator.

Proposals for the Fourth Annual Undergraduate Symposium in Women's Studies are being accepted through March 20. Applications may be picked up from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in KUC 120. For more information contact Womyn's Political Action Group, MTSU Box 623, or call 890-0915, or e-mail us at m_c_01c4@frank.mtsu.edu.

Exhibit merges media

By Scott Link / staff

It's a feast for the senses. The MTSU Barn Gallery will present "The Rite of Dreams," a multi media exhibit conceptualized by MTSU Art Professor Janet Higgins, throughout the month of March.

"A collage in three dimensions, the exhibit brings together materials found in antique shops, yard sales and the artist's closets all arranged along a pathway through the gallery space," said Professor of Art History Charles Jansen.

The complexity of the project led Professor Higgins to enlist the assistance of co-creators' Elizabeth Garner, Lee Garner, Rick Rishaw and Rachael Vaters, with whom she shares the credit for the overall show.

"It's opening to life, to the fullness of life and living in the present," said Higgins. She has spent the last 25 years searching for a language that was both universal and personal at the same time. Higgins said that, outside of mass media, our diverse culture makes it very hard to find a vehicle which expresses universally. She wants people to be able to engage her work and be able to find aspects of self. This was the first time she has been able to do that.

Before she made the transition to academia, Higgins used to do mixed media theater performance. After a while, she desired to do more work in multi media.

"Then I had a sabbatical," Higgins explained.

She attributes this period of reconnecting with herself as essential for the inspiration of this work. During this time, she came in contact with "Sung Hua," a theater/multi media show which Higgins hopes to bring to MTSU, which helped inspire this work.

The entire show is like a journey through life, according to Higgins. Each person should take what they can from the individual chapters.

"We started with things



Brian G. Miller/ staff

"The Rite of Dreams" exhibit is on display through March 29 in the MTSU Barn Gallery.

in her closet," said Elizabeth Garner, co-creator of the show.

She was pulled into the project because of her ability to "find things."

They just began pulling things out and putting them together. They have been shopping since October in preparation for the exhibit.

"[The pieces] were already entities in her mind," Garner remarked. "I am amazed it is so unified. It is so complex. It has so many layers."

"This is a wonderful use of so many different visual elements," said senior graphic design major Michael Higginbotham.

The Barn Gallery hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. here will be special presentations with all aspects of the exhibit functioning at these times: March 19-20, 2:30-3:30 p.m.; March 27, 11:30-12:30 p.m.; March 28, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; March 29 (closing), 3:30-4:30 p.m. The Barn Gallery will be closed during Spring Break, March 9-17.

"Professor Higgins' allegorical installation is striking in its many effects and powerful as a model of a re-mythologized life," Jansen said. "The experience is, well, enchanting, a dream of the sort long remembered." ●

ENTERTAINMENT EXTRA!

TODAY

THE BORO (895-4800) gets funky with Johnny Jackson's Soul Satisfaction. BUNGANUT PIG (893-7860) Lindey plays live. No cover. CACTUS JACK'S (896-3609) hosts Sparky & the Smoking Guns at 9 p.m. No cover. JONATHAN'S (895-1133) features DJ Troy Janes. MAINSTREET (890-7820) is not afraid to welcome Fleming & John w/ Band de Soleil at 9:30 p.m. for \$7. SQUEEZER'S (896-8175) rocks with Max Johns.

FRIDAY

THE BORO yuks it up with the Laughing Storm Dogs. BUNGANUT PIG welcomes the Warren Tower Band. CACTUS JACK'S features Sparky & the Smoking Guns at 9:30 p.m. MAINSTREET slams with Aggy Coloured Karma and the Stinking Bikers. SQUEEZER'S parties with Chris Brown and Rub.

SATURDAY

THE BORO welcomes Fools Rush In. BUNGANUT PIG hosts the Walt Houston Blues Band. CACTUS JACK'S lets Sparky & the Smoking Guns in for another gig. Same time; same price. JONATHAN'S features Hank Flamingo. MAINSTREET presents Mind's Eye. SQUEEZER'S slams with Laughing Storm Dogs.

SUNDAY

THE BORO features Secret Commonwealth. SQUEEZER'S presents Big Vessel.

MONDAY

THE BORO hosts Sister Ray. BUNGANUT PIG rocks with Dallas Craft. CACTUS JACK'S encourages male bonding with Men's Night and 2-for-1 cocktails. SQUEEZER'S presents Alex Ogden.

TUESDAY

THE BORO packs the joint with Bloody Lovelies. Canvas, Jack Johnson, Self and Still Stanley. BUNGANUT PIG hosts Lisa at 8 p.m. CACTUS JACK'S gives it up for the sisters with Ladies' Night and 2-for-1 cocktails.

WEDNESDAY

THE BORO features Highwater. BUNGANUT PIG rocks fraternally with the Warren Brothers Band. CACTUS JACK'S spotlights you! It's Karaoke Night with David Lovell. NURSING BUILDING (2437) hosts "Country Women: Women and Rural America" at 3 p.m. in Room 121. SQUEEZER'S gets in touch with its feminine side with Doctor Gonzo and Stalemate.

HAVE A GREAT AND SAFE SPRING BREAK!

Campaign promotes safe spring break

By Martha Stoud / staff

The Bacchus Chapter and Office of Student Affairs are co-sponsoring a Safe Spring Break Campaign in the downstairs lobby of the KUC March 7 and 8 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Everything we are doing is to provide education to our students so they can make responsible choices," said

Margarita Vilanova, coordinator of student programs.

