

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 26, 2003

32 37



Wintry Mix



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

Will the two recent nightclub
tragedies affect your clubbing habits?

JSU wins series over Blue Raiders

In Sports, page 7



URFREESBORO
TENNESSEE

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Volume 78 No. 72

Campus Briefs

Radio station benefit to kick off tonight at Boro

The Boro Bar and Grill will host a concert tonight at 9 p.m., with proceeds going to benefit 88.3 WMTS, MTSU's student radio station. The cover is \$5.

Final deadline to pay debt approaching

The final date to pay outstanding debts to the university is May 9. Students must pay fees in order to access grades via TRAM or online or to receive a printed copy of semester grades.

Alpha Chi Omega to host own Mardi Gras

Alpha Chi Omega will host its annual Mardi Gras Madness cupcake and bead sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 3. Prizes will also be given out, and all proceeds will go to the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation.

Native American festival this weekend

The American Indian Festival and Powwow will be held at MTSU for the fourth year March 1 and 2 in the Tennessee Livestock Center. This event has become the largest in the region of its kind. The festival will feature social and exhibition dancing, music, storytelling, craft and skills demonstrations, a tepee village, a community health fair, American Indian food and merchandise and other attractions.

The festival will open to the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for youth 16 and under. Preschoolers get in free. Parking is also free.

For more information, call 898-2872 or 898-2551, or visit the festival Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~pow-wow.

Education Association to sponsor reading day

The MTSU Education Association will sponsor a day of reading to local children called Read Across America on March 3 as part of the National Education Association's Read Across America celebration.

Partnering with MTSU in this event will be the MTSU Day Lab, Hobgood Elementary School, Homer Reeves-Campus School and Pickett-Rogers Elementary School.

This event is held annually to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. The event will begin at 8 a.m. and will include a number of classroom reading activities led by MTSU faculty with the purpose of drawing attention to reading.

For more information about Read Across America, go to the NEA Web site at www.nea.org/readacross.

Students invited to McPhee's open forum

University President Sidney McPhee will be taking questions from students March 5 at 4 p.m. in the Keathley University Center Theatre. ♦

Horse show hits campus

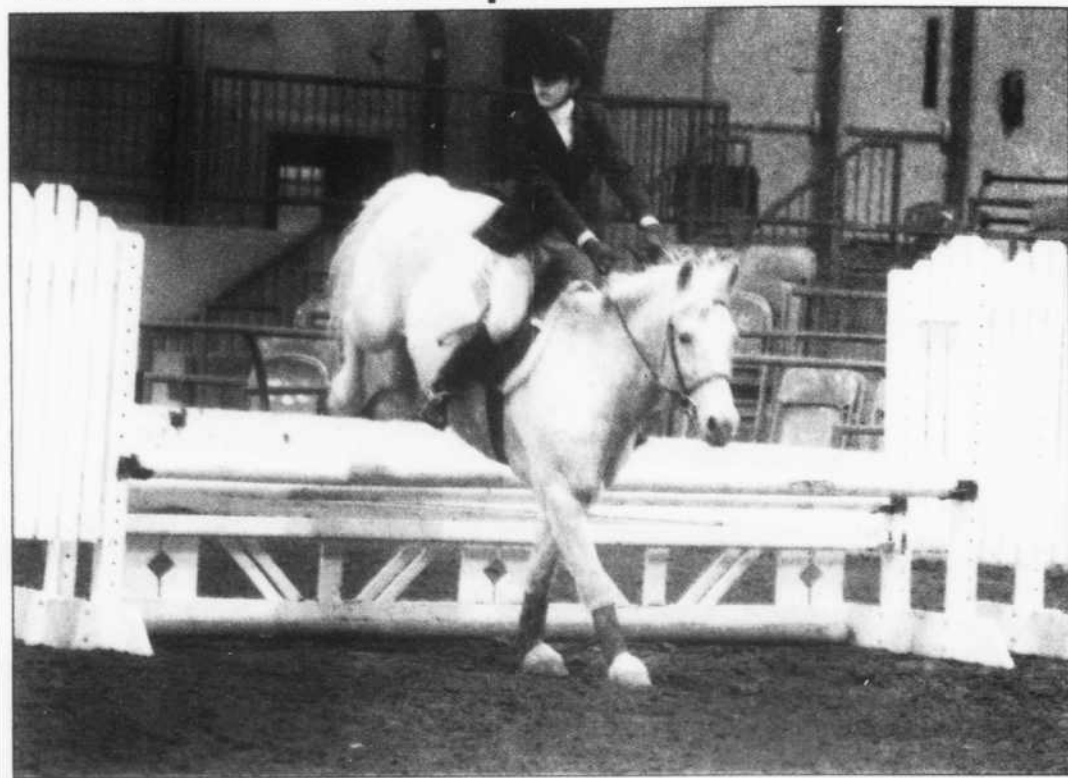


Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

Students from Vanderbilt University and MTSU competed in the MTSU Intercollegiate Horse Show this weekend. For full story, see Living, page 4.

Diversity in newsroom weak at local papers

By Esparonda Waller
Contributor

A panel of black journalists gave their own newspapers a grade of "C" earlier this month for a lack of diversity in the newsroom.

Four journalists from *The Tennessean* — religion writer Brian Lewis, feature reporter Tacuma Roeback, North Davidson County reporter Michelle E. Shaw, and staff writer/business news reporter Gethan Ward — were among the panel members. Staff writer Peralte C. Paul represented *The Atlanta Constitution*.

The panelists agreed that diversity in the newsroom has a great significance in giving a

newspaper both the ability to grow and a better reputation. They also agreed that incorporating different races in a newspaper environment gives minorities a chance to speak up and voice their opinions about issues affecting them and their community and what can be done to address them.

"For many newspapers today, there are a limited amount of African Americans and other minorities working in the newsrooms," Lewis said.

According to the *Tennessean* reporters, only two black reporters write for the feature section, three work in the photography department and one reporter writes for the news section.

Paul said *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* sports section does a good job incorporating diversity because sports tend to encourage a diverse atmosphere.

Shaw noted that *The Tennessean* wants to grow, and by doing that, they want to hire more black print journalists and other minorities.

"I would rate *The Tennessean* as a 'C' because they don't incorporate a lot of diversity in the newsroom," Ward said.

Roeback said he would also give *The Tennessean* a "C" because it only reflects the communities that white people know instead of the

See Diversity, 2

French customs discussed

By Kristin Hall
Staff Writer

Shelley Thomas, a professor of foreign languages, spoke Monday about her incredible experience as a foreign nanny, complete with slides, in a lecture called "An American in Paris."

Thomas explained how the opportunity to live life in another country affected her impression of culture.

As a 21-year-old fresh out of college, Thomas wanted to find a cheap way to travel overseas and experience diverse cultures.

"In 1976, when I graduated from college, I had the opportunity to be a nanny for a family that lived in Paris that was not unlike the Kennedy family," Thomas said.

The father of the family Thomas looked after, Eric Degremont, worked for the Minister of the Interior of France.

Although Thomas had three years of French in high school and four years in college, everyone spoke much faster than she could comprehend.

This drawback resulted in many embarrassing misunderstandings, which Thomas shared with the audience.

