

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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1995 crime statistics tallied

By Mark T. Gibson / staff

The 1995 Crime on Campus statistics compiled by campus police show that the campus crime rate is down in several key areas, while up in others.

Burglary, motor vehicle theft, weapons violations, drug possession, sex offenses, DUI, public intoxication, disorderly conduct and vagrancy all posted significant decreases in 1995 from 1994.

Assaults, larceny, forgery and fraud were all up, in some cases significantly.

Dustin Miller, spokesman for the Department of Public Safety, said that the numbers can be interpreted in several ways.

"A lot of these percentage increases have to be looked at in the context of both the overall number of crimes committed and the rising population of students on campus," Miller said.

"For example, fraud is up 300 percent, but what the numbers show is that last year we had one incidence, and this year we had four. In a population of 17,000 students, that's unfortunate, but not surprising," Miller said.

"We've had an increase in the amount of thefts, and a lot of that we attribute to the growth of the size of the campus community. I've noticed that though thefts have gone up 8.7 percent,

almost half of them are 'crimes of opportunity' and were completely preventable.

"When those types of crimes increase, we can generally attribute it to the fact that there are more people present, not necessarily that MTSU students are becoming more prone to thievery than before," Miller said.

Inspector Darrell Collins said that half the crimes occurring on campus are committed by non-students.

The categories of decreasing crimes can be attributed to a better enforcement of trespassing laws, Collins said.

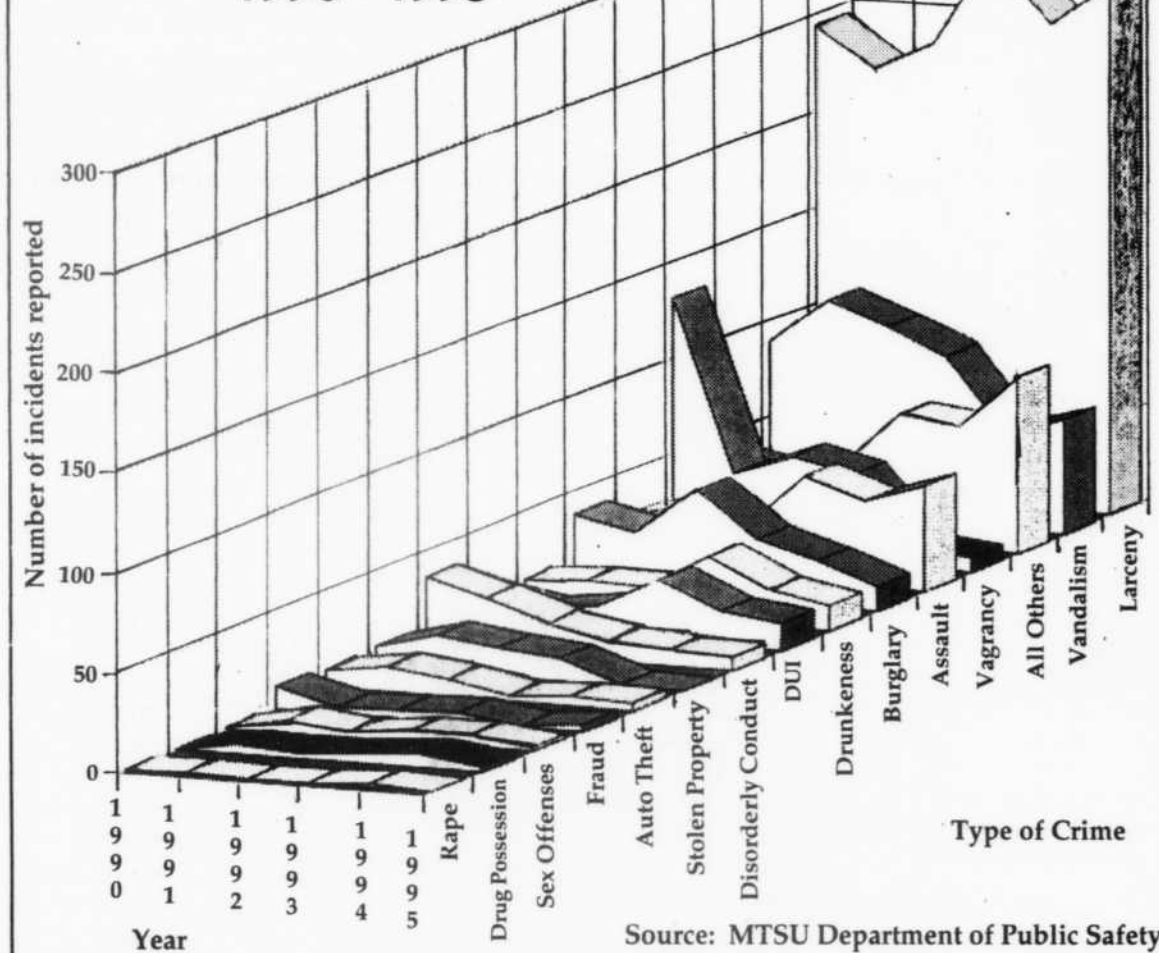
Miller noted that a special effort has been made to cut down on trespassing on campus.

"In 1990 there were 131 arrests for 'vagrancy' or trespassing," Miller said. "The following year there were 42, then it went up to 53, then 11, and last year there were 8."

"I really attribute that to Chief Drugmand, who made trespassing a priority," Miller said. "He is the one who made vagrancy a priority and started enforcing the official policy of issuing trespassing tickets and worked with Judicial Affairs to send out letters barring trespassers from campus."

