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SIDELINES

April 25, 1991

Middle Tennessee State University

Volume 65, Number 57

ASB holds active joint session

TONY KIRK
News editor

A bill that would allow an open book swap to be established for students was passed in a joint session of the Associated Student Body Tuesday night — a bill which may be overturned by the newly elected president.

ASB held its first joint session since the inauguration of new President Shawn Burgess saw two bills and two proclamations passed.

The bill would allow for students to set up an open book swap for students. The bill would allow students to set up a system to sell, trade or buy books to each other as an alternative to the current bookstores.

However, Burgess informed the bill's sponsor Wednesday morning that he intends to veto the bill.

Burgess sent a letter to sponsor Cathy Miller explaining why he had decided to veto the bill.

"The letter said the he believed the swap would be to big of a project for student workers and that more research would be needed for a project this large," Miller said.

Burgess said that he believes that the bill had not been properly planned to handle all circumstances.

"The bill calls for the ASB secretary to be in charge of the project and that is too much for one person. Also, the plan was set

up to be put into active upon the bills passage, which is too soon and it does not allow for any security of the students' books," Burgess said.

An ASB emergency session has been called for next Tuesday at 5 p.m. Miller is hoping that the bill will get enough for an override of the veto.

"The bill needs a two-thirds vote to override the veto, and it passed originally with a vote of 9 to 6 (one vote shy of the margin needed). But there were some supporters of the bill that were not there," Miller said.

Miller also reported that the legislature passed another bill concerning the changing of the student government's name by

proclamation.

"I'm strongly in favor of the name change, because it better represents what we stand for. We are planning for a special election for the summer or the end of this semester. We want it to be changed as soon as possible," Burgess said.

One of the ASB proclamations calls for Burgess and MTSU President James Walker to claim next semester as "The Year-of-the Student."

The second proclamation would call for students to be given a sticker to be worn after they vote during a ASB election, much like a current system that is used at Memphis State University.

"The proclamation asks for stickers with little slogans to be given to students that vote. It would allow candidates to see which students have voted already and it would bring more attention to the election," Miller said.

Miller added that the stickers have a low cost and would carry slogans such as "Kiss me I voted!" and other phrases.

Burgess, who took the oath of office last Monday saw an active meeting in what he said he hopes to be a progressive term.

"I felt the meeting was productive. We had a lot of debate and that brings about better solutions to student problems," Burgess said.

MTSU celebrates Earth Day



It was a day of music, fun and public speaking at MTSU's Earth Day '91 celebration.

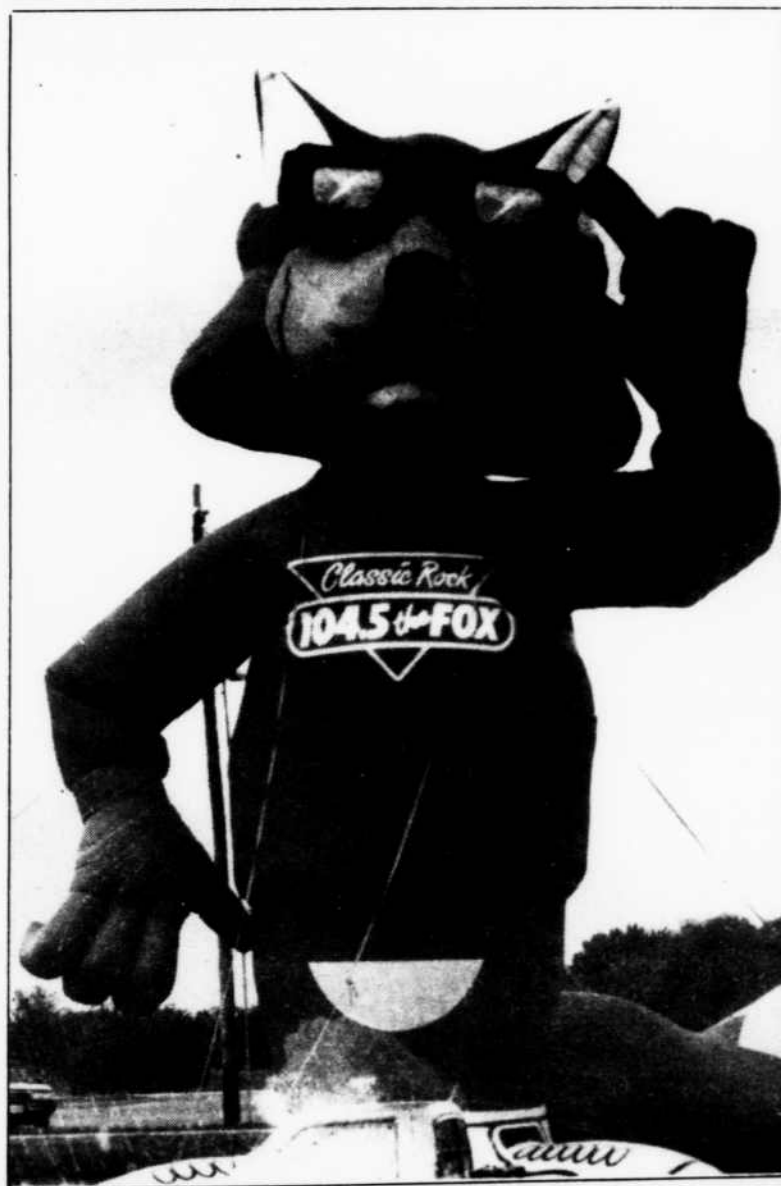
"Each generation ... becomes the custodian, rather than the absolute owner of our resources," said U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon at the event, as he quoted the late American conservation writer Alden Whitman. "Each generation has the obligation to pass this inheritance on to the future."