To make sure students of

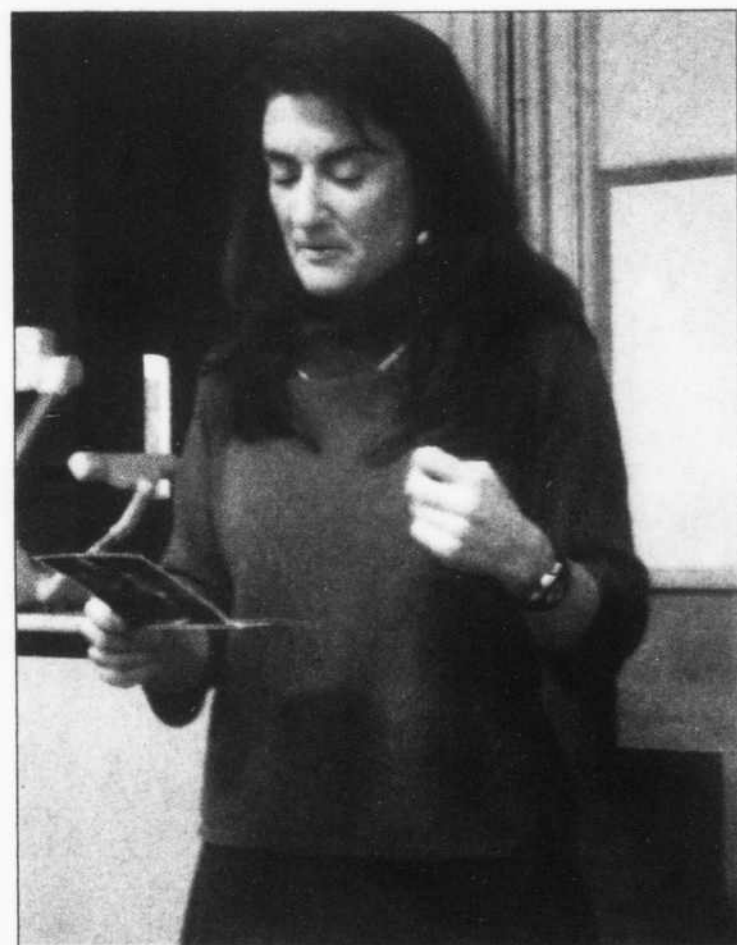


Photo by Blake Pearson | Staff Photographer

Foreign language professor Shelley Thomas talks to students about her experiences as a nanny in France.

French don't fall in the same trap, Thomas recommended watching French films in order to prepare for real conversations in French.

Living with a French family, Thomas learned a lot of customs that she wouldn't have known from reading a book.

For instance, Thomas said, proper dinner table etiquette required that diners leave their hands on the table when not

eating, whereas in America hands or elbows at the table is considered rude.

The family had three boys Thomas had to care for and she admitted that they sometimes misbehaved.

"It was difficult for me to restrain myself from being mad all the time, which impeded, at the same time, my ability to learn French," Thomas said. ♦

Women to be included in curriculum

By Erica Rodefer
Contributor

Several classroom lectures will attempt to showcase the diversity of women's contributions throughout history as a part of National Women's History Month this March.

Women in the Curriculum is a program sponsored by the Women's Studies department that invites professors to open their classrooms to the public to integrate women's history into classroom curriculum.

"Our purpose is to show people how women are integrated into our curriculum," said Elyce Rae Helford, director of Women's Studies. "I think it's nice for people to see, even if they don't attend, the diversity, not just in Women's Studies classes but in Intro to Physical Sciences or Intro to History."

The Women in the Curriculum schedule makes clear that women excel in many subjects, covering women's involvement in history, technology, science, music and literature.

"We are thrilled to get people to participate," Helford said. "It lets you kind of feel like part of National Women's History Month."

As a whole, women's issues are more integrated into class curriculums at MTSU than they have been in past years, according to Helford.

"I do think that some departments don't do as well as others," Helford said. "In terms of whole classes that are devoted to women's issues, business and the hard sciences still do not really have classes."

"Our purpose is to show people how women are integrated into our curriculum."

— Elyce Rae Helford
Director of Women's Studies

That does not mean women's issues are not covered in other classes in those departments, Helford said.

Helford's contribution to Women in the Curriculum will be a lecture called "Sexual Harassment and the Internet." She will discuss the book *Katie.com* by Katherine Tarbox.

The book is about a teenage girl harassed over the Internet. In Helford's lecture, she will discuss how the media influences women, the dangers of Internet predators and what lessons *Katie.com* can teach about Internet safety.

Judith Iriarte-Gross is the only professor from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences who will be devoting class time to Women in the Curriculum. Her lecture, "Let's Get Physical: Women in Physical Sciences," will discuss women who have made important contributions to physical sciences.

"I'm going to talk about women scientists that people really don't know," Iriarte-Gross said. "There are a lot of women out there that have done some really fantastic work, and we don't know about them."

Iriarte-Gross also said that, as an MTSU faculty member, she feels it is her responsibility to show students what career

See Women, 2

Plagiarism gains new emphasis

Dickerson seeks to educate faculty on issue

By John Wes Cline
Staff Writer

A recent e-mail sent out by John Dickerson, the assistant dean of Judicial Affairs, notified faculty and staff about a Web site dedicated to educating them about plagiarism.

The university defines plagiarism as the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words or statements of another person as one's own without proper acknowledgement, according to the 2002-2003 MTSU Students Rights and Responsibilities handbook. It is punishable by automatic failure in the class and possible suspension or expulsion.

Every September, Dickerson sends out a memo about the school's policy on academic misconduct, which includes plagiarism, to all faculty. Recently added to the memo was a link to the Web site on plagiarism.

"It could have some good effects, but the people who just want to skate by are probably going to continue to do so," Dickerson said of student pla-

giarism. "Being aware of how to deal with it helps; I just try to provide them (teachers) with any resource I have to help them do their jobs."

Two years ago there were 64 referrals for academic misconduct. This year there have been 66.

"It's good to know procedure for dealing with these cases in place and there is going to be a vigorous effort on the part of the administration to match the professor's effort," history professor Lynn Nelson said.

In order to make it harder for students to plagiarize, Nelson said he and other teachers resort to course specific assignments, diversifying types of testing and assignments, and in many cases, just getting away from the broad-theme research papers altogether.

"Some people seem to back themselves into a corner with overloads work and family commitments, and end up looking for an easy way out," Nelson said. "[Plagiarism] is not a guaranteed easy way out, and a lot of times cheating requires as much or more effort than actually doing the work yourself."

Nelson also noted that the more accessible material becomes the easier it is for teachers to find the same material. ♦

CRIME LOG

Monday, Feb. 17 – 5:05 p.m.

Theft

James E. Walker Library

A victim's jacket was stolen off of a chair, containing car keys and a wallet. The officer transported the victim home.

Tuesday, Feb. 18 – 11:35 a.m.

Vandalism

Cummings Lot

A red Ford Escape had its back window smashed in.

Tuesday, Feb. 18 – 8:00 p.m.

Vandalism

Old Main Circle

Two tires were slashed on an automobile.

Tuesday, Feb. 18 – 10:38 p.m.

Theft

Scarlett Commons

A laptop computer was stolen.

Thursday, Feb. 20 – 12:00 p.m.