Collins said that additional credit had to be given to Judge Buckner of General Sessions Court who

Crime trends on campus 1990 - 1995



Source: MTSU Department of Public Safety

sentences trespassers to real jail time.

"Judge Buckner is serious about telling vagrants on campus that they need to get out and stay out, that they're not welcome here," Collins said.

"The word has gotten out over the years that we will not tolerate outsiders coming onto campus to commit crimes, and the low rates of crime increase and generally low rates of crime on campus overall bear that out," Miller

added.

Miller said that one of the most important statistics is the department's "clearance rate," the percentage of crimes which are actually solved.

Please see CRIME on page 3

Anti-prejudice activist speaks on-campus

By Jason Young / staff

Political analyst, anti-racism activist and debate expert Tim Wise will make an appearance on campus tonight, Thursday, Feb. 15 at the LRC Multi Media Room at 7 p.m.

Wise, 27-year-old director of the New Orleans-based Youth Anti-Prejudice Project and Nashville native, will be giving a lecture on "The Politics of Prejudice."

He's appeared on hundreds of television and radio programs throughout America and Europe discussing the "far-right" and the influence of racial prejudice on public policy. He's also written extensively on the subject. His latest work is titled "A Citizen's Guide to Defending Affirmative Action and Racial Equality."

Wise has debated white supremacists, KKK grand dragons, religious fundamentalists and noted conservatives and many of them call him "dangerous," "electrifying," and "persuasive." He played an instrumental role in the political devastation of the neo-Nazi David Duke.

Wise earned a B.A. in political science from Tulane University. As a student, his efforts in the anti-apartheid movement received international attention and earned the personal thanks of Nelson Mandela and South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The lecture, which is sponsored by MTSU's Ideas and Issues Committee, is free and open to the public. ●

Construction begins for Project HELP facility

By Kris Wetzel / staff

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Tuesday afternoon to mark the beginning of construction on the new Project HELP (Help Educate Little People) facility on the MTSU campus.

Project HELP is a 12-month program in Rutherford County that provides a classroom environment for developmentally-delayed preschool children. Participating children range in age from birth to three years.

Currently housed in the former lounge of Jones Hall, Project HELP also serves as a training ground for students of various majors. Approximately 200 students work with Project HELP a semester, Campbell said.

"We try to plug students in wherever their subject area applies," Campbell said. "Our student workers range from nursing to elementary education and from social work to nutrition."

The new 4,300 square foot facility is projected to include two classrooms, a multi-purpose room, conference room, kitchen, waiting area and five offices. The new building will give the program enough room to run two morning classes and two afternoon classes, Campbell said.

The Project HELP facility will be on the corner of First Street and Baird Lane.

The Christy-Houston Foundation contributed \$236,000 for the construction of the new facility. The remaining \$264,000 came from private contributions, civic clubs and charity clubs.

Bob Eaker, dean of the College of Education said the new facility is "the

best of a partnership between a public university and private support."

"There were other private organizations and individuals who gave generously, everyone from the Charity Circle to numerous individuals who have contributed through the MTSU Foundation to help make this a reality," Eaker said.

The new facility will give Project HELP the capacity to serve 50 families. Presently, Project HELP can only work with 18 families.

To gain admission into the program, a child must be identified as being delayed because of a specific handicap or "at risk." Each child is individually assessed when they enter the program, and an Individual Program Plan (IPP) is developed.

The staff at Project HELP work with the children in their home environment at least once a week, and the parents are consulted to ensure that their child's IPP is being implemented.

"You create dependent people if you don't school them early," Campbell said. "Kids at this age need social skills and need to develop as much independence as possible."

According to Campbell, more than 200 children have been directly served by Project HELP in its 13-year history in Rutherford County.

"That's the number of children who have actually enrolled in this program," Campbell said.

"That doesn't include the countless referrals we've given to families who need another kind of service or the many parents we've been able to help even while they were on the program waiting list." ●



Brian G. Miller / staff

Be my valentine

Surgena Kilby (left) and Njeri Jackson (right) prepare flowers yesterday afternoon for the National Association of Black Journalists flower sale in the KUC bottom floor lobby.

Faculty votes for overall pay increase

By Heather Hybarger / staff

The Faculty Senate met Monday night to discuss the three percent state employee pay increase proposed in the governor's budget and to set up a committee to evaluate the grade appeals process, according to Harold Whiteside, president of the Faculty Senate.

Faculty members were beginning to ask questions concerning whether

the pay increase would be apportioned by merit or across the board, according to James Calder, secretary/treasurer for Faculty Senate.

"[Whiteside] wanted to discuss it and share with us what was not in print, such as [that] the governor's address did not mention merit pay or flexibility," Calder said.

The Faculty Senate's purpose was to make a recommendation to MTSU President James Walker concerning

whether the university would distribute the three percent increase equally or based on merit. It was decided to recommend an increase across the board.

"We haven't had a raise in over a year," Whiteside said. "It's not a very big raise, and we are underpaid anyway. We also didn't want to lose the merit pay if equity comes through."