Children from Murfreesboro public schools, that were brought by their teachers, were the most readily identifiable group of people swelling a crowd estimated by organizers at close to 400.

Murfreesboro Mayor Joe B. Jackson was on hand to thank MTSU Students for Environmental Action for hosting and planning the event.

Greenpeace, Amnesty International, Sierra Club, Kroger, Recycle Rutherford, and the Black Fox Wetlands League all had information tables at the event.

The program included many local bands and was also sponsored by Kroger, FOX 104.5, Mid Coast Sound, and Fat City Artist.



Campus Capsule

College Day at Allen A.M.E. Church, 224 S. Maney Ave., will be held this Sunday, April 28. All college students are invited to attend. Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. and morning services begin at 10:50 a.m. Lunch will be served after morning services. For more information please call the church at 893-7842.

The Spring Honors Lecture Series continues April 29 at 3:30 p.m. in Peck Hall room 107 with Ronald Messier speaking on "Morocco in the Middle East Crisis."

Positions available in the new **ASB President's**

Administration. Students interested should pick up applications in the ASB Office, KUC 304.

The Honors Awards Reception will be held April 26 at 3:30 p.m. in Dining Room C of the JUB. All "Honors Program" students, faculty, administration and supporters are invited.

Grades for Spring Semester 1991 will be mailed to the permanent address of all students enrolled provided outstanding financial obligations to the University are cleared by 4 p.m. May 7. Grade reports

for those students who continue to owe money to the University after May 7 will be held in the Records Office.

The Black Student Development and Enrichment Program will be accepting applications for positions as mentors for the fall of 1991. Deadline for applications is April 26. For more information contact the Minority Affairs Office at 898-2987.

The Criminal Justice Society is sponsoring a Food Drive for hungry children in Tennessee. Drop-off points will be in the Greenland parking lot and behind the KUC during the week of April 22-26. Call 898-2630 for more information.

The Gamma Iota Sigma Insurance Fraternity and Sigma Club Honor Fraternity wishes to thank those who came out to the Quiz Bowl on March 7. The Middle Tennessee Student Christian Center won first place.

Bicycle the Natchez Trace Parkway with Campus Recreation. The trip will be May 12-19 and the cost is \$50 per student. A sign-up meeting will be held on April 29 at 5:30 p.m. in AMG 201.

The ETA NU chapter of ALPHA TAU OMEGA is forming a special interest group that may re-colonize at MTSU. Anyone interested in joining or any Alpha Tau's from other colleges are asked to call Tony Kirk at 898-3196 or 898-2336 or write P. O. Box 9165.

Career Placement Orientation for seniors and graduate students will be held at 3 p.m. in the KUC 328, Career Resource Center.

Campus Interview Calendar

April—25 Parke-Davis Consumer Health Products For more information about the interview calendar, contact the Placement and Student Employment Center, KUC 328, 898-2500.

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Final Exam Schedule Spring Semester 1991

- Monday, April 29 is the last day of classes
- Tuesday, April 30 is a study day

Wednesday, May 1

Classes meeting at:	Will have exams:
10:00 MWF	8:00-10:00 a.m.
2:00 MWF	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
3:00MW, 2:25 MW	1:00-3:00 p.m.
4:15 W, 4:30 MW, 4:50 W, 4:00 W	4:00-6:00 p.m.
6:00 W, 6:00 MWF, 6:00 MW	6:00-8:00 p.m.
7:15 W, 7:00 MW, 7:30 W	8:00-10:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 2

Classes meeting at:	Will have exams:
8:00 TTH	8:00-10:00 a.m.
10:50 TTH	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
1:40 TTH	1:00-3:00 p.m.
4:00 TH, 4:15 TH, 4:30 TH, 4:50 TH	4:00-6:00 p.m.
4:00 TTH, 4:30 TTH, 4:50 TTH	6:00-8:00 p.m.
6:00 TH, 6:00 TTH	8:00-10:00 p.m.
7:15 TH, 7:00 TH, 7:30 TH, 7:25 TTH	

Friday, May 3

Classes meeting at:	Will have exams:
7:00 MWF	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
8:00 MWF	8:00-10:00 a.m.
12:00 MWF	1:00-3:00 p.m.
3:05 TTH	3:30-5:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 4

Classes meeting at:	Will have exams:
8:00 SAT	8:00-10:00 a.m.
9:50 SAT	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
11:50 SAT	1:00-3:00 p.m.

Monday, May 6

Classes meeting at:	Will have exams:
9:00 MWF	8:00-10:00 a.m.
11:00 MWF	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
4:00 M, 4:00 MW, 4:15 M, 4:50 M	4:00-6:00 p.m.
6:00 M	6:00-8:00 p.m.
7:00 M, 7:15 M, 7:30 M	8:00-10:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7

Classes meeting at:	Will have exams:
9:25 TTH	8:00-10:00 a.m.
12:15 TTH	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
1:00 MWF	1:00-3:00 p.m.
4:00 T, 4:15 T, 4:30 T, 4:50 T	4:00-6:00 p.m.
6:00 T	6:00-8:00 p.m.
7:15 T, 7:30 T	8:00-10:00 p.m.



Thursday
4 P.M. to 10 P.M.
April 25



Friday
9 A.M. to 5 P.M.
April 26

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Do you look forward to the times you can eat alone? Do you plan your entire day around the times you'll be able to eat?

Do you feel guilty about your preoccupation with food? Do you hide your eating habits from other people?