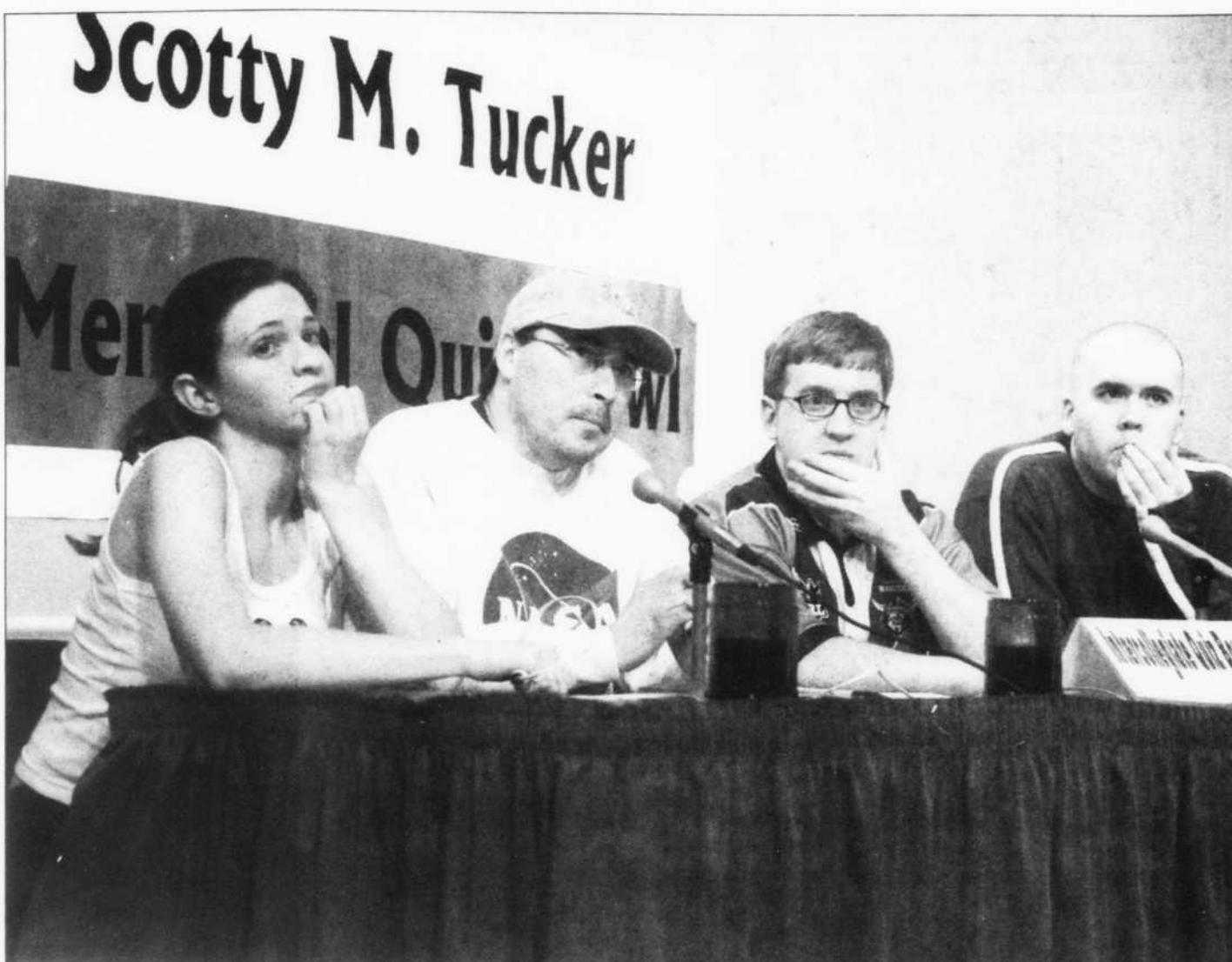
Assistance

Mass Comm Parking Lot

Parking Services requested backup from MTSU Public Safety when an irate person attempted to leave.

These accounts were compiled from Public Safety's media log. To report a crime, call 898-2424. ♦

MTSU Quiz Bowl shoots to win



MTSU Intercollegiate Quiz Bowl Team members (left to right) Wendy Caldwell, Dennis Thibodeaux, Patrick Chinnery and Matthew Parriott ponder a question during last night's Scotty M. Tucker Memorial Quiz Bowl Tournament. The Quiz Bowl team defeated nine other teams to take the win.

Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

Women: Tech jobs fewer

Continued from 1

possibilities exist for them.

"We have to let women know that science is a viable career for them, that they succeed in it and have a fulfilling life," Iriarte-Gross said. "That's my passion. That's what I do."

According to the National Science Foundation, women only hold 23 percent of science and engineering jobs in America. On a national average, 47 percent of undergraduate degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics are presented to women. MTSU is slightly below the national average at around 42.5 percent in the past two years, according to research Iriarte-Gross prepared for the university on women's participation in science-related fields.

MTSU's women's graduation rates in the physics and astronomy departments were particularly low at 12.5 percent, which is 32 percent below the national average. Graduation rates for engineering technology were 9.3 percent, which is 48 percent below the national average, and computer science was 25.4 percent, 8 percent below the national average.

A plan is in action to encourage more young women to go into these fields of study at MTSU.

The plan is to attract and retain 10 percent more female majors in science, math, technological and engineering fields in upcoming years.

However, a more common topic for this year's Women in the Curriculum is how women

have been involved in literature and history.

Mary Hoffschwelle is opening her Tennessee history classroom to talk about the women's suffrage movement in Tennessee and how it contributed to the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote in America.

"Tennessee gets to be the last battleground for the ratification of the 19th amendment," Hoffschwelle said.

Tennessee became the crucial 36th state in the nation to ratify the 19th Amendment. This gave the United States the two-thirds majority it needed to pass the amendment nationally in August of 1920.

Hoffschwelle said the big controversy within the movement for women's suffrage was that if white women were enfranchised, black women would be too, and most white women did not want that at the time.

"In Tennessee, we do have some examples of women working across racial lines – black and white women working together on a political agenda to secure their goals," Hoffschwelle said.

A schedule for all the Women in the Curriculum classes will be available in the Women's Studies office in Peck Hall, Room 109B, the June Anderson Women's Center and the Keathley University Center information desk. ♦

Diversity: Panelists advise on newsroom integration

Continued from 1

communities of minorities.

The panelists advised students that the best way to incorporate diversity into the newsroom is to go beyond stereotypes and look for that diversity.

Shaw said reporters should advocate the community but remain balanced at the same time.

He also said that, when covering stories, reporters should incorporate different races as their interviewees to increase the level of diversity.

Panelists suggested that those people being interviewed

should also know they are not just a representative of race, but that their comments will be helpful and interesting for the story.

"Print journalists should take the gift of knowing different ethnicities and make it so those in the newsroom cannot ignore diversity, but they should make diversity look good," Shaw said.

"Journalists should speak up if they disagree with a comment."

According to the panelists, to influence the newsroom journalists have to voice their opinions.

Shaw said she influenced the newsroom because of her boldness and her race.

"I made myself known, and I let them know that I wanted to be involved," Shaw said.

"I impact the newsroom because I voice my opinions and because I am determined to educate my co-workers," Paul said.

Ward said he was influential in the newsroom because of his large focus on race.

"I want to incorporate more diversity," Ward said. "If you see a lot of editors that are your color, that will encourage you to want to succeed as a black print

journalist."

Paul said he thinks having more diversity in editors will also help improve the status of diversity in the newsroom.

He stressed that if editors assign more reporters of different races, minorities will have a chance to share their opinions for stories.

The journalists concluded with a tip for all aspiring reporters: Find out what the paper's real purpose is before accepting a job and ask the editors if they are willing to incorporate different minorities into their paper. ♦

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History Month.**

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From the Editorial Board

Diversity important in newsroom setting

Diversity is a word that enlightened folk throw around liberally, but don't really think much about when it comes down to it. There's a good reason for that – ensuring true diversity in a workplace is a constant uphill battle employers must face.

It should come as no surprise that the diversity situation in American newsrooms is less than ideal for those who believe that a representative population of all creeds and races is essential to a truly balanced newspaper.

A panel of black journalists gathered earlier this month to discuss the diversity climate of newsrooms. Representatives from *The Tennessean* and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* hashed out the need for diverse voices and perspectives in a newsroom environment.