Students will be asked to sign pledge cards promising not to drink and drive, not to get in a vehicle with an intoxicated driver, to wear their seatbelt when in a vehicle and to watch out for their friends.

Participants will automatically be entered in a national drawing for a new

GEO Tracker. Students will be provided with literature on alcohol and receive prizes including cups, buttons, key chains, hats and beach balls.

Students may also come by KUC 120 to sign the pledge cards and be entered in the national drawing.

For more information, contact Margarita Vilanova at 898-5822. ●

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The Student Publications Committee is now taking applications for

Sidelines' Summer Semester Editor
Sidelines' Fall Semester Editor
Collage Editor
Midlander Editor

Qualified candidates should:

- Be an MTSU student registered for course work at the time of application.
- Have a 2.0 cumulative GPA at the time of application.
- Have worked on staff at least two semesters. Comparable media experience applies.
- Provide three letters of recommendation, a current transcript and no more than five samples of their work professionally mounted.
- Deadline for applications is 4:00 p.m. March 22.

Editors receive a full tuition scholarship and a salary during their term.

Applications may be picked up from the Student Publications office, James Union Building 308, 8a.m. - 4:30p.m., M-F.

OPINIONS

Page 4

SIDELINES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Yes, evolution of man is theory; but that's more than a guess

By Cindy Martin

I would like to respond to Scott Link and Joe Dowell regarding the theory of evolution and the theory of creation. I applaud the fact that both seem to be giving it a lot of sincere thought, and I hope they both invite sincere and open-minded discussion.

Joe Dowell states that "It takes more faith to believe in evolution than it does to believe in creation," and that evolution "defies the laws of science," going on to discuss the first and second laws of thermodynamics and the Hardy-Weinberg principle. Both Dowell and Link emphasize that evolution is theory, not fact, and Link cited evidence to support the claim that Darwin himself was not so sure of evolution, and also takes issue with evolution on the grounds that it cannot be proven scientifically (he's right). In short, both writers have raised several important points, although their conclusions do not follow.

First of all, they are correct in pointing out that evolution is a theory, and that people should remember this. But that is only good science, and as Dr. Jubran Wakim in the Department of Chemistry and Physics once said in class, "If I try to teach you something, you should always doubt it and test it." What he was trying to instill in us is the proper scientific attitude - that nothing and no authority is ever beyond question in science. This includes professors and revered holy books, and Joe Dowell is right in questioning why the evolution of life seems to violate the second law of thermodynamics and the Hardy-Weinberg principle, (though his logic was flawed with respect to the first law, since the evolution of life neither creates nor destroys energy). I'm almost certain, though, that these are not his own ideas, because his conclusions are not as sophisticated, and because these questions have been raised many times before, namely, by MIT physicist Louise B. Young, among others. His error here is that he assumes that because there seem to be some anomalies with respect to thermodynamics and the Hardy-Weinberg principle, that evolution is impossible. That is absurd! It is arrogant to think that humanity has established "laws" that can never be broken by nature, as if our present understanding of the physical universe is complete. Only religion takes such a dogmatic stance. In fact, it is precisely anomalies such as these that propel science forward when some creative thinker comes along and attempts to explain them in order to broaden the perspective. That is what Einstein did when he expanded Newton's laws by incorporating them into the broader theory of relativity. In that process, Newton was not shown to be wrong, but that he only had part of the overall picture. Had Newton's laws been rejected, however, no one would have been burned at the stake for doing so.

Though both writers seem very

intent on proving that evolution is "just a theory," neither seems to understand what the purpose of a theory is, nor that a theory can never be proven or disproven, but only supported or not supported. For this we can blame teachers, who are not careful to teach what science is, that is, a process for attaining knowledge, and not a "proven" body of evidence. For example, Link states that, "Darwin's theory about evolution cannot be proven scientifically, and has not been completely proven historically." No theory has ever been proven, and none ever will, for they are, as Link points out, inductive arguments, so we must go with what seems the most reasonable, and that is the essence of science. In addition, the success of a theory lies not so much in which people believe it is true (or whether or not Darwin himself believed evolution was true), but in its PREDICTIVE ABILITY. A theory is a tool that is used as long as it is useful. In this respect, evolutionary theory is a fantastic success! In fact, evolution is not just a theory, it is a paradigm that unifies all of biology and is a foundation used by anthropology and psychology as well.

Both writers fail to construct convincing arguments because neither understands that there is really rather little that can be proven in life, and each

makes the error of believing that religion and theory both can be proven. As hard as it is for humanity to accept, we don't know how we got here, what our purpose is (if there is any), where we are going, or what it all means. Religion and science are often at odds because they are both human endeavors designed to fulfill this need to know. The final authority for the Christian is the Bible, no matter what the

evidence, and the final authority for the scientist is what seems to be most reasonable based upon physical evidence. This is the whole crux of the matter, and any arguments for or against evolutionary theory that do not recognize it are pointless. Neither can be proven, and each has its value. Link and Dowell, so conditioned by religion to think in terms of absolute authority, assume that because there are scientific anomalies with regard to evolution, or that because it cannot be proven, that Genesis must be true, which cannot be proven either!

In sum, I agree that evolution should be taught as a theory. In addition, teachers should try to make students understand what a theory is, how it differs from religion, and how it is used. Above all, teachers of science should strive to instill in students the spirit of science, that is, to question everything. If that were being done today, students like Link and Dowell, obviously very intelligent people, would understand the difference between science and religion, and would not need to leave science to those who understand what it is.