Do you constantly diet or think about dieting?

Do you purge by vomiting, with laxatives or exercise after binges to keep your weight down?

If you answered yes to one or more of the above questions, you may have an eating disorder. It's not a question of will power. It's a disease.

Call one of our counselors today for more information and a free assessment. They'll be happy to talk to you. They know what you're going through. Some of them have been there themselves. Call collect or direct, Eating Disorder Services, at (615) 865-3201.

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Opinions

Are our priorities in wrong place?

With the U.S. economy suffering from the "R" word, it's not the best time for college seniors entering the work force to find high-paying jobs—unless, of course, you're an NFL draft pick.

The annual gridiron version of "Let's Make a Deal" took place this week in N.Y. and is sure to make more millionaires than Ed McMahon could shake a check at.

Oddly enough, the biggest winner won't even be playing for American dollars. Raghib "The Rocket" Ismail became the most highly decorated draft-dodger ever to cross the Canadian border. He will make as much as \$26.2 million in four years to play football, not hockey, in the Great White North.

But don't shed a tear for the first-rounder stuck at home with the NFL. Between now and whenever they see fit to report to training camp, the top 27 will sign for figures comparable to the GNPs of many industrialized nations. Somebody please throw a penalty flag!

Just two days prior to the NFL draft, another economic injustice was occurring just down the road in Atlantic City. "The Battle of the Ages" saw George Foreman take home \$12 million, Evander Holyfield, \$20 million, and the promoters were expected to net over \$100 million. The fighters together earned over \$140,000 a second to beat each other silly. Where do you sign up?

So what does this say about our society's priorities? Ismail will make in one season of carrying the pigskin what five Tennessee teachers can expect to make in 45 years of guiding our future generations. How are we to expect our children to value an education when we, ourselves, place a higher emphasis on sports?

The blame does not fall on the athletes, the owners, or the television networks and their advertisers for the over-inflated salaries. They are simply doing what they must to turn a profit.

We are the ones at fault: the sports fans who put athletes on a pedestal. Until we are willing to halt the big bucks at the source, we have only ourselves to blame.



'Helpful' hints for financial aid

With final exams at hand, it's understandable that the coming fall semester would be of little concern. But unless you're lucky enough to be graduating or you or your parents plan to pay next year's tuition and costs, you have less than three weeks to meet the priority deadline for federal financial assistance.

The ACT Family Financial Statement must be mailed by May 15 in order to qualify for the initial appropriations of federal grants. All applications received after that date will be evaluated based on the remainder of unclaimed funds.

The FFS is not only required for federal grants, but also must be processed in order to qualify

Staff Column TERRY MASSEY Opinions Editor

for TSAC funds, student loans and other assistance programs. The forms are located outside the financial aid office in the Cope Administration building.

You'll need your, and possibly your parents', 1990 income tax return and other financial information to provide the required figures. You'll also need a couple of hours, a number two pencil and a lot of patience to complete the 100-plus question form. Here's a few pointers for some of the less-inquisitive inquiries.

#10—Provides a space for

whether you are a U.S. citizen, a legal alien or neither. If you are living in the country illegally, do not send in the form since it has already asked for your name and address.

#41—The question asks for your adjusted gross income and provides for a six-digit reply. If you made more than \$100,000 last year, you're wasting your time with the form.

#94—It asks of you are in default on an educational loan. If your answer is yes, see #10.

Now that you know the ground rules, go to it. Don't let the pressure of finals and the evils of procrastination screw you out of your piece of the pie. Happy circling!

SIDELINES

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Gregory Adkins-Production Manager

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Opinion Page Policy

Unsigned editorials represent the viewpoint of the paper's editorial staff, while signed columns reflect the views of the author. All letters to the editor must be accompanied by the author's name, campus address and phone number. The author's identification will be verified, and unsigned letters will not be printed. Editors reserve the right to edit for libel, news style and length. Address letters to: **Sidelines, Box 42, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37130.**

Letters to the Editor

Where was support for university productions?

To the Editor:

So you all came out for *Camelot*, eh? You wore your clothes and found your culture — 1,000 strong — out for a night of it. And a jolly show it was, too (once they got that darn speaker fixed, eh?); people with voices sang good wholesome tunes in a place far off and long ago (no F word here, unless you count "Fie"). I was thrilled, really I was. So were we all. Oh, I admit I had a little trouble finding a seat, but I didn't actually mind the wait for the bathrooms at intermission (after sitting for a one hour and fifty minute—fourteen-song first act, most people have to use the bathroom for something); however, it did make me a trifle

nostalgic for the last two university productions, where I could find a seat most anywhere I felt the urge, and the rest rooms were as empty as a late Friday afternoon composition class. *Tracers*, an intense investigation of the effects of the Vietnam war on those who fought it, ran for six performances to a few appreciative people. No one sang sweetly or wore a bejeweled crown, although there were some screams, and green fatigues, and a haunting final spectacle that still lingers in my brain. We all used the bathroom with ease on those nights, although few left their seats. The University Dance Concert ran the following weekend. There was one incredible dance to the music of *Carmina Burana*, and other numbers, one to sitar music with candles, and more, all spectacles,

all theatrical, all vibrant and well-performed pieces from this side of the dramatic experience. I propped my feet up, propped my arms over the empty seats beside me, and enjoyed myself thoroughly. I liked *Camelot* too. It was just fine (once the smoke had cleared). And you came for it. Maybe next year, they'll get New York to send us *My Fair Lady*. You'll come out for that, too.

Cosby Hunt
Box 131

What about rights of the accused?

