

Twins struggle together in one's fight with cancer

In Living, page 5

Former MT star finds religion, Rhythm

In Sports, page 6



An editorially independent newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

2003 National Finalist Best non-daily university newspaper -Society of Professional Journalists

Volume 80 No. 56

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## Hockey team frozen out of national tourney

By Colby Sledge Sports Editor

Despite a nearly unblemished record and a 28-game winning streak, the Middle Tennessee hockey team will not have a chance to compete for its

league's national championship. "The players were in shock," MT head coach Rick Sanzi said concerning the decision. "I got a call from the head of the ranking committee that told me ahead of time that he thought it was odd that we got voted out."

Also both odd and shocking are the accusations coming out against several coaches and leaders in the wake of several questionable decisions.

The Blue Raiders (33-1-1) were ranked fourth last week in the final rankings of the Central Region in Division III of the American Hockey Collegiate Association. The top three spots from each of the division's five regions advance to the 16-team national tournament at the California University Pennsylvania in March.

CUP receives an automatic bid as host, allowing another team from the Northeast region to receive a bid to nationals.

Seven coaches from each region rank the top 23 teams in Division III. The highest and lowest rankings by each coach are thrown out.

According to Sanzi, the following teams have a vote in the Central Region: Calvin College (Grand Rapids, Mich.), Hope College (Holland, Mich.), Wright State (Dayton, Ohio), Middle Tennessee, Lansing Community College (Lansing, Mich.), Northwood University (Northwood, Mich.) and Butler University (Indianapolis, Ind.).

Excluding Butler, those teams finished 1-6 in that order in the 10-team Central Region this season.

Sanzi learned of his team's exclusion from Hope College head coach Chris Van Timmermen, who also serves as the Central Region ranking coordinator. Van Timmermen would not confirm or deny any of the teams with votes except for Hope and MT.

Sanzi insisted that at least some of the four Michigan schools colluded to ensure Hope and Calvin would make nationals, although Timmermen told Sanzi that he personally voted MT in the top

"One of the teams placed us at sixth, and two others placed us at fifth," Sanzi said.

See Hockey, 7

## Dramatic reading raises rape awareness

By Esparonda Waller Staff Writer

On Valentine's Day, the theatre department hosted its second night of The Vagina Monologues with 25 performers who raised awareness of the experiences of women in a humorous and serious way.

The monologues were true stories based on interviews from 200 women. They were performed to make women feel good about being women.

There were 12 monologues performed by individual women, three dialogues performed by the Vulva Choir and two dialogues performed by a mixture of the women.

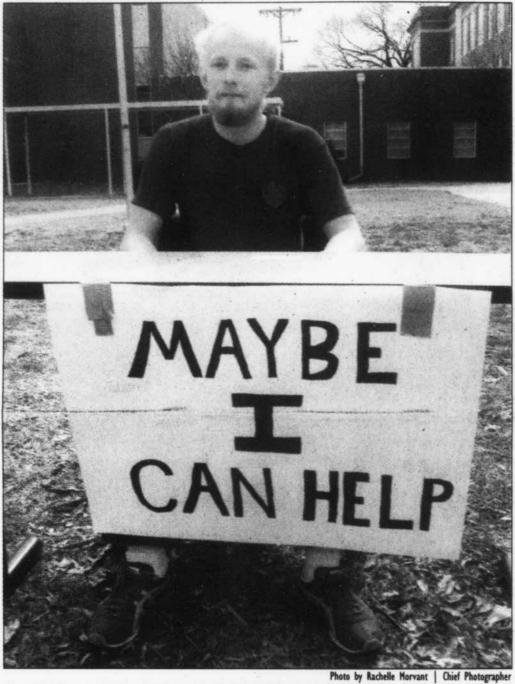
The Vulva Choir performed "Wear and Say," "I Was 12" and "Smell." These dialogues were humorous but also explained what women and girls actually experience.

"Wear and Say" is about what a woman's vagina would wear and what it would say. "I was 12" explains the menstrual cycle in depth and "Smell" is about what a vagina smells like.

Charlotte Johnson, a performer and theatre major, said she decided to participate in the event because of the large amount of women who become victims of violence.

"There is lots of violence in America in general and all over the world. I think most people think The Vagina Monologues are about women wanting to say the word 'vagina,' but it's more than that," Johnson said. "I learned that people make the words negative, and they're really not. They're just words really empowering words. I also learned that women can get together and be civil."

Tina Hudson, a member of



Patrick Barnes waits outside the Todd Building for students to take him up on his offer. Popular requests include free cigarettes and stress relief.

#### Student conducts social experiment, offers to help others however he can

By Michaela Jackson Assistant News Editor

Patrick Barnes is a self-proclaimed instigator. The poster that proudly displays his seemingly simple contribution to campus, "Maybe I can help," is as provocative as it is

Having set up camp prominently along the walkway in front of the Todd Building for the last five days, Barnes and his experiment can't help but give cause for raised eyebrows.

Barnes says most of the people who stop at his table want to know why he is offering his services.

Barnes, who is a senior interdisciplinary university studies major, says that apart from exhibiting sheer benevolence, he is conducting a social experiment.

"I can't say that I am completely altruistic. I am looking for the social reaction," he says. "I've done things like this all my life – everybody does it. I try to strike out against social norms to provoke a reaction."

Despite being driven predominantly by

See Helper, 2

## Senate democrats want to import foreign drugs

By Jason Cox Capitol Bureau Chief

STATE CAPITOL BUREAU - Senate Democrats aim to join other states in pressuring the federal government to allow citizens to import prescribed medications from Canada or Europe.

Sen. Doug Jackson of Dickson is the sponsor of SB1989, which would authorize the state to enter into a program already being used by the state of Illinois or a similar program to survey and approve foreign pharmacies and publicize the cheaper drugs' availability.

"The cost of medicine at the retail level has gone through the roof," Jackson said, adding that prescription drugs alone make up for 60 percent of the expected increase in TennCare costs See Drugs, 3

for the next fiscal year.

Jackson said one of the most pressing concerns he hears from his constituents is the cost of these drugs, which he said is forcing people to cut pills in half, share prescriptions with others and sometimes not fill them at all.

Unlike Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland, the United States does not negotiate a wholesale price for pharmacies to purchase drugs from the pharmaceutical companies, leaving these companies open to charge essentially whatever they please, Jackson said.

The pharmaceutical industry is a very, very powerful lobby," Jackson said. "They have written the laws on the federal level that allow them to pillage."

## Poll finds Tennesseans optimistic on security

By Matt Anderson News Editor

A new poll reveals that most Tennesseans believe President George W. Bush can keep them safe and wealthy, but not united and healthy.

The MTSU Survey Group conducted the poll by telephone Feb. 3-11. Students interviewed 565 people statewide. The poll has an error margin of 4 percentage points.

Tennesseans said by a majority that Bush can improve military security and keep the United States prosperous. A majority doubted Bush's ability to ensure the long-term strength of Social Security and heal political divisions.

Sixty-nine percent said Bush will be able to improve military security, compared to 26 per-

cent who said he will not. On the question of political divisions, 68 percent thought Bush could not heal them, compared to 23 percent who said he could.

Survey MTSU Group Associate Director and journalism professor Ken Blake said Tennesseans are more optimistic than the rest of the nation that Bush can heal the country's political divisions and less optimistic than the rest of the nation that Bush can improve the health care system and Social Security.

In a national Gallup poll conducted in January, 73 percent of Americans thought Bush could improve military security, while 33 percent thought Bush could heal political divisions.

See Poll, 2

See Vagina, 2

## Race, politics and religion in the 'Solid South' addressed in panel discussion

By Sandi Van Orden Staff Writer

Race, politics and religion were discussed Monday at a forum, "Race and the Politics of the Solid South." The John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence First Amendment Studies and Student Journalists Association hosted the lecture.

The panelists began by discussing the change of the South from a solid Democratic area to a solid Republican area.

"The shift really began in 1948," said Hazel O'Leary, the current president of Fisk University, and a former cabinet

member during the Clinton Administration. Dixiecrats changed parties."

Before the Civil Rights Act, any black people who wanted to vote had to vote republican. At that time, democrats did not allow black voters to vote in their primaries, according to Cynthia Tucker, a nationallysyndicated columnist and the editor for the editorial page of Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

"Republicans played the race card to court white voters," Tucker said. "That has been the strategy for 40 years."

The 2004 election showed a See Panel, 2

shift in the black vote. George Bush increased his percentage of black voters in eight of the 11 southern states, according to Kevin Sack, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and national correspondent for The Los Angeles

"I'm not sure that what we saw in this last election was entirely about race," Sack said. "Some of the people who may have been motivated by race 10 or 15 years ago now have a whole plate of issues."

Tucker said that she is beginning to see an alignment of



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

(Left to Right) Hazel O'Leary, Kevin Sack, Cynthia Tucker and John Seigenthaler discussed how the South has changed in terms of race and religion Monday.



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

How do you feel about covenant marriages?

Opinions 4 • Living 5 • Sports 6 • Classifieds 7

## Vagina: Monologues humorously present women's issues

#### Continued from 1

the Vulva Choir and a theatre major, said she enjoyed being a part of the show. She said she knew she had to join once she saw how much fun everyone else was having.

"I didn't know much about The Vagina Monologues until I saw fliers for the auditions. I joined because the funds were going towards a wonderful cause," she said. "This experience helped me learn not to feel so awkward about being a woman."