Please see FACULTY on page 3

FEATURES

Dr. Gonzo goes on another M'boro panty raid **Page 6**

WEATHER

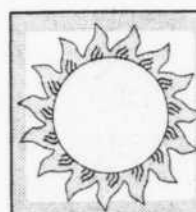
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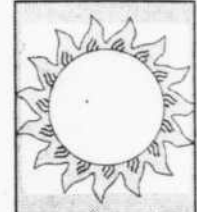
FRI
sunny,
windy

High: 34
Low: 25



SAT
sunny

High: 34
Low: 6



SPORTS

Blue Raiders take 3rd straight road win **Page 7**

CAMPUS CAPSULE

THURSDAY, FEB. 15

Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society is meeting at 7 p.m. at the Red Rose Cafe. In addition to a social time we will be discussing the short story "Cathedral" by Ray Carver. Any interested students are welcome. For more information call Candace Moonshower at 646-4527.

Applications for initiates for **Alpha Delta Mu** are due in the social work office. Initiation is to be held in Peck Hall 317 on Feb. 20 at 1:30 p.m. Members and initiates are to bring canned goods for the food drive.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28

College Republicans will hold an open meeting at 7 p.m. in KUC Room 313. There will also be a table set up in front of the bookstore.

All May 1996 Graduating Seniors: As a condition of graduation, you are required to take the ACT-Comp. the test will be given on March 5, 6 and 7 in the James Union Building-Tennessee Room. On these dates you may choose from the following test times: 8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. or 6 p.m. The test should take approximately two and one-half hours.

Proposals for the **Fourth Annual Undergraduate Symposium in Women's Studies** are being accepted through March 7. Applications may be picked up from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in KUC 120. For more information contact Womyn's Political Action Group, MTSU Box 623, or call 890-0915, or e-mail us at m_c_01c4@frank.mtsu.edu.

Women's Leadership Conference will be held at MTSU on March 8. Featuring Harriett Woods as keynote speaker, the conference will also include workshops, a luncheon and the 1996 Tennessee Women of Achievement Awards. Registration deadline is Feb. 15 with a conference fee of \$15; late registration is due on March 1 with a late fee of \$18. Registration forms and additional information is available at the June Anderson Women's Center, JUB 206, call 898-2193.

The Gamma Iota Sigma Insurance and Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Fraternities will sponsor the 1996 MTSU Quiz Bowl on Thursday, Feb. 29. The contest will be held at 6 p.m. in the TV studio of the LRC and is open to all clubs and organizations. Teams, up to four people, must pay an entrance fee of \$15. Interested organizations should either stop by KOM 226A or call 898-2673 or 898-2534 to enter.

The Japan Center of Tennessee is sponsoring a "Japanese Netsuke Exhibit." Developed during the 17th and 18th centuries, netsuke were created in Japan to prevent a man's medicine box or tobacco pouch from slipping through his kimono's belt. These miniature sculptures were originally made of ivory or wood. They are less than 2 inches high and portray in detail the religion, legends and culture of Japan. The exhibit is on display in the lobby of the Cope Administration Building through March. The exhibit is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Application deadline for the **Alpha Delta Mu Social Work Honorary Scholarship** is April 12. Applications can be obtained in the social work office. Criteria are posted with the applications.

1995-95 **MTSU Student Handbooks** are available in KUC 122 and KUC 128.

Todd Library has items on loan from Fisk University Library in the display case to commemorate African American History Month. These items include materials from W.E.B. Dubois collection, Aaron Douglas collection, W. C. Handy collection, Langston Hughes collection and Jubilee Singers Archives.

ONGOING EVENTS

The MTSU College Democrats will hold weekly meetings in room 313 of the KUC. Come and find out what we are all about.

Codependents Anonymous (Coda) will meet Thursday's from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Marks United Methodist Church, Room 109 under the red handrail. Coda is a fellowship of men and women whose common problem is an inability to maintain functional relationships. The only requirement for membership is a desire for healthy and fulfilling relationships with others and ourselves.

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) will meet Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. at St. Marks Methodist Church, 1403 E. Main St., Room 109. ACOA is a 12-step support group for people raised in an alcoholic or other dysfunctional family.

Lambda, an organization for gay, lesbian and bisexual students, faculty, non-students, and their supporters, will meet every Tuesday in the Mass Comm building, room 103, at 6:30 p.m. For further information write to MTSU Box 624 or call 780-2293.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship will hold its weekly meetings on Tuesday at 8 p.m. and Campus Prayer meetings on Wednesday at 9 p.m., in KUC room 312. All campus ministries and all individuals are invited to attend.

Sure I Can Cope! is a support group for adult women students sponsored by the JAWC. Issues such as balancing family, finances, school, and other topics will be discussed. The group will meet Thursdays at 12:05 p.m. to 1:40 p.m. starting Jan. 25. Bring your lunch! Facilitated by Lydia Sun, a Psychology Graduate student. Space limited, call Mary Glantz at 898-5725 to register. Confidentiality in groups is encouraged.

Looking Forward is a group for female survivors of rape and sexual abuse. Topics such as safety, boundaries in relationships, effectiveness of coping skills, and ending isolation will be covered. Meets Wednesday from 2 to 3 p.m. Space limited, call Mary Glantz at 898-5725 to register. All inquiries are confidential and confidentiality in groups is encouraged. Sponsored by the JAWC.

Seniors and Graduate Students: create your resume with Resume Expert Plus Software and register with the Placement Center in one easy step! Contact Placement and

Student Employment Center KUC 328, 898-2500.

Wesley Foundation will be hosting an hour-long ongoing study group on Human Sexuality in the Christian Faith, Mondays at 5:30 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation.

Wesley Singers rehearsals will be held Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation. Anyone who loves to sing is welcome.

MTSU students who need speech testing or speech therapy services should call the **MTSU Speech Clinic**, 898-2661, for an appointment.