To the Editor:

Although you are right that "Naming rape victim not a wise practice" in most cases (April 22 editorial), you erred by

See **LETTERS**, page 5

Letters

continued from page 4
by automatically assuming that William Kennedy Smith had in fact sexually assaulted her.

The woman in question, whoever she is, has also been accused of stealing an antique urn and other valuable items from the Kennedy residence. Is this a rape case muddled up by accusations of theft, or a theft case muddled up by accusations of rape? No one in the press has bothered to tell us.

For a woman thief, this would be an interesting modus operandi. Go to a bar, go home with a man, get up early, sneak home with valuable goodies, and rely on embarrassment or potential rape accusations to deter the guy from complaining.

Or, maybe she was raped. She claims now to have taken the urn just to prove she was there. Did she "fess up" as soon as she reported to the police station? Or is this just a lame excuse made up later? No one in the gigantic press corps milling around the area has bothered to inform us, they're all too busy trying to chase down Kennedy family members.

The press also left a lot of loose ends after the Chappaquiddick incident. Sen. Ted Kennedy was undoubtedly guilty of bad driving, and the young woman who drowned probably couldn't have been saved even if he'd gone to the nearest house to seek help. But was she having an affair with him?

He is divorced now, and he has a right to go to bars and pick up young women if he wants to. But it's not very seemly for a Senator.

Whatever the truth about the rape accusation, it probably can't be proved, just as in a lot of cases where it was ordinary "Joe Smith" instead of William Kennedy Smith. Unless someone can testify that they heard screams, it's often "He said, she said", not enough to prove anything beyond reasonable doubt, unfortunately.

Professor Glenn T. Wilson
School of Business
Box 443

Monday, April 29 will be the last issue of *Sidelines*

Any entries for Campus Capsule, Letters to the Editor, or classifieds must be in by Friday, April 26.



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Features

A day filled with smiles, hugs, and fun



Shelley Mays/Photographer

ENTHUSIASM, EXCITEMENT, SMILES: All three could be found among those who participated, volunteered, and those who cheered them on at the Special Olympics that were held on Monday. One participant accepts her ribbon proudly with a smile (above). Kirk Honea, a student volunteer, gives instruction to an athlete (left photo below), and another athlete holds her hands proudly in the air after accepting her ribbon (right photo below). At the starting line, participants in the motorized wheelchair event await to start (bottom left) and another athlete waits for the games to begin (bottom right).



LISA VINSANT
Staff Writer

"Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

This Special Olympic oath states a healthy premise that everyone could apply to different aspects of their lives. Seeing these children strive under sometimes difficult circumstances really brought that message home.

For the past six years, MTSU has hosted the Track and Field Spring Games for Wilson, Williamson, and Rutherford counties in the Tennessee Special Olympic Sponsorship. This year 352 athletes from 33 different schools registered to participate. This number is up by about 70 athletes from last year's events.

Volunteers were estimated at 400. According to Director of Handicapped Services John Harris, this number significantly declined from the usual 600 volunteers because of a rain-out on the day initially scheduled

for the olympics.

As the volunteers and participants worked with enthusiasm on the field, relatives and friends of the athletes were cheering with equal fervor off the field.

"I think it's great; he does too. It's like Christmas to him," said Betty Bowerman, mother of 21-year-old athlete Andy Kimbro, who has been a participant in the games for the past 7 or 8 years.

MTSU student Heather Beckwith has made it a habit to miss class every year to be with her sister, Amanda, a 15-year-old Central Middle School student who has participated in the olympics for the past seven years.

"I love it," said Heather, engulfing Amanda in a bear hug. "Hugs are a major part of this. We have special people designated as huggers at the end, and when they get to the end, you give 'em a big hug and the smiles are incredible."

"I'm missing class just for you, Amanda," Heather tells her sister.

"Just for me," Amanda repeats, smiling and returning Heather's hug with enthusiasm.

Enthusiasm is shared by all who participate in the Special Olympics and everyone is a winner. Ribbons are given to each participant for their accomplishment of simply entering the event.

Students at the Daniel-McKee School have been coming to the event for four or five years. They start preparing for the big day three to four weeks ahead of

See **HUGS**, page 8



Go Raiders!



Shelley Mays/photographer

NEW RAIDER SQUAD: Cheerleading competition for the new 1991-92 squad was held last week. They are (top row, left to right) Corey Finner, Scott Simms, Eddie Johnston, Calvin Woods, and Steve Kektor. (Second row) Kim Painter, Tracy Reed, Beth Petty, Teresa Wicker, and Aiya Shakeibi. (Third row) Keri Collins, Adria Hopkins, Lee Ann Whitehead, Kerry Boykins.

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Thursday, April 25
Sigma Chi's

Derby Darling Contest

&

The Undoctors

Friday, April 26
The Crash Dummies

&

The Conspiracy

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&

Numbskull

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Flinghammer

&

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April 22--April 26

According to a comprehensive study released recently by the Food Research and Action Center, a Washington based anti-hunger organization, 14.7% of Tennessee's 849,284 children under 12 years old are hungry. An additional 30.7% of our children are in immediate risk of going hungry (Approximately 1 in 3). A donation of \$2 worth of food per student could help feed the children of needy counties, please support this effort.

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P U Z Z L E S O L U T I O N



HUGS

continued from page 6

time.
"We practice carrying the banner. The students are used to coming every year, so they know about it, and they're excited about it, so all I have to do is bring out the tape measures and the balls and they know what we're getting ready to do and they start talking

about it," Lisa Givens, a teacher at the school, explains.

