

THURSDAY
MARCH 24, 2005

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plight of Sudan

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Was that really
necessary?

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Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Student to face grand jury this summer

Staff Reports

The case of the MTSU student accused of fondling a 14-year-old girl will go before a grand jury.



Davis

Ryan Davis, 22, who was on assignment as a student teacher at Riverdale High School, has been charged with sexual battery by an authority figure. The impropriety allegedly took place on the return trip of a band competition, on which he and the girl rode together alone.

The case is expected to be heard by the grand jury in June. According to a Rutherford County General Sessions Court Clerk, no date has been set for the arraignment.

Gene Fitch, Dean of Student Life, would not comment on whether or not the university has taken disciplinary action toward Davis. "Students' disciplinary records are private," he said.

"He won't ever work for us again," said James Evans, Rutherford County Schools spokesman. ♦

Gay rights defended by activist

By Daina Pretzer
Staff Writer

Gay and civil rights activist Elizabeth Birch delivered a speech for National Women's History Month yesterday to a crowd of about 60 people in the State Farm Lecture Hall.

Growing up in Canada as an American citizen, Birch left home at 16.

"I literally had a hundred bucks in my pocket," Birch said. "I was able to survive and put myself through undergraduate school."

Birch began her women's rights speech with how she wanted her two children, 6-year-old twins, a boy and girl, to grow up in "a world in which

See Activist, 2

Hatin' on MTSU



Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

Brian Mason, a junior recording industry major, hated on inconsistencies in the bookstore's policy toward buying back books. He said the bookstore declines some of his books, even when they will be used again.

Student Government creates new spin on receiving student feedback

By Lauren Buckley
Staff Writer

Marcina Britton is dissatisfied with the sanitation of food service employees on campus, and Jerry Whitmore is frustrated with how parking was handled at MTSU during the TSSAA tournament. Student Government Association members' responses to these complaints this week would be: "Go sign a shirt."

This week, shirts and banners reading "I HATE" have attracted a lot of attention on campus. SGA kicked off its student feedback project with a different approach from past years.

Throughout the week members of MTSU's SGA could be seen gathered outside of the Keathley University Center sporting shirts stating: "I HATE."

Students were able to complete the sentence with blue and white pencil ideas of what they would like to see changed on the campus. Students could also sign a large board on the KUC Knoll.

Tuesday afternoon, the project booth was relocated to a table on the second floor of the KUC. Some of the student complaints included,

"No organic spiced black tea with caffeine available in the KUC" to the prices of food, parking, "haters" and the number of books a professor can require.

Jason Hooper, SGA executive vice president, said he feels this approach is effective because using the words "I HATE," "catches everybody's eye." Hooper says he favors this approach because "I feel like everybody's so bombarded with questionnaires ... It's just a quick and easy way to get your opinion out there."

The SGA decided to have students sign the shirts and board because they wanted "to increase senator-student interaction and to make a much more visible statement," Hooper said.

"So far I think we've gotten a very good response. People seem to acknowledge what it's about," said Candice Haynes, SGA vice president of administration and public affairs.

"It's not a hate type thing. It's more like, 'What would you want to see changed on campus or how would you see things to benefit the students or the campus itself?' It's to benefit the school," Haynes said. "And also, it's kind of a

See SGA, 2

Senate OKs guns in bars

Packing heat while drinking still forbidden

By Jason Cox
Capitol Bureau Chief

STATE CAPITOL BUREAU – The State Senate passed a bill yesterday afternoon allowing handgun permit holders to carry guns into establishments that serve alcohol provided the person does not consume any alcoholic beverages.

The bill allows restaurant and bar owners to prohibit guns in their establishments so long as there is a clearly posted sign stating the policy. If a person is caught with a gun drinking in an establishment, he or she is subject to arrest and permit revocation.

Current Tennessee law prohibits taking guns into establishments that sell alcohol. A violation of the law is a Class A misdemeanor.

Sen. Doug Jackson, D-Dickson and primary Senate sponsor, told his colleagues this move is keeping in stride with 33 other states, including several bordering Tennessee.

"While at first blush this may

cause some reluctance, understand that for many years this has been the law in many states," Jackson said.

Jackson said this is a natural extension of laws passed in the 1990s that created the current handgun permit program.

"We've not had any problems in the state of Tennessee of any significance [with lawful permit carriers]," Jackson said. "They are in fact very responsible, and in 33 other states where they do allow permit holders to carry handguns in establishments that do sell alcohol, they have not seen problems. So the experiment is over."

Thelma Harper, a Nashville Democrat who was one of only three senators to vote against the measure, said she is concerned about how this practice would be policed.

Steve Cohen, D-Memphis, and Ward Crutchfield, D-Chattanooga, also opposed the bill.

"My concern is the bill says provided the person who is the carrier is not drinking," Harper said. "What I want to know is who's going to be the babysitter ... to assure that that person doesn't drink?"

Jackson's response was that

See Guns, 3



Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

Rahul Mahajan said the Bush Administration uses democracy to destabilize regimes it doesn't like.

Iraqi elections not free, author says

By Matt Anderson and
Carrie Hargett
Campus News Editor
and Staff Writer

The concept of democracy is inextricably tied to U.S. imperialism, author Rahul Mahajan said at a lecture Wednesday.

Mahajan spoke at a lecture co-sponsored by the Philosophy Lyceum and Middle Tennessee Solidarity. He has written two books, *Full Spectrum Dominance: US Powers in Iraq and Beyond* and *The New Crusade: America's War on Terrorism*.

Mahajan said the mass media are showing how democracy is "on the march" in several countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Palestine and Iraq. Americans overwhelmingly believe that Iraq started this movement, he said.

"The United States is calling for [Syria's] withdrawal from Lebanon, so they can have, real, free elections because you can't

have free elections under occupation, unless you're Palestinians or Iraqis or Afghans, in which case you can only have elections under occupation," he said.

Mahajan was in Fallujah during the U.S. military's April 2004 offensive. He said Fallujah Municipal Hospital was a top U.S. target in November 2004, because the military said it was a center for enemy propaganda after doctors kept casualty data.

"They felt that enemy propaganda of people getting killed hurt their effort in September, so they weren't going to allow it in November," Mahajan said.

The U.S. military occupied Iraq for many months before Iraqis citizens were able to vote in an election, he said.

Mahajan said the reason the Bush Administration gave for not conducting an Iraqi election quickly was that there was no census, which was needed

See War, 2

Raiders for Christ joins Light of Africa in mission trip



Photo submitted by Casey Lowrance

Several students from Raiders for Christ visited orphanages in Tanzania last year. A group of students plan to return this May.

By Esparonda Waller
Staff Writer

Raiders for Christ will join a service mission trip to Tanzania May 5-June 2 to support Light in Africa.

Light in Africa is an organization that supports many programs including an orphanage for children, medical assistance, a food outreach program and a disability outreach program.

A member of Raiders for Christ went to the orphanage, Sonu Children's Home, last year and decided to send the organization every year.

Susie Davenport, a business major and member of Raiders for Christ, said in a press release:

"Some of the children have

See Africa, 2



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

Are you getting shortchanged
by the compressed semester?

Opinions 4 • Sports 6 • Classifieds 7 • :Flash Inside

Africa: Project focuses on volunteering with Tanzanian orphanage

Continued from I

lost their parents to HIV or AIDS, some have been rescued from abusive homes, some have HIV or AIDS themselves and their parents can't care for them properly," she said. "Some of their parents simply give them up because they can't afford to feed one more mouth."

This year the mission will take food to the Massi tribes and build and repair mud houses for people in the village.

Casey Lowrance, a recording industry major and member of Raiders for Christ, said the orphanage is always in great need.

"The orphanage has 90 children and donations are their main source of income. They function with the help of international volunteers throughout the year," he said.

Most of the donations are from the British and Dutch. This year the orphanage received a large donation from a German school.

"There was one woman missionary that had eight older boys living with her between 12 and 14 years of age and the 19-year-old had been living in the orphanage since birth," Lowrance said.

Recently the orphanage has raised enough money, through donations to purchase a fourth building. Formerly a hotel, the new facility will become a free hospice.

"This hospice will be the only one in the Mt. Kilimanjaro area. We're going to stay at the hospice and get it ready," Lowrance said. "We will build, paint and set up medical equipment."

Davenport said the hospice will give children and adults with life-threatening diseases a place of comfort to live for the remainder of their lives.

According to a fact sheet on Tanzania, Tanzania is the world's 11th poorest country. The infant mortality rate is more than 10 percent.

Last year Light of Africa had two main goals: to build a \$600 mud house for a widow and take the children on a vacation. The group raised money for the materials and performed the labor.

"The kids at Light in Africa have the opportunity to earn points by carrying water, chopping firewood, washing dishes, preparing meals and taking care of younger kids," Davenport said in her letter.

"They can redeem their points by going on a reward vacation when volunteers come."

"We built a mud house for a widow with eight children, two who were nursing twins. We

also built a chicken coop so she could have a source of income," Lowrance said.

"Our second goal was to take 23 of the children to Kipepeo Beach on the Indian Ocean in Dar Es Salaam for five days. Every summer the orphanage splits the children into groups. Some go to the beach, safari and camping."

The organization paid for food and transportation for the children.

"We decided to take them to the beach because they're orphans so many of them don't have families to take them on vacation," Davenport said.

There are various fund-raisers for the trip which go toward the orphanage's food and medical supplies.

Last Thursday Raiders for Christ raised \$98 through a bake sale at the Keathley University Center.