Anyone interested in being a tutor or getting tutored, please contact Tanisha Harris of the **NAACP (Educational Committee)** at 898-4056.

MTSU Equestrian Team will hold regular meetings every Monday night at 7:00 p.m. in the TLC Sales Arena. Everyone is welcome!

Inroads Nashville, Inc. plans to recruit Sophomore and Junior Minority Students in marketing, computer information systems and business administration. With a GPA of 2.9 or better, successful recruits will have the opportunity to do internships with such firms as IBM, Price-Waterhouse and Northern Telecom. Those interested should immediately call Prof. B. Fayissa at 898-2385 or see him in KOM 322G.

The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss, a reflective book study, meets Sundays at 4 p.m. in KUC 305. All are welcome to attend. Sponsored by the Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry.

Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for dinner and fellowship at St. Paul's Church, 315 E. Main St. and Thursdays for lunch in the KUC Grill. All are welcome. Contact Andrew Wright at 893-3780 for more information.

MTSU Raidersharks- Scuba Club will hold meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. in the MTSU Pool. It is open to anyone interested in scuba diving or associated activities. All students are welcome. For more information call Tim or June at 895-6249.

Lambda will be hosting a "Movie Night" every Thursday at 7 p.m. in Mass Comm Room 103. For more information call the Lambda Hotline at 780-2293.

Phi Sigma Pi will hold their weekly meetings on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Stark Ag Building Room 125. Contact an officer if you can not attend.

DEADLINES FOR CAMPUS CAPSULE SUBMISSIONS

MONDAY EDITION
4:00 P.M. FRIDAY

THURSDAY EDITION
4:00 P.M. TUESDAY

All submissions must be brought to the *Sidelines* office in writing. Phone in submissions will not be accepted. *Sidelines* reserves the right not to publish any listing for any reason. *Sidelines* is not responsible for false information.

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OPENS FEBRUARY 16TH

FACULTY: Senate looks to reform grade appeals process

continued from page 1

The university is currently trying to raise faculty salaries to levels of comparable positions at comparable universities. The recommendation may have no consequence, though. The pay increase may not be approved by the legislature, and it is uncertain as to whether or not schools will have the flexibility to decide how to distribute the money. Walker has given approval to establish an ad-hoc committee to evaluate the grade appeals process. The Faculty Senate has now

selected members to serve on the committee. The committee will be focusing on whether it would be better to have one large committee to hear all grade appeal cases or five separate committees that would hear three or four appeals each. "They will make suggestions [on how the appeals committee can] communicate more openly and have a system that is more fair and open to students," Whiteside said. All decisions of the Faculty Senate are recommendations to the university administration. ●

Library housing Fisk loan

By Dustin Schrimpsner / staff

Todd Library is currently hosting a small exhibit on loan from Fisk University featuring memorabilia from four African-American figures of the 20th century and a singing group from the late 1800s in celebration of African-American History Month. Featured in the exhibit are original photographs, letters and art works of Langston Hughes (1902-1967), W.C. Handy (1873-1973), Aaron Douglas (1899-1979), W.E.B. DuBois (1868-1963) and the

Jubilee Singers.

Diane Baird, assistant professor of Todd Library, said Fisk Library has one of the leading black culture archives in the Southeast. Due to limited space, Todd Library requested only small items which could easily be locked up, Baird said. Todd Library also has six volumes which reference all materials in the Fisk African-American archives. The exhibit is located near the library entrance in a display case and will be on loan until March 4. ●

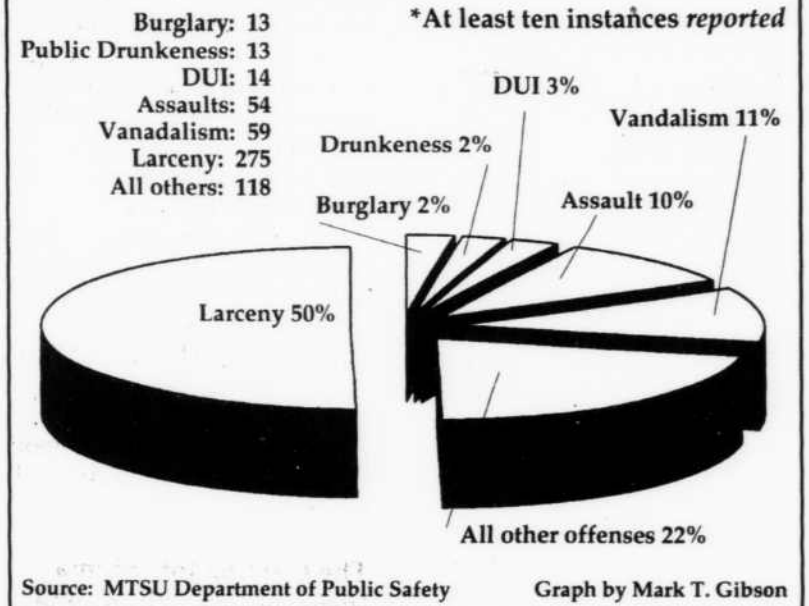
CRIME: overall crime rate low: Collins

continued from page 1

"Our clearance rate is not as good as we'd like right now; it's 28.9 percent. That is mainly a function of the fact that we are short staffed. On the plus side, it's still higher than the national average, but we'd like to see it go up about 10 percent every year, if we can." Miller said the police department is short-staffed right now which hurts enforcement efforts, especially in areas like motor vehicle theft. "Every year that we've hired new officers except for 1991, motor vehicle thefts have gone down," Miller said. "That's where these new officers we're going to get will come in handy." Miller was referring to a federal grant which will allow MTSU to hire eight additional officers. Collins said the overall crime rate is exceptionally low

for a community the size of MTSU. "I came from small town of about 12,000 people, and it would be nothing for us to see twice as many thefts as MTSU has," Collins said. "There'd be homicides, rapes, you name it." "MTSU students are very committed to getting their degree and getting on with their lives," Collins said. "They're not here to party and lay around drunk all day. I think that really goes a long way to keeping our rates low." Federal law requires all law enforcement agencies to send a yearly summary of their reported crimes, and these statistics are part of that compliance effort, Collins said. The statistics are made available to the public under the "Right To Know" rules. The data are used to assess trends on campus and to inform potential students of crime rates on college campuses,