Jennifer Blake, a member of the Vulva Choir and a theatre major, was honored to be part of the show because she said it was deeper than sexuality. She had seen the show before and felt it needed to be performed

"I feel strongly about the show. I feel like this show touches so many people that it has to be done," she said. "I learned that 'vagina' is not a bad word, and women should be comfortable with it."

Most of the audience members came to the show expecting it to be more at a serious level than a humorous level, while others expected it to be in the form of a play. Some men learned a lot more about women than what they knew before.

"At first I thought it was humorous. Some of the things being said really opened up my eyes. I never knew how sensitive a body part was," said Bryan Johnson, an interdisciplinary studies major. "I will treat women with more

respect. This was definitely a good way for guys to learn more about women. Men should have attended

this event," Johnson said. Johnson said he expected guys to care more about domestic violence.

Xavier Solis, a sociology major, thought the show and performers were excellent. He said it was definitely a good way for guys to become aware of what women experience.

"The show is a real eye opener and very in depth. I expected it to be funny and humorous," he said. "I learned more about the menstrual cycle."

Ashley Branch said she thought the performance was excellent and attended both shows and expected it to be serious.

"I found out about the show through my women's studies course. We discuss the serious experiences that women face," she said. "I like the entertaining aspect that makes the show funny. It's a great way for guys to understand what we really go through because it provides lots of

Lea Lijoi, a psychology major, said she thought the show was impressive, and that it would be more professional. She said she never thought it would be women reading from a script. However, she said she was impressed they did read directly from it because they were actual words of what the women said.

"It's funny what real people have to say about their experiences. It makes you think that's exactly how women feel," she said. "I think all guys should see this because they performed a good perception on women. They'll know more about the ladies."

Overall, the performance helped many audience members take on another view of women. The theatre department plans to host the event



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer Deborah Anderson directed The Vagina Monologues to celebrate V-Day, a rape recovery and prevention center benefit.

## **Helper:** 'Looking for social reaction' to help

#### Continued from 1

curiosity and a desire to provoke, Barnes also appreciates the warm and fuzzy feelings that his experiment affords.

experiment "[My absolutely rewarding. I enjoy meeting people, and I enjoy helping people," he says.

Barnes' services are not confined to a finite repertoire. Rather, his offerings evolve with the passing throng.

"I will do my best to help with anything someone asks me to help them with," he says. Barnes says his most common requests consist of "more miniscule stuff." The most interesting thing that he has been asked to do, he says, is help someone kill

In a telling "help session," Barnes counseled a student who

was stressed out over the possibility of taking a semester off from college. She felt that a break was necessary, but she had been advised by others that she would not come back to school if she left.

'They aren't you," he said. "If you really want to be here, you'll come back. If you need a semester off, take a semester off."

Barnes says he plans to continue manning his post off and on until his graduation in May. Upon entry to the real world, Barnes plans to spend the first months working Yosemite National Park.

"After that, I might go to Antarctica, or maybe join the Peace Corps," he says. "I don't have any desire to achieve anything in particular in life. I've got no particular goal." •

## **Poll:** Evangelicals more likely to support Bush, poll finds

#### Continued from I

"The numbers show us where President Bush is succeeding politically right now," Blake said. "He is plainly succeeding convincing at Tennesseans that he can keep them safe and keep them prosperous."

"The fact that people don't really understand the lack of a connection between the war in Iraq and [Sept. 11, 2001] attacks and the fact that people aren't that optimistic about his ability

to preserve [Social Security] indicates that there's room for debate here," Blake said.

Blake added that people may not have made the connection between a "ballooning deficit" and the prosperity of the United

The poll also found that race and religion are major factors in Tennesseans' support of Bush. Nearly two-thirds of caucasians approve of Bush, compared to 22 percent of minorities.

Among caucasians, 69 percent approve of Bush, compared to 39 percent of non-Evangelicals.

Evangelicals have an attachment to Bush, Blake said, because he gives their beliefs

credibility. "Evangelicals want to be cultural oddballs, but they don't want to be so oddball that nobody takes them seriously," Blake said.

"Anytime you get somebody or something that comes along in the larger culture that can give evangelicals credibility in that culture, they'll seize on it,"

Blake said.

Public opinion is not as rational as civics textbooks make it out to be, Blake said.

"In high school civics, you're taught that the public is informed, that it's attentive to politics," Blake said. "People figure out what's in their best interest, and then make their political decisions based on

"The reality is it's not nearly that clean cut, and you see that in these results." •

## Panel: Dialogue begins healing, O'Leary says

#### Continued from I

black and white socially conservative voters.

At the end of the lecture, a discussion on how to bring the country together when it appears to be polarized was brought up by an audience

said. "We are having the wrong sets of debates."

Tucker said she believes that changing the district maps will

help.
"The way our legislative discreates polarization," Tucker said.

Tucker said the districts are drawn to keep the current official in office, and because of that, those running for office do not have to cater to both sides of political issues.

She said she thinks there should be a group of people who are not current legislatures

who draw district maps.

Sack said he did not think the country would come together until the war is over.

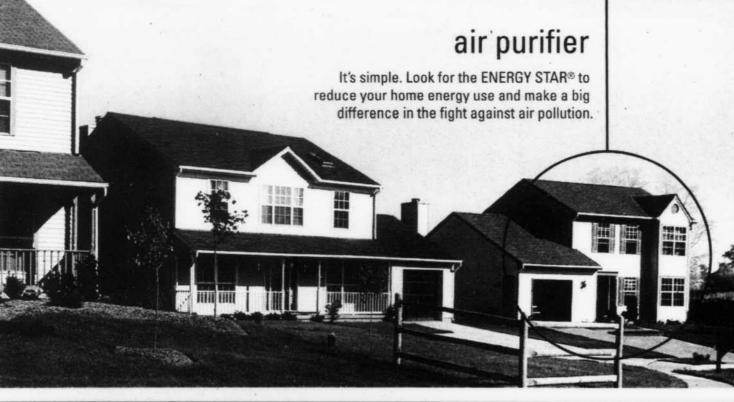
"The war is a divisive issue,"

Students attending the lecture reacted to the discussion by

"It was very interesting," "I think what begins the Jessica Reeves, a sophomore ealing is dialogue," O'Leary public relations major, said. "It brought up points that I had never thought of."

"I thought it was great. It was the first time that I thought deeply about this since the election," said Lauren Williams, a junior communications studies major. "They were all thought provoking."

"I think they offered real-life solutions to our problem of divisiveness," said Lindsey Lane, a junior public relations major. That is the main problem. We are all so splintered and fractured." ◆



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## **Drugs:** Prescriptions cheaper abroad

#### Continued from I

An analysis Jackson provided to Sidelines listed the 20 most prescribed drugs to TennCare patients in October of last year and compared the prices from CVS and Walgreens to www.drugstore.com – a U.S.-based online pharmacy – and a Canadian mail order service.

Every drug was significantly cheaper through Canada, with an average of nearly 49 percent savings. The lowest savings were on Plavix – slightly less than a 37 percent decrease – and the highest was on Neurontin – nearly 65 percent.

"The Boston Tea Party – that's what this is," Jackson said. "It's a mutiny ... states cannot deal with this."

Jackson said most of the drugs' that would be sought are already available for purchase in the United States.

Sen. Jeff Miller, R – Cleveland, chairman of the Senate Republican Caucus, said he is "very concerned" about the high cost of medicine and that

the proposal should be adopted if the safety of the drugs can be verified.

"Currently, the (Food and Drug Administration) has issued warnings and concerns that they can't guarantee the safety of these drugs," Miller said.

Indeed, the FDA is actively speaking against importation of prescription drugs, which is legal for personal usage but currently illegal for reselling. The site lists numerous instances of foreign-bought drugs turning out to be fake or dramatically unlike the drugs they are supposed to be.

The FDA has a page about the practice at http://www.fda.gov/importeddrugs

As the bill was just filed yesterday, Miller said he is unsure whether he will support the bill or urge his colleagues to do so.

"We're definitely going to delve into it and see if there's anything we can do about it," Miller said. •

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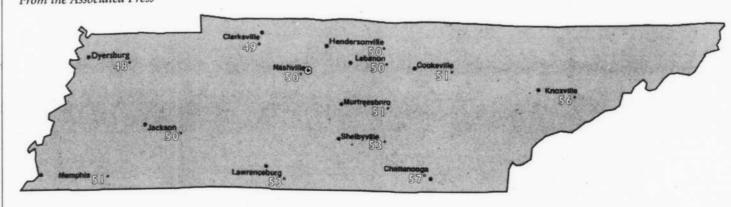
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### Tennessee Weather - Wednesday's Highs

From the Associated Press



# Thursday Friday 49° A 22° 34°

Saturday

Saturday

A7° A

38°

47° ▲
38° ✓

55° ▲ 42°

Sunday

# Monday 56° ▲ 41°

## Republicans start push against gay marriage

By Lucas L. Johnson II Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) – A proposed constitutional ban on gay marriage in Tennessee started moving forward again Tuesday, with only two voices of dissent.

The Republican-controlled Senate Judiciary Committee approved the legislation 7-2, sending it to a committee that will schedule the bill for debate in the full Senate.

Tennessee law already defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman, but Republicans say they are trying to prevent courts from allowing gay marriages in other states from being recognized here.