"Our overall target goal is \$2,000. When we receive the money it will be spent on projects we can pay for. If there is money left over it will be given to the orphanage," Lowrance said.

"Every year there is a medical dispenser that treats people in different villages by providing free rice and medicine. The money used will also go toward this."

There will be a coffee house fund-raiser at the Raiders for Christ Student Center on Bell Street on April 2 at 7:30 p.m. Donations are \$2 and students are asked to bring a bottle of children's medicine.

Davenport said her trip to Africa last year was a humbling experience and it opened her eyes to the wealth of our country in all aspects.

Lowrance noted that the littlest amount that people can give means so much to them.

The cost of the trip is \$2,300 per participant. This covers a plane ticket, food, lodging and vaccinations.

Student organizations who want to participate should go to www.lightinafrica.com to learn more information. ♦

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On Thursday 24 March 2005, Captain USMC (Marine Aviator) HUSMC, will be hosting free scheduled flights from 8am-5pm in a King Air aircraft at the MTSU Municipal Airport in Murfreesboro, to create an awareness of USMC aviation capabilities and opportunities for both male and female college students interested in military aviation. Transportation to and from the airport can be arranged.

Call Captain Humble at 615 336-3103 or e-mail humble-jc@6mcd.usmc.mil for scheduling.

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Activist: Gays raise normal kids, Birch says

Continued from I

both of them...can flourish," Birch said.

She said in corporate America, only 5.5 percent of women make more than \$75,000, while 15.8 percent of men do. But women have the power to "literally transform some of the trends of our country."

"[The] women's movement in this country is stale and outdated," Birch said when speaking about the women's feminist movement that began in the '60s and '70s. "The people on the stage are the same we have seen for 30 or 40 years."

"There needs to be a radical transformation and a handing over of that power," Birch said. While she said that the leaders should be highly respected and viewed as heroes, she said she

believes it is time for a younger generation to take the leadership position in protecting women's rights.

The women's movement has made improvements in today's corporate world, Birch said. Women are now earning more degrees in mathematics, science and engineering.

But Birch said what isn't happening is the ability of women to preserve their economic power throughout their life.

Birch said she believed in "building [a] community for both men and women," but that "most women in our country — heterosexual, young women growing up in our country today — are still taking up tiny numbers in terms of ultimate leadership."

She said that the other special person in one's life should

be "there to support you, to love you, but [for] half of you, that's not going to happen." Birch pointed out that the divorce rate for couples in America is 50 percent.

Women rights weren't the only topic in Birch's speech.

"This is the gay civil rights era in America," Birch said. "[The] 2000 census tells us gay people live in 99 percent of the counties in the U.S."

Homosexuals are a part of the animal world as well, Birch said. She said studies show that gay parents raise heterosexual just as normally as a heterosexual couple does.

She said that three out of five lesbians are mothers, and one out of five gay men are fathers.

Legislation against gay adoption would make it more difficult for gay couples to adopt

one of the 500,000 children in foster care. Homosexuals are prevented from receiving a licensed civil union in all states except Vermont, and there are groups working to overturn that, Birch said.

"There is not one federal law that protects gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender Americans," Birch said. "Yet every few hours another young person comes out."

"Each American that seeks equality seeks simple equality in every way," Birch said. "It is a right that is so special it has motivated men and women to dream and to die [for it]."

She ended her speech with a quote from Martin Luther King Jr.: "In the end we will not remember the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." ♦

War: Media more conservative, author says

Continued from I

for the elections, he said. A census was never conducted and instead food ration cards were used for voter registration.

He said only 2 percent of Sunnis voted in Iraq, and that was about how many blacks voted in the U.S. South during the Jim Crow era.

"It was one better than P. Diddy — vote and die," he said.

He did say, however, that Iraq's current situation was an improvement from Saddam Hussein's totalitarian regime.

Many Iraqis who ran in the elections did so under different

names because they were afraid of being killed. This meant many candidates were only identified by party, Mahajan said.

There is a perception that the U.S. government is creating democracy across the globe, he said, but in reality, the Bush Administration uses democracy as an excuse to change regimes it doesn't like.

"They have used democratic manifestations at times to destabilize regimes they don't like," he said.

"There is evidence that they've opposed several dictators."

Mahajan expressed concern over the militancy of the right wing in the United States, which he described as a combination of the Christian right and crony capitalism.

"People like to use the word fascism," he said. "I don't think that's truly accurate."

"It is strictly Americans can say what they believe without fearing a knock on the door at night ... all of that is being taken away bit by bit."

Mahajan said he thinks the media has become more conservative and more people are listening to conservative commentators and reading conservative

books.

The Bush Administration and other neo-conservatives have large amount of supporters that will support them no matter what, Mahajan said.

"Those of us on the left spend a lot of time talking how bad things are," Mahajan said.

Still, Mahajan said the United States still has a lot of good qualities such as being able to speak your mind and not fear your life.

"All the good things about America are still here and we can still use them," Mahajan said. ♦

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Tennessee Career Center planning for new facility

By Courtney Gundry
Staff Writer

The Tennessee Career Center will open a new facility by fall of 2006.

Herb Lee, career center manager, said the ground-breaking ceremony will take place this August with the facility opening a year later.

The project has been in the works in one form or another, for three years, Lee said. The past nine months, however, were the most beneficial in the securing of the funding, building approvals, finalizing blueprints and engaging an architect.

"The need and the desire for a new career center for Rutherford County has been a dream and a goal for a long time," he said.

The new location will be on the Tennessee Technology Center campus on Old Fort Parkway.

The new facility will improve multiple services. The parking lot will expand from the 17 to 165 spaces and computer stations increase from 14 to 24.

"It's more than the replacement of the career center," Lee said. "It's an expansion of our services."

The career center is a division of the Tennessee Department of Labor, but three other divisions will also be in working conjunction with the facility.

The Technology Center will gain two lab classrooms and

offices.

The Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration will also have labs in the building, and the Labor Management group, now housed at MTSU, will be moving its offices and training facilities to the new building.

"It's a huge benefit to our clientele," Lee said. "It'll get us to where we've tried to get a single point of service."

The goal of the center is to "help you in your search for a job," Lee said. The center aids in job listings for employers and employees, computer-based training and all stages of writing a resumé.

"Some people have been in a job for quite a number of years and all of the sudden they're unemployed," Lee said. "These people haven't put together a resumé in 10, 15, 20 years. You expend a lot of time and get little in return if you don't go about it [writing a resumé] in an organized way."

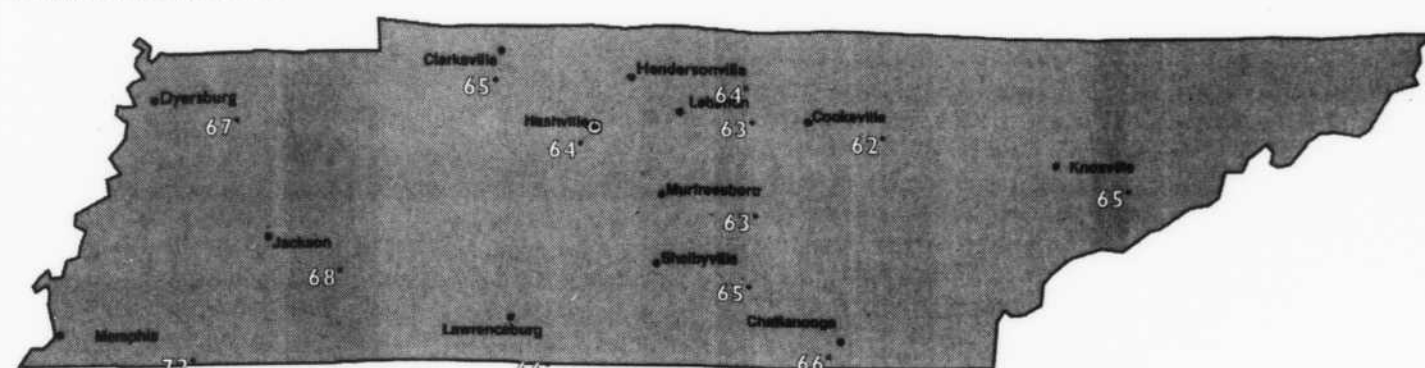
Every job seeker, after completing a simple work history assessment, is assigned a nine-digit code. When a job order is called in by an employer, the codes are scanned to match it with a person fitting the skill description.

Military Veterans have first priority for job orders. If there are no matches, the job is opened to the registered public.

"We are not going to find you your next job," Lee said. "We are going to facilitate you to help in finding it." ♦

Tennessee Weather – Thursday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Friday



Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Guns: House voted against similar bill

Continued from 1

the "bad guys" generally are the ones carrying guns without permits, and that Tennessee permit holders have proven they are responsible.

"They could be drinking in their cars, but they don't do that," Jackson said. "They could be brandishing their guns inappropriately, but they don't do that... They will obey the law as they have in the past."

After the vote, Harper said

that the legislature is leaving itself exposed and "you are assuring the public that the person will not drink. Guns and alcohol don't mix."

The last sentence echoed the words of Metro Police Chief Ronal Serpas, who testified against a similar bill proposed by Rep. Curry Todd, R-Memphis, before the Constitutional Protections Subcommittee.

"I spent 21 years in the New Orleans Police Department,"

Serpas said, adding that much of his time there was spent working in the French Quarter. "Alcohol and guns don't mix."