One volunteer summed up the specialness of this day and of the people who participate and even the ones who are there to cheer them on.

"I'll catch myself sometimes saying I wish I could do this, or I wish I could do this better, and to see these kids, they're happy even if they can take only one step," commented Marie

Wooten, a special education major.

Lynn Magner, mom of Stephen Magner, 15, says her son has been training for over a month, and about the Special Olympics, she says it plain and simple.

"It's great, it's wonderful."

For anyone who experiences it, either as a participant, a volunteer, or as a member of the cheering section, it's just a very special day.

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Shelly Mays/photographer

VOLUNTEERS PLAY VITAL ROLE: More than 400 volunteers were on hand to help out with the Track and Field Spring Games for Wilson, Williamson, and Rutherford counties. The number of volunteers was down from the usual amount of 600 possibly due to the rain-out of the events that were to be initially held on last Friday. Many volunteers like (left to right) Jennifer Mann, Tonya Johnson, and Scott Davis, wait the finish line to give the athletes a big hug.

THE ASSERTOR

MTSU's First
Multi-Cultural Magazine

is looking for writers who are willing to contribute articles, ideas, poems, etc. to the production of its Fall/1991 issues. There are also permanent staff positions available if interested.

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Sports

Now we're in charge

Blue Raiders deliver message to Murray

TONY J. ARNOLD
Sports Editor

Move over Murray State, the Blue Raiders are in charge now. Their reign as the dominant men's tennis team in the OVC is over.

At least that's the message delivered by the MTSU tennis team.

For the first time in 11 years, the Blue Raiders defeated the Racers Monday afternoon 6-3 in a pressure packed OVC match which pitted the league's undefeated teams.

"It was an emotional win," head coach Dale Short admitted. "We were both 5-0 in the OVC going into the match and they have a tradition of winning the conference."

"There was a little extra tension but the main thing is that everyone felt the pressure that their going to feel in the OVC tournament."

Middle will try and win the OVC tournament this weekend and the Murray win couldn't have

come at a better time.

"It was good to beat them right before the tournament," Short said. "There was a lot of question as to who was the best team and now that we beat them, I think we are a little more relaxed going into the tournament."

But, despite the victory, Short believes that they might have perhaps won bigger. Not all of the Blue Raiders played to their potential.

"We didn't play exactly our best but we came out with the victory," Short said. "Your true winners find a way to win when they're not playing that well. You can't expect to be playing perfect all the time."

In the tournament this weekend at Tennessee Tech, Middle will carry the burden of six number one seeds.

Nick Sheumack (No. 1 singles), Craig Haslam (No. 2 singles), David Thornton (No. 4 singles where there is a three-way tie for the top seed) and Johan

Franzen (No. 6 singles) will all be seeded on top in their brackets.

Ironically, all four were victorious in their match's over Murray Monday.

In doubles Haslam and freshman Paul Goebel will be seeded first in No. 1 action. Sheumack and Thornton will also be on top in No. 2 doubles.

Both duo's claimed wins against the Racers Monday.

"We're going into the tournament with more number one seeds than anyone else," Short said. "We're somewhat in the drivers seat and that helps a lot."

"I feel real good for my seniors (Franzen, Haslam and Franzen). They all have number one seeds. They're my leader, they're my captains and they're setting the groundwork for my freshman and sophomores."

Middle completed their regular season with a 20-8 overall record and a perfect 6-0 OVC slate.



Kathy Aday/photographer

GETTING READY: The mens tennis squad defeated rival Murray State Monday afternoon and appear ready to take the rest of the OVC on in the conference tournament this weekend.

Late inning blues

TONY J. ARNOLD
Sports Editor

MTSU's baseball team missed out on a golden opportunity Sunday afternoon.

The Raiders, who are in the hunt for the OVC title, had the chance to gain ground on conference leader Murray State.

Murray lost to Austin Peay and Middle, who still has a three game series left with the Thoroughbreds, could have moved to within a half game with a win over Tennessee Tech.

However, a Shane
See **BLUE**, page 11

Blue Raider notebook

TONY J. ARNOLD
Sports Editor

BLUE RAIDER FOOTBALL
MTSU free safety Marty Carter was selected in the eighth round of the NFL draft this week.

The OVC Defensive Player of the Year was the 207th pick in the draft and the

eighth round choice of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

MTSU GOLF
The Blue Raider golf team finished sixth in the OVC golf tournament early this week.

Middle was led by Anthony Toogood who shot a

See **NOTE**, page 11

Boxing mayhem and misjustice

Hardest part of the fight isn't boxing, it's watching

Fights. Society dislikes brawls and unnecessary violence, but when it comes to entrainment we love blood. I'm not innocent, as a matter of fact I'm guilty as hell.

Big paydays in sports come from all over. Professional football, baseball and basketball players make big bucks, but boxing is the biggest payday of them all. A boxer can make millions of dollars for an hour and a half compared to an hour and a half of work.

We crave the blood and the punches. We watch boxing for the same reason people watch bob sledding and auto racing. We're waiting for a crash. We want the wounds and sorrow.

April 19th brought a big blood fest. Big George Foreman fought Evander Holyfield to the death. Or, that's what one would believe if they read the papers.

Four of us piled into a car and took off for Nashville (You couldn't see the fight in Murfreesboro. THANKS UNITED ARTISTS). We

stopped only to pick up food and drink (Coke. We don't drink and drive!).

Soon we were at a friend's house crowded into the TV room watching the pre-fight show. We learned about the fighter's trainers, eating habits, weight, relatives, automobiles, trunk color, vacation plans, future fights, shoe size, religious preference, favorite restaurants, political affiliation and marital status.