The Legislature approved the ban last session by a simple majority, and now needs a twothirds majority this session before the question can be put to voters on a gubernatorial ballot.

Most lawmakers expect the gay marriage ban to win the required support.

"I'm very optimistic," said Sen. Jeff Miller, R-Cleveland, the bill's sponsor.

Sen. Joe Haynes, D-Goodlettsville, voted for the ban last year, but opposed it in committee this year. He was joined by another Democrat, Sen.

Steve Cohen of Memphis.

"We have already outlawed gay marriage in Tennessee, and this is overkill," Haynes said. Miller said he was worried

about Haynes' change of heart.

"I was concerned that I lost a vote that I received last year, and it sort of concerns me," he said.

Senate Speaker Pro Tem Micheal Williams, R-Maynardville, said he feels the bill has a good shot at passage if it's debated in both the House and Senate.

"I'm sure it will take a while to work its way through," Williams said. "But ultimately, if it comes to a floor vote, I would think that it would pass." Hedy Weinberg, director of the Tennessee American Civil Liberties Union, said she's disappointed that the Legislature is considering "writing discrimination into the state Constitution."

"My experience is that this state's public policy supports monogamous nurturing, loving relationships," Weinberg said. "And the goal of this constitutional amendment is to ban same-sex marriage. We're talking about marriage equality and we would hope that Tennesseans across the state would support marriage equality for all people." •

#### One lawyer blames another for TennCare stalemate

By Matt Gouras

Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) – One of the high-profile lawyers representing TennCare enrollees in lawsuits against the state sided with the governor and blamed Gordon Bonnyman for getting in the way of true reform.

Well-known Nashville civil rights attorney George Barrett, speaking to lawmakers Tuesday, said "blame ought to be placed squarely at the Tennessee Justice Center" and its chief lawyer Bonnyman.

State lawyers have argued in federal court that Barrett should replace Bonnyman – a request one federal judge has rejected and remains pending in front of another.

Barrett said Bonnyman's refusal to back off litigation and let Gov. Phil Bredesen run the program could cripple the state. The message mirrors complaints from Bredesen about Bonnyman and the federal court cases.

Barrett denied that he is working on behalf of the administration to undermine Bonnyman.

Bredesen and Bonnyman engaged in talks at the end of last year about ways to get TennCare out of the courts and into the governor's hands. When they broke down, Bonnyman said that the gover-

nor was using him as a scapegoat for a failed reform effort.

Bredesen then announced plans to save the state roughly \$600 million during the next fiscal year by cutting 323,000 adults from TennCare – cuts subsequently put on hold in federal court.

"The whole budgeting process of this state is being held hostage by this feuding in courts," said Barrett, who intervened in the ongoing court cases late last year.

Bonnyman told the Senate Commerce Committee that the state first needs to fix the inefficiency in TennCare and manage the program better before it makes cuts to the program.

He said Barrett's attack on him is a useless sideshow.

"I think it's such a distraction, it's not helpful," he said.
"We need to be past that and everybody needs to be pulling together and trying to find a way to avert this tragedy."

Also Tuesday, the Senate Commerce Committee handdelivered a pointed letter to Finance Commissioner Dave Goetz asking for more documents surrounding the governor's planned cuts.

It asks for details on the gov-

ernor's calculated savings, and the savings that could have been achieved in reform proposals submitted to Bonnyman in December. It also asks for copies of documents a newspaper is seeking in a public records fil-

The committee is reviewing the governor's cuts, although Bredesen has said he does not need legislative approval for the cuts.

Barrett also said Tuesday that he is filing a request with the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals to move up a late April hearing looking at the federal court's intervention in the proposed cuts. He said it needs to be heard in March because it throws a monkey wrench in the

state's budgeting process.

The Justice Center said it also has been able to hire another lawyer to help in its fight against the state after it received a grant from The Southern Poverty Law

TennCare, which serves about 1.3 million Tennessean, would eat up all available new state tax money and also force cuts in other programs if it is left unchanged.

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# Got a hot news tip?

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Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## From the Editorial Board

#### Hockey team denied rightful spot in tourney

The Middle Tennessee hockey team's season is over, but the team is still fighting for a berth in the American Collegiate Hockey Association's national

The team, which is sponsored partially by Campus Recreation, is clearly one of the best in the country: its 33-1-1 record is the best for its division, and the team has the top scorers and goalies in the league.

Yet the Blue Raiders, who often pay to travel across the country and play, will not have a chance to play for a national championship thanks to some questionable rules and likely underhanded dealings among league coaches.

The ACHA apparently randomly gives out votes on the rankings committee, which makes the sole decision on who goes to nationals and who stays home. Not even the commissioner can reverse these decisions, meaning coaches are free to make Survivorstyle alliances to determine who gets in.

Imagine if our federal government adopted the same standard: The President would effectively have no say on Congress' rulings, and all the high-electoral states could bond together and crush the smaller states.

This type of absurdity is exactly what is ruining what should be a monumental accomplishment for the young men on the team.

The Blue Raider hockey squad formed just last year, and the team appeared to be a lock for a nationals bid in its first eligible season.

But questionable region assignments (gerrymandering?) and a shoddy distribution of power have left several worthy teams, including Middle Tennessee,

Many coaches from other schools with no stake in the matter have spoken out, and many more need to in order to change the system.

While it may simply be a club team, the Blue Raider hockey team has worked all season to promote MTSU and enjoy doing something they love.

The players and coaches deserve the support of the administration in this matter, and the school deserves to see its team have a chance.

SIDELINES

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## Advice for would-be politicians

Chew on this: When you graduate, you will have to get a job in the real world.

There are so many things that could go wrong with this scenario. Maybe you'll graduate during the highest unemployment rate in our nation's history, maybe music will become uncool and we won't need any recording industry people. Maybe you're just unemployable.

That's why there's a fail-safe plan for every American: Be a politician.

This could quite possibly be the only job on the planet that anyone can do. I mean, look at the White House. Think back to the past few administrations.

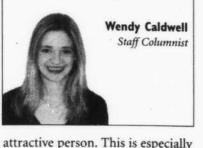
Can you spell potato? Then you're leagues ahead of former vice president and current nobody Dan Quayle.

Can you deny sexual relations with your interns? You could be the next William Jefferson Clinton.

Do you speak coherently? You're ahead of the game, my friend - a George W. Bush in the

Now, before you embark on your journey, I have a few suggestions that will make you more electable, be it for the presidency of our nation or the county school

First off, marry an abnormally



Half Naked

attractive person. This is especially handy if you're not so good-looking yourself. Maybe no one wants to see you give a State of the State address, but teenagers statewide will tune in to check out your foxy spouse. As an added bonus, make sure (s)he comes from a wealthy family that produces some viable good, like steel, oil, concrete or caf-

Once you've married up, have some really cute kids and dress them in clothing that matches yours. The happy couple is irresistible to impressionable voters, both young and old.

Moving on, pick one or two key issues and stick with them. Even if you can't do anything about the Middle East (who can - they've been fighting since the beginning of time), constantly remind your voters that it is your utmost priority to ensure that peace be brought to that area of the world. Include overuse the word "freedom" for added emphasis.

Pick a local issue as well, something the voters can relate to, and one that isn't controversial. When was the last time someone picketed the Capitol with signs saying "No more money for education" and "Let the children be illiterate?"

Before campaigning, embark on a safe yet admirable tour of duty with one of our armed services. If possible, acquire some kind of officer ranking.

Granted, you probably can't be "General Sen. Smith" unless you fight in a war, but you can probably pull something, if you try hard enough. People will be much less likely to criticize your foreign affairs policies if you've served your country and done your civic duty.

Always vote, and be showy about it. Have a news crew follow you up to the voting booth, then give a little dissertation of how great democracy is once you've finished. And smile a lot when you say it. That helps.

If national politics aren't your thing, start young and close to home. In local elections, voter turnout isn't near what it is when the fate of the country is at stake. Use this to your advantage. Have

phrases such as "God bless," and some kind of family barbecue campaign event and "get to know the fine people of [insert town name here]." Shake hands, kiss babies, play softball with the children. Make sure news crews are at this event, too. The more people see your attractive spouse, the more likely they are to vote for

> Pick a charity, and insist that your spouse devotes a ridiculous amount of time to that charity. That way, you won't be lying when you say, "My wife Suzanne reads to the children every Wednesday. If elected, I'll name her the Czar of Children's Literacy." Well, maybe "czar" is a little much. You can think of something - be creative.

Now, politics is a career, so don't "crap out" once you're elected. Do something, or at least refrain from doing something stupid. When you're up for re-election, list off your many accomplishments. If you don't have any, focus on your opponent's flaws and your attractive spouse.

If you follow these simple rules, you can have a career in politics until you die in office at the ripe old age of 87. ◆

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

## Nature of family must face changing times

The American family is changing. Some people believe that the family is becoming extinct, while other people think that family systems are thriving. I read an article called "The American Family," by Stephanie Coontz, which gave great evidence to both arguments.

I can understand why people may have the view of the family becoming extinct, but I personally think there is more evidence of the family just going through necessary changes. Half of today's marriages end in divorce, which gives the United States the highest divorce rate in the world.

Marriages were not any happier in ne early 1900s. Spousal rape was legal, wives in the early and middle 1900s. and the police did not take wife-beatings seriously. Divorce was sinful; many people lived and survived in unhappy

Today, there are higher numbers of unmarried women than in the 1960s. The average age for a woman to marry today is 25 years old. This is not such a bad thing.