This particular bill was defeated 3-2, but Jackson's companion bill (sponsored by Rep. Frank Buck, D-Dowellton) has yet to be heard by the subcommittee, so the basic premise is still alive in the House. Todd said that gun crimes are committed by the criminal element, which is not going to be stopped by this law.

"Why are we going to issue these permits if you've got to keep it in your trunk all day?" Todd asked.

Serpas noted that the bill is opposed by the Memphis Police Department, the Metro-Nashville Police Department and the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police.

Buck's companion bill has yet to be assigned a hearing date before the Constitutional Protections subcommittee. ♦

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SGA: Parking, books among student complaints

Continued from 1

line of communication for next year's officers that come in. They can come in a say, 'Hey the students really like this about this part of campus,' or 'they want this part changed,'" Haynes said.

Junior nursing major Dale Winton said that he thinks the "I HATE" T-shirt signing is a great idea.

"You hear students always complaining," Winton said. "The SGA can do a whole lot more than students. They've got a little more say and stuff."

"Of course there's things that are out of our control that we can't change," Hooper said. "We only can do so much. We do have limits ourselves as SGA."

Haynes and Hooper said that the best way to reach a representative of the SGA is to visit the Web site where all the informa-

tion about how to contact them is included.

The next SGA Senate meeting is Thursday, March 31 at 4:30 pm in KUC, Room 314.

The Senate meetings are open to the public, but only senators can vote on the issues being discussed. ♦



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Ford concerned state contractor

By Matt Gouras
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — After meeting with state Sen. John Ford in November, Doral Dental executives were worried about his consulting deal and asked their lawyers to look into it, an internal investigation reveals.

Doral, which handles dental contracts for the state's TennCare program, turned over the results of its internal investigation to the state Thursday.

The investigation began after Ford was linked to Doral's \$1 million deal with Managed Care Services Group. Ford's lawyers have said his work for Managed Care Services had nothing to do with TennCare.

What Ford did, or was paid to do, for Doral is still unclear, the company said.

"Doral Dental does not know why the contract was entered into; nor does it know what services Managed Care Services Group provided, if any," the investigation says.

The contract between Doral Dental and Managed Care Services Group is at the heart of an ongoing probe into Ford's business ties and consulting relationships.

Tax records from 2002 and 2003 show that Ford received \$237,000 from Managed Care Services Group.

The Doral contract with Managed Care Services Group states the whole deal hinges on a "principal legislator," although it does not name Ford explicitly. Ford has repeatedly refused to comment on the subject.

Doral fired Managed Care Services Group after the deal became public. Ford has filed court documents in a child support dispute saying he lost about \$192,000 in gross annual income as a result.

New executives at Doral were worried when they learned about Ford's consulting deal, according to a six-page memo

summing up the results of their internal investigation. Doral was bought last year by DentaQuest, which started buying the TennCare contract.

The report said they immediately asked their lawyers to look into the arrangement after Ford accompanied Ronald Dobbins on behalf of Managed Care Services Group at a Nov. 4 meeting last year.

For reasons the investigation doesn't explain, the president of another TennCare contractor — Osbie Howard of OmniCare — also attended the meeting on behalf of Managed Care Services.

"Upon learning that Senator Ford was a current office holder, certain senior management of Doral Dental asked in-house legal counsel at Doral Dental to review the relationship with managed Care Services Group," reads the internal investigation prepared by Nashville attorney Wallace Dietz.

"Doral Dental did not then and does not today know the nature or the extent of the relationship between Senator John Ford and Managed Care Services Group."

Doral said it had hired Dietz to get to the bottom of the deal even before news reports broke in early February of this year connecting Ford to the TennCare contractor.

Doral said it hasn't been able to get all the answers about Ford's involvement because the senior manager who initiated the deal in 2001 has left the company. It said the last senior manager with connections to the old company was terminated three days ago.

Their investigation found that those at the company who initiated the deal with Managed Care Services Group never provided a copy of the contract to current Doral employees during the management transition. ♦

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From the Editorial Board

This isn't the Wild West; guns have no place in bars

The State Senate has passed a bill allowing handgun permit owners to carry their guns into establishments that serve alcohol. You may ask yourself, "Why does a reasonable person need a gun at a bar?" Don't be stupid. The senators know best.

Here are only a sample of the reasons you should be able to carry your gun to a bar:

- You feel naked without your gun.
- Drunks are easier to shoot.
- When that hot blonde you're hitting on asks, "Is that a gun in your pocket, or are you just happy to see me?" you can say, "Both!"
- Drunks are easier to pistol whip.
- Sometimes you have to flaunt your right to exercise your constitutional liberties just to let the government know you mean business.
- It's important to give the liberal media fodder for characterizing you as a gun nut.
- The ladies get turned on by big guns.
- Well-regulated militias like to get drunk at Gentlemen Jim's.
- You get beat up by drunks a lot, you're tired of it, and you're not going to take it anymore.
- It's really more of a fashion statement. Gun-metal grey is the new black.
- Everyone else is doing it.

That last one, was a real reason given by the bill's sponsor, Sen. Doug Applegate, 33 other states have also passed similar laws. We're not sure that's a good enough reason.

The Editorial Board isn't usually the type to side with law enforcement, but cops across the state have come out against this bill, and they're right: it's bad news.

It seems the House has more sense. Good for them. Unfortunately, more bills are floating around the House waiting to be passed, though hopefully the House will kill those as well.

And if this bill does make it to the governor, he had better veto it.

The Senate is pandering to the gun lobby. A vocal minority is trying to make a statement about gun rights. We don't think most people in Tennessee want to go to bars where people are packing heat.

As Johnny Cash said, "Don't take your guns to town, leave your guns at home." ◆

From the Opinions Editor

Democrats need drop denial, fix Social Security problems

The future of Social Security isn't the sort of thing anyone should make excuses about.

Unfortunately, some people are willing to do just that. Kenneth Apfel, former Social Security commissioner under the Clinton Administration, told Reuters that the program's financial problems are not "a crisis that we need to address tomorrow," while Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., issued a statement declaring the problem to be a fiction created by the Republican Party.

The fact that the expense of benefits will outpace income in 15 years, however, is far from fictitious. The fact that, in the near future, Social Security will be financed increasingly by debt isn't fictitious either.

The money that Congress is arguing over is money that, in theory, we will collect one day. Whether we receive payments after retirement, a critical disability or paid to relatives after we die, we will one day take our share of this program.

Of course, this is all assuming that Social Security will still have money by the time we're able to take advantage of it.

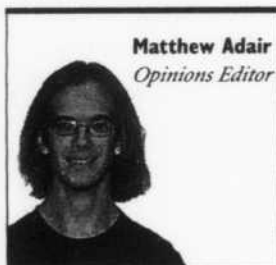
President George W. Bush's plan to restructure the 60-year-old program may or may not be the best solution, but publicly claiming that nothing is wrong when something really is, is foolhardy and dangerous.

In the middle of the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created Social Security to respond to the crisis who charged that he was ignoring the plight of the elderly. Roosevelt realized his opponents had a point, and pushed legislation based on their arguments through Congress.

Democrats, who hold Roosevelt in high esteem, would be wise to follow his example. Instead of turning a blind eye to the problem of paying for Social Security and allowing the Republicans to monopolize the discussion, they need to take command of the situation and propose solutions of their own.

Excuses won't keep the money flowing, after all. Only action will. ◆

Matthew Adair is a sophomore art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

Covenant marriage a victory for families

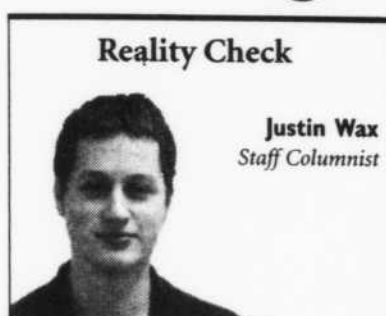
Sen. Jim Bryson's, R-Franklin, covenant marriage proposal is a proactive step toward strengthening the institution of marriage.

The covenant marriage option would require premarital counseling, limit grounds of divorce and require a longer period of waiting for a divorce. Tennessee has consistently had a higher divorce rate than most of the other states.

The provisions in the bill are common sense and much needed. Perhaps the strongest part of the bill is the pre-marital counseling.

My wife Bethany and I underwent counseling a few months before we were married with our pastor and church psychologist, and I cannot tell you how eye-opening it was. A war on marriage is being fiercely waged in the United States, and it is much easier to understand the need for covenant marriages when one examines the two biggest opponents of the institution and their destructive consequences: homosexual marriage and divorce.

"Marriage is slowly dying in Scandinavia," said *Weekly Standard* reporter Kurtz in February 2004. "A majority of children in Sweden and Norway are born out of wedlock. Sixty percent of first-born children in Denmark have unmarried parents. Not coincidentally, these countries have had something close to full gay marriage for a decade or more. Same-sex marriage has locked in and



Reality Check

Justin Wax
Staff Columnist

reinforced an existing Scandinavian trend toward the separation of marriage and parenthood."

Kurtz explains that the only reason why divorce rates seem to be falling in Scandinavia is because far fewer people are actually getting married. After all, it's hard to get a divorce if you aren't married in the first place.

In February 2004, Southern Seminary President Al Mohler wrote: "A recent study published by Harvard University Press indicates that some young married couples in Scandinavian countries are reluctant even to admit that they are married. Since the cultural expectation is cohabitation, marriage has become something of an embarrassment."