The panelists asserted that having diverse reporters and editors in a newsroom helps ensure that the paper's coverage branches out to all factions of its readership. It can only benefit a publication to employ people with diverse backgrounds, perspectives, voices and opinions. Think how much richer a paper's dialogue about key issues would be if more than just the white, middle-class perspective was tossed around.

Some people argue that a reporter's background shouldn't influence the way he or she covers and reports the news. This argument is based on the notion that reporters are completely objective, which, as anyone in the news business can profess, is a fallacy. As humans, reporters come pre-packaged with personal biases and perspectives that are impossible to completely separate from one's approach to reporting and editing.

Sidelines, like other newspapers, has its share of diversity difficulties each semester. We don't have the recruitment resources major newspapers do, so we rely on the occasional reporting class visit and billboard flier to bring interested students to us. We've found it more complicated than it sounds to effectively recruit and retain minorities on our staff.

The doors to the *Sidelines* office are always open for members of any race, creed or gender. It is important to us, and the future of journalism, that newspapers consistently employ diverse persons. ♦

From the Managing Editor

'Operation Headhunter' distraction from real war



Jason Cox
Managing Editor

Got your hash pipe? Then John Ashcroft wants you ... to go to jail.

In yet another case of the Justice Department and the Bush administration's war on personal freedom, "Operation Headhunter" seeks to arrest and imprison people who sell pipes, clips, scales and other items related to drug use – particularly marijuana – online.

The continued targeting of marijuana, sadly, no longer comes as a surprise. After all, he can't go after cocaine because Bush would lose his dealer and there'd be hell to pay.

But I digress.

Aside from the fact that marijuana use is a pretty lame target for eradication (how would you like to be a DEA agent whose only accomplishment in life was eliminating a few blunts?), putting the crosshairs on legitimate business owners is not only absurd, it should be a crime.

Most of the time the pipes are sold as tobacco pipes, and tobacco, in

fact, tastes quite excellent through a good pipe. Of course, most of the pipes sold are most likely used for marijuana consumption, but retailers can't help it if people use them that way. The aforementioned clips also have legitimate use in photo labs and scales can be used to calculate postage (really!) much like the expensive postage meters advertised on television.

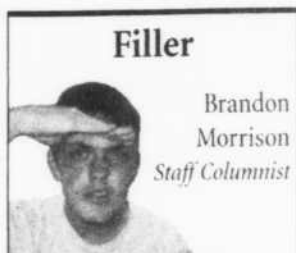
Perhaps Ashcroft wants to distract from the failures in the war on terrorism (Osama bin Laden still walks the earth unscathed, after all) or wants to appeal to the conservative-minded good ol' folk. Either way, Ashcroft is destroying people who just want to make a living.

The problems this country faces – including domestic crime, the threat of terrorism and the fact that millions of Americans are impoverished among others – are difficult to solve.

By going after such a random sect as 'paraphernalia' retailers, Ashcroft is screaming to the country that Bush and friends don't have – and do not particularly want – ways to solve the real problems in this country.

Let's just hope ol' Bushie keeps his nose clean. ♦

Broad music reaches broad audience



Filler

Brandon Morrison
Staff Columnist

Despite its lack of any substance, pop music is a powerful force in people's lives.

On the way to work the other day, I flipped through the radio stations, trying to find something decent to listen to.

Finally, I settled on a Top 40 show.

After the song playing ended, the announcer read a request that a listener had sent in. The listener wanted to hear a song that reminded her of her grandmother, who had lived by herself since her husband died.

At first, she handled the stress well, but eventually old age caught up to her.

Her once energetic mind began to have trouble remembering what she had done during the course of the day.

Doctors diagnosed her with Alzheimer's disease. Eventually, she had to move out of her house into a nursing home. Finally, the grandmother succumbed to her ailments and died last fall.

The listener was still in a state of mourning after her grandmother's death. To help her cope, she wanted to hear a song that reminded her of her grandmother.

She requested Sarah McLachlan's "I Will Remember You."

During my last year of high school, the senior class gathered one Friday afternoon before Homecoming to discuss the plans for the rest of the year.

After we decided what we were going to do, the

class president asked if anyone had any final thoughts. What followed was almost an hour's worth of people sharing their favorite memories of the past, nervous thoughts of the present and hopes for the future. It was probably the closest the class had ever been to each other.

Right before we had to leave, two of the girls there went over to the piano in the corner. They had prepared a song to perform at the end of the meeting. Their performance became one of the more memorable moments of the year.

They played "I Will Remember You."

When Sarah McLachlan wrote the song, I doubt she had either the radio listener or me in mind. Yet, the song has two special – but completely different – meanings in at least two other listener's ears. Why is it that one song can affect

people in many different ways?

When musicians write music, it's meant to express one or more ideas. They might write to prove a point, express an emotion or a combination of the two. But, because we can't read the writer's mind, there's no way we can ever completely understand what his or her motivation was.

Everybody relates their own experiences to the music, giving it a new meaning each time.

Even though every listener puts his or her own twist on the music they hear, if the song was specifically written for one purpose, one can only go so many directions with their interpretations. However, music written for a broad scale, such as pop music, has the potential to earn many different meanings.

Ambiguity is the reason pop music is such a power-

ful force. Its lack of any particular message allows people to put their own ideas on the songs.

Think of pop music as an all-purpose tool.

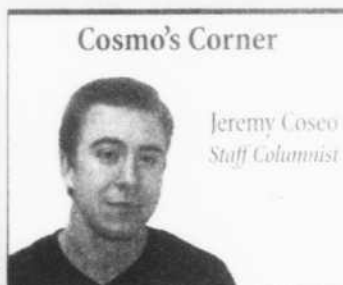
It's designed to reach as broad an audience as possible. With music already such a broad medium, music with the purpose of turning a profit through sales is guaranteed to be widespread.

Pop music does not – nor is it designed to – have one specific message. If a song doesn't have any meaning to you, it's not the songwriter's lack of skill at fault. You just haven't associated your own ideas to it yet.

Consider that when you can't stand your neighbor's loud music at night. ♦

Brandon Morrison is a sophomore media design major and can be reached via e-mail at bjm2k@mtsu.edu.

Political prostitution



Cosmo's Corner

Jeremy Coseo
Staff Columnist

The word "pander" has two definitions: to assist others in the gratification of their baser passions, and to pimp. It's a word so prevalent in our politics, but how many of you knew the actual definition?

We hear this word all the time when people are describing different politicians, Democrat or Republican. Most of them pander to some type of group, organization or corporation – liberal or conservative, moderate or extreme. This raises a question in my mind: Is this a good thing?

To a simple question, a simple answer: No.

How can pandering be a good thing when someone whose job it is to serve the people owes or is obligated to a select group?

What have they done? They sold themselves to the largest bidder, most influential or largest demographic group they could find. This is also referred to as special interest.

Is the job of a politician to sell him- or herself?

Apparently, in today's world, it is.

The two Webster's Dictionary definitions of a politician: one skilled or active in politics, and a statesman.

Wait a minute, I don't see any link between the two definitions. What does that mean?

It means that politicians who pander to any group aren't really genuine politicians in the true sense of the word. They're not statesmen.

Where does that leave you and I, the everyday Joe? "With the short end of the stick," as they say.

That's right, unless you're a member of one of those so-called special interest groups that have the ability to sway political opinion and get attention, you're out of luck.

You have no power and you have no voice.

The system has been thoroughly corrupted with politicians who see their jobs not as serving the masses and the greater good, but instead serving the ones who can benefit them financially or politically.

Which brings me to the Webster's Dictionary definition of the word "prostitute." A prostitute devotes his or her honor, talents or person to base purposes, or engages in sexual acts for money.

Now I see a connection. Prostitute – a word that should have no place in politics but is rampant throughout it.