Ms. Martin has a B.S. in Anthropology from MTSU, with minors in biology, chemistry, psychology, and English.



Letters to the Editor

SGA banquet doesn't recognize all involved on campus

To the Editor,

I am writing in response to Christin Baker's Feb. 26 Letter to the Editor, "SGA banquet recognizes more than SGA members." Baker states in her letter that "the banquet is to recognize and thank all those who get involved with campus activities," and I feel that somehow Baker has been sadly mistaken. I have been involved with the Raider

baseball team for three years and have yet to receive any type of invitation or thanks from the SGA. I have even asked the trainers of the football team, and they said that they had never received any such token of appreciation. I invite Ms. Baker to respond to this letter in case there is some sort of special selection criteria that I am not aware of in order to be invited to this banquet. Please don't misinterpret this letter as a way of

me asking for us to receive an invitation, I would simply like to make sure that the readers as well as the SGA are aware that all the individuals involved in the campus activities are, in fact, not invited to this appreciation banquet.

Thank you,

Jennifer Moyer
Senior, Biology

No record exists to show man's rise from lower forms

To the Editor,

Professor R. Stephen Howard, biology teacher at MTSU, as a "Guest Columnist" in the *Daily News Journal* and in "Letters to the Editor" in *Sidelines* on Feb. 29, stated: "Examples of evolution in our time include the evolution of resistance to antibiotics in microbes, and speciation in plants, birds, and fish. Furthermore, the fossil record unequivocally documents change in the earth's biota through long periods of geological time."

The type "evolution" about which Professor Howard speaks above is special or micro-evolution. Speciation, a form of micro-evolution is demonstrable. Animal breeders understand this principle. Darwin discussed the speciation of the finches in the Galapagos Islands. Such speciation, however, does not change finches to fish or other creatures. The new species are still birds, not fish. The change to another "kind" has not been

demonstrated. A common experiment of radiating fruit flies has produced many variants among the descendants, but not one has changed into a bird or fish or amphibian.

The fossil record has not proven change in kind. Scientists for more than one hundred years have sought in vain for the "missing link." Macro- or general-evolution is not demonstrable, and the fossil record does not provide an answer for the scientists who seek to prove a progression from single-celled animals to the hominid. A trend appears to be developing among scientists in believing that, instead of a very slow change of one creature to another kind, events have taken place in which there was a rapid change from one kind to another. They tend to explain the lack of transitional forms by such punctuated equilibrium. Since the change, according to them, took place very rapidly, this explains why there are no transitional forms. If it is granted that "change in the

earth's biota (took place, DA) through long periods of geological time," the macro-evolutionist still has problems. The transitional forms simply have not been found.

Professor Howard concludes: "To claim that evolution is theory and not fact makes about as much sense as saying that apples fall from trees, but only in theory." As a scientist, Professor Howard must recognize that, in the earth's environment, it can be demonstrated that "apples fall from trees." It has not been demonstrated that man descended from one-celled animals. Thus macro- or general-evolution remains a theory. Teach it as a theory, Professor Howard, and few will be bothered. To teach macro-evolution as a fact is to be unscientific!

Sincerely,

David Arnold
Associate Professor,
Speech and Theatre

Using Bible as a source to prove creationism is weak

To the Editor,

I read the *Sidelines* from time to time and laugh at the mostly inane letters on the opinion page. Usually, I can take these letters with a grain of salt by telling myself that everyone is entitled to their own opinion. But the other day I read a letter that reeked of ignorance, and I felt obliged to respond. The letter was written by a freshman by the name of Joseph R. Bradford. In it, he urged my fellow atheists and I to read our Bibles (Letters to the Editor, *Sidelines*, March 4).

Personally, I have read the Bible through three times from cover to cover; and as I read Mr. Bradford's letter, I began to wonder if he had ever picked the book up outside of Vacation Bible School. You must forgive me for quoting his letter, but I don't think that its complete and utter absurdity can be expressed any other way. He wrote, "Face it people, God created the heavens and the earth, and He created man." Well, I sure am glad that Mr. Bradford took the time to go into that convincing and in-depth argument. My mind has certainly been changed. Christianity here I come! No pagan sacrifice tonight dear, little Joseph's got it all figured out with the minimum amount of

strain to the brain. No really, God created the heavens and the earth! I'm not kidding this time!

All right people say it with me together, "Separation of church and state." As far as American legislation is concerned, the Holy Bible or any other book of religion shall not be brought into consideration when evaluating the merits of said legislation. I do not believe in god. I feel that the Holy Bible, while a useful tool for sociologists and philosophers, is nothing more than our modernized standard of mythology. In a couple hundred years, Christianity will pass the way of the Greek and Norse religions. If you had asked a Greek believer of Zeus whether or not he was wrong in his belief, he would have said, "Hades no!" and then killed you to appease his angry god.

If the Holy Bible were an accurate book to be taken literally, then there would have been mass genetic inbreeding the moment Noah and his three sons Shem, Ham and Ja'pheth stepped off the ark and tried to repopulate the world. But then again, maybe that's what really happened. Perhaps people used to be smarter before Noah came along, and we've all been driven to stupidity through centuries of brotherly love. That

might explain Mr. Bradford's current level of intellect.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Bradford's sentiments are quite common among Christian zealots. These zealots would selectively look at the Bible and then tell the rest of us to pick it up and open the pages; pages which are filled with incest, adultery, bigamy, racism, a wrathful god, and so much outright ugliness that a sailor would blush. And as far as homosexuality is concerned, there has been serious speculation, much to Martin Scorsese's chagrin, that the man Jesus Christ was a homosexual. Go figure, a grown man walking around in a dress with 12 other grown men in dresses talking about love thy neighbor. Whod've thunk it.