It is a dark day for the family when men and women feel shamed by society for vowing to weather every storm of life together, faithfully, till death do they part. And yet, the United States is long overdue in confronting the other, more entrenched enemy of

marriage: divorce.

Some of the best research on psychology has been conducted by psychologist James Dobson and Focus on the Family. Dobson wrote in 2000, "One landmark study revealed that 90 percent of children from divorced homes suffered from an acute sense of shock when the separation occurred, including profound grieving and irrational fears."

Dobson also stated that half of the children were "rejected and abandoned" and half of the dads never visited their kids three years after breaking up.

According to Dobson, "Most significant[ly], 37 percent of the children were even more unhappy and dissatisfied five years after the divorce than they had been at 18 months. In other words, time did not heal their wounds."

Also writing for Focus on the Family, Amy Desai relayed more dismal results:

"Research comparing children of divorced parents to children with married parents shows [that] children from divorced homes suffer academically. They experience high levels of behavior problems. Their grades suffer, and they are less likely to graduate from high school. Kids whose parents divorce are substantially more likely to be incarcerated for committing a crime as a juvenile. Because the custodial parent's income drops substantially after a divorce, chil-

dren in divorced homes are almost five times more likely to live in poverty than are children with married parents. Teens from divorced homes are much more likely to engage in drug and alcohol use, as well as sexual intercourse than are those from intact families."

These findings make it clear that kids need a mom and dad and a stable home environment. Divorce and homosexual marriage are leaving indelible scars on society. It is imperative to do everything possible to protect families and win the war on marriage.

Covenant marriages require more time for couples to work out their differences before getting a divorce. The goal behind this is for couples to strengthen their marriage and decide to stay together. If more couples decide to weather the storms, matrimony will see clear skies ahead and perhaps America will have a lasting, profitable nation.

Thousands of battles won in homes across the country – in which divorce emerges as the loser – will translate into decisive victory for the family in the war on marriage. ◆

Justin Wax is a sophomore history major and can be reached at jtw2n@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Nation should find new fuel sources

Dear editor,

In Monday's issue, Randall Thomason poses the question, "If you oppose drilling in ANWR but support the idea of supplying more of our own oil, then what other area would you support for domestic oil exploration?" ("ANWR frees nation from OPEC" Mar. 21)

I think he may be missing a bigger issue. Why do we have to be so dependent on oil in the first place? There are plenty of promising alternative fuel sources such as hydrogen, A-21 and ethanol, to name a few. These sources eliminate the need to choose between our environment and our foreign dependence. I think the real question should be, "Why isn't our government doing more to fund these alternatives?"

Amanda Cotton
Master's Candidate

Right-to-death a personal choice

To the Editor:

On Sunday night, Congress passed an unprecedented bill to attempt to save Terri Schiavo from death. This was a blatant misuse of congressional power led by the GOP leadership, or a tyranny of the majority. The right-to-die issue is very hot right now. But should Congress intervene in a personal decision?

Of course not.

Florida Governor Jeb Bush and the Florida legislature tried to save Terri with similar tactics, but the Florida Supreme Court deemed the law unconstitutional. Why, then, did Congress intervene?

First, it was to attack the American right to privacy. Whose business is it to decide Mrs. Schiavo's fate? It surely is not my business, it is a family decision. To hear members of Congress talk about how Mrs. Schiavo can be rehabilitated and how she reacts to certain things is just absurd. The fact is that no member of Congress has seen her in person or knows what state she is really in.

All of the doctors that were appointed to examine her state agreed that she is in a vegetative state and cannot be rehabilitated to a functional level. If I were in the condition she was in, I would not want to live artificially. I would rather my family know that I was in a better place than to be suffering here on Earth.

Second, this event was used for political gain by the GOP. They can use a 'nay' vote to say that "You voted to kill Terri Schiavo." That may not be what a 'no' vote means in this case, but, unfortunately, the average American voter will perceive it as such, and it could lead to the ousting of many venerable Congress members. The American people lost on Sunday night. They lost the right to determine a personal, family decision.

I am pro-life, don't get me wrong. I cherish the value of human life. However, it is none of my business if John Doe in another state gets an abortion or decides to pull a feeding tube. Pro-choice doesn't mean anti-life. It just means that you have the right to privacy.

Terrance Eubanks
Freshman

Writing to Sidelines is proven to be more effective than writing on a wall.

At least, we think it is.

slopinio@mtsu.edu

Congressional decision sets bad precedent

Early Monday Congress passed a law to have Terri Schiavo's case heard before a federal court.

The situation with Schiavo does not have an easy answer. The two sides in this case show some of the different views held by those in this country.

While respecting the differing view points a few questions have come to mind through this. Congress is in place to represent the people, but how far into a personal affairs should Congress involve itself?

Valuing life is not the issue here. Congress should pass laws, and deliberate for the good of the country as a whole; however, this law sets a standard that could lead to far into the personal matters of many families.

Just take the point of view for a moment that a feeding tube is life support, and that the court-appointed doctors are accurate in their assessment that Schiavo is permanently in a vegetative state. What is to stop Congress in the future from passing a law about someone else who is on a different form of life support?

Think about this for a minute; everyday people choose to remove family members from life support. This is not because those people don't love those who are on life support, but because they are following the wishes of those family members or do not want to see their lives prolonged when there is no need.

So, next time two groups in a family are going through the judicial process to decide if a loved one should be taken off life support, will either group expect Congress to pass a law to further the court process? Wouldn't Congress be obligated, since they have now passed a law for Schiavo?

Looking at the other side, it would be horrible to take anyone off of a feeding tube who isn't in a vegetative state. In the same way, it wouldn't be right to take away any medical treatment for someone who is conscious, but unable to communicate with those around them.

It is the job of the physicians and those working on the disabled's behalf to make sure that the measures taken are in the best interest of the patient. In the event of judicial action to protect the rights of the individual, it is still not the place for Congress to get involved.

In this case, those judging have decided to follow the doctors the court had appointed in making a decision about Schiavo's future. Unfortunately, the general public does not know with certainty if the correct decision has been made. Right or wrong, it has been the decision of the Florida courts to allow the feeding tube to be removed, and Congress shouldn't have prolonged this battle.

The coming days will show if the federal court rules differently, but after the first round in federal court, the decision by the Florida judge has not been reversed. This is a horrific thing for any family to endure. Those involved on both sides feel they are fighting for Schiavo's best interest.

Unfortunately, we cannot find out from Schiavo what she wants to happen. ◆

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Sandi's Logic

Sandi Van Orden
Staff Columnist

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Turnham doesn't make list of finalists

By Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

MTSU officials are optimistic about the finalists in the athletic director search, but no names are being mentioned until a statement is released Friday.

One name that likely won't be listed, however, is current interim athletic director Diane Turnham.

"I haven't been contacted, so I'm not thinking I'm a finalist at this time," Turnham told *Sidelines*. "I understand that [MTSU President Sidney McPhee] is looking for certain things in an athletic director, and some of those I don't have experience in."

McPhee acknowledged that he met with search firm Baker, Parker and Associates on Tuesday, but said an official announcement would come after a conference call on Friday with the search committee.

"At this point, we're not at liberty to give names," McPhee said. "We have been very pleased with the interest that has been shown

by both the search firm and the applicants."

McPhee also declined to say how many finalists emerged from approximately 65 applicants that either contacted the university or were contacted by the search firm.

AD search committee head Steve Smith, however, said he expected the number to be less than six.

"I think we're in for a real treat," Smith said. "It will be an easy decision at first, but it's going to be hard to pick out the best of the best. The quality of the people is unbelievable."

Turnham echoed Smith's sentiment and added that she fully supported the hiring process.

"I know there are some athletic directors at other institutions that are probably not going to get interviewed, either," Turnham said. "I'm



McPhee

not disappointed that I'm not a candidate at this point; I'm just excited about the process, and I feel like we're going to have some great people who are going to come to our campus."

Faculty senate president Larry Burriss and student representative Michael Shirley both confirmed they had been contacted about a conference call on Friday at 10 a.m., but neither knew of any finalists.

When *Sidelines* reached Dan Parker of Baker-Parker, he refused to comment and deferred all questions to McPhee's office. Parker headed the school's athletic director search in 2000 as well as the search that brought Andy McCollum to Middle Tennessee.

After the finalists are announced, the search committee will interview each candidate during his or her campus visit and report back to McPhee. According to the timetable set during the initial meeting between McPhee and the committee, the search committee will then make a recommendation to McPhee by mid-April. ♦

New deal for Smith almost completed

By Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

Lady Raiders women's basketball head coach Stephany Smith is close to agreeing to a restructured deal with Middle Tennessee.

"We're currently in negotiations right now, in fact," interim athletic director Diane Turnham said. "We realize that with what Coach Smith has accomplished, that other schools will certainly be looking at her."

Smith has compiled a 153-88 (.634) record in eight seasons as head coach of the Lady Raiders. Under Smith, MT has three conference championships and two first-round wins in the NCAA Tournament.

Turnham added that Smith is currently out of town recruiting, which has delayed the process somewhat, but terms of the new deal are expected to be released today. ♦

Men's tennis team moves up to No. 21

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

The numbers don't lie.

Middle Tennessee men's tennis is ranked 21st in the latest Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings released on Tuesday, its highest position since the 2002 season.

The Blue Raiders used a hot weekend to jump more than 20 spots in this week's rankings. Rice added wins over No. 51 Louisiana-Lafayette and No. 26 to an already impressive resume, including a 12-3 record overall.