This is a problem.

We're supposed to be under the rule of people who have our best interests in mind, not rulers looking out for their own best interests.

Are we lost, or are there no true statesmen out there who care for the greatness of their nation rather than themselves?

Sadly, as we stand today, we're lost. Half the country doesn't bother to vote, and the other half doesn't feel any real connection to the people they elect.

Selling themselves to further their own aspirations, politicians not only overlook the cheapsen us to their standards also.

Look how easily they can buy our votes with a few empty promises.

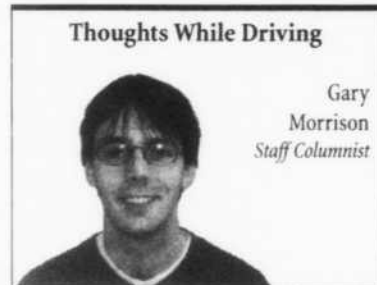
They have changed their jobs to not keeping promises and making excuses, and we have changed our jobs to not holding them accountable to their words or actions.

If you can't see that "everything is money" in politics, as well as the rest of the world around you, it's time to see an optometrist – you need some reality glasses.

The worst part about this unjust scenario is this: If politicians are the high class call girls, what does that make you and I? Crack hos? ♦

Jeremy Coseo is a freshman journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at jdc3g@mtsu.edu.

Saving animal species for profit, taste wrong



Thoughts While Driving

Gary Morrison
Staff Columnist

In case you missed the article in *The Tennessean*, get ready for bison in Tennessee. Yep, bison, also known as American buffalo, reaching 6 feet in height at the shoulders and weighing about 2,000 pounds.

Well, you probably won't see many live buffalo in these parts. They'll already be cut up into nice marketable packages in your grocer's freezer section. Bison may soon be "what's for dinner."

Apparently, the National Bison Association, based in Denver, Colo., thinks Nashville has what it takes to be the next big bison market in the United States. In fact, they're planning a marketing campaign called "Dad's Day Buffalo Stampede" this June.

But what about the cattle producers? Will their livelihood be threatened by this bison push? Not according to a spokeswoman for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Last year, only about 20,000 buffalo were slaughtered, compared to 130,000 head of cattle slaughtered every day. There seems to be little for the cattlemen to worry about. Bison meat is more expensive than beef, so while it may be a novelty purchase for many, it probably won't be in everyone's home freezer in any great quantity.

Also, it is more expensive to raise bison than cattle. Bison are bigger and harder to handle than ol' Betsy, and they require more room to graze than cattle. Looks like even more land is going to be used for meat production when it could be farmed for grain. Do you have any idea how much ground it takes to produce one pound of flesh versus one pound of grain? It isn't even comparable.

So, why would anyone even try to make bison a marketable product?

Well, how about money? It's true that bison meat is lower in fat and cholesterol than beef, and in today's health-conscious society, the mere words "low fat" can add a couple dollars to the price of anything. Besides, do you really think

that someone out there is trying to create healthier foods for the public out of the kindness of their heart? Fat chance. More like for the padding of their wallets.

Sure, bison is better for you than beef, or most any other meat, and that is supposedly why you should pay more for it.

Does anyone remember the emu craze from a few years back? Wasn't that supposed to be the next chicken? I haven't seen any at Kroger lately.

The *Tennessean* article points out that bison is already available in some retail outlets and restaurants including Ted's Montana Grill, a chain owned by Ted Turner. He is also said to have the largest private bison herd in the United States.

Now, I don't want to jump to any conclusions here, but I don't remember Ted Turner being involved in any groundbreaking nutritional research. I do believe Turner is in the business of making money, and lots of it. In fact, according to an article in *Scientific American* magazine (July 2002), Turner allows his two million acres of private land to be used by researchers to "reintroduce species and reinvigorate Western lands." What Turner does is raise bison, sell them off and then buy the processed meat back for use in his restaurants.

How's that for reinvigorating the West?

This article isn't about Ted Turner or what he does with his bison. It's meant to make you think about why we eat what we eat. I don't care one bit if you eat meat: red, white or pink.

What I want you to think about is saving a species just because they may taste good and turn a profit.

Bison were once on the verge of extinction but due to "breeding" programs, their numbers are strong again. They weren't bred, however, to roam wild or reinvigorate the West; they weren't even bred as a replacement for cattle. They were bred for profit.

I guess the next step would be a bad *Jurassic Park* rip-off: Let's try and bring back an extinct species just to see what it tastes like. How much would you pay to have a genuine Brontosaurus burger? Yabba-dabba-doo. ♦

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SIDELINES

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*denotes member of editorial board

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.

Ready To Run



Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

Lydia Whitlow, a competitor and student in an intermediate over-fences class at MTSU, performs a jump over the "standard." Whitlow was one of the many students

who competed in the MTSU Intercollegiate Horse Show held at the Livestock Center this past weekend. Participants came from Vanderbilt as well as MTSU.

Students compete at intercollegiate horse show over weekend

By Stephanie Shoup
Contributor

"Heels down, shoulders back, relax." Coaches and teammates provided encouragement to fellow riders during the horse show held at the MTSU Livestock Center this weekend. Members of MTSU's and Vanderbilt's equestrian teams managed the event, which began at 1 p.m. Friday and ended around 3 p.m. on Sunday. Students ran everything from the announcements to the rules and regu-

lations. "My job is to make sure everyone gets on the right horse, and the right horses go in the right classes," says Laurin Johnson, from Vanderbilt, while calling out the number of riders who need to get in the rings. "What we do here has so many variables. There are so many sports where the competitor is in control, but it is different with horses because you don't know what your horse is going to be like. One minute they are fine, and the next thing you know, they are acting

like a bear is coming after them," says Brian Terry, equestrian coach for Murray State. The competitors draw a popsicle stick out of a box with the horse's name on it about 30 minutes before their class begins. "None of it is judged by the horse; it is all about the rider," says Anne Brzezicki, head coach for the MTSU team. The riders don't have a chance to get used to the horses. They get on them for the first time and are judged as

soon as they get into the ring. During one of the hunt-seat classes, one of the horses threw a rider off. They stopped the class and consulted the students and coaches organizing the show and determined that she could stay in the class because the fall was unavoidable. "In the end, I placed the way I had planned," says Jim Arrigon, judge for the hunt-seat show. The rider ended up with second place in that class. This show consists of four separate parts. The first part of the show is rein-

ing. "The object is to go as fast as possible and still get the lead changes done," says Lisa Brown, the judge for the Western portion of the show. "The main problem is that they would ride too fast with their reigns too long to be able to do the pattern correctly, but they were all very good riders." The second part of the show is western horsemanship. The competitors ride in classes according to their ability.

See Equines, 6

Dear Annie

Lady in waiting: Girlfriend has eager heart

Dear Annie,

I'm going to graduate in May and I really want to get engaged.

My boyfriend and I have been together for a year, and I want to graduate and start my new life with him.

He thinks it's too soon. But if we're in love and already practically living together, why not just go ahead and get married? We'll save on rent. I know he is the one for me and I'm very much in love. I can see the white dress and his figure at the end of the aisle waiting for me. I think he's just scared to take that step because he's been engaged before and it didn't work out for him.

But I'm not her, and our relationship is very different — better, in fact. I keep bringing up the topic of getting married and he'll talk about it sometimes. But he's your typical guy and just says, "I'll leave all that girly stuff up to you." I know he loves me — he tells me every morning. I don't know if we need to work on our communication skills or if I'm going to have to put off my dreams of getting married because he's scared.