Most common crimes of 1995*



Collins said. The data may be accessed on the Department of Public Safety's World Wide Web page on the Internet or via the gopher system on frank. ●

Visa lottery encouraging diverse immigration

By Mark Blevins / staff

Non-citizen students who seek citizenship in the United States might find relief in this year's Diversity Immigrant Visa Program. The federal program was designed to increase immigration from countries whose population is underrepresented in terms of immigration numbers to the U.S., according to MTSU Assistant Director of International Programs and

Services Mary Grace Schulz. Under the program, 55,000 citizenships will be granted based on a lottery system. The deadline is for applications is March 12, and Schulz said interested parties should apply as early as possible. There are currently about 400 non-citizen students at MTSU, Schulz said. Administrators of the nationwide program accept applications from within or without the U.S.

Students who seek citizenship through the program can get assistance from the International Programs and Services Office (IPSO). Schulz said interested parties should send a letter to IPSO (MTSU CAB 202), and then the staff will assist in the application process. Countries targeted are: all African countries; all Asian countries except mainland China and Taiwan, India, the Philippines, South Korea and

Vietnam (Hong Kong citizens are eligible); all European countries except Great Britain and dependent territories (Northern Ireland citizens are eligible); the Bahamas; Oceanic countries; South American, Central American and Caribbean countries except Columbia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica and Mexico. Immigration is limited to specific numbers for each country. IPSO's telephone number is 898-2238. ●

LOOKING FORWARD

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- Interpersonal Boundaries
- Exploring Coping skills
- Ending Isolation
- Dealing with Crisis
- Anger
- Dealing with your family

WEDNESDAYS 2-3:30 P.M.

To register call Mary Giantz, JAWC Counselor, at 898-5725

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Psychology Graduate Student

Thursdays, 12:05-1:40pm.

To register call Mary Giantz, JAWC Counselor: 898-5725

Confidentiality in groups is encouraged!

Sponsored by the June Anderson Women's Center

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WEDNESDAY 2/21: HOI POLLOI
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THURSDAY 2/29: MCA RECORDING ARTIST
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STUDENT BALLOT

Nomination for Outstanding Teacher Award January, 1996

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(Name of Teacher-Please Print Full Name)

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for an Outstanding Teacher Award, 1995-96

(Nominee must be full-time faculty members to be eligible)

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OPINIONS

Page 4

SIDELINES

Thursday, February 15, 1996

Students should take on action on issues; SGA needs new blood

By Dave Watson

Recently, I wrote a column on the locker room problems at the Recreation Center. But I am one voice. You see, students, en masse, have a tremendous amount of power. If there was actually a, GASP, protest en masse by even a small portion of the students here at MTSU and it ended up on Nashville television, well, there would be repercussions. Big repercussions. Yet the SGA, which should be an organizer for student power, instead contributes to the apathetic atmosphere that pervades this campus. The current speaker of the Senate once said that it does not matter what the SGA passes because nothing will be done anyway. I DISAGREE TOTALLY with such an

attitude. If that is your attitude Christin, why did you run to be speaker of the Senate anyway? So you would have something to put on your resume?

What can students do? First, if you see a problem, call someone. Do you know I am the only non-traditional student who bothered to call the president and the vice president of Telecommunications and say that closing TRAM to on-campus phones created a problem for me in registration. Last semester, I was on the Parking Committee and I dared to say that removing parking from around the women's dorms was a security issue. People, unless more students and parents call about this, the female dorm students on this campus can kiss any kind of close

parking goodbye. Hope you feel safe walking a half mile in the dark to your car, ladies. Don't worry, the world has become a safer place, hasn't it? Out of 17,000 students, I was one of the five or less students who actually called the Board of Regents to protest the stadium railroad job done by this administration this past summer. So pick up those phones and touch someone...remember, EVERY administrator has a phone. It's required.

Second. Let's elect some new SGA senators. No, let's elect all new senators. I was shocked by the reception my bill for opening up more lockers for students got at the SGA Senate. I was given two minutes to present a bill that directly affected every student on campus. The

senators didn't even bother reading the bill, at least I could not tell if they did by their questions. A couple of senators came in late and were so unknowledgeable about their own rules that they voted against it without even knowing what they did. Senator Scott Davis, who led the attack against the bill, seemed to believe his constituency consisted of students stupid enough to leave \$10,000 Rolex watches overnight in day use lockers. (I didn't know the Kennedy's sent their offspring here.) Well, Scott Davis is their man if they ever do. He also seemed to think it would take three Campus Recreation staff to empty a locker. How many SGA senators does it take to change a light bulb, Scott?

What can you do? Get involved!