"We're very happy with the ranking, especially because this is the first computer ranking of the year," head coach Dale Short told MT Media Relations.

Short's team is at its highest position since March 13, 2002, when the club began the season with 12 consecutive victories.

MT is currently tied for 21st with Tennessee with a point average of 28.46, just behind Washington at 29.69 and Notre Dame at 29.53. Baylor has a comfortable lead at No. 1, with an average of 91.6.

Only three other Sun Belt teams cracked the list. South Alabama is No. 46, ULL is No. 47 and Denver is No. 75.

The Blue Raiders also made individual gains in this week's rankings. The doubles tandem of Andreas Siljeström and Marco Born climbed to No. 19, while Kai Schledorn and Brandon Allan moved up to No. 35. Siljeström also garnered a singles ranking at No. 88.

The Blue Raiders face a tough stretch to conclude the regular season. MT will face ULL again, as well as No. 18 Tulane, both on the road. The team will also play host to No. 40 Vanderbilt.

"We just have to continue to be consistent throughout the lineup because we have some difficult matches ahead," Short told MT Media Relations.

The Blue Raiders will attempt to defend their ranking this weekend when the team plays host to Georgia State on Saturday at noon. For a preview on that match, see page 6. ♦

Bol tells students plight of Sudan

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

"When you come here, you don't forget what you left behind," former NBA star Manute Bol told an attentive audience at the Keathley University Center Theater Tuesday night.

Bol, a native of Southern Sudan, spoke to a group of students and faculty about the dire situation in his native country. Afterward, the documentary *Lost Boys of Sudan* was shown.

The film follows the experiences of Peter Dut and Santino Chuor, two Sudanese refugees who survived civil war, lion attacks and militia gunfire before eventually being chosen to come to America.

At MTSU, there are 17 Sudanese students who have overcome similar obstacles for the chance to receive an education.

"It takes a lot of work," Bol said. "To come here to the [United States] and have a chance to go to school, it takes a lot of guts. In Sudan, they would eat cocoa leaves to survive. When you see them go to school here, it makes you proud."

The event was sponsored by the Sudanese Student Organization, which is composed of students that have endured these same conditions and are now enrolled at MTSU.

Bol highlighted the struggle these students face every day as a result of not being able to secure financial aid to attend school.

"Some of them don't go to sleep," Bol said. "They go to school, and they work at night."

To make the problem worse, he said the Sudanese students don't keep the majority of their incomes, opting instead to send it to their families at home.

"I don't care what tribe you are from, in Sudan you put your family first," Bol said.

Much of the discussion centered on the atrocities occurring

See Sudan, 7



Former NBA star Manute Bol spoke to students on Tuesday about the multiple problems Sudan faces.

Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Blue Raiders hope to snap losing streak against UALR

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

Sun Belt Conference play begins this weekend for the Blue Raiders as they play visitor to the Trojans of Arkansas-Little Rock. The Blue Raiders will take the field with an overall record of 8-10 but are looking to establish a winning record to begin SBC play.

The Trojans bring a record of 12-13 and have had some changes since last season. UALR only returns 13 players from last year, but head coach Bryan Rhees helped sign one of the top recruiting classes in the nation, according to *Collegiate Baseball Newspaper*.

UALR also recently renovated its ballpark, adding \$1.6 million worth of improvements to its baseball facilities.

The Trojan offense is hitting a combined .283 and features a

lineup much like MT's on paper.

Derek Eilers is hitting .347 and has started in all 25 games for the Trojans. In 101 at-bats, Eilers has 11 runs batted in on 35 hits.

Tommy Bryant is another consistent hitter for UALR. Bryant has 16 RBIs, three home runs and a .476 slugging percentage in 22 games played.

In comparison, the Blue Raiders feature, if not the same, better numbers on offense.

MT catcher Michael McKenry is hitting .328 with 19 hits, five doubles, five home runs and 11 RBIs on the year.

Senior leadoff hitter and second baseman Eric McNamee leads the team with a .424 on-base percentage and is 4-4 on steals this season.

However, the Trojans have the advantage when it comes to putting men on base. They have

eight day-to-day players with more than a .400 on-base percentage; while MT's only two feature McNamee and McKenry.

Blue Raider pitching will once again be the key to getting a good conference start. Red shirt sophomore Tyler Copeland features a 1.96 earned run average and is 2-0 on the year, with his last win coming in a complete game against Southern Illinois.

Matt Scott has been the most consistent pitcher on the staff. In 30 innings pitched, Scott has allowed 11 earned runs and posts a 3.26 ERA. Scott is 3-0 after five starts with 16 strikeouts.

The first pitch of the three game series is at 6 p.m. on Friday night. The Blue Raiders return home March 29 to face Tennessee Tech at 7 p.m. at Reese Smith Field. ♦



MT catcher Michael McKenry leads the Blue Raiders in home runs with five.

Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Solution to AD mess: Fix football situation

While I applaud the recent decision to name MT's athletic director finalists, the committee may have jumped the gun on this one.

Sure, the days of having an AD were nice. It's good to have an appointed official in place to oversee the department and focus on the pesky tasks we don't like to worry about, like not getting ousted from Division I.

However, I don't believe the Blue Raiders gave AD anarchy a fair shot.

Think of how far we went without an AD. The Lady Raider basketball team turned in a stellar performance in the NCAA tournament.

The men's and women's tennis teams have shown some real prowess in their sport, and the men's team recently earned a national ranking.

All this, and no AD. I know we've had an interim AD, but it's not the same. Sometimes too many cooks spoil the broth, and sometimes one cook working on too many broths just doesn't work.

It seems to me the only sport that is really needing a director is football.

Head coach Stephany Smith had the Lady Raiders under control. Aston Rhoden's done a good job with the soccer team. Kermit Davis' team has done well, injuries aside, this season. Matt Peck is in the early stages of working his former North Alabama magic on the volleyball team, and the tennis teams are making names for themselves as well. Golf's doing all right, and we never seem to have a problem with track.

So, instead of spending too much money on an athletic director, what the university should do is appoint a Football

Sports commentary



Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

Director.

If we had one person whose sole purpose in life was to ensure that at least 15,000 fans turned up at every home game, our athletic worries would be solved.

Think of it as privatizing all other sports. For god's sake, don't meddle with the basketball program. Leave the Lady Raiders alone — don't change anything, except maybe finding some way to keep Patrice Holmes around. I'd suggest failing her, but she's already used up her years of eligibility.

The only person who should touch the basketball team is a doctor to ensure no one else gets injured.

Let the baseball team continue to thrive. Let's face it, MT baseball is a legacy in the making.

As for softball, result to whatever type of bribing is necessary to get Crystal Bobo back on the mound. If I personally have to rub her feet every day, so be it. I'm not above that.

Please do something about the football team, though. They're not bad players. They can win games. But what's their motivation if no one's there to share the victory?

Forget this athletic director stuff and just get someone in to fix the football situation. ♦

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



TRADIN' PAINT with David Hunter

Busch Series in Nashville for Pepsi 300

While a lot of kids will be hunting Easter eggs this weekend, 43 Busch Series drivers will be hunting for a victory at the Nashville Superspeedway.

The NASCAR Busch Series returns to the 1.33 mile concrete racetrack for a Saturday afternoon showdown with the Pepsi 300. If you remember last year's Pepsi 300, it could come down to the final couple of laps.

With two laps to go, four drivers were battling for the top spot: Kyle Busch, Johnny Benson, Clint Bowyer and Robby Gordon. Those four got involved in a crash, and Michael Waltrip sneaked by to pick up the win under the caution.

Only one of those drivers will be back, Busch Series regular Clint Bowyer, because the other four, who are Nextel Cup regulars, are taking the weekend off, since that series is not in action this weekend.

However, four Nextel Cup regulars will be in the Music City to go after the Gibson Guitar trophy. Those include Kasey Kahne,

Sterling Marlin, Jamie McMurray and Carl Edwards. This year, Edwards is running the full campaign in both series.

Right now, the hit song in NASCAR is "I've got a backflip," by Carl Edwards.

Last weekend, Edwards pulled off the daily double by winning both the Busch Series and Nextel Cup race at Atlanta Motor Speedway. It was his first ever career win in both series. He is the first driver to win his first career race in both series on the same weekend in NASCAR history.

He celebrates his victories by parking his car on the frontstretch and doing a backflip off of it. He has done it before at Nashville Superspeedway, but from the back of a truck. He won the 2003 Craftsman Truck Series at the track.

"From the first time I went to Nashville, I fell in love with the place. I like the layout of the track, how smooth it is, and it's just a fun place to compete," Edwards said to the Nashville Superspeedway Web site. "Since I

won a truck race there, which was an awesome experience, it's a good place for me to return to. Every time I go home to Missouri, I look at that cool trophy guitar."

Edwards is leading the Busch Series point standings by 105 points over Cup regular Kevin Harvick. Harvick is also taking the weekend off.

Bowyer is 119 back, then Reed Sorenson is 4th 125 behind. Last year's Busch Series champion, Martin Truex Jr., rounds out the top five, 127 points back of Edwards.

Truex Jr. won earlier this season on the road course at Mexico City.

David Green is the only other previous winner at the Superspeedway that will be racing this weekend. Green won this race in 2003.

The green flag drops at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. The race will be shown on FX. ♦

Blue Raiders take on Georgia State

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee will have something to prove on Saturday when the Blue Raiders take on Georgia State.