In conclusion, I would advise Mr. Bradford to take his own advice, as well as a little of my own. Read every book of metaphysics you can get your hands on. Read the holy books of every religion you can think of. And then come back to me and tell me which books to read to better my life. You might want to start with "Thus Spake Zarathustra" by Friedrich Nietzsche. I hear it's a real gas.

David B. Tarpley
Junior, Recording Industry

SIDELINES

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Letters to the Editor

Prez. Walker's open-door not quite open

To the Editor,

During my time at this university, I have truly grown to dislike the operational way it is ran. Most students that I know have certain doubts about the policies that are applied on campus. I know for a fact how hard it is to get some of the most basic tasks done, such as registering and getting student loans. But when something goes wrong, WATCH OUT, because all the doors are going to be shut in your face! As you know, President Walker has an open door policy that allows a student to come talk with him about problems that are occurring. That is a reassuring fact, knowing that someone is there to help you, but as I found out, that door is not open as much as you might think.

My fiancée withdrew from school at the beginning of this semester; she called Tram and dropped her classes. Tram then told her to call the assistant dean of students to confirm. She followed the instructions and the dean informed her everything was fine and she should expect a check in a week or two. Surprise, no check. Her parents asked me to call and see if I could get the problem settled. They live in Pennsylvania, so I said I would try. When I started calling people, I began to see that no one was really interested in trying to help. I was transferred numerous times

and kept getting the same response: "Sorry I can't help you. Hold and I will transfer you." Does this sound familiar? Well after a week, I decided to try that "open door," it was not as open as I thought. President Walker's secretary would not let me speak with him because she decided that he could not help me. HMMM, he is the president, he should be able to help with any problem that comes up, or at least get the ball rolling. I was not aware that it was up to a rude, mean secretary to decide who the president can help. So the door was shut in my face, a door that is supposed to be open. One would think that using a so-called "Open Door Policy" would be easy. But at this school, even a simple "open Door Policy" can be messed by a secretary that thinks she can dictate a policy of her own.

David Williams
Senior, Aerospace

To the Editor,

Female sports coverage not equal to male

I was reading the Monday, Feb. 4 edition of *Sidelines*, and noticed something bothersome about the article on MTSU's tennis teams. For some reason, there was a little over twice as much information about the Blue Raiders than the Lady Raiders. Both teams played the same day and both beat UALR, so why weren't both

given equal attention? The men's coach is quoted more frequently and in more detail, and unlike anyone on the women's team, there is a summary of one of the men's matches. Being an athlete in high school, I experienced first hand the bias concerning male athletic programs versus female ones. It bothers me to see bias in the media, and this article really hit home with me. I'd appreciate your response and would like to see the piece was in my opinion, well written barring the mentioned factor.

LaSonya Washington
Freshman, Graphic Design

Editor's note: Thank you for bringing this to our attention Ms. Washington. As you requested, there is a response on page 6 of this paper.

Evolution is the real leap of faith

To the Editor,

In response to Mr. Howard's opinion in *Sidelines* Feb. 29, I strongly disagree with his assertion that evolution is as scientific a fact as "an apple falling from a tree."

Science, by definition, is the "knowledge of FACTS, phenomena, laws, and approximate causes gained and verified by exact OBSERVATION, ORGANIZED EXPERIMENTATION, and ordered thinking" (Funk and Wagnalls, 1984).

The fact is, no experiment exists to prove how life began.

It all happened in the past when no-one was around to record it. Consequently, both creation and evolution are belief systems about the past which must rely on facts taken in the present to be interpreted by their respective models. Both models are based on presuppositions—whether stated or not.

Mr. Howard claims that we presently see evolution occurring when we observe the resistance of antibiotics in microbes as well as in the speciation of animals. As an advocate of creation science, I agree that within different kinds of animals variations occur.

Where Mr. Howard and I differ, however, pertains to the "leap of faith" evolutionists make in asserting that one species of animal can change to another species. Nowhere does any evidence exist to justify this less-than-scientific assumption. Rather, just the opposite. God created everything according to kinds. If evidence of just one kind of animal changing to another kind existed, that would be real evolution. Simply put: mating a Dalmatian and a Terrier will not produce a new kind of animal, but a mongrel of the dog kind.

Mr. Howard also mentions the fossil record as evidence for evolution. Leading evolutionists, however, cite the conspicuous lack of transitional forms as troubling. Stephen J. Gould, professor of Geology and Paleontology at Harvard University stated: "The absence of fossil evidence for intermediary stages between major transitions in organic design, indeed our inability, even in our imagination, to construct functional intermedi-

ates in many cases, has been a persistent and nagging problem for gradualistic accounts of evolution" (Paleobiology, January, 1980).

Gradualistic evolution stands and falls on this lack of intermediary fossil evidence. To make up for the lack of transitional fossils, leading evolutionists propose punctuated equilibrium as an explanation. This model states that, once developed, a species remains unchanged for as many as 10 million years. Then, by some unknown mechanism, a small population will become isolated and rapidly evolve into a new species. Simply put, gaps in the fossil record occur because evolution happened in spurts—too fast to leave any intermediate fossils.