Make phone calls. Do petitions. Run for the SGA. We need new blood there, and believe me, anyone could do a better job than is being done right now. I particularly liked reading about the SGA's latest bill. Last fall or last year they passed a bill wanting more lighting. Now, am I reading this wrong, or did they just pass a bill asking the administration to spend \$7,000 for a survey on reducing lighting? Or was it reducing lighting costs? Seven grand for a survey? It's no wonder the administration ignores them. I would, too. Let's do something about it.

Dave Watson is a senior Music Education student.

SGA should put forth effort



Scott Link

SGA, don't you think it's time you start being more concerned for those you represent, and less concerned for yourself.

Recently I sat in a joint session of the SGA House and Senate where several changes were made to election policies, most of which were needed. I do, however, question lifting the spending limits on campaigns.

The reason for limits to exist is to give those without a lot of financial support an equal chance in the election. SGA elections are won on the basis of positive name recognition. The more a candidate gets his name out, the more likely they will be elected. Word-of-mouth and a slick ad campaign will beat plain old word-of-mouth any day.

One of the reasons behind lifting the limits was to get rid of a law we can't really enforce anyway. On the surface that sounds OK, but does that philosophy apply to other issues? People are going to cheat on tests and papers, should we say that's OK? Maybe we should get rid of the speed limits, because a lot of people break those laws. Who cares about why the rule exists anyway, right?

Then the issue of freedom of speech was raised. If restricting spending is a violation of the 1st Amendment, what is restricting the number of banners and large posters that can be hung? As I understand it, no one was told they could not speak or advertise as much as they wanted, as long as they remain within the allotted budget.

Then someone suggested that if a candidate spends more money on the campaign they will be a better officer. Preposterous! Are those backed by wealthy organizations or the independently wealthy the only ones capable of being good leaders? Does having a \$2,000 campaign fund automatically make you a better candidate than someone with only a \$200 fund? Electing the candidate who spends

the most does not mean electing the best candidate.

It was also mentioned that keeping track of spending was a real hassle. It took a lot of time, and nobody really enjoyed doing it. Oh, I see, convenience is worth more than fairness. By all means then, SGA members can't be inconvenienced by duties relating to a position they accepted willingly.

The only reason given that had any merit was the simple fact that you can't run an effective campaign on \$300. I think everyone was ready to concede that point and were willing to raise the limits considerably. The question was called before any amendments were proposed.

For some reason, it was imperative we pass it that day, it seemed the Act was, dare I say it, "railroaded" through. I wouldn't have minded voting on the Act during that particular session if all the questions had been answered. People don't mind losing a battle near as much if they get a chance to fight.

Why did it pass? Maybe because most of the people felt it was needed. If so, then good. Democracy was served. Yet I get the impression that some people didn't care one way or the other and just passed it because they wanted the meeting adjourned.

The Act narrowly avoided being tabled, in fact a tie breaking vote by the speaker was the only reason it wasn't tabled in the House. We didn't want to wait and discuss it later, and we didn't want to discuss it thoroughly in the session. I guess we just wanted to go home.

I am as bad as the rest. I go to the meetings and am totally bored. I generally don't want to be there any longer than I have to, but this was different. We changed the structure of the SGA. We changed the way we go about getting new officers.

The Student Government Association is supposed to serve the students. Sometimes service requires time and causes inconvenience. The SGA needs to be prepared to make sacrifices in order to serve the student body, even if it means wading through paperwork or staying a little longer in a meeting.

Scott Link is a senior Radio/TV student.



Letters to the Editor

Opinion writer's open mind, absolute truth questioned

To the Editor,

In one recent "Opinion" or another, Mr. Scott Link has identified himself as a senior, Radio/TV major, Christian, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant, Baptist. He has also quoted from the son of a carpenter from Galilee.

Allow me to fully agree with a number of the statements made by Mr. Link in his "Opinion" of Feb. 8: "American is a melting pot...For the open-minded, hearing an opposing viewpoint is good...The exchange of ideas and ideals facilitates discussion and heightens community awareness of issues... There is always the possibility that our opinions are wrong...We owe whoever we disagree with the courtesy of at least being able to defend our views...Do we take what our professors, parents and peers

tell us as gospel truth? Do we automatically believe them?...There is no down side to hearing differing opinions, unless you are closed-minded."

Late in his "Opinion," Mr. Link reveals that his beliefs come from a "faith-based perspective" and that he thinks "there is an absolute truth." Perhaps I'm jumping to conclusions here. I'd guess Mr. Link is trying to tell the rest of us that since he knows the absolute truth (the gospel truth above?), we should listen to him and rethink our beliefs. Operating from the absolute truth, he presumably need not listen to anyone else, certainly not to parents, professors or peers. Is there even the slightest possibility that Mr. Link's opinions are wrong? Is he perhaps closed-minded? Can he defend his views beyond suggesting that he knows the absolute

truth or takes things on faith?

Finally, allow me to observe that there have been striking similarities (coincidental?) in Mr. Link's "Opinions" and recent student letters opposing the UEC's efforts. As a devil's advocate (Lutheran), allow me to wonder aloud. Could it be that Mr. Link and/or at least some of these student letter-writers have discussed "the intellectually and spiritually satisfying answers to life's most important questions" with members of the MTSU Christian Faculty and Staff Fellowship? spokesmen for the latter group have been uncharacteristically silent for quite some time.

Wayne C. Rosing
Professor, Biology

Term 'homophobia' requires some explanation

To the Editor,

In his letter of Feb. 8, "normal person" James Elliott objects to the use of the word "homophobia" to describe the disease of those who feel that they are able to diagnose the "moral degeneracy and sexual deviancy" of the les/bi/gay community. He asserts that "[We] are wrongly labeled as homophobes...and we certainly aren't afraid of you."