Finally the fight started, but it wasn't the championship fight. IT WAS A PRE-FIGHT FIGHT. I couldn't believe it! After that fight, and at least a zillion slow motion reruns from every angle except out the boxer's trunks, there was more prefight. They showed the same clips. I saw in the first pre-fight show.

Finally the fight started, but it wasn't the championship fight IT WAS ANOTHER PRE-FIGHT FIGHT. I couldn't believe it! Another pre-fight fight. I was paying money for this? "Just get on with it," I screamed.

The second fight ended, and after two zillion

See **BOXING**, page 11

Seniors ready for last chance

Sheumack, Goebel and Franzen want their OVC rings

DIANNE DEOLIVEIRA
Staff Writer

What's one of the only things two Australians and one Swede could possibly have in common? Hint: Think of a sport such as, that's right, tennis.

With only one week left in the season, three victory-hungry seniors, Nick Sheumack, Craig Haslam and Johan Franzen, will have one last chance to fulfill their goal of winning their first ever American Ohio Valley Conference Tournament before graduating.

The three seniors will be the key as to whether or not the team can do well in the match. Sheumack was the OVC finalist at number one singles last year, and is undefeated in that position, as well as the favorite to win the conference. He also plays doubles with David Thornton, in which the duo are undefeated at number two.

"Nick carries a lot of weight as to whether or not we win the conference. If he lives up to his billing or record at the moment, then we should do well," said coach Dale Short.

Haslam, who is also the team's



Kathy Aday/photographer

YO! MTSU tennis seniors Nick Sheumack, Johan Franzen and Craig Haslam would like to win the OVC championship this weekend. The tournament will be held at Tennessee Tech although Middle is the favorite.

"I really didn't like tennis that much. I went and learned the lessons once or twice a week because it was my grandfather. I didn't like it because it was an individual sport, and at that age I was into team sports," he said.

Sheumack says he's improved a lot since those first

serious enough to find out about the American college system and was able to obtain a scholarship.

"The college system back home is much different. It's very academic once you finish high school. Unless you're good enough to turn pro at a sport or unless you want to bum around the poverty line and just do that because you love it so much, you have to give it up basically. I wasn't happy about that," he admitted.

Nick said he didn't believe he was good enough to turn pro after high school. He chose to attend college in a city where tennis was popular so he could play after classes, on weekends and in competitions. "But I really wasn't satisfied, and I didn't enjoy college that much in Australia because I didn't have my heart in it. I wanted to play tennis, but it was hard facing reality that either I had to give it up or be much better."

While playing tournaments, Sheumack learned that some of his rivals were writing for scholarships to America.

"When I was 17 one guy came up to me after I did well at a tournament. He had been to America on a scholarship at Louisiana State University. He helped me choose schools and write letters because the language used over here, like GPA and SAT score, I had no clue what any of those things were."

Sheumack wrote to about 25 schools, received 15 good letters, and got about five really good offers. Three days before he was supposed to leave for Washington State, he received a phone call from Dale Short.

"It was really a toss of the coin. Washington State and MTSU were going to give me equal scholarships. It turned out I decided to come here basically because Dale sent me a brochure of the tennis team, and it had all these Australian guys that I had heard of. I knew one of the guys

really well, so I could gauge what the standard of the team was. Dale also sounded really cool on the phone. Sometimes I think I could have done a lot worse. I really like this school, otherwise I wouldn't have stayed. One of the hardest things for athletes back home to come over here, is that you're really blind. You don't know what to expect. To stay at one school for four years when you know very little about it, it sort of speaks for itself I think."

Short is glad Sheumack chose MTSU, and speaks highly of his performance.

"Nick is a hard worker, he's very dedicated. He's extremely competitive, and he's been a good team leader," said Short.

Although Sheumack feels being a good team leader is a compliment, it might be a little overrated.

"That's a compliment and sometimes an overrated one. To tell the truth, sometimes I'm not a good leader, and sometimes I am. That's good to know because when I was a freshman, my first year was tough coming away from home. I didn't really like the guys on the team that much

does look up to me, I hope it's in an indirect way. I don't try to push myself or my philosophies and ideas onto anyone. I'm happy, but not 100% satisfied with myself, so it's very hard for me to say, this is how you do it. Why would I want someone else to be like me when I'm not happy with myself."

After four successful years of tennis, Sheumack prepares for his last match with the hope of obtaining two final goals of his college career, the individual and team OVC tournament titles.

"Every year has been better than the one previously, but I had really hoped to go to the NCAA's this year. Maybe, if I win the conference there could be an outside chance, but I really want to win the conference right now, and I'll feel good about that. I was a finalist last year at number one singles, and I lost. I think I'm playing much better this year, and I beat the guy I lost to three weeks ago. I just try to take one match at a time because you can put a lot of pressure on yourself. I'll feel the pressure when I get to the tournament, but until then I'll try to stay focused and not worry about what's ahead. I feel the more you think about what could be in the future, the more pressure you put on yourself, so I just try not to think about it. If I'm ready then I should win because I'm playing well. As far as the team, we really should win. I think by far we are the best team in the conference, and we have beaten every team in the OVC already. When it comes down to it, the whole season revolves around this one weekend. I just hope we can win this year because we deserve it."

After graduating, with a physical education degree, Sheumack plans to keep a busy schedule playing tennis and traveling.

"My parents are coming over from Australia for graduation and are going to spend a month over here. We're going to travel around and I'm going to show

"When it comes down to it, the whole season revolves around this one weekend. I just hope we can win this year because we deserve it."