Of course punctuated equilibrium is a wonderful model for evolution. It means evolutionists don't need any verifiable facts, laws, or experimentation to prove their theory.

As Mr. Howard points out, inherent in any scientific theory is the ability to disprove it by some means. Although he suggests that the evidence of humans and dinosaurs existing at the same time would refute the current mechanism of evolutionary theory, I offer the fossil evidence found near Glen Rose, Texas. Here, clear tracks of dinosaurs and man have been found in the same rock formation. These prints even cross one another.

Evolutionists like Mr. Howard disbelieve these finds for reasons as stated by Albert C. Ingals; "If man...existed as far back as the Carboniferous period in any shape, then the whole science of geology is so completely wrong that all

geologists will resign their jobs and take up truck driving." Science, then rejects the reasonable explanation that man made these prints because it contradicts the current theory.

Although many scientists claim evolution is science, it clearly is not. It is a belief system about the past and is not provable or disprovable by any experiment or observation done in the present.

Darwin claimed evolution happened slowly and intermediary fossils would be found to verify this. Since they haven't been found, Gould and others purport evolution happened too fast to leave us any fossil evidence. Realistically, isn't it possible evolution didn't happen at all?

In my opinion, Mr. Howard, evolutionists practice a faith of their own.

Ricky Z. Walters
Minister for the Raider Victory Fellowship and employed by Campus Ministries International of Norcross, Georgia.

LETTERS POLICY

Sidelines encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words. Authors who want more than 300 words to express themselves should contact the editor. *Sidelines* keeps its pages open to all viewpoints and all members of the MTSU community. Authors should include their name, address, major, classification and phone number for identification purposes. (Phone numbers will not be published.) *Sidelines* reserves the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. Send letters to Box 42, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 or drop them off at the *Sidelines* office in JUB Room 310. Letters can also be sent via e-mail to the editor at: m_c_008c@frank.mtsu.edu.

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The Scholarship will be presented on May 4, 1996 at the 6:30 p.m. Alumni Banquet in the JUB Tennessee Room. The recipient will be expected to attend the Banquet and be introduced.

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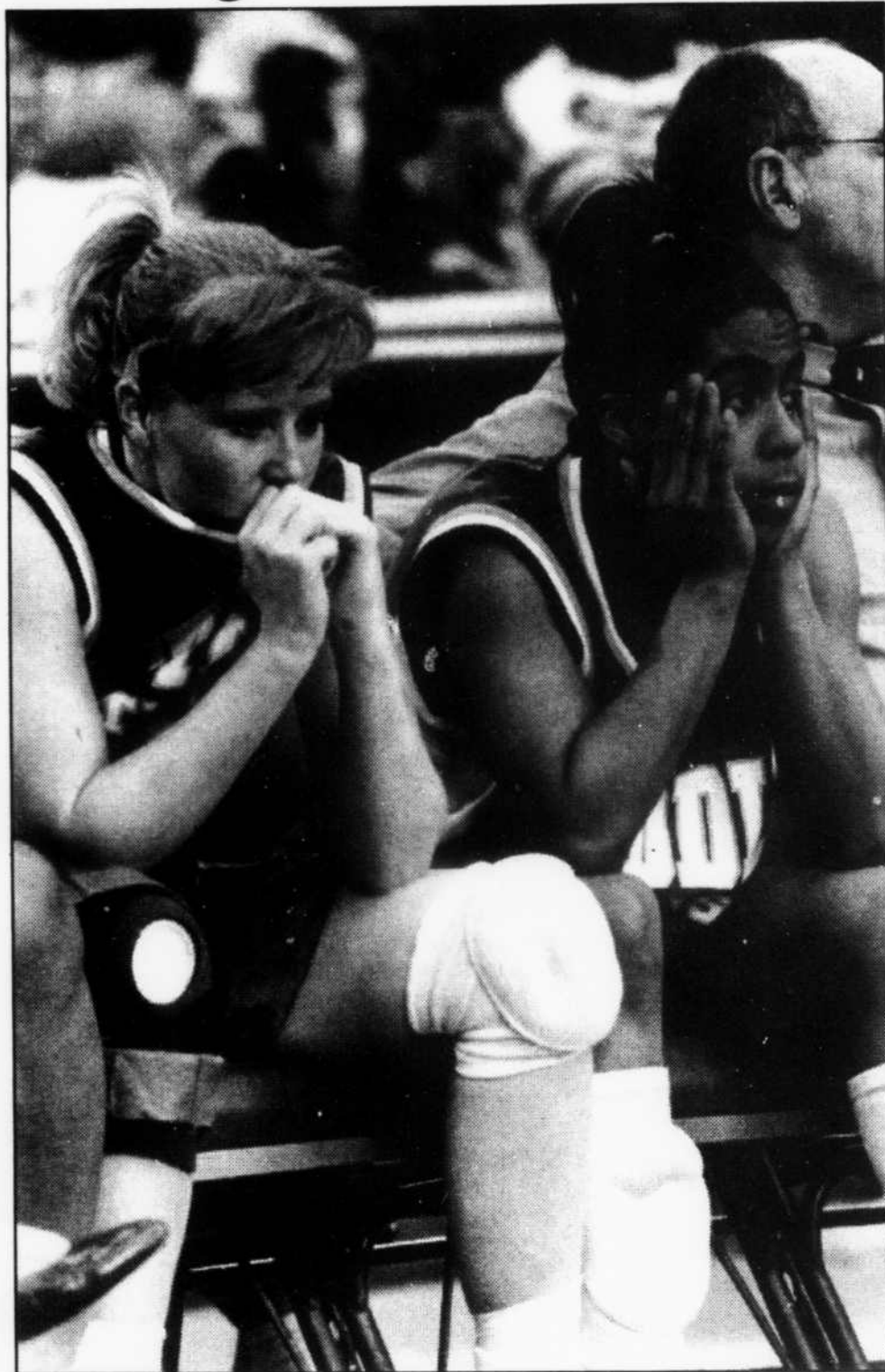
*Recipients of other current scholarships or grants which cover tuition costs will be excluded from consideration