Mr. Elliott seems confused, and perhaps rightly so. We have been referring to "homophobia" as if its application to the range of phenomena commonly identified as instances of homophobia were unproblematic. I want to suggest that "homophobia" may not be useful either to name or to conceptualize the diverse practices—from physical violence to verbal insinuations (like Elliott's jeer of "grotesque choices of

lifestyle")—that seek to deny or efface outright the existence and integrity of same-sex love.

The term is caught in a circuit of blaming the victim. "Homophobia," which literally means "fear of the same," might seem to displace the burden of responsibility onto its targets. An analysis of homophobia may all too easily become an investigation into what it is about les/bi/gay people that "makes" heterosexuals hate us so. This move shifts attention away from what it is about, the institution of compulsory heterosexuality that not only directs but approves the hatred of les/bi/gay people.

Additionally, "phobia" inscribes the oppression of les/bi/gay within the same clinical discourse that named us "inverts," and later, "homosexuals." Because we have historically been made objects of scientific study and

experimentation, a healthy skepticism toward clinical terms seems advisable here. Also, it is worth considering how, within this psychoanalytic discourse, phobias categorically represent an irrational fear and/or hatred.

In direct response to Elliott's claims that he is not a homophobe because he is "not afraid" of les/bi/gay people, I suppose at one time that the Southern plantation owners were not "afraid" of "their" slaves, and that the patriarchy were not "scared" of "their" women. However, both dominant groups succeeded in maintaining rigid systems of suppression and injustice for many years. When will you stop polluting the social environment?

Sincerely,

Trey Hall
Senior, English

Know facts before espousing 'drivel' about Bible

To the Editor,

I cannot help but extend my "uneducated opinion" in response to Matthew James' letter (*Sidelines*, 2-12-96), although I do not identify with the "religious radical right wing."

However, when drivel, no matter how well worded, is spilled, someone must mop up.

James impugns one's "blind acceptance of the Bible, a work that has been transcribed and translated for thousands of years." Then he compares the work of transcription in "a countless number of languages" to an adolescent game. He errs greatly in facts and numbers.

The Bible is composed of two

parts: the Old Testament which was written in Hebrew, and the New Testament written in Greek. The Old Testament was translated to Hellenic Greek it is said by 70 Hebrew scholars and the work completed in 70 days. There are some 4,100 ancient Greek manuscripts of the New Testament existing today. New fragments and even manuscripts are frequently found, each adding to the veracity of that which we already possess. Yes, there are differences from one manuscript to another. But, there are absolutely none of any consequence. That is to say, the differences cause no conflict or even ambiguity. The meaning and intent

remains constant as long as Scripture is taken as a whole and not out of context.

James asks if anyone has talked to God. Perhaps he should heed the advice, "Speak for yourself." By the way, when you do talk to God, wait for Him to answer.

Mr. James doesn't identify specifically what his field of study in Radio/TV is. If he aspires to be a reporter, he should learn now to get his facts right. Remember that when one attempts to shoot from the hip, he often shoots himself in the foot.

Charles E. Miller
Student, Journalism

SIDELINES

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FEATURES

Thursday, February 15, 1996

SIDELINES

Page 5

Doctor Gonzo, old-fashioned hardcore and a lovely bra and panties ensemble

By Dustin Schrimpscher / staff

Most punk bands are too macho for their own good, but Doctor Gonzo maintains its punk credentials while remaining in touch with its feminine side.

Doctor Gonzo will play at the Boro on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 10 p.m. with special guests Near Dark and Dynamo Humm.

Over Play-Dough and cigarettes, Doctor Gonzo frontman Nathan Fisher discusses the long and colorful history of the band.

Guitarist Greg Cannon and Fisher got together in 1989 as a joke. Their intention was to brutalize cover songs. "We still do a 75-second arrangement of 'Foxy Lady,'" Fisher says. "It's about the same as Hendrix's, you just play it fast."

In 1990 the band released an EP entitled "Not So Live," which quickly sold out. This was followed six months later by "Straight Outta Murfreesboro," the band's only full length release to date.

Doctor Gonzo has also been featured on the December 1995 release of "Centered," a compilation of Murfreesboro bands produced by Dave Shawn.

Fisher and Cannon are the backbone of Gonzo but, of course, there would be no band without bassist John Wall and drummer Chris Trujillo.

So would some lovely little sorority girl want to take these guys home to Mommy? Unless her folks are die-hard Iggy Pop fans, probably not.

Doctor Gonzo is probably not what your parents have in mind when they go out for dinner and a show — especially not in Murfreesboro. The sight of Fisher in full stage garb might just scare the hell out of them.