MT received a ranking of 21st in this week's ITA Poll, the highest for the club in three years. After a weekend in which the team defeated Louisiana-Lafayette and upset 26th-ranked Rice, the Blue Raiders have to be careful to avoid a letdown.

Sporting a gaudy 12-3 record, MT hosts Georgia State at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center in the team's first outdoor home match of the season. Though GSU is not ranked, the Panthers are not to be taken lightly.

The team recently defeated Tennessee Tech 5-2, sweeping the doubles point to improve their season mark to 11-3. The Panthers are on a roll, having won their last five matches, including victories over UT-Martin, Bethune-Cookman and an upset of then-No. 57 South Florida.

GSU's Martin Stiegwardt was recently named Atlantic Sun Conference Player of the Week.

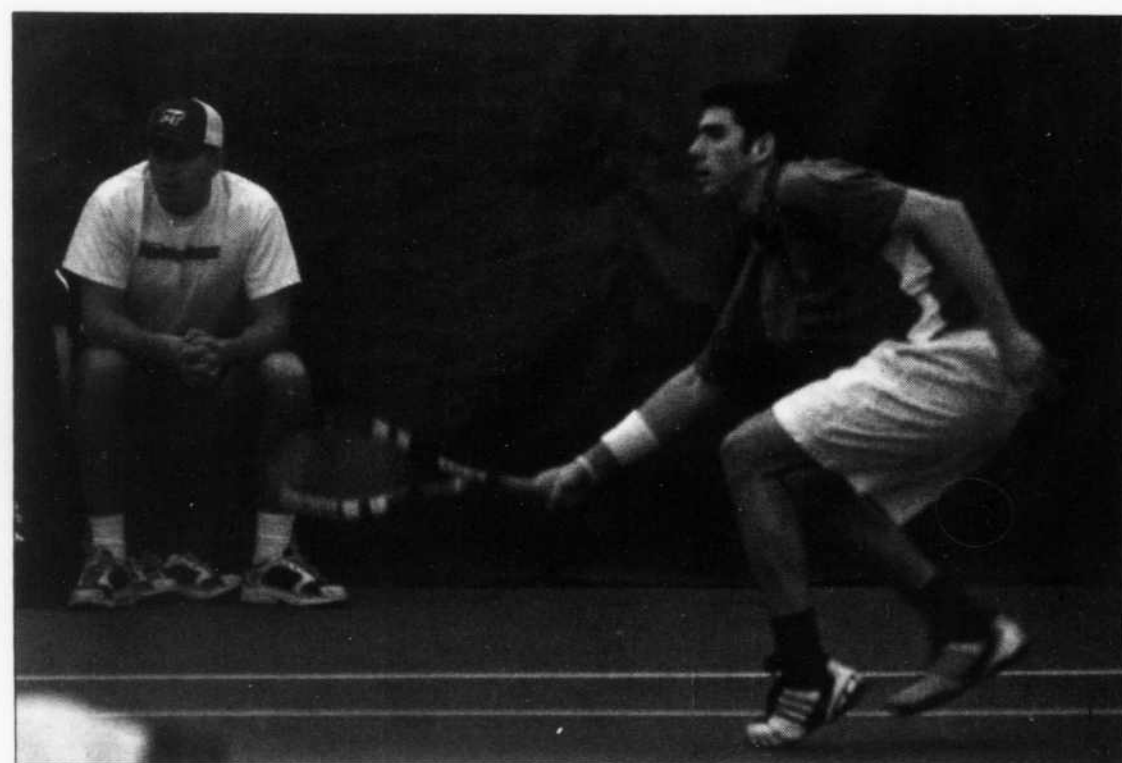


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Brandon Allan (above) and teammate Kai Schledorn are ranked 35th in doubles.

The sophomore has posted a record of 8-3 at No. 1 singles and 7-2 at No. 1 doubles with partner Jacek Twaroski.

The Blue Raiders will counter with some firepower of their own. Sophomore Andreas Siljestrom is currently ranked 88th in the nation in singles,

and Siljestrom and partner Marco Born recently climbed to 19th in doubles.

The doubles team of Kai Schledorn and Brandon Allan is ranked 35th playing at the No. 2 position for MT.

With upcoming matches against ranked foes ULL, Tulane

and Vanderbilt and the Sun Belt Tournament following, MT must be careful not to overlook the Panthers.

GSU head coach Nick Brochu calls his team's match with the Blue Raiders "a good test," according to GSU Media Relations. ♦

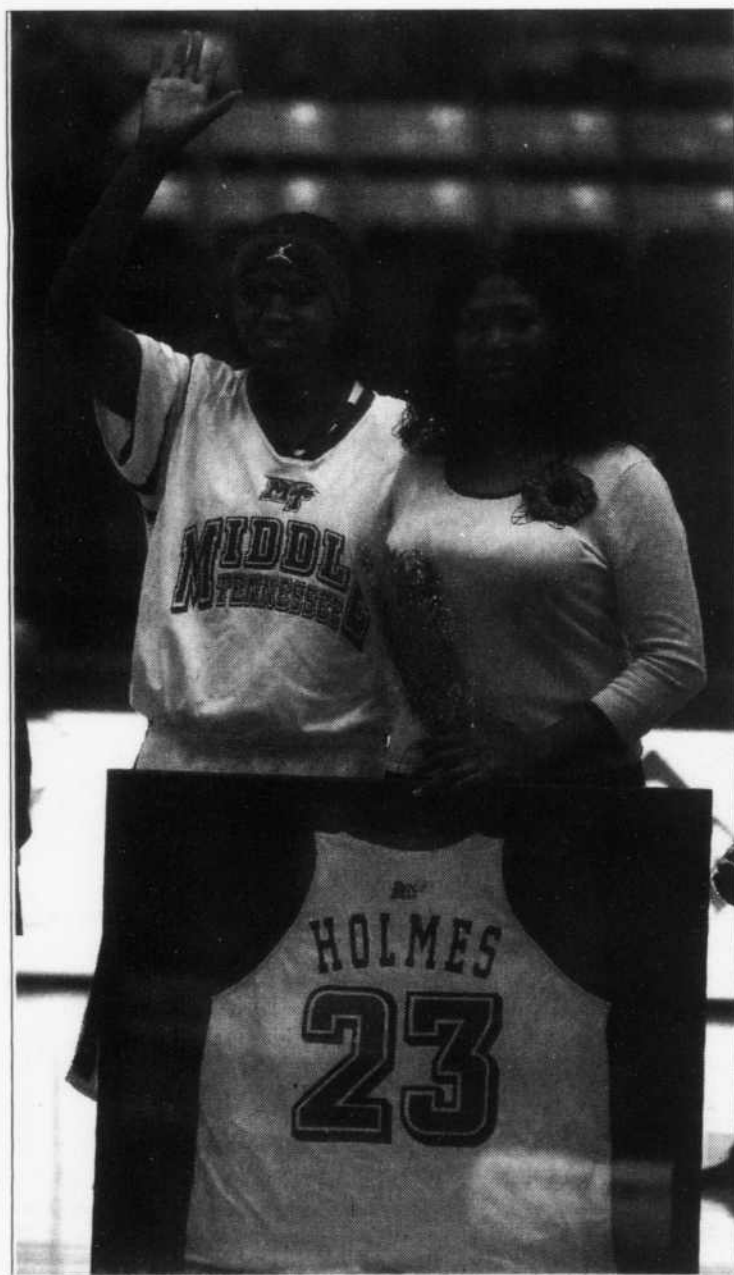


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

MT guard Patrice Holmes finished her career as a Lady Raider earlier this week in the team's loss to Texas Tech.



NCAA Tourney Update



Illini, fans look to avenge past against UWM, coach

By Nancy Armour
AP National Writer

ROSEMONT, Ill. (AP) — The few dozen Illinois fans barely mustered a yawn at the sight of Bruce Pearl coaching his team through a practice.

Come tonight, though, the Wisconsin-Milwaukee coach knows the reception will be as hostile as any he's ever seen.

It's been 16 years since Pearl gave the NCAA a secretly recorded tape that he said was proof Illinois was cheating. He moved on a long time ago, and no one connected to the incident is left at Illinois.

Pearl was a young assistant at Iowa in 1989 and working hard to sign Deon Thomas, a Chicago prep star who was one of the top recruits in the country. Thomas had given the Hawkeyes a verbal commitment but later changed his mind, opting to stay close to home and go to Illinois.

Pearl kept chasing Thomas, though. Convinced Illinois was up to something shady, Pearl secretly tape-recorded one phone call in which Thomas seemed to confirm that Illini assistant Jimmy Collins had offered him \$80,000 and a Chevrolet Blazer. To this day, Thomas denies Illinois did anything improper, saying his comments were simply those of a naive 17-year-old trying to get Pearl off his back without

offending him.

The tape touched off a 16-month investigation by the NCAA. Though Illinois was cleared of the allegations involving Thomas and Pearl's tape, other infractions were found and Illinois was barred from postseason play in 1991.

Thomas went on to become Illinois' all-time leading scorer, but he says his ability to trust people was forever shaken. Both Pearl and Collins saw once-promising careers derailed. The only job Pearl could get was at Division II Southern Indiana.

"It's a tough situation," said Illinois coach Bruce Weber, who was an assistant at Purdue at the time. "You've got two coaches involved, it's their livelihood. Maybe one guy went a little too far. I don't know. That's not my call. It wasn't good for either person, to be honest. But you've got to go on with life."

Pearl maintains he did nothing wrong, and says he would do the same thing again.