Women have more opportunities to succeed in their personal goals than they have ever known. This fact may slow down family production, but it could also make happier marriages in the future. Here is another question: Why are we always looking at unmarried women as being the problem declining marriages? What about men?

Also, today, educated women are having fewer children than ever before. In the early 1900s, there were more farms than factories; a greater number of children were financial assets, because they worked on the farm. Now, children are considered dependents, and are very costly. It has also been proven that, because of families having



fewer children, each child receives greater attention. Children even receive more attention from working mothers now, than they did from stay-at-home

The family has gone through many changes, and will always be changing.

One of the changes we have been faced with today is the life expectancy of its members. In 1900 the life expectancy was 47 years old; today it is 76 years. How will the family adjust to this change? Will children become the caregivers, or will more nursing homes

Change is the only thing you can count on in life, but, as Stephanie Coontz writes, "We need to realize that many of our worries reflect how much better we want it to be, not how better we used to be".

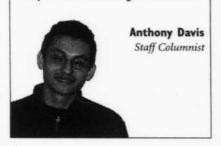
The past has had its ups and downs, and so has the present. There will always be American families. They may come in different shapes and sizes, but that should not surprise us, because our country has simply become more

Kacey Hercules is a junior social work major and can be reached at kah2x@mtsu.edu.

## Television show ideal must inspire action

Two weeks ago, an important and beloved piece of American popular culture was officially laid to rest.

After 39 years, five television series and 10 feature films, the legendary Star Trek franchise is finally coming to an end. On



**Beyond Your Expectations** 

Feb. 2, UPN announced the cancellation of the latest Trek series, Enterprise, which had been struggling in the ratings for the past four years. The show's last episode will air on May 13, after which it will be available on DVD and will be syndicated. Though the cancellation of Enterprise appears to be the nail

in the coffin, Star Trek has, in fact, been in decline for some time now. There are numerous reasons for why the U.S.S. Enterprise has finally shipwrecked. Yet, the biggest reason is one that is rarely addressed: while the world that we live in has radically changed in the last four decades, Star Trek, has not changed along with it.

Star Trek, of course, is a child of the 1960s. At that time, the show was considered groundbreaking and revolutionary for the way that it challenged the contemporary establishment on many important issues such a racism, equality, economic jus-

In the time since the original series went off the air in 1969, the ideas that defined the '60s counterculture movement had become the new mainstream. Radical liberalism today defines the politics of the new establishment: it is the driving force behind the media, the educational system, the judiciary and popular culture. In some ways, Gene Roddenberry's utopia is starting to come into being - however, it isn't quite happening in the way that everyone expected it would.

The ideal of racial equality has given rise to the policy of reverse discrimination; people are rewarded on the basis of skin color and punished for the actions of their ancestors. The ideal of sexual equality has led to the disintegration of the family, where selfishness and greed have largely supplanted concern for the welfare of our children. The ideal of economic justice has resulted in a push towards socialism - doing nothing to alleviate poverty, but increasing the number of people who are shackled and dependent upon the government

Pacifism, though a noble cause, at times, is incompatible with the realities of the post-Sept. 11, 2001 world, where free nations are engaged in a titanic struggle for survival. The ideals of the 1960s have spawned disastrous policies, ones that are now changing the world for the worse, not the better.

Rather than adapting its core values to the times, Star Trek instead seems to remain in a state of perpetual denial. The bold spirit of challenging authority and conventionallyaccepted thinking that once defined Star Trek has been replaced by one of complacency and political correctness, and the future that Star Trek espouses is one that an increasingly large number of people are starting to reject. This is the primary reason why the show has lost its appeal among the average, everyday American.

There is a chance that Star Trek may be resurrected one day. Yet, if it is, it cannot remain devoted to the obsolete politics of fifty years ago. Whoever chooses to bring the series back can only succeed if he or she chooses to question the establishment, rather than simply parroting its ideology. Star Trek can do this while simultaneously retaining its same core values, but it must change the way it believes those values should be pursued. Equality can only be achieved when all individuals are treated equally. A brighter, better future can only be created if our children today are empowered with the tools to do so. Poverty can only be eliminated when individuals are empowered with the ability to control their own destiny, without government interference.

True, worthwhile peace can only be achieved when every one on Earth is living in freedom. This is the future that Star Trek should inspire us to create, and only by doing so will it ever be able to return to its original premise, "to boldly go where no one has gone before." •

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Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday, Wednesday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily of Sidelines or MTSU.

#### Letters Policy Sidelines welcomes letters to



the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous

letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

#### **Correction:**

In David Cotton's column, "Republican Propaganda Suppresses Free Speech" (Feb. 14), the Minister of Propaganda for Nazi Germany was Joseph Goebbels, not Frank Goebbels. Sidelines regrets the error.

We want you to send us letters.

slopinio@mtsu.edu

#### -Letters to the Editor Free speech no shield from criticism

To the Editor:

Guaranteed free speech may promise you that the government won't stop you from voicing your opinion, but it does not say that there will not still be consequences for things you say ["Republican propaganda suppresses free speech," Feb. 14]. Given Ward Churchill's profession and the unique platform that it provides, he should have realized that both his and the University of Colorado's reputations would be put at risk when publishing such a disturbing

True, Churchill had every right to publish, but now other people also have every right to criticize him. Churchill put his own career in jeopardy (would you honestly want your children learning from this man?) and put the university in a negative light in the process.

After reading the essay, I am saddened by the complete loss of faith in humanity Churchill displays. His comparisons of America to Nazi Germany are not only "a bit loose, historically," they are totally outrageous, not to mention his near glorification of the Sept. 11 terrorists.

Yes, sometimes innocent people have been tragically killed by American fire, but there is a world of difference between accidental casualties and intentionally flying planes into buildings, murdering thousands of innocent civilians (Churchill actually stretches things even further by denying the innocence of those who were killed).

To actually try and justify what the terrorists did on 9/11 is both heartless and sickening. Although no one should ever have to deal with death threats for any opinion, the reality is that you also cannot and should not ever expect to be able say whatever you want and then cry "Free speech violation!" whenever people react and speak out against you (especially when it isn't just your reputation

Brian Beaird

Junior, College of Business

IVING

## The mirror has two faces

## Twins struggle together in one's fight with cancer

By Mary Anne Dunavant Staff Writer

pon meeting the Kowalsky twins, it is difficult to distinguish between the two. But after talking to each individually, it doesn't take long to notice a drastic difference between them.

Nick and William Kowalsky are 19-year-old sophomores at MTSU who enjoy taking advantage of their pilot's licenses and playing sports.

They are the sons of a Saturn electrician and a substitute teacher from Culleoka, Tenn. William is an aerospace major, and Nick is a pre-med student.

However, Nick's plans were interrupted on Aug. 13, 2004, when he was diagnosed with leukemia.

Nick had experienced chest pain, sore joints and dizziness, in addition to swimmer's ear, but he did not think anything was seriously wrong.

"He went to the doctor in Columbia for swimmer's ear," William says. "He [also] had some blood tests done, but we thought he was fine. Then, the doctor came running outside to tell him that he had found something and wanted him to go to Vanderbilt [Medical Center]."

Nick later went to Vanderbilt Medical Center to undergo Xrays and more blood tests while his family waited.

The result was eventually

"We thought we would go home that afternoon, but we ended up spending the night at the hospital," William says. "We just hoped and prayed that nothing was wrong.

On Aug. 13, Nick and his family learned that the situation was far worse than they could have anticipated. Everyone was shocked to hear

"He has a burden that [I] wish [I] could take away, or at least take his place. But I know I wouldn't be as strong as he is."

 Larry Waldrop Friend of the Kowalskys

"We cried for a week," William says. "We'd actually been flying earlier the same week ... they only caught it by accident. I didn't believe it was happening.

The doctors warned Nick that the first month would be the most difficult.

"[We] fought it really hard at first," Nick says, "because the faster the cancer goes into remission, the better you'll do. It went into remission after seven days."

The first month was very difficult, as the doctors foretold.

"It was very hard at first, because we had no chance to respond and didn't know much about [leukemia]," William says. "We were all stressed out and upset, but it's a little better now that we know more about

The whole Kowalsky family had a particularly difficult time at the beginning of treatments.

"He was so sick at first ... there were times when I didn't know if he knew I was even there," William recalls. "He was that sick."

Nick's parents have also had a difficult adjustment.

"The whole thing is very, very difficult," Nick's mother, Judy Kowalsky, says.

"It's hard because it's my baby, my child. It hurts to see some one you love in so much

pain. I'm inspired by how sound he is, how much he wants to live and fight this thing - he exercises all the time, takes vitamins, he eats healthy - he wants to live.'

Nick undergoes chemotherapy treatment once every week.

They raise the dose every week, and they have to change the medicine often so that [the cancer] doesn't adapt to it," Nick says. "They only stop [raising the dose] when I get sick, so they basically just wait for me to get sick from it ... the sicker you get, the better the medication works."

The entire experience has placed quite a strain on Nick, making it difficult for him to enjoy normal activities.

"I used to exercise a lot before I got sick," Nick says. 'Sometimes I can't do anything. I'll get headaches from watching TV or talking on the phone from the sound. I migraines from light. It's all difficult," Nick says. "You can't really live a normal life [when] you have to stay home with your parents so they can take care of you again."

Prior to his diagnosis, Nick had been very healthy throughout his life.