Nick Sheumack

captain, is undefeated as well in the conference at number two singles and number one doubles with Paul Goebel. Last year he won the conference at number two singles and is in a good position to win this year at number one doubles and number two singles. He also carries a lot of weight as to how the team does this season, according to Short.

As for Franzen, he holds the number six spot and was a finalist in the OVC at number three.

"Johan has had some early season slump and seems to be coming out of it now," said Short. "He is undefeated in the competition at number six, and has a good chance to win. He also teams up with freshman Richard Dillard for number three doubles, in which they only has one loss."

Each of the three seniors have similar scenarios. Each began his career between the ages of 9 and 11. Both wanted to use tennis as a means to travel and gain entrance to college and now hope to graduate with the memory of an OVC victory. As for the future, they want to possibly obtain a professional ranking.

Sheumack comes from a small town in Australia and he grew up in a tennis family. He began taking lessons at age 11 from his grandfather who taught tennis for 60 years.

few lessons.

"At the start, I was terrible and didn't want to learn. When you're good on a team sport you don't want to leave the team and do something by yourself because there's no one there to say, 'Gees, you're our star'. That sort of thing. But I kept playing, and the more I kept being around the courts, the more I kept thinking there's people here that are so much better than me," said Sheumack.

Believe it or not, Sheumack used to be in the worst groups even though his grandfather was the coach.

"My grandfather couldn't be biased towards me when it came to picking teams, so I was always on the worst ones. After a while I got really pissed off and determined to be better because there were all these kids that were better than me and playing longer. I used to hate the feeling of being the worst. That's all it was. I really wasn't good at all. I maintained some really fierce rivals with some juniors around my hometown and that really served to sort of motivate me sometimes because I still liked team sports a lot until I was 15 or 16, and that was when I got serious about tennis."

After being unhappy at a college in Australia, Nick got

because none of them really helped me that much. When I got to be a junior and a senior, I thought, well, I don't want to be too pushy, but if the guys need something, then I'll help them. When I was a freshman, I would have liked to have had a real close friend who I could have looked up to. That made my first year rough, but it helps when you really feel close to the guys on the team. If you like them, you'll do anything for them, help them out as much as you can. If the team

them a few places that I've been to. This summer I'll be teaching tennis at a club in New York for two months, then I'm going to start playing some tournaments in the fall and see what I can do in the next couple of years. I'm going to try and be as good of a player as I can be and see what happens, maybe get a professional ranking. I plan on staying in the U.S. for a while, play some tournaments in Florida, then hit

See SENIOR, page 12

"The ultimate goal is to win the OVC. We are the favorites. If everyone plays better than normal we should win."

Johan Franzen

BOXING

continued from page 9

more slow motion shots of every angle in the ring except from below the mat, they announced the start of the championship fight.

I was so thrilled my heart rate doubled!

"But before this Championship boxing match let us tell you a little about these two wonderful fighters," said the announcer (some washed up old has-been boxer) like he was doing us a favor. His partner was a woman — WHAT DID SHE KNOW ABOUT BOXING ?!!!!

So once again we saw the same pre-fight show every bit of it. Of course, Cindy, the female co-announcer, would interject bits of wisdom. All of us would yell and the scream, "SHUT UP CINDY! YOU &##@!!@##!"

Let me also assure you there was a female in our group that agreed Cindy was stupid beyond belief!

Once again we found out about the boxers's wives, children, businesses outside boxing, cars, planes, boats, Winter homes, Summer homes, Spring homes, Fall homes and favorite sexual position.

Then the fighters walked to the ring. Trumpets sounded, the earth moved and all was the true light. Actually we were all glad IT WAS STARTING!!!!

For 20 minutes they introduced celebrities and boxing greats. The announcer made a final mini pre-fight briefing and then ...

DING!

They came out into the middle of the ring and struck each other for three minutes. No one

fell down, no one got knocked out, and no one got cut. For every one strong punch Foreman landed, Holyfield landed three.

This happened 12 times.

When it was all over no

blood was spilled and everyone went home dissatisfied.

Gee George, I know you stood up for 12 rounds, but hey you could have knocked him down at least ONE TIME!!!

NOTE

continued from 9

155. Other Raiders scored: Scott McMurray (158), Chris Guy (158), Steve Graham (160) and Mike Webb (162).

BLUE RAIDER BASKETBALL

Bruce Stewart added another recruit to his list.

Middle inked 6'-8", Mark Newman who averaged 23 points, 11 rebounds, five blocked shots and three steals as a swing man for Severe County last year.

Severe County advanced to the State Tourament this past season.

LADY RAIDER BASKETBALL

Head coach Lewis Bivens has been in search for a guard and earlier this week he got one.

Five-foot, 10-inch wing Cherita Williams will come to Middle after averaging 15 points, 11 rebounds and four assists last year at Hiwassee Junior College.

However, her most impressive stat may be a 46 percent rate from 3-point range.

"She's extremely quick and a real good all-around athlete," Bivens said. "She gives us a type of dimension we need."

Missouri and Old Dominion also offered Williams the opportunity to play.

MTSU STUDENTS

Any student who enjoys competing in Biathlons has the opportunity to do so Saturday, May 25th.

The Memorial Day Classic Biathlon will take place in Fayetteville, TN at 8 a.m. It will consist of a 5K run, 30K bike ride

and 5K run.

Anyone interested in

competing should call the Tennessee Bicycle Connection at 438-0141 or Pam Dean at 732-4421.

The fee is \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a team and prizes are limited to the first 200.