Well, I know I've rambled here, but if you could just tell me your thoughts, that would be great. I know you'll probably say to just be patient, and I know that. I'm trying. Annie, what do you think? — Waiting Girlfriend

Dear Waiting Girlfriend,

I think several women can relate to your question. They want to graduate, get married and start their life with the one they love. I

refer to these girls as goal-oriented brides. What is the hurry? Is your dress on fire? Believe me, rent is not a reason to get married. I'd rather pay rent on an empty apartment than get married too soon.

Maybe you're trying to be patient, but you're not listening to your guy. He's giving you clear signs that it is too soon for him. You're focusing on the white dress and the sound of wedding bells ringing too loudly to hear clearly. He thinks it's too soon to get married! If you don't back off, you could make this guy turn into a run-away groom.

Seriously, what is the urgency? Are you afraid to be alone? Do you want the security of a relationship to comfort you? Do you think that if you don't get married right out of college, it will never happen? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you should reevaluate your desire to get married. My point is that you don't want to work this hard to get someone to marry you. It's not something you should have to convince your guy to do. The commitment level needs to be the same between both partners.

You've only been with this guy for a year. I would stop having visions of a white dress and start focusing on strengthening your relationship. Stop waiting and start working on your life with or without him. Nothing can scare a guy away faster than a goal-oriented bride. ♦

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

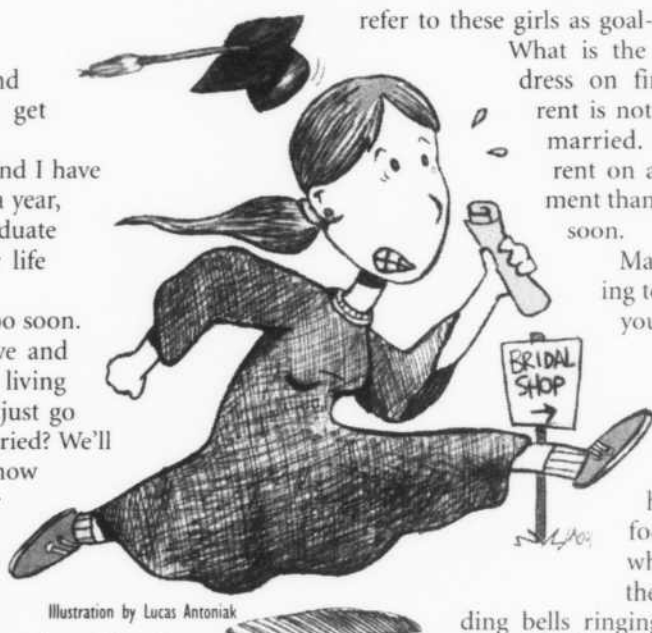


Illustration by Lucas Antoniak

MTSU powwow celebrates Native American heritage

By Melissa Coker
Staff Writer

A big family reunion will take place this weekend at MTSU, and everyone is invited. Many Native Americans who join in the ceremony look forward to the festival all year. It's a tradition some plan for in advance, and for many of the younger participants, it's their first time performing. They have worked on their regalia all winter, and some of it is completely new.

Quite a number of participants drive into town specifically for the event, eager to see their relatives from all parts of the country. Some of the states' participants have come from Georgia, North and South

Carolina, Kentucky, Alabama and Oklahoma. Last year, people even traveled from Minnesota to join in.

According to event coordinator Georgia Dennis, the powwow began in 1995 when Wendy Shunn-Hannah, a former student, had the vision to put together a small powwow in the Tennessee Livestock Center. It has grown into a much bigger event since then, moving from the sponsorship of the Native American Heritage Society to that of the MT Anthropology Society and Student Programming.

Although Student Programming lends volunteers to the occasion, they don't provide financial backing. The festival is a non-profit event, pro-

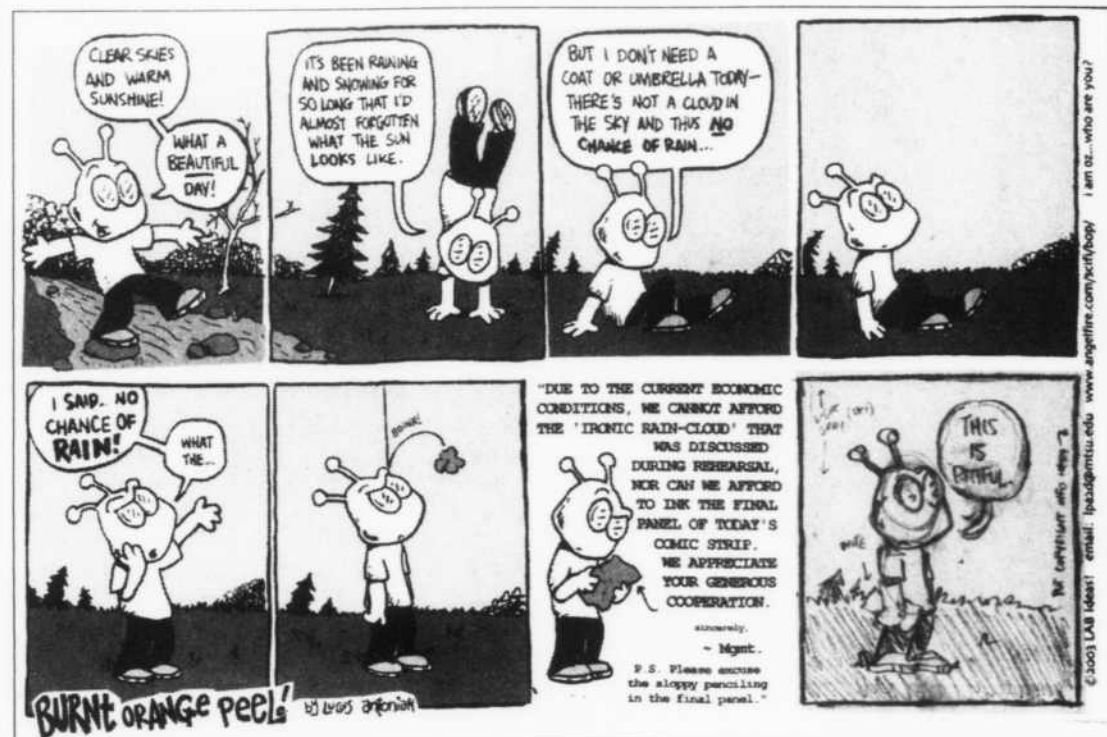
vided only with seed money by the university.

In fact, many of those who participate pay their own way. The powwow provides students and others with the unique chance to be a part of a sacred and enjoyable experience that they may never have the opportunity to appreciate otherwise. The event also includes entertainment, food and crafts.

"It's a melding of entertainment and programming with a traditional Native American celebration," Dennis says.

The food served will include traditional Native American dishes such as tacos and fry bread as well as the basic Western food that attendees

See Powwow, 6



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SPORTS

7 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Title IX fight for sports equality continues

By Josh Beasley
Staff Writer

A lawsuit challenging Title IX forced sports equality in higher education institutions to the forefront recently.

The Educational Amendment Act of 1972, more commonly known as Title IX, has been blamed by some for the reduction of support for men's sports.

Title IX is a law, and the fun-

damental principle behind the regulation was to ensure equality of opportunity for all students to engage in sports.

"When you look at Title IX and what proportionality means, it basically states that if you have 54 percent of your student body that is female then that is where 54 percent of your opportunities go," said MT Associate Athletic Director Diane Turnham. "There are very few schools across the country that can meet that because your female population is going to be greater than that of your male."

Female partici-

pation in athletics increased over the 30 years since Title IX became law in 1972. In 1970, 1 in 27 women participated in athletics, while today that figure is 1 in 2.5, according to the Women's Sports Foundation. The case for a practical approach in achieving gender equity is simply that female involvement and interest in athletics increased as opportunities opened up.