"I went to the gym a few times a week. I even stopped eating fast food when I was 15," Nick says. "The best thing to do

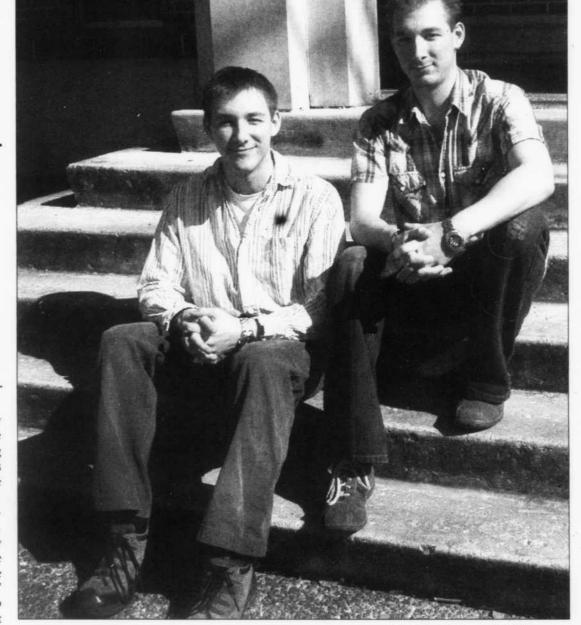


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

William and Nick Kowalsky have fought Nick's cancer together since August 2004.

is take it one day at a time. Health is definitely a gift. I never had any medical problems before."

Regardless of the difficulty of Nick's situation, friends and

family make it much easier. "I try to get home every weekend to see him," William says. "We try to support him in any way we can, but sometime there is not a lot we can do, and that's hard. It's tough just seeing him in so much pain and wondering how his body will handle the medicine, but I think he'll be fine," William says.

Larry Waldrop, a sophomore pre-med student, lived in the same dorm with the twins last year and befriended both.

"He has a burden that [I] wish [I] could take away, or at least take his place," Waldrop says. "But I know I wouldn't be as strong as he is."

Nick has another friend who was diagnosed with leukemia a few years ago, and he says that has helped him.

"It definitely helps to have someone to talk to who understands. She's off [of medication] now, but she was diagnosed about two years ago, Nick says.

Many people have made efforts to visit Nick and help him through this time.

"I go to a church in Franklin," Nick says. "They've been very supportive and praying for me. They brought me food and sang songs when I was in the hospital."

Community groups have also contributed to Nick's

"They held a fund-raiser at [Downtown Deli] in Columbia to raise money for my treatment, and my family [in Detroit] had schools raise money with cans," Nick says.

Nick is currently enrolled in one class and hopes to continue as a full-time student this fall.

Though he has three years of treatment remaining, Nick is motivated to keep fighting the cancer in hopes of renewing his life and helping others recover from cancer one day as a pediatric oncologist.

The chance of a future and helping other people with [leukemia] motivate me to fight it," Nick says. "I don't have the choice not to fight it. I had to make up my mind to be a man, no looking back. I want to



## RIM professor to discuss imagery in album cover art

By Abby Sliger Staff Writer

A picture is worth a thousand words - or at least a deep analysis - and album cover art is no exception.

As part of the Brown Bag Lunches lecture "Perspectives on Popular Music," the University Honors College and the Center for Popular Music present Graphic Desires: Style and Meaning in Album Cover Imagery by Mike Alleyne on Wednesday, Feb. 16.

Alleyne is a MTSU recording industry professor with a special interest in the cultural side of the business.

He plans to discuss how album covers work or do not work with the music and present a brief, selective history on the major transformations in album art, he says.

'The lecture will be a comprehensive analysis of history, with certain things from certain times. It will emphasize the 1970s, but it won't be about the '70s," Alleyne says. "The '70s marks a major transformation in art. Modern art still references the images and styles of the 1970s, so it's still relevant today."

Since February is black history month, the focus will be on how black artists have been seen in art. The lecture will also look at how black music produced by white artists is represented in album covers, Alleyne says.

Alleyne plans to provide historical background and show the "stereotypes created by and



Alleyne

the cultural norms and desires to break through those

industry'

and how it

"reflects

types," he says.

Styles in black music, such as reggae, and specifically Bob Marley's covers - not just black music - will be covered in the lecture, Alleyne says.

"It will not be 40 to 50 hip hop covers, but the roots that were planted for those albums," Alleyne says.

Alleyne also says students can expect the emphasis to be on the art and a little from the

"In some cases, the artist is more obscure with the album cover, so I will play the music to see if the audience's perception of the cover matches what they are hearing," Alleyne says, "So, there will be some degree of

audience participation." Alleyne has published a serial on album art in journals and says he is in the process of becoming an expert on meanings in album cover imagery.

"It is a continuing area of interest for me, but I still have more work to go," Alleyne says. Alleyne's interest in album

cover art began "back in the days of vinyl," he says. When he was a teenager, he was always fascinated by the

album covers and whether or not they related to the music. "I bought album cover books and compiled covers of releases

from all different genres of music," Alleyne says. Of course, this presentation is not restricted to recording

industry or mass communications majors. It is open to anyone who is interested in pop music, Alleyne

"This lecture deals with race, culture, economics and, by implication, art. This is about as interdisciplinary as you can get," Alleyne says, "The same analytical vocabulary can be trans-

'You hear the product and feel it too. It doesn't have quite the same affect alone. It will make you think more about imagery."

ferred. Music is a highly unique

The Brown Bag Lunches are Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. in the Paul W. Martin Honors College Building, room 116. ◆

## Football team inks three-game deal with Maryland

Assistant Sports Editor

Despite the recent attendance struggles and turnover in the athletic department, Middle Tennessee signed a three-game contract with the University of Maryland in football on Sunday.

"This is a very exciting time for our football program," interathletic director Diane

Turnham told MT Media Relations. "Hopefully this will lead to more attractive games in the future."

The Blue Raiders, who finished the 2004 season with a 5-6 record (4-4 in Sun Belt Conference play), will play the Terrapins twice in College Park, Md., and once at Floyd Stadium.

The team recently garnered

one of the school's best signing classes to date, but head coach Andy McCollum will have to replace former defensive coordinator Bradley Dale Peveto, who took the special teams coaching position at Louisiana State University on Feb. 11.

The Terrapins, who have finished in the top 20 during three of the last four years, finished their 2004 season with a 5-6 overall

Ralph Friedgen's team began the season 2-0, but losses to Georgia Tech, North Carolina State and Clemson set the team back before an upset victory over Florida State capped off the

Overall, the Terrapins finished eighth in the Atlantic Coast Conference, which marks their worst finish since 2000-2001.

The two teams will begin play in 2006, when the Blue Raiders will travel to Byrd Stadium on Sept. 6. Maryland will travel to Murfreesboro in 2008 before the teams finish out the contract in either 2009 or 2011.

"Number one, it's great for our fans, our alumni and our student body," McCollum said. "Diane Turnham did a great job of getting that done."

The Terrapins will be the highest profile opponent to ever play in Floyd Stadium, and after Friedgen and his staff signed their second consecutive top 20 signing class in 2005, the three games should be a test for the Blue Raiders.

The two teams have met once before, in 2000, and the Terrapins defeated the Blue Raiders by the score of 45-27. ◆

## Former MT star finds religion, Rhythm

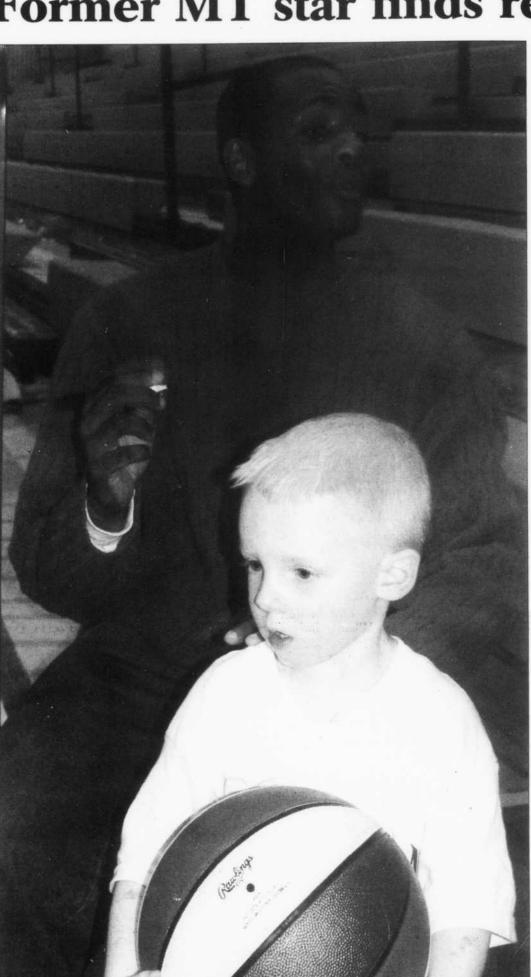


Photo by Katy Hamlett | Staff Photographer

Former MT star Ali McGhee signs autograph for a young Nashville Rhythm fan.

By Katy Hamlett Staff Writer

Most basketball players have some similar observable characteristics: towering height, athletic build, fast feet and a trait unique to Blue Raider basketball players, the ability to take vicious tongue lashings from head coach Kermit Davis without flinching.