*Must enroll as a full-time student for the entire semester while receiving the Scholarship

*Official application form must be used and should be typed or printed in ink. An official complete academic transcript must also be received by the Alumni Relations Office by the application deadline

Scholarship Applications are available only from the Alumni Relations Department in the Alumni Center and are to be returned to the Director of Alumni Relations by the Friday, March 29 application deadline. The selection process will be completed by Friday, April 19 and the recipient will be notified immediately.

'We just could not stop them': Bivens



Brian G. Miller/staff

Heartbreak

Lady Raider seniors **Heather Prater** and **Trella Thomas** look on from the bench after Monday night's 69-60 loss to the Austin Peay Lady Governors in the Ohio Valley Conference final game.

Austin Peay takes OVC title with 69-60 win over MTSU

By Sean P. O'Toole / staff

On Feb. 3, an unranked and unnoticed Lady Governors team from Austin Peay went up against an almost ranked and very noticed Lady Raider team.

Although they were playing without star forward Jessica Beaty, MTSU was still the team to beat.

Austin Peay won that game in shocking fashion, 81-67, and ended the Lady Raiders brilliant 12-game win streak. At the same time, they set in motion a streak of their own that concluded Monday night at Municipal Auditorium.

Coming into this season, the Lady Raiders had defeated the Lady Gobs a total of 41 times. The Lady Gobs had never beaten the Lady Raiders. Until Feb. 3.

Austin Peay got win number two in the OVC tournament final Monday night, as they handed the Lady Raiders a 69-60 loss to win the conference women's crown.

In the OVC tournament, much like the regular season, the Lady Raiders were the leading team in scoring and Austin Peay was the leading team in defense.

It was supposed to be a classic, and it was.

After a Carlita Elder lay-in put the Lady Raiders on the board for the first score of the game, the Lady Gobs then reeled off 10 of the next 12 points, concluded by a Sonja Cox 3-pointer, giving the Lady Gobs a 10-4 edge early.

But the Lady Raiders fought back, and a Cortney Neeley 3-point bomb put the Lady Raiders within one point with 12:00 left in the first half.

Then the Lady Gobs put some space between the two teams, reeling off the first run of the game, a 11-3 spurt, to take a 23-14 lead.

After two straight Jonelda Buck field goals put the Lady Raiders within

five, Austin Peay went on another spurt, reeling off eight of the next 10 points, to take their largest lead of the game at 31-20 with 2:50 left in the half.

The Lady Raiders then scored six straight points to end the half, before a breakaway by Simone Caldwell with 9 ticks remaining gave the Lady Gobs a 33-26 halftime edge.

Unfortunately for the Lady Raiders, it was more of the same in the second half.

Austin Peay ripped off another run to open the half, a 10-4 spurt this time, to take them back to their 11-point lead, 41-30, with 15:00 remaining in the game.

But the Lady Raiders fought back, and after Simone Caldwell hit two free throws to give the Lady Gobs a nine-point lead with 13:45 remaining, Trella Thomas sank lay-ups on two consecutive drives, and the Lady Raiders were within five at 45-40 with 12:40 remaining.

After the two teams traded baskets for the next four minutes, The Lady Gobs reeled off the next six points to reclaim their nine-point lead, 57-46, with 6:32 remaining.

But as they have done all season, the Lady Raiders came back.

A Heather Prater 3-pointer, the lead was cut down to six. The Lady Raiders went on their only real run of the game, a 9-3 spurt, to get within two at 60-58 with just 1:31 left in the game.

The Lady Raiders then got back on defense quickly, and it was Peay's turn.

The Lady Gobs brought the ball up slowly, and it was handed to guard Sonja White just behind the three-point line.

And before the Lady Raiders knew what hit them, she sank a 3-point bomb that silenced the Middle Tennessee crowd and gave Peay a 63-58 lead with :52 left in the game.

Nikki Edwards hit a key basket to get the lead down to 63-60 with 32 ticks left, but it proved to be all for not, as the Lady Gobs scored the final six points of the game in the last 30 seconds to escape with the victory, the OVC Championship and a trip to "The Big Dance."

"We just dug ourselves into a hole

Please see STOP on page 7

Assistant editor responds to reader's critique of coverage



Joel Frey
assistant sports editor

I really didn't ever think it would happen to me.

In my year as a staff writer and assistant sports editor for *Sidelines*, as well as a summer intern for the *Daily News Journal*, none of my work has ever warranted a Letter to the Editor.

Not that this surprises me, because after all I deal closely with Blue Raider sports and not the administration, SGA, UEC, Lambda, etc.

But yesterday when I came to work, sure enough there was a letter addressed to Mr. Blevins in regards to an article I wrote in Monday's paper about the men's and women's tennis teams matches with Arkansas-Little Rock last weekend.

It was from LaSonya Washington, a freshman graphic design major, who was basically upset because I dealt in more detail with the men's team than the women's in the article.