"I think Title IX and what it set out to accomplish was an excellent thing," Turnham said. "We're getting to the point today that a lot of people forgot where we were when this law was put into effect. When this law was put into effect, women's

basketball programs were club sports. They were driving themselves to the games, buying their own shoes and probably didn't have a full-time coach."

The unfortunate situation today is that competition pits male participation opportunities against female opportunities.

Colleges and universities make their own decisions when it comes to financial priorities and resource management. For example, there is only one women's program that charges admission at MT, so their opportunity to produce revenue has been reduced.

However, MT's athletic budget is spread out among the

athletic programs to ensure that each squad is provided with the revenues it needs.

"You have to sit down and look at all of our funding across the board; student fees, revenues and outside donations go into one big athletic pot," Turnham said.

"We try to provide everyone with what they need, and nobody has enough. Our football program compared to other Division I football programs is on a much smaller budget. It's larger than anybody's here, but it's still smaller than a lot of other schools. We look across the board and try to distribute it as evenly as we can."

Today the Bush

Administration reconsiders Title IX, an action stimulated by a suit filed by the College Sports Council against the federal department of education.

In the lawsuit, the CSC states that Title IX was in fact not creating additional opportunities for women, but eliminating existing opportunities for men.

The law itself states equality but funding is not always going to be the same. ♦

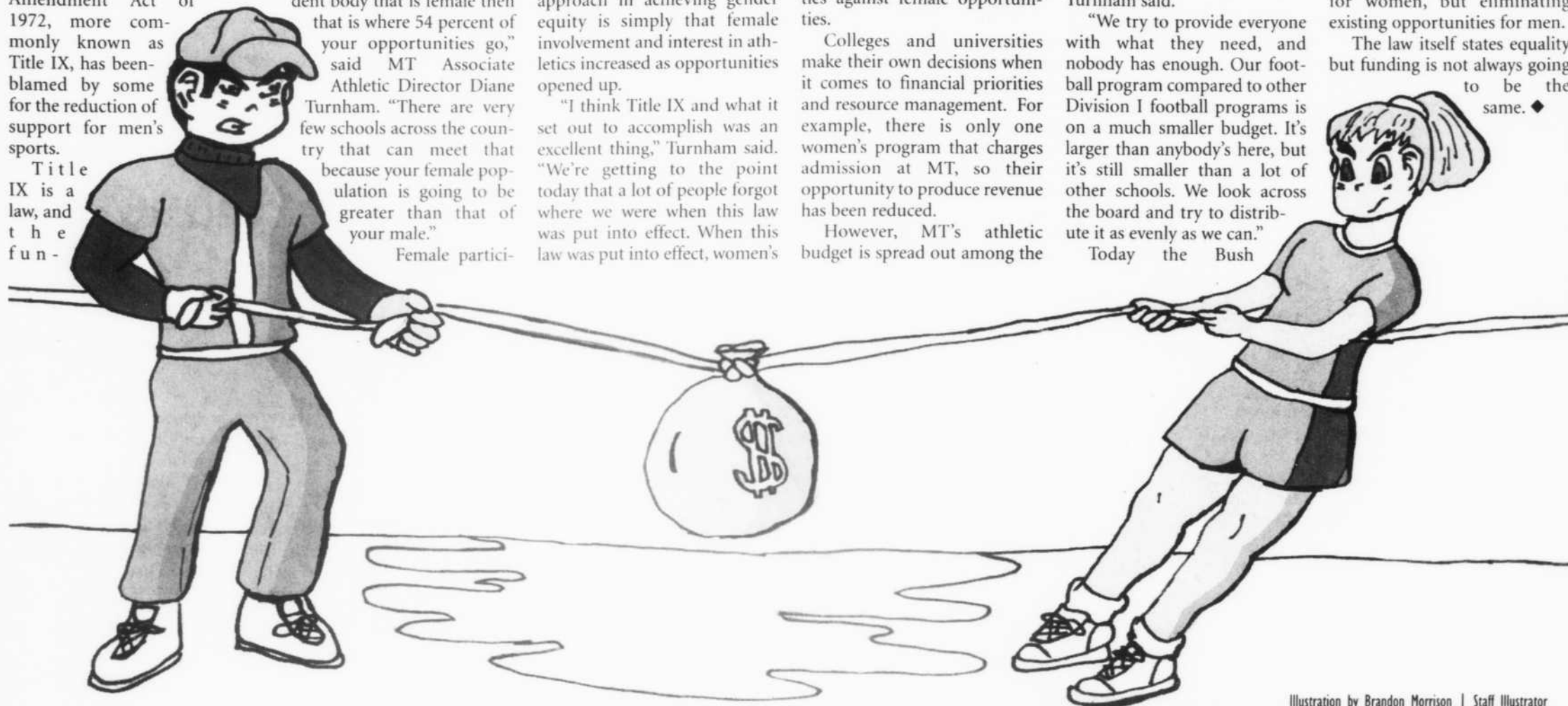


Illustration by Brandon Morrison | Staff Illustrator

JSU wins series over Blue Raiders

By Josh Beasley
Staff Writer

Despite the recent inclement weather, the Blue Raider baseball squad still hit the diamond.

Middle Tennessee picked up its first win of the season in game one of a double-header Sunday, outscoring the Gamecocks of Jacksonville State University, 7-2. JSU got the final say in the rain-delayed series winning two out of three games.

Sophomore Brett Carroll provided the Blue Raiders (1-3) with all of the offense they would need when he belted a grand slam in the first inning to give them an early 4-0 lead. The towering shot provided ample support for sophomore lefty Steve Kline (1-0) as he cruised through seven complete innings, allowing only three hits and two earned runs.

After redshirting last season, Kline returned in midseason form to record his first-ever win as a Blue Raider.

"Sitting out last year gave me another year's experience just to sit and watch," Kline said. "I learned a lot from [Dewon] Brazelton and [Kevin] Davis, and it just feels great to get back on the mound and pitch. I threw my fastball and change-up for strikes and was able to keep them off balance."

"Steve Kline pitched very good," said head coach Steve Peterson. "He pitched like he had in preseason. He came out and went the distance. His change-up was very successful, and we got the offense early, and that is all it took."

In the second game, the Gamecocks jumped to an early lead. JSU plated three runs off four consecutive singles in the top of the first inning.

The Blue Raiders chipped away in the first and second innings, and a third-inning solo shot by junior college transfer Shane Kemp knotted the score at three. The Gamecocks' Evan Conley doubled in the right-center gap to lead off the top of the fourth inning.

For Blue Raider speed merchant Chuck Akers, it was a record-setting day on the base paths. Akers set a single-game team record with four stolen bases in Sunday's win.

The Blue Raiders return to action this weekend when they play host to Kansas, Rutgers and Kent State. ♦



Photo by Kevin Jones | Staff Photographer

MT pitcher Steve Kline talks to catcher Troy Harp and head coach Steve Peterson during one of the games against JSU.

Moosemen play well during tourney



Photo by James Nichols | Contributor

The Moosemen won over Appalachian State, 54-3, on Saturday and tied with UNC-Chapel Hill, 12-12.

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Reporter

The Middle Tennessee rugby team weathered the storm to come away with a victory and a tie in their two games this past weekend.

The Moosemen began the weekend with a 54-3 beating of Appalachian State. The following day, in an anticipated rematch against the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, nothing was settled in a match that ended in a 12-12 tie.

The matches were originally supposed to take place at the

MT pitch. However, because of rain from the past week, water covered the field. The field was deemed unplayable, and the games were moved to Vanderbilt University.