An important characteristic for many players often concealed from the public is spirituality. But former Blue Raider and current Nashville Rhythm power forward Ali McGhee is determined to bring religion courtside in the largely secular sport.

Though McGhee is openly spiritual and honest, his formal basketball career began with deception.

McGhee dropped out of high school after his sophomore year but continued to fine-tune his basketball skills. The summer before what would have been his senior year, though he was still not attending high school, McGhee slipped into a showcase camp reserved for high school seniors seeking scholarships.

"Through some trickery, I got them to think I was a senior who didn't get a scholarship," McGhee said. "A couple of coaches got interested, and they told me to get my GED and I'd get a scholarship, and there it was."

During his 1998-99 career at Middle Tennessee, McGhee earned a starting position for the Blue Raiders and is still currently ranked in MT's top 10 for career three-point field goals.

After graduation, McGhee got the opportunity to play basketball in the Philippines with role model and NBA Iron Man title owner A.C. Green.

"It was a great experience," McGhee reflected. "I got to play with former NBA star A.C. Green. I mean I had so much respect for the guy. To actually be around him for a couple of weeks was just outstanding."

After playing overseas,

McGhee came back to the United States equipped with a new tan and fresh inspiration from Green and was eager to start a professional basketball career of his own.

But on the first day of tryouts with the National Basketball Development League, McGhee received an unexpected phone call - and no, it wasn't the NBA.

"My phone rings at 10:40 and I find out my dad's dead," McGhee said. "I tried to put it behind me for that first hour, and then at 12:15 they gave us a break and it hit me. I just thought, 'Wait a minute. I can't do this."

The news of his father's untimely death brought McGhee's blossoming career to a standstill.

"I always did things because I wanted him to be proud of me," McGhee explained. "And then when he was gone, I was just like, 'Why am I doing this?""

McGhee took a two-year hiatus from professional basketball to reassess his life and career goals and to seek advice and guidance from Bethel Church in Nashville.

Then, in 2003, McGhee had had enough reassessing and was ready get back in the game.

"I just thought, 'I want to try this again," McGhee said. "The Nashville Rhythm hadn't even been born. But I was weighing 170 pounds, so I knew I had to get my skinny tail in the weight room."

Seven months and 58 pounds later, McGhee clenched the final spot on the fledgling Rhythm team.

"At the beginning of the season, it came down to [Ali] and three other guys, and only one could stay," Rhythm assistant head coach Scott Flatt said. "They were all talented, but we really thought Ali could fill a special roll that our team really needed."

In addition to doing the team's dirty work, which

See McGhee, 7

## Contract should help MT



"Finally!" we all exclaimed when we found out MT will be playing a real BCS conference opponent (sorry Temple.)

The Maryland Terrapins agreed to a three-game football contract on Sunday. However, MT doesn't draw Maryland until 2008. MT must first visit the Terrapins in the 2006 sea-

Looking at this move, I am proud of the athletic department. They already have made a step in the right direction in solidifying our football program. Sure, they don't draw the Terps until 2008, but programs aren't built in a day or, for that matter, a season.

Schools like Florida State and Boise State are examples of schools that were built from the ground up. The athletic department would be wise to follow this. Especially with a new athletic director, the change in attitude about football would be immanent.

This game actually gives MT a chance to defeat a recognizable college program. Let's face it playing the likes of Georgia, Alabama and Florida on the road doesn't give the Blue Raiders the best chance. These are elite college programs, and the good thing about Maryland is they are in that second tier of teams in the country. They are not a national power, but they are no cupcake either. Maryland is the perfect team for MT to play, a beatable yet respectable program.

This being said, games with Maryland are definitely more

See Maryland, 7

## Blue Raider rugby team one of best in nation

By Chase Williams Staff Writer

MTSU currently has 17 varsity sports that compete in NCAA Division 1 intercollegiate athletics, but Middle Tennessee sports teams are not limited to just these 17.

Various sports clubs and intramurals do not get the attention of school-sanctioned athletics, but this doesn't mean these squads are not as talented or practicing just as hard.

One such club is the rugby team. Comparable to football and soccer, rugby is quite popular in Europe, Asia and Australia. Officially called "rugby football," the game is played with 15 players on each side for two 40-minute halves.

The clock runs continuously, stopping only when the ball leaves the field of play or a foul is committed. Rules of the game include no forward passes, no offsides and no balls being knocked on (dropped forward).

The game is similar to soccer in that it constantly flows and like football in that it is full contact. However, no pads are worn, and play does not stop with a tackle. Once the ball carrier is tackled, his teammates must fight off defensive players trying to recover the ball in what is referred to as

On the field at once are 8 forwards (similar to lineman, linebackers and fullbacks in football),



Photo provided by Noah Ura

MT's rugby team competes in Division I, college rugby's highest classification.

the scrum half (comparable to an option quarterback with less control) and six backs (equivalent to defensive backs, receivers and tailbacks in foot-

MT competes in Division I, college rugby's highest division. The Blue Raiders are in the South Division, which consists of MT, Tennessee, Clemson, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

MT currently holds a 2-0 league record composed of an 86-0 thrashing of Georgia, and 36-17 triumph over the Florida Gators. The league's champion and runner-up advance to April's National Sweet 16 to battle the champs from the other national regions: Midwest, West, Southern California, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

The Blue Raiders have about 40 team members. The squad plays in the fall and spring, with the former acting as an extended preseason and the latter serving as competition and national qualifying. The team practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. behind Cummings Hall, and home matches are held at the playing field on East Main Street across from Slick Pig.

Those fields are scheduled for a \$2 million overhaul this summer.

The team is coached by Robert Keith and assisted by Will Maddox. Keith has been involved with the program for nearly 20 years and has coached

several select clubs. He also holds coaching certifications from the United States and Australia.

Maddox, a former MT player, is in his first year. He coaches the forwards and is in charge of player development.

The team's captain is Johnathan Atkeison, who has five years of collegiate rugby experience and has played on several select clubs. The squad's leaders include New Zealand native Mark Kane, arguably the best collegiate player in the South.

The team also boasts John Cernic and Jason Davilla, former U-19 national team members. Blue Raider rugby has produced seven All-Americans and one capped player (played for the United States in an international match), Cayo Nicolau. MT, a perennial power in the South, has been ranked as high as seventh nationally.

"Rugby is addictive. Of all the sports I have played, it has more elements which challenge you mentally and physically," Atkeison said.

"We're fortunate to have a coaching staff who is so devoted to the program, and we've set our expectations high for this season," Atkeison added. "We think we have what it takes to compete on a national scale, and I don't think there's anyone on the team who is willing to settle for

MT has only one remaining home match left, a Feb. 26 date with North Carolina at 1 p.m. •

#### Hockey: MT head coach, other teams argue national tournament selection process unfair

Continued from 1

According to the teams' respective Web sites, Hope finished 21-3-1, Calvin finished 23-2 and Wright State finished 24-4-2. Sanzi contends that his team's winning streak and the fact that Calvin's two losses (3-5 to Lansing on Jan. 15 and 0-5 to Hope on Jan. 29) occurred in the team's last six games of the regular season should have played into the rankings.

"We filed an appeal [about the rankings] because we didn't know how we could lose a ranking and move down a spot when we haven't lost a game since October and every other team has lost one," Sanzi said.

But Division III commissioner Tom Vanderlaan said he was not aware of any appeal concerning the matter and denied any sort of collaboration among any schools.

"There's no collusion," Vanderlaan said after a pause. "The fact is that the ranking committee, nationwide, is comprised of head coaches within the region but not necessarily within any given state. To assume that there was collusion occurring out of one specific state, I don't think,

would carry enough weight to tilt the ranking committee's final decision."

Vanderlaan continued by saying that "every year" a team with an outstanding record is denied entry to nationals, and cited the University of Georgia (currently 15-2-1) as another example from this season.

Georgia isn't happy about being slighted either, especially after fellow South Region member Texas Tech was forced to forfeit multiple games due to usage of an illegal player. Georgia expected to move into the No. 3 spot, but the University of Texas (21-4-2) leapt from its previous spot at No. 5 to claim the final bid.

"Obviously it's very disappointing and upsetting," Georgia head coach John Hoos wrote in a press release. "The irresponsibility shown since the first ranking by certain members on the ranking committee is repugnant."

"We definitely feel slighted," Georgia player president Ryan Brouillette told Sidelines. "It's a subjective thing. It's not about how many games you win; it's about what certain people say about your program."

"I equally think Georgia got worked out of their [berth]," Sanzi said. "I've seen Texas play this year, and not only are they not in the top three, they don't deserve to be in the top seven."

As for the Blue Raiders, the team's only loss came to Wright State 8-3 on Oct. 22, but MT then defeated Wright State 2-0 the following day to split the season series. The Blue Raiders tied Southern Indiana 2-2 on Oct. 29.

The Blue Raiders feature the top four scorers in Division III, including Brad Peterson, who scored 80 goals and tallied 86 assists to lead the division. MT goaltender Jeff Dagher is also the top backstop statistically, and No. 2 goalie Daniel Woolridge is third.

"There's not much more we could have done," Sanzi said.

Several teams contacted Sanzi expressing shock and disappointment over the Blue Raiders' exclusion.

"We were all shocked," Vanderbilt head coach Colin Heideman said. Vanderbilt also plays in the Central Region, but does not have a vote on the ranking committee.