The players were barely in grade school back when Pearl turned in Illinois. The brouhaha has as much meaning for them as short shorts and canvas sneakers.

"I don't have any personal grudges about something that happened when I was 6 years old," UWM's Ed McCants said. ♦

Knight remains self during Red Raider postseason run

By Pete Herrera
AP Sports Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — There's still plenty of bite left in Bob Knight, even without the bullwhip.

As Knight took to the podium for a news conference, he took a few good-natured verbal jabs at an NCAA moderator. The coach called the moderator a tough guy with a lot of rules, sprinkling a couple of expletives in along the way.

Sixth-seeded Texas Tech (22-10) plays seventh-seeded West Virginia (23-10) on Thursday night, featuring two teams that started the NCAA tournament with modest expectations and now are two wins away from the Final Four.

The winner will play either Washington or Louisville on Saturday, and there is the tantalizing possibility of a matchup between slick and stylish Rick Pitino and Knight, a coaching icon of a whole different sort.

Knight brought Indiana to The Pit in 1992 for an NCAA tournament game against Florida State and stirred instant turmoil by "jokingly" raking a bullwhip — which he described as the best motivational tool ever invented — across the butt of Hoosiers guard Calbert Chaney during a practice session.

Texas Tech beat UCLA 78-

66 and Gonzaga 71-69 to reach the round of 16.

"Everybody on our team is good at certain kinds of things," TTU guard Ronald Ross said.

Ross has become one of Knight's favorite players, but in this case, he differed with his guard on the idea that Knight is a master at turning role players into winners.

"That may be, but I'd rather recruit five Michael Jordans — see if I could get five Michael Jordans and let them define their own roles," said Knight.

West Virginia is in the round of 16 for the first time since 1998.

Unlike Knight, who is making his 27th appearance in the tournament, West Virginia coach John Beilein is not a regular. This is just his third trip. Nor is Beilein anywhere near the celebrity as the guy he'll face Thursday. The West Virginia coach's news conference was about half as full as Knight's.

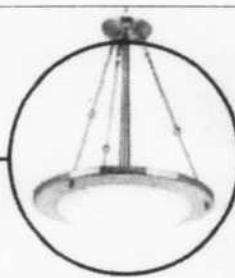
The Mountaineers opened the season with 10 straight wins, then hit a slump in the Big East season. It got so bad, Beilein considered going with younger players and looking to next season.

Since late January, the Mountaineers are 11-4. ♦

brighter future

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Leffew's Losers!

By Jon Leffew
Assistant Sports Editor

With Major League Baseball's opening day looming, it's only natural that this week's winner is a baseball player.

From juiced sluggers to crying liars (or all of the above, Mr. Bonds), Major League Baseball has become a smorgasbord for those who hunger for losers.

This week's winner, though not a big leaguer himself yet, has major ties to the sport.

This week's loser happens to be the son of the greatest pitcher of our generation.

Way to go, Koby Clemens!

For those of you who haven't heard, the younger Clemens arrived at Memorial High School in Houston yesterday, in his father's orange Hummer, and proceeded into school.

However, Koby forgot one minor detail — losing the door to the \$50,000+ vehicle.

Now, if Koby had been driving a light pink (though it was once red) 1990 Honda Civic hatchback with a leaky sunroof, bad muffler, balled tires and sheepskin seats, then this probably wouldn't have been a big deal.

But, since Clemens was driving a fully-loaded SUV that just happened to have been presented to his father for winning 300 games, he deserves this week's award more than Bonds, Steve Francis or Paul Silas.

According to police, the thieves made off with the vehicle after only a few minutes.

Those same police put out a statewide all-

points bulletin for people to be on the lookout for the vehicle, and Clemens even offered a \$10,000 reward for the apprehension of the thieves.

Geez, must be tough having a major league dad.

The Hummer apparently had the younger Clemens' baseball equipment inside, but I'm sure good ole' dad could easily drop a couple hundred bucks to buy some more.

Replacing the burnt orange jalopy shouldn't be too difficult either, since before Koby began driving the orange one he drove, you guessed it, another Hummer (in black).

But sentimentally, the orange vehicle must have been invaluable to the family, considering Roger received it from the team he stabbed in the back.

Roger, who was a close runner-up for even letting his son drive the car, began letting the youngster drive it because Koby committed to play baseball at Texas.

Here's hoping the younger Clemens follows in the footsteps of his father and makes millions, because he obviously needs a chauffeur.

And, as long as I'm hoping, here's hoping Koby's kids end up driving a Civic like I did, and my parents buy me a Hummer in MTSU blue. ♦

Jon Leffew is a sophomore history major. He can be reached at jal3p@mtsu.edu.

Summitt receives multiple honors after 880th victory

By Elizabeth A. Davis
AP Sports Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Moments after becoming the winningest coach in NCAA history, Pat Summitt focused on her ultimate goal: getting Tennessee its seventh national title.

Thirty years after getting her first win against Middle Tennessee, Summitt broke Dean Smith's career victory record Tuesday night, getting No. 880 in the Lady Vols' 75-54 win over Purdue in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

"First and foremost, we're going to the Sweet 16," Summitt said. "Obviously, to be in the company with Coach Smith, to think about all the people that were a part of these wins, I never thought I'd live this long."

Summitt tied Smith with an easy win over Western Carolina in the first round Sunday night, and passed the former North Carolina men's coach with another convincing victory.

"First of all, I'm excited this basketball team is headed to Philadelphia and appreciate the fact that we managed to get it done tonight," Summitt said. "We played in spurts at times, but did enough to advance."

The 52-year-old Summitt improved to 880-171 in 31 years at Tennessee, while Smith was 879-254 when he retired in 1997 after 36 years with the Tar Heels. Summitt was concerned the record chase would be a distraction during tournament time.

"I appreciate all the recognition women's basketball has received because of this," she said. "I think the game has obviously had a lot of plugs, as well as this program."

"But I just want to keep my focus on this team, and that's all I could think about today."

After the game, NCAA officials presented the game ball and a plaque to Summitt. The university announced that the court at Thompson-Boling Arena will be named "The Summitt," in honor of the coach who now stands above the rest in NCAA basketball.

"It really touches me," she said. "I never even thought about anything like that ever. I don't think there could have been a better gift in terms of the feeling that I had and how much I love this university."

Ninth-seeded Purdue (17-13) tried its best to stall Summitt's chase, hanging tough with the top-seeded Lady Vols (28-4) in the first half.

But Tennessee's defense was too much for Purdue in the second half. The Boilermakers didn't have a field goal in the first 6:35 of the second half, while the Lady Vols pushed their lead to 20 with a 19-6 run.

"Congratulations to Coach Summitt," Purdue coach Kristy Curry said. "I'm really happy for her, and I'm proud of my team for how they fought and battled."

Tye'sha Fluker tied a career high with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Shyra Ely added 16 points, Shanna Zolman 15 and Nicky Webb 11.

Sharika Webb had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Katie Gearlds added 13 for the Boilermakers, who made only four field goals in the second half.

In the first game Tuesday in Knoxville, LSU, the top overall seed in the tournament, cruised past ninth-seeded Arizona 76-43.

The Lady Tigers (31-2) will

face 13th-seeded Liberty in the Chattanooga Regional semifinals Saturday. Liberty upset fifth-seeded DePaul 88-79 on Tuesday night in College Park, Md.

Temeka Johnson scored all 14 of her points in the first half and had 10 assists. Seimone Augustus added 18 points and Scholanda Houston had 12 for LSU, who are trying to reach the Final Four for a second straight season. The Lady Tigers are in the final 16 for the ninth time.

Dee-Dee Wheeler led the ninth-seeded Wildcats (20-12) with 13 points, and Shawntinice Polk had 10. Danielle Adefeso added 12 rebounds. Arizona had only four assists.

But the most excitement was saved for the nightcap.

Summitt took over the women's program at Tennessee in 1974 at age 22 when there were no scholarships and she had to wash the uniforms and drive the team van. The Lady Vols nickname didn't even exist.

A mere 53 fans watched Summitt win her first game, a 69-32 victory over Middle Tennessee on Jan. 10, 1975.

Thousands of orange-clad supporters came to see Summitt reach 880 on Tuesday, creating an atmosphere even more electric than usual.

"This basketball team is on a mission, so stick with us!" she said to the crowd after the game.

Among those in attendance were Tennessee football coach Phillip Fulmer, former Lady Vols assistant Mickie DeMoss, former Lady Vols guard Kara Lawson and former men's basketball coach Buzz Peterson, who was fired last week after four seasons. ♦

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The Rutherford County Democratic Party Announces its 2005 Biannual Organizational Convention

When: Saturday, April 2. Registration begins at 10 a.m. Doors close at 10:30 a.m.

Where: The Court House in Murfreesboro

Purpose: To elect county executive committee members & offices for two-year terms lasting through the 2006 election cycle.

Eligibility: Any registered voter in Rutherford County who will sign a pledge of support for the Democratic Party

If you are a Democrat, plan to be at this meeting!

Sudan: Bol upset with lack of action from United Nations

Continued from 5

in Southern Sudan. Since 1983, Islamic fundamentalists in the northern part of the country have attempted to exterminate the predominantly Christian tribes of the south.

"The people I used to know, when I come back, the only answer I get is they are dead," Bol said.

When an audience member asked about the potential involvement of the United Nations, Bol became noticeably bitter. He said the United Nations has done nothing in 22 years of conflict.

"The U.S. can do something, the European Union can do something," Bol said. "The United Nations is just United Corruption."