Last Saturday, the Moosemen dominated ASU with a 54-3 win.

The following day, in the revenge game against UNC for last year's loss in the Division I playoffs at Myrtle Beach, both teams were rock solid on the defensive end of the pitch. Both defenses did not allow a score in

See Rugby, 8

Tennis team struggles in Mississippi; UTC visits today

By Osby Martin
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee continued its struggle this season with a 5-2 loss to Mississippi State Sunday in Starkville, Miss., at the A.J. Pitts Tennis Center.

Greg Pollack/Brandon Allan lost their match 8-2 at the No. 2 seed to start the match, but the Blue Raiders evened the doubles with a victory at the No. 3 seed as Trevor Short/Michael Staniak won 9-7. The doubles point came down to the match at the No. 1 seed, where the 10th-ranked duo of Daniel Klemetz/Kirk Jackson fought gallantly before falling 8-6 in a tiebreaker, giving

MSU the early 1-0 lead.

MT (1-7) lost the doubles point in a tiebreaker. MT came back to win the first set of four singles matches but could not hold on to the momentum, winning only one of two of those matches. The Blue Raiders fought hard all season but came up a little short in the end.

"We have played well in almost every match but [we] haven't been able to close out matches," said MT head coach Dale Short. "We will have to see if our guys can respond."

"I have never experienced this type of thing before, but we have to keep working and get everyone healthy and see where it

goes."

Max Fomine gave the Bulldogs a 2-0 advantage with a straight set win over Pollack at the No. 3 seed. At No. 5, Staniak was able to pull the Blue Raiders to within one point with a victory.

Third-ranked Klemetz continued trying to find that consistently dominating play that he had before his surgery. He lost his match in a straight set at the No. 1 seed, but Anant Sitaram cut the deficit to 3-2 with his victory at the No. 6 seed.

No. 92 Jackson had a 7-5, 5-2 lead over Jerome Le Belicard at the No. 2 seed. That

See Tennis, 8

Runners win SBC honors

Staff Reports

With the Sun Belt Conference Track Championships only a few days away, Blue Raider Jasper Demps and Lady Raider Rosemary Okafor continued to show Middle Tennessee's dominance on the track by earning weekly league honors.

Demps, who is the defending SBC 55-meter hurdles champion, grabbed an NCAA provisional qualifying mark in February's Middle Tennessee Classic with a mark of 7.36 seconds to win Runner of the Week honors. Demps, a senior, was an All-American in 2001 for MT.

Okafor collected her second ROW honor after winning the 400 in her last outing with a mark of 53.97. Okafor's run was also good enough to grab the sophomore sensation an NCAA provisional time of her own.

The Blue Raiders and Lady Raiders are two-time defending SBC champions coming into this weekend's championship meet. ♦

Sun Belt Conference Women's Basketball News and Notes

2003 SBC Women's Basketball Records

East Division

| | Sun Belt | | Pct. | Stk. | All Games | |
|-----------------------|----------|------|------|------|-----------|----|
| | W | L | | | W | L |
| *(1)Western Kentucky | 11 | 2 | .846 | W8 | 17 | 8 |
| Middle Tennessee | 9 | 4 | .692 | W5 | 16 | 10 |
| Florida International | 7 | 5 | .583 | L2 | 16 | 9 |
| Arkansas State | 5 | 8 | .385 | L1 | 10 | 16 |
| (5)Arkansas-L.R.O | 13 | .000 | L14 | 5 | 21 | |

West Division

| | Sun Belt | | Pct. | Stk. | All Games | |
|------------------------|----------|----|------|------|-----------|----|
| | W | L | | | W | L |
| New Mexico State | 9 | 4 | .692 | W3 | 15 | 10 |
| New Orleans | 9 | 5 | .643 | W2 | 12 | 14 |
| South Alabama | 8 | 5 | .615 | L1 | 16 | 9 |
| Denver | 6 | 6 | .500 | L4 | 12 | 14 |
| North Texas | 5 | 8 | .385 | W1 | 10 | 14 |
| (6)Louisiana-Lafayette | 2 | 11 | .154 | W1 | 6 | 18 |

* = Division Champion + = Tournament Champion () = tournament seed
\$ = NCAA participant ^ = WNIT participant

New Mexico State Aggies

New Mexico State is on a three-game winning streak, beating UL-Lafayette, Arkansas-Little Rock and Arkansas State to improve their overall record to 15-10 for the season and 9-4 in the SBC.

The Aggies have managed to take a one game lead over South Alabama in the West Division of the Sun Belt Conference. The Aggies have also posted the best conference record ever since they joined the SBC in 2000.

New Mexico State's 15-10 overall record posted the first winning season for the Aggies since New Mexico State's 1995-96 season when they were a part of the Big West Conference.

The Aggie fans said goodbye to seniors Jenia Dimitrova and Mari Sanchez on Saturday versus Arkansas State. They ended their careers with a 73-58 victory over the Indians.

Dimitrova had nine points, going 3-4 from the three-point line, and Sanchez led the Aggies

with a total of 23 points. New Mexico State will now travel to

Denver, Colo., and Denton, Texas, to take on Denver and North Texas for their last two conference games of the season.

Western Kentucky Lady Toppers

Western Kentucky wrapped up the 2002-03 Sun Belt Conference East Division title with a 75-57 win over Florida International Thursday night.

It is the seventh regular season Sun Belt title for the Lady Toppers since joining the league in 1982, and the first since the 1996-97 season. WKU has now won nine straight games, a not since a 65-61 loss at South Alabama on Jan. 18.

A victory Monday night over Chicago State would give the Lady Toppers their first 10-game winning streak since the 1994-95 season. ♦



Rugby: Team to face UT

Continued from 6

the contest.

On the other side of the ball, the MT offense did not play as well. However, MT was able to come from behind and get the tie. The only points scored for the Moosemen were by the foot of Cayo Nicolau, who kicked four penalty kicks in the tie. North Carolina scored their 12 points in the same fashion.

"It was a strange feeling. You almost feel like you've lost," MT head coach Tony Neely said.

In rugby, games play in two 40-minute halves. However, there was no overtime in this game.

During the weekend, the Moosemen defense did not let either team score a try, including the 81-6 victory over Western Kentucky on Feb. 8. The MT defense only gave up 21 points in their first three games, and the MT offense has racked

up a powerful 147 points.

If Sunday's game was any indication, the upcoming schedule will get tougher for the Moosemen.

"We have a lot to look forward to as far as where we can go in the next few weeks, there are no more cupcakes on the schedule. Everybody we play now is Division I, and nothing is going to come easy," Neely said.

The record for the Moosemen goes to 2-0-1 and they have this weekend off. The next game will be March 8 against the University of Tennessee. The location of the match will be determined at a later date.

UT also played at Vanderbilt this past weekend and came away with a win and a loss.

The team defeated Appalachian State 37-0 but lost to UNC, 17-3. ♦

Tennis: Blue Raiders 1-7 overall for the 2003 season

Continued from 6

win could have tied the match, but Le Belicard overcame the deficit and won 11 of the final 13 games to take the match and secure the victory for MSU. Rishan Kuruppu lost the final match of the day at the No.4 seed.

Next up for the Blue Raiders will be the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. UTC (1-7) has struggled much like MT this season as they look to turn their season around after the rough start.

Jason Ontog, No. 113, leads UTC at the No. 1 seed. The senior Chattanooga native had trouble early this year but won two straight matches without dropping a set. He has an overall record of 4-4 and is playing with a lot of confidence. Also for UTC, sophomore Thomas Knizat has a record of 3-5 with two straight wins.

The Blue Raiders want to get their season on the winning track at home.

The match with UTC is today at 2 p.m. at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center. ♦



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