"MTSU is the best team we saw all season by far," Heideman

said. "If they went to nationals this year, they would probably win it. Whatever the reason is why they're not going, it's a problem with the system that [the ACHA] needs to fix quickly."

Van Timmermen believes the problem lies in having five regions, which he thinks spreads the bids out too thinly and hurts teams like Middle Tennessee.

"MTSU should be in the South Region," Van Timmermen said. "I believe there needs to be some changes in terms of making four regions instead of five. I brought a proposal to the national meeting last year that got voted down ... and I'll bring the same proposal this year."

But only coaches at the ACHA national convention can vote on such proposals, and only 18 coaches attended last season. Van Timmermen also agreed with Vanderlaan in saying that there will always be unhappy teams from year to year, regardless of the ranking method.

Vanderlaan himself did not fully endorse the current ranking system and said he does not determine the methods by which teams are ranked, according to ACHA bylaws. "There are possibly other methods of determining who could go and who could not go, and frankly, in my opinion, it revolves around money," Vanderlaan said. "You could say to yourself, 'Hey, let's have a playoff,' but then I have to ask you, 'Isn't the regular season a playoff?""

If that was the case, however, the rankings would be determined solely upon win-loss records. Other factors play into the rankings, however, mainly because each region contains so many teams that it is nearly impossible for teams to have common opponents for the majority of their schedules.

"You also have strength of schedule," Van Timmermen said. "Middle Tennessee State beat a lot of teams by 20-plus goals, so people may look at that as though they had an easier schedule than anybody.

MT scored more than 20 goals in six games this season.

"It's all political," Sanzi said.
"Northwood was upset because they thought they had a good team; they're on the ranking committee. I went in and beat Lansing 10-2 – they're on the ranking committee. Maybe [Lansing head coach Joe Quick]

was upset I beat him 10-2.

"It's definitely political, and if they tell you it's not, it's a lie," Sanzi said.

Van Timmermen flatly denied Sanzi's assertions.

"Being the regional coordinator of the Central [Region], the fact is, there is no political agenda involved with any of the North teams or the South teams," Van Timmermen said. "Everybody, I believe, did a very good job of putting the teams where they thought they should be. I do not believe there was any political misrepresentation."

It should be noted that this isn't Sanzi's first beef with the ACHA. The head coach was upset at the beginning of the season over his team's placement in the Central Region while nearby University of Tennessee moved into the weaker South Region.

"[Vanderlaan] told me, 'All you have to do is win, Rick, and they can't take that away from you," Sanzi said. "So I won, and they still denied me."

For now, Middle Tennessee will participate in the Great Midwest Collegiate Hockey Conference tournament in Evansville, Ind., Feb. 25-27.

### Maryland: Contract may attract more fans

Continued from 6

winnable than our trip to Alabama this year. A win against Maryland would also help in getting the school more recognition. With more recognition, more recruits hear about the school. Then, the recruits are curious to visit. Pretty soon, MT would be able to get some of the bigger name recruits in the Southeast with a little more national or at least regional recognition. Before you know it, MT could be the class of the Sun Belt rivaling North Texas and Troy.

Another positive that comes from the contract with Maryland is the home game. It's only one game and it's not until 2008. These are simple facts. Yet, I believe this would get the Blue Raider nation even more excited because just the simple fact of upsetting a team from the ACC is pure bliss. From a fan's standpoint it is definitely posi-

tive and actually something to be proud of. Along those same lines, the attendance would also benefit from a game against such a big name school. With a possible home game with Vandy during the 2008 season, the attendance definitely would be on the rise. The school would be excited about football again. Did I mention this would help recruiting?

What's not to like? Everyone likes to point out the negatives in this deal, like the home game doesn't take place in 2008. They are far outweighed by the positives. Boosting attendance, national attention and gaining some respectability, are definitely some of the goals that the athletic department have undoubtedly set. This contract with Maryland will help to accomplish those goals. •

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#### McGhee: Positive influence on teammates

Continued from 6

includes rebounding, diving and knocking people down, McGhee brings extra motivation to the team.

McGhee's positive energy is part of his conscious effort to make sure his spirituality is visible to fans.

"If I'm really not being a role model, then you could say you got an autograph from a jerk and I really don't want to be that," McGhee said. "I want to be a Christian on the court and off the court so what you see is what you get."

For many people, the idea of ministry through basketball may seem odd, but McGhee has an airtight explanation for his passion.

"There are a lot of people who will never set foot in a church but will come to a basketball game," McGhee explained. "And my attitude on the court, integrity on the court, my sportsmanship, not using dirty language [are being watched]. I mean, you preach a sermon every day; sometimes you use words, sometimes you don't."

McGhee has taken his love for God and passion for basketball into local classrooms, giving keynotes with help from close friends, current and former Tennessee Titans Derrick Mason and Chris Sanders, respectively.

"It's all about the kids really. They'll walk out of there thinking basketball, but it's not really about that. It's about integrity and being a role model," McGhee said.

Regardless of a fan's religion, McGhee's life experiences and behavior on and off the basketball court are qualities that any person can appreciate. In the last few Nashville Rhythm games of the season, fans can catch McGhee in person at Allen Arena, preaching his ongoing sermon one rebound at time.

## Classifieds

#### Automotive

1998 Red Toyota Tacoma Prerunner, TRD package, snow tires, brushguard, AT, CD stereo system, tinted windows, bucket seats, bed liner, extended cab. \$8,990. Call Skyye Medley (615) 596-

1991 Suzuki Intruder 750. Very dependable, ridden daily. Windshield, saddlebags, black. \$2100. Call Jay at 569-2413.

2000 Chrysler Concorde LXI: silver with charcoal interior; one owner; purchased new; excellent condition. Call 615-563-2399 or 898-2623 for more info.

1988 Chevy Blazer for sale. Great condition. 4x4, 4 dr. \$5,500 obo. Need to Sell!! 931-592-2494.

1992 Buick Century, runs great! Only 108k miles, new battery, power steering pum, 4 new tires, CD player, good air& heat. Only \$2,000-OBO. Call cell (615) 525-6249 LEAVE MESSAGE.

1999 Dodge Conversion Van, auto/overdrive, 318 CI 29K miles, TV, VCR,dual radio, CD, tape, PW. Used on trips only. Extended warranty transferable. 895-3480.

2000 Honda Civic EX; 2 door coupe; 5 speed; 101K miles; red; sunroof; one owner; excellent condition; all service records; \$6950; Call John 615-566-9352.

#### Employment

You determine your own hours, your own pace and your own compensation. Great way to work around your current schedule, earn extra money and try a new financial services career. For more information...Valerie 904-1871 or 943-8274.

The Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is seeking student tutors for the following ETIS courses: Statics, Instruments and Controls, Technical Drawing, Industrial Electricity. Please contact Barbara Knox at 898-5311 for more information, Jones Hall Room 333.

Need Money? Student advisors are needed for 120 unit off-campus MTSU apartment community. On-site training, cash referrals and generous hourly salaries are included. Call toll free, 1-866-594-5470 to make an appointment with Kimberly Sanders.

Now hiring full-part time for front desk help. All shifts open. Please apply in person, prefer experience. I-24 - exit 64 Waldron Road. Super 8 LaVergne. 615-793-9999.

Five Senses Restaurant & Bar is now hiring cooks, requirements - good listener, hard working and quick learner. Apply in person between 2-4 pm Tu. - Fr. 1602 W. Northfield Blvd. Suite 515 (Georgetown Park)

CHILD CARE

Nursery caregiver, \$7.00/hour, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Competitive wages, great environment. Must be over 18 years of age, have experience with young children and provide

excellent references. Apply in person at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 1267 N. Rutherford Blvd.

FUN IN THE SUN! Lifeguards wanted in North Myrtle Beach

"Will train," no experience Apply www.nsbslifeguards.com

Campus energy drink wanted. Hard work pays off with new exclusive product not found in stores! Will train teachable/motivated candidates. Call Omar 828-0460 for interview.

EARN 7,467 THIS SUMMER! Did you wait too long to find a great summer job last year? If so, call John @ FASTRACK 615-394-2134 for more information.

PT positions available. Earn \$10/hr + commissions, work 20-24 hr/wk, including weekends and evenings. This is a sales position for local fire departments in local counties. Earnings paid weekly. Valid drivers license and reliable transportation required. Call 615-893-8773.

College Suites is hiring 9 Community Assistance; 16-20 hours per week (more summer hours available). Apply at our leasing trailer at 1155 E. Northfield Blvd.

College Suites is accepting applications for 3 maintenance positions. Brand new community! Apply at our leasing trailer at 1155 E. Northfield Blvd. Call 893-9499.

#### For Rent

NEWLY REMODELED CONDO FOR RENT. 4 BDRM/2 FULL BATH -WASH/DRY INCL. WALKING DIS-TANCE TO MTSU. \$900/MONTH. CALL 804-3817.

New 3 BR, 2BA House, CH/A, stove refrig, D/W, washer/dryer,, screened back porch, 1mile from campus. \$975/mo. \$500 deposit, 1 yr. lease, no pets. 895-0075, 417-4009.

Got friends? Looking for an apartment? 4 BR/2 BA, remodeled apartment; very close to campus; \$295 per month / per bedroom. 615-758-9298.