The former NBA star concluded by urg-

ing students at MTSU to approach their Sudanese classmates to learn about their history and forge friendships.

"I don't want you to forget, these are your people now," Bol said.

Lost Boys of Sudan, directed by Megan Mylan and Jon Shenk, will be playing at the KUC Theater through March 26. Admission is free. ♦

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Newer house for rent, 3br, 2ba, hardwood floors, w&d, lawn maintenance included in rent, 5 min from MTSU, 900/month. call Neil @482-1941 for more info.

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Almost brand new house! Stone Gate Subdivision, 1 mile from MTSU. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, screened porch, 2 car garage, dishwasher, stove, side by side refrigerator with ice maker, microwave, washer and dryer all included. \$975/mo with \$500 deposit. No Pets. Call 615-895-0075 or 615-347-1676 for more info.

Two bedrooms in Campus Crossings from May to August. Might be willing to negotiate on the price. For information contact Justin 732-598-7513 or jkm2j@mtsu.edu

Newly remodeled condo for rent. 4bd/2bath, wash/dry included. Walking distance to MTSU. \$900/month. Call 804-3817.

Condo near MTSU for rent. 2 bedrooms left. 4 bed/3.5 bath for lease. Washer and dryer in Unit. 3,000 sq. feet. \$330.00 + 1/4 utilities per month. Valerie at 943-8274 or 904-1871.

Female roommates to occupy new 2BR 1BA cottage, private entrance, 2 blocks from MTSU. \$365 each per month includes heat and air, water, electricity, cable and internet. \$500 deposit, 1 year lease, no pets. 615-364-1004.

Miscellaneous

Reward!

Lost Wedding/Anniversary Ring belonging to my deceased mother. Ring is 3 attached parts with diamond in the center of a rose and the anniversary band. If found, call 615-423-6897.

MTSU graduate student needs wives of deployed soldiers for a focus group. Wives will be discussing family changes in war times. The purpose of this focus group is to

help educate future military wives and make a significant contribution to the current literature on military families. For further info please contact Jenni Davis 615-217-0265, jtd2r@mtsu.edu or Dr. Catherine Stogner at 615-898-5522, cstogner@mtsu.edu.

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

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Male or female needed. 2 bd 1 bath. 297/month + 1/2 utl. Needed by April 30.275-9075.

Female Roommate Wanted: 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$300/mo includes all utilities. Call: 615-893-7755.

1 roommate needed for 3 bedroom 3 bath apartment at Campus Crossings. Fully furnished. Workout center, highspeed internet,

pool. \$439/mo. utilities included. Call: 615-482-3796.

Sales

New football table for sale, real wood, dark finish. Granite players. \$600 OBO. Call 931-801-4417.

Portable 7" DVD player w/ accessories, Initial IDM 1731, brand new, unopened box, \$150. jrv2f@mtsu.edu or 615-217-3883.

2004 Trek 4900 Alpha Aluminum Mtn. Bike. Bought in Jan and only ridden once. Excellent condition. Paid \$575 will settle for \$400. Adam 615-668-3822.

For Sale: Futon \$150, Full Mattress \$100, 13" TV \$50 mjw2k@mtsu.edu
7 ft green checked couch. good condition, very comfortable. We just got a new couch and have no room. \$75 obo. Tim or Joe 615-893-1293.

Guitars, Amps and drums for sale. Peavey, Yamaha, Schecter, B.C. Rich, m Traben, Zildjian, Sabian, Sonor, etc. Music World & Drummers Den 893-4242, 2762 S. Church St. (located across from Indian Hills).

House for sale, walk to MTSU, hardwood floors, move-in condition, rented attic apartment pays \$350/month. \$114,500. 614-571-2291 or olivekleban@hotmail.com.

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.

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Sterling 3335. Pool view, fast internet service, great roommates, needed for May-July. Great for summer school cheap housing. Candice 901-351-9915.

Female, non-smoker needed to sublease apt at Campus Crossing ASAP. Nice clean large bdrn with a private bath, in 3 bdrn apt. Utilities, cable, internet included. \$439 monthly. Jessica 315-4935, lla2i@mtsu.edu.

Need a place to stay this summer? 1br/1bt available at the Woods May 15th-August

15th. Rent is \$300 and includes all utilities with cable and high speed internet. Please call 407-375-4994 for more info.

Sublease needed to take over lease through August. 2 bed/2 bath apt. rent includes half water. 1st month rent free! only mins from campus. Call Tara @ 615-418-6919.

Looking for a sublease for a 2 bedroom apt at Campus Crossings for the months of May-August. If interested call 931-237-1318.

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

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SUBLEASER NEEDED Female needed to sublease in June and July a 1/bd&1/bath in a 4/bd&4/bath in University Courtyard. All utilities included, high speed internet, great roommates, bedroom window over looks pool. Rent \$375. If interested, please call Megan at 615-289-3448. Leave Message

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NFL executives consider changes

By Barry Wilner
AP Football Writer

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Mike Pereira sat in front of a video screen and watched several botched calls by his referees and linesmen. They were a vast minority of the total calls, but they still irked the NFL's director of officiating.

Pereira and the league's competition committee were hopeful some of those missed calls would be eliminated when owners vote on several rules proposals.

Most notable would be the inclusion of down-by-contact penalties as part of the instant replay review system. Coaches would be able to challenge such calls involving a potential change of possession.

"The theory being it's one of the big holes in the replay system," Pereira said Tuesday at the league's annual meetings. "As (Texans GM) Charley Casserly said today, the most important play is a scoring play, and the second-most important is a change of possession play."

"If we can get it reviewed, we've filled a hole in the system."

If the whistle has sounded but there is uncertainty if a ball carrier lost possession before or after the play was blown dead, a coach can throw the red flag; there will be no buzzer system for coaches to use anymore. While any return of the loose ball won't count, the defense would get the takeaway if replay shows the fumble occurred before the whistle.

But if evidence is inconclusive, the down by contact call will stand.

"It has to be absolutely obvious who recovered," Pereira said.

The change would be a one-year experiment. Replay was passed for a five-year period last March.

Pereira and competition committee co-chairmen Jeff Fisher, and Rich McKay, GM of the Falcons, acknowledged there is some opposition to the pro-

posal because of fear it could lead to more injuries. Players could be tempted to play well beyond the whistle.

But Pereira said players regularly do play through the whistle and go for a recovery when there is a loose ball.

Another proposal that would seem to be a slam-dunk for passage is outlawing the so-called "horse-collar tackle," in which a defender grabs the back inside of an opponent's shoulder pads and yanks down to make the tackle. Several such instances resulted in serious injuries last season, most notably Dallas safety Roy Williams' tackle of Eagles All-Pro receiver Terrell Owens.

"The coaches are concerned," Pereira said. "There is a trend of injuries and those of a serious nature, for this tackle."

One of those coaches, Bill Belichick of the two-time champion New England Patriots, isn't sure where he stands on the issue.

"I can see why it's being brought up, where it's coming from," he said.

"Anytime you write a rule, you might solve one problem, but there are other residuals to it. I think we just need to look at those carefully, and until you actually see the rule as it's presented, it's hard to kind of picture what exactly the ramifications of it would be."

New York moved a step closer to getting the 2010 Super Bowl when an advisory committee approved the Jets' bid to host the game, contingent on the construction of a new, retractable roof stadium on the West Side of Manhattan. The owners were expected to vote on the bid Wednesday.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, who has supported a Super Bowl in New York since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, backed the bid. The 2009 Super Bowl has not yet been awarded. Atlanta, Miami, Houston and Tampa are bidding for the game, which is expected to be awarded at meetings this spring. ♦

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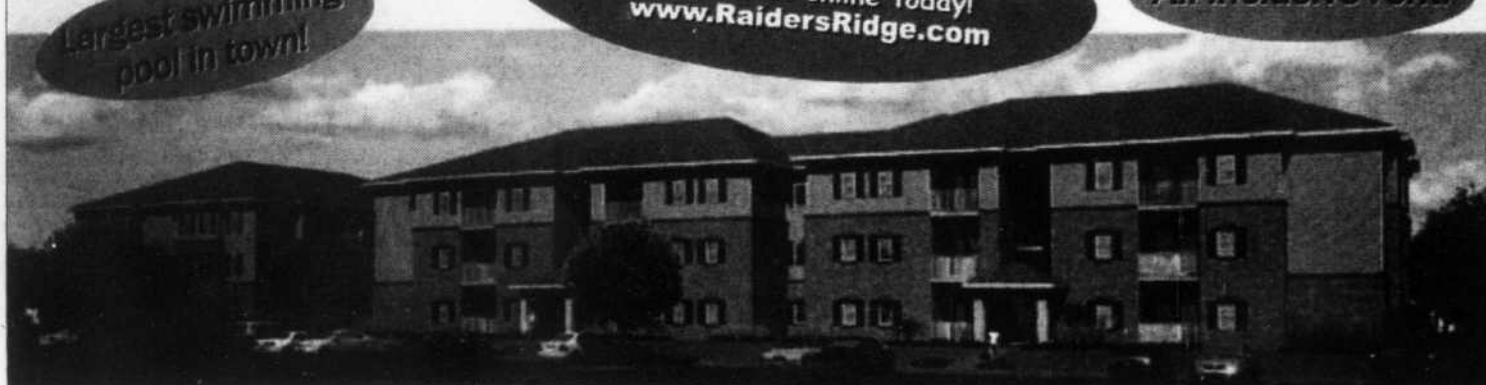
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