While I don't think I gave readers "over twice as much information" concerning the men's match than the women's, I cannot deny giving more attention to the Blue Raiders in this case.

I feel, however, there are some details I need to address to Ms. Washington which hopefully will clarify a few points for her and for anyone else that might agree with the questions she raised in her Letter to the Editor.

The Lady Raider win over UALR on Saturday was not exactly textbook. Because UALR only had four members on their team ready to play, the Lady Raiders had a 3-0 advantage before the match began. UALR had to forfeit matches at two singles positions in the line-up as well as a doubles match.

Coach David Thornton knew this before traveling to Little Rock but thought it would still be advantageous for his young Lady Raider team to get the match experience.

Behind singles wins from Amy King and former Riverdale standout Malinda Ryan, the women were able to squeeze out a 5-4 win.

So in fact, I did mention all there was to mention as far as Lady Raider match victories were concerned. Rarely, in my stories, whether men's or women's, do I mention individual MTSU losses in dual matches unless they proved significant to the outcome of the match.

I also might point out this was the first time all year where each team did not have a separate article devoted to each match. However, because of space constraints on Monday, I was forced to combine the two this time.

It is also worth mentioning that the Blue Raider team is nationally ranked in the top 30 by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, has two of its singles members ranked nationally, as well as a doubles team. Because of this fact, there is generally a little more to report on the men than the women.

Not that I necessarily enjoy covering the men more than the women. I feel I have developed a strong working relationship with Coach Thornton and his team. In the only home match of the year, thus far, I arrived at 1:30 and did not leave until almost 6:30 when Kelley Bacich and Michelle Wilson wrapped the Lady Raider win over Southwestern Louisiana.

Ms. Washington raises good points concerning coverage of women's athletics in general by the media. I feel we here at *Sidelines* have done an excellent job in seeing that every sport, whether men's or women's, gets the credit they deserve for the great sacrifices they make in representing our school. In hindsight, I realize now I should have done a better job in explaining the circumstances involved in the Lady Raiders' match with UALR.

I would like to thank Ms. Washington for her letter, however, and also to assure her, and anyone else concerned, that the sports staff of *Sidelines* will work hard each issue to make sure everyone is getting their "ink." ●

Raider golf team takes seventh against tough field at Fla. tourney

By Rob Nunley / staff

The Blue Raider golf team posted an impressive finish last weekend, taking seventh place against a tough field at the Matlock Collegiate Classic in Mulberry, Fla..

The Raiders scored a two-day total of 577, one stroke over par and only eleven behind the winning team from Columbus College.

Four of the six teams that finished ahead of the Blue Raiders are ranked nationally, including #22 Wake Forest, #29 Duke, #33 Georgia and #41 North Carolina State.

MTSU finished ahead of several nationally-ranked teams in the 21-school field at the Imperial Lakes Golf Course, including the #16-ranked team from the University of Virginia, who Middle beat by 18 strokes.

"I think that's probably the biggest victory that we've had at this program in a long time," said MTSU golf coach Johnny Moore. "I'm sure we've never beaten this kind of competition before."

In the opening round of play, Brian Higgins shot a three-under 69 to lead the Raiders to a first day total score of 281(-7), tying them for sixth place.

MTSU had a bit tougher time of it than the rest of the field in the first round, as they had to tee off first in very unfavorable weather conditions. The Raiders started the day's play at 8 a.m. under high winds and misting rain that had ended by the time other schools began their round later.

"Other higher scorers teed off in better weather later in the day, but I still don't know how we could have played much better in the first round than we did," Moore said.

The Raiders only dropped one

position in the standings after round two. Moore was very excited about his squad's good finish.

"I was really thrilled," the coach said. "I felt like a minnow swimming in deep water. They didn't eat us and we made it back."

Senior David Reed led the Blue Raiders with a two-day total of 141 (70, 71), finishing in a tie for fifth place individually. Reed finished ahead of ten players ranked in the nation's top 100. Higgins finished the 36 holes one stroke behind Reed, tied for eighth place overall.

"All of the guys did a good job, especially Reed and Higgins," Moore said.

"They beat a large number of nationally-ranked golfers."

Maine Brock tied for 41st place overall with a 147, while David Head and Steve Ressler shot 148 and 154, respectively.

Moore said that the Raiders' finish in such a competitive field will help the entire program at MTSU.

"Just playing in a tournament like this is a thrill, but being able to stay with schools like that adds a lot to the notoriety of your program," Moore said. "It's already helped us as far as being recognized for bigger tournaments, in fact I've already talked to some people since we've been back. It's done wonders for the future of this program."

The Raiders will leave for Austin, Texas on Saturday to compete in the Southwest Classic at the Circle C golf club. MTSU will play 36 holes on Monday and 18 on Tuesday.

"It's a different field," Moore said about the Southwest. "It's teams we've never seen before, but certainly not the caliber of the field we played last week." ●

MTSU track sends representatives to NCAA Indoor Championships

By Lesli Bales / staff

Three MTSU track team members will travel to Indianapolis Friday to compete in the NCAA Indoor Track Championships.

OVC Track Woman of the Year Nadia Graham and Christian Nsiah will represent the Raiders in the 200 meter dash, while Nekeya Ralls will compete in the 55 meter high hurdles.

Graham qualified during the Ohio Valley Conference Preliminaries. She had to make a time of 23.85 in order to qualify automatically. She ran the 200 in 23.54 seconds and is listed fifth in the NCAA.