Walk to MTSU from this beautiful house on Greenland Drive. This house is ready for your new and exciting 2005 Academic Year. Available 2/1/05. Fantastic Location, Quiet environment, Spacious rooms for 4 students as a group.\$300 x 4 + 1/4 utilities. \$350/person security deposit + lease. Circle drive, patio, 2-car carport, hardwood floors, new carpets, new roof, refrigerator, Built-in oven, washer n' dryer, dishwasher, central H/A, fireplace, gas logs. Call 898-2005.

#### Miscellaneous

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Collective Works of the SWEET TEA POETRY CIRCLE (Meredit Aaronson, editor) www.sweetteapoetrycircle.com

#### Opportunities

VINYL SOUP is looking for very serious Keyboardist to Tour. Must be able to rehearse once a week. We are based in Franklin. www.vinylsoup.com. Call 615-397-9634 or 931-682-3878.

Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girl's Rock Flash show in March 2005. If interested, contact Brandon 898-2917.

Are you an Undergraduate student interested in pursing a PhD? If so, we would like to talk to you. Undergraduate research is beneficial for prospective PhD candidates. To find out more information visit www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair for qualifying criteria.

The Anointed Ladies of Alpha Theta Omega Christian Sorority will be hosting an informational for undergraduate and graduate students. The informational will be Sat. Feb 19, 2005 at the KUC. Call Alisha Vaughn at 615-893-1012 for info.

#### Pets

Free kittens, 6 weeks. Litter box trained, friendly, will make great pets! 615-995-9907 or 615-585-9909.

Free hemingway kittens. One black, one white, one mixed. 931-505-5002.

#### Roommates

Female Roomate needed ASAP!! # BDRM! BATH BRICK house! Needed to take over lase until May with possible Lease Extension. \$217 plus 1/3 utilites. Call Samantha if interested at 931-581-6064.

Responsible female roommate needed to share new house, room has never been lived in! 3 BR, 2 BA w/ garage not far from MTSU campus. For more information, please contact Ellyn at 615-419-6696.

CONDO NEAR MTSU FOR LEASE 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath condo for lease. 3,000 sq. ft. Washer and dryer in unit. \$1,200 a month + small deposit. Avail. immed. call Valerie for details. 943-8274 or 893-0809.

Mature female roommates sought to occupy new 2 bed cottage with private entrance, located 2 blocks from MTSU. \$375/month includes heat/air, water, electricity and cable TV. 1 yr lease, \$500 deposit. No pets. 615-364-1004.

Female roommate needed ASAP to share 3 BR, @ BA house in stone gate subdivision, located off S. Rutherford 5 minutes from MTSU campus. Washer/Dryer included, with high speed internet & 2 car gate. Very nice, brand new house with vaulted ceilings. Rent \$325/mo plus 1/3 utilities. Call 615-585-4802 or 731-693-9595 for more info.

Female looking for female roommate. 10 min from MTSU in a town house. Private bath, and walk in closet. \$350 including utilities. Needs to be neat. 584-0797, ask for Rachel

Roommates needed to share 3bd/2ba home in M'boro. Incl. all utilities \$450/mo (furn.rm. & \$400/mo (unfunr.) 615-867-7689.

Responsible female roommate wanted to share a 3bd, 2 bath house located1 block from campus. All hardwood floors, dishwasher, W/D included. house is very clean and in great condition. Kitchen, dining rm, dining rm, living rm, good size front&back yard, carport & shed. Rent is \$325/mo plus 1/3 utilities. \$200 deposit. No pets. Call 615-419-0802 for appt.

Need 2 female Roommates to share 3bd, 2.5 bath in "like new" condo with same. Middleborough Court. walk to campus approx. .5 miles. washer/dryer provided. 1st bedroom \$250, 2nd bedroom \$235, share utilities. \$200 deposit, 6 months lease. 904-7819 leave a message!

Large room for rent, walking distance to campus. No lease required. \$250 rent plus 1/4th utilities. Call 945-3088.

Roomate needed ASAP to share 3bd/2bath apt. 5 minutes from campus. Rent \$265 plus 1/3 utilities. Will pay first months rent. 931-581-6623.

#### Sales

Microwaves and dorm refrigerator for sale in great condition. \$50 each obo. Call Jullian 907-1807.

Two Cheap Computer desks. One desk type with cabinets overhead. One is a stand type with 1 drawer, no cabinets. \$30 for both. Email: deb\_mtsu@yahoo.com. Call 615-563-4488 after 5:30.

For Sale. 8 ft. pool table descent condition and accessories. One set of normal balls, one set of clear balls. Eight sticks including a short stick. Love the table but moving. \$350 or best offer. Call and leave a message. Joe @ 904-2035.

Two white semi-new microwaves for sale. \$20 each. Great condition. Just moved into place with built in microwave. Call Andrea at 364-0634.

#### Services

ATTORNEY
Christine Barrett
890-1300
320 West Main St. Suite 121
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
Visa/MasterCard Accepted.

MTSU student needs ride to campus and back. In the Manchester area. Call 931-723-8177 or email rnb2f@mtsu.edu.

#### Sublease

3 bed/3 bath duplex. Walking distance to school. Great roommates. Nice duplex. 325/month. Call Rodney 615-218-3400.

1 roomate needed or 3 bed 3 bath aprt. Campus Crossing. Fully furnished. Workout center, highspeed internet, pool. 439/month. Utilities included. call 615-482-3796.

One Roomate needed for three bed three bath apt. Campus Crossing. Fully furnished. Utilities included. \$439/month. 200 off first months rent.. Contact: 615-587-0954.

University Courtyard sub-lease 1 bedroom, 1 private bath in 4 bed unit. Coed. Jan through Aug. available now-Furnished. Utilities included. \$375/month or best offer-Kevin at 615-429-7929.

Sublease for the University Courtyard. Call 615-48-1531 to move in immediately.

Subleaser needed for room in 2 bed apartment at Campus Crossing. Less than actual rent, will pay \$100 of each month's rent or first month when you move in. Fully furnished, high speed internet, own bathroom, shower, 24 hour computer lab and fitness room. Next to greek row. Call Mark 901-487-2716.

Room available for sub-lease in a 3 bed apartment for a male at Campus Crossing. For info call Campus Crossing about apt K-203.

Female roommate needed. University Gables. 1bd/bath in 4bd apt. Fully furnished, 24 hr internet, pool, fitness room, w/d. Rent is \$5K (utilities included). Will give \$200 or pay half rent. No Deposit. Call Evelyn @ 6155-631-6220 or email emm2q@mtsu.edu.

Sub-leaser needed for apt. at Campus Crossing. Less than actual rent!! High speed internet, fully furnished, own bathroom, free tanning, shuttle bus to school, 24 hr. computer lab and fitness center. Call Mark 901-487-2716.

3 bd/2 bath, looking for one more roommate. Rent is \$325 plus utilities. No pets. Very close to Campus, on Beu St. Living room, dining room +kitchen, fully furnished, w/hardwood floors. Call Nichole @ 419-0802.

#### Travel

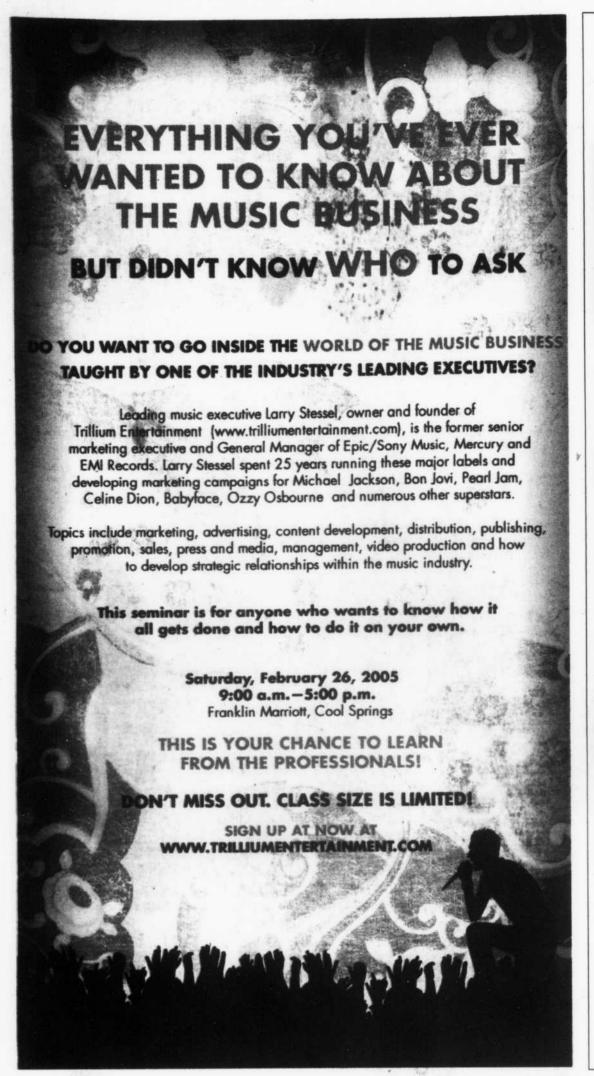
Condo in Myrtle Beach for Spring Break! Sheraton Broadway Plantation Resort. March 5-12, 2005, 7 nights. 1 BR (sleeps 4) \$90/night with minimum of 4 nights. 615-975-4792.

Bahamas Spring Break Cruise! Includes Meals, MTVu Celebrity Parties! Panama City, Daytona \$159! Cancun, Jamaica, Acapulco, \$499! Award Winning

Company! www.springbreaktravel.com 1-800-678-6386.

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