BLUE

continued from page 9

Thompson double and Bobby

Roberts blooper plated two runs in the 11th inning to propel Tech to a 6-4 win.

Monday evening, the Raiders went the distance only to watch North Alabama snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

Leading 3-2 in the bottom of the ninth Raider, pitcher Steve Benefield quickly recorded two outs. However, he walked the

next two batters and the Lions tied the game with a clutch RBI single.

MTSU reliever, Brad Bates came in to stop the rally but threw two consecutive wild pitches allowing the winning run to score.

The loss dropped the Raiders record to 21-20 overall.

Tonight, they will host Ole Miss at 7:30.

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SENIOR

continued from page 10
home for Christmas and play some there, and then maybe go to Europe next January, whatever I could find."

Although Sheumack will be occupied for the next few years, he would like to remain in contact with the school and the people that made his college career in America successful.

"I've really enjoyed the four years that I've been here. I like Dale, the guys on the team, and the people behind the athletic programs. It's really a good school. I'd like to stay in touch with the school when I leave. There's a lot of people in the community and the athletic department that have done a lot for the tennis program to improve it, and I'm very grateful for that."

Craig Haslam also comes from Australia and began playing tennis because of his mother at the age of 10 or 11.

"My mother wanted me to participate in something because I never really did play sports, but she didn't want me to get into something like Australian football, which is really rough. She thought tennis was a good sport because it's one you can play all of your life, it's good for social contacts, and there's nothing bad about it. It's just a great sport. I was playing once or twice a week. I was improving really quickly, and I was pretty successful at it, so I thought it was my sport," said Haslam.

Haslam continued playing tennis in high school even though there weren't really any sports.

"There really aren't any real sports in high school as compared to the U.S.. We did have a tennis team that competed, and we actually won the state championships, which would have been a big deal here, but in Australia it was nothing really."

After seeing some of his friend's experience the opportunities and benefits tennis has to offer, Haslam decided he too would get a hold of the advantages.

"A few of my friends were playing in an international challenge and traveling around the world, going to America and Europe, playing all these 15 and under tournaments. They were getting all of their rackets for free and all that sort of thing, and I thought, geez, I was almost as good as those guys, and I really wasn't working that hard. I decided I was going to see what I could do."

Haslam decided he wanted to use his tennis skills to travel around the world. Like Sheumack, he too had two options: play the circuit, or play college tennis.

"I thought it wouldn't be bad to try college tennis, at least I could continue my education. I contacted maybe 60 schools. I had all sorts, and no idea of what was going on. I was playing on a team in Australia when I found out two guys had been here at

MTSU, which was pretty freaky. I told them my options, and they said Middle was just as good as any of them. They said it was a good tennis environment and a nice place, so that's part of why I came here."

Haslam's freshman year of playing college tennis with Americans was not exactly what he had expected, the first time around.

"Americans are a little different than Australians. When I first got here, we had a lot of Americans from all over the country on the team. They were, well... Tennis players are cocky and think that they're great. I didn't get along with them real well, so I left. I sat out a year, then came back again under Dale, who is great. He could be one of the best coaches in the country soon, I think, when he gets more experience. He helps us with our game, and if you've got personal problems, he's always there. After I came back, it was me and Nick, and things just got better and better. It went from a bad team to a really good team."

Haslam feels confident about his personal ranking as well as the team's position in the upcoming OVC tournament.

"I wasn't happy my first two years because I never was All-OVC. I lost in the finals every year to go. I guess the pressure was just really tough. Last year I broke through and won for the first time, and now I just feel like there's no one that can beat me. I

feel like I should run away with my singles and doubles positions hopefully, but anything can go wrong. I'd like for our team this year to be the first team ever to win the OVC. I'd love to just blow everyone away and prove how good we are."

Haslam says he wishes he was coming back again, if they do win, to celebrate the victory and bathe in the glory. He plans on leaving within a week after he graduates.

"I'll probably travel around a little bit while I'm so close, then I'm going to look for a job back home and catch up with some old friends. As for continuing tennis, I guess it's just how much work I put into it will depend how good I want to be. I have to decide pretty soon whether or not I'm prepared to make a huge sacrifice for a year or two to get much better. I'm at that point right now where I can work and work and work and see hardly any improvement. I've worked hard at it a long time and the OVC would be nice to win. It would be nice to get a ring to show everyone at home."

Johan Franzen is from Sweden and he began playing tennis when he was nine.

"I started playing mainly because my two best friends started to play, so we all signed up together. Another reason for my big interest was because that was the year Borg broke through. He was from Sweden, and he won Wimbledon six years in a row.

That's when everyone started playing tennis," said Franzen.

Like the other two players, Franzen also wanted to play tennis in America, and he knew someone that had been here before.

"I had a friend who went here, so I wrote to coach Short and it sounded good. He gave me a scholarship, so I came over. I'm glad I came because I like it here and might even stay."

Franzen is a marketing major and will be graduating in December.

"I want to work with advertising, promote things when I graduate. I might try to get a green card so I can stay here and maybe work for a Swedish company."

Franzen also has one last accomplishment before graduating.

"The ultimate goal is to win the OVC. We are the favorites. If everyone plays better than normal, we should win. My goal is to win my position as well. I'm looking forward to taking it as a team and trying to get an OVC ring. We've been trying now for three years and we haven't done it yet. This is the best team we've ever had, so hopefully we'll be able to do it," said Franzen.

As the tennis season comes to a close on April 27-28, so will the collegiate career of these three athletes. Hopefully, each will have left the land of opportunity with more than just a dream.

Classifieds

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