"Nadia is a tough competitor with a lot of talent. She can run anywhere from the 55 to the 400 meters. She has done a good job for

us this year," said MTSU track coach Dean Hayes.

Nsiah qualified at a meet on Feb. 10. Although the automatic cut off time was 21.00 seconds, Nsiah's 21.03 was close enough to earn him a spot. He is listed eighth in the NCAA.

"Christian has given us a lot of flexibility. He's from Ghana and hopefully he will make their Olympic team this summer," Hayes said.

Ralls qualified in the OVC finals with a time of 7.84 seconds. She is currently listed as 21st in the NCAA.

"Nekeya is very competitive. She has really improved this season, and I think that qualifying for the NCAA Championships will make her a lot tougher mentally," Hayes said. ●

Campus Intramural Indoor Soccer finals held

Staff Reports

MTSU Campus Recreation held the finals of the Intramural Indoor Soccer season Sunday, March 3.

Murfreesboro Slash took first place in the Men's "A" league, while the Air Force ROTC team finished first in the Men's Open league.

Both the Murfreesboro Slash and Air Force ROTC won All University

Champs in their respective divisions.

In the Greek sections, the Greek "A" title went to the team from Sigma Phi Epsilon, while the Greek "B" title went to Kappa Alpha.

The Women's Open crown was won by Girls Team. Girls team also won All University Champs for the female division.

The sorority title was won by Alpha Omicron Pi. ●

Baseball team drops two to Southern Miss.

Staff Reports

The Blue Raider baseball team's record dropped to 6-5 after losing two games to Southern Mississippi this week.

The Raiders finally seemed to get their bats going Tuesday, but unfortunately their offensive surge was still not enough, as the Golden Eagles handed Middle a 9-8 loss.

The Golden Eagles rallied in the bottom of the ninth behind a three-run home run from Cliff Wren.

George Oleksik took the loss for the Raiders, while freshman outfielder Jeremy Owens and senior third

baseman Doug Barner both hit two homeruns in a losing effort for MTSU.

Yesterday all the hitting was on the Southern Miss. side of the diamond, as the Golden Eagles connected for 22 hits in a 23-2 spanking of the Blue Raiders.

Jordan Beddies hit his second home run of the season in the loss, while Wren and three other players homered for the Golden Eagles.

Jason Stanton (2-1) took the loss for Middle.

The Blue Raiders will be in action at home Mar. 9-10, when they host a three-game series with Wisconsin-Milwaukee. ●



Brian G. Miller/staff

Carlita Elder has her shot blocked during Monday night's 69-60 loss to Austin Peay.

STOP: Lady Raiders still hoping for NCAA bid

Continued from page 6

that we could not get out of," said coach Lewis Bivens. "We got back a few times, but they always seemed to answer us."

Bivens also remarked that Peay's physical style of play, one of the more quiet parts of the team, proved to be the difference.

"We are a very finesse team, and they are very physical," Bivens said. "We just could not stop them, and when we had them covered down low at the end of the game, Sonja White hit probably the biggest 3-pointer of her career. They just hit a lot of big shots down the stretch, and they were very deserving of the title tonight."

"I knew the clock was winding down, and coach Prater said that taking a shot and letting the big girls go after it is better than a turnover, so I just put it up," White said.

"I thought it was short at first, so when it fell, I was happy and relieved at the same time."

Senior guard Heather Prater, who was held by Peay's defense to just five points on 2 of 8 shooting, said, "We just never got after it. They took away our drive plays, and we just never did flow as a team."

Jonelda Buck led the Lady Raiders with 16 points, and Carlita Elder added 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Both were named to the All-OVC tournament team along side Austin Peay's Caldwell, who led all scorers in the championship game with 19, White, who aside from the big 3-pointer at the end scored 11 points, and Sonja Cox, the Lady Gobs senior center, who scored 13 points in the championship final.

Also on the team was Murray State forward Stephanie Minor, who scored 26 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the semifinal loss to the Lady Raiders on Sunday.

Austin Peay head coach Ladonna McClain, who was interestingly enough nearly fired three years ago, said that she has nothing but respect for Middle, but is happy her team won.

"It has been six long years for me," said McClain. We made smart decisions, and played very well down the stretch. I am so very proud of this bunch of girls, and I do appreciate the new administration having so much faith in me and these girls."

"Middle played us hard all the way," McClain added. "They have some great players, but we got a good ten point lead early, and every time they got within five or six, we stepped up."

This marked the third straight OVC championship-game loss for the Lady Raiders, and the third time in the last

four years an OVC school has sent both the women's and men's teams to the NCAA tournament. (TSU did it in 92-93 and in 93-94.)

The Lady Raiders finished the season 24-5, and are still looking to stay in the NCAA picture.

Although they ended the season on a down note, Middle defeated Ole Miss early in the season, who has been among the top 20 teams in the country all year long. The Lady Raiders also defeated a tough Southwest team from the Houston Conference.

The Lady Raiders only out-of-conference loss came at the hands of Alabama, who lost in the final of the SEC championship Monday to Tennessee, and have been consistently in the top 20 as well.

"We will be sending material to the NCAA committee, and I think they have better than an outside chance," said OVC commissioner Dan Beebe.

McClain agreed Middle has a shot at an at-large bid to the tournament.

"It is a possibility," McClain said. "Middle has earned it, and they deserve a lot of respect."

"We are definitely good enough to be in it," Bivens said. "But I have seen much better teams than us get left out in the past." ●

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