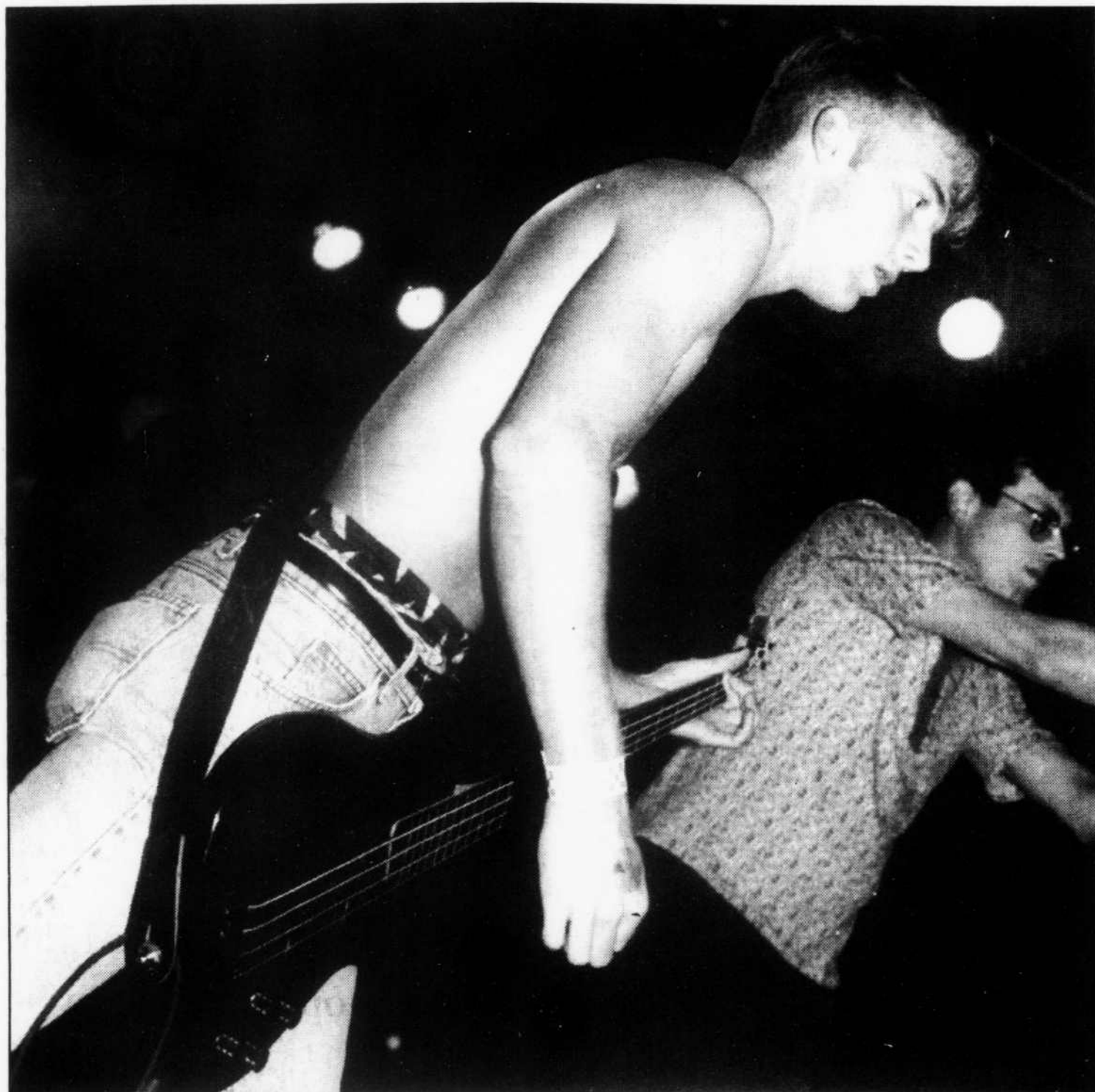
The band has been known to hit the stage wearing anything from Catholic schoolgirl skirts to women's lingerie. It's not a pretty sight, but it is pretty damned entertaining.

Early stage shows were a backlash against the heavy metal glam rock of the 1980s. Since then they've come to use any gimmick they can think of, the cheesier the better.

Fisher helps his son put arms on a play-doe sculptured octopus and laughs about heavy metal.

"If you're going to dress like a woman, this is how you dress like a woman," Fisher says. "Men dressing like women look ridiculous; that's entertaining. The glam rock guys weren't dressing like women, they were dressing like drag queens."

Besides the obvious fun of dressing like a carnival freak show, Doctor



John Wall and Nathan Fisher perform on a rare sans lingerie evening.

Gonzo has had the good fortune to play on bills with several big name hardcore acts your parents would be scared of. They've opened for Jackal, All, The UK Subs, and even the late G.G. Allin.

"G.G. was a freak. He sort of sulked around pulling his hood down over his face [before the show]," Fisher says, clinching his fists by his ears, mimicking the deceased schizophrenic. "Local authorities busted the place up before G.G. ever got on stage. They shut the bar down under the pretense that the maximum capacity sign wasn't displayed to their specifications. They just didn't want their kids paying money to have G.G.

throw shit on them."

Doctor Gonzo has managed to remain a musical entity through the years while using and abusing their way through eight different bass players.

Peeling the Play-Dough octopus from his son's Godzilla action figure, Fisher admits that one bass player was literally lost.

"After playing dates in Florida at the Hard Back Cafe and Club Demolition, we hooked up with a gig playing at a biker party."

"This one biker named Psycho, who drove a food wagon from biker party to biker party, hooked us up

with free food. [The party] got shut down by the cops; the food was all we got paid for the gig. When time came to leave Gainesville, Denny Presley (currently of Janie Grey) didn't show up."

Maybe abandoning a band member is a sign of tough-skinned, business-minded musicians. Maybe it's an uncaring act by disillusioned misanthropes.

Regardless of their take on life, Doctor Gonzo will always put on a good show to entertain both the audience and themselves. Check them out. ●

'Baltimore Waltz' a mix of comedy, strange illnesses

By Corrie Cron / staff

"Five-year-olds can be deadly," says The Doctor (John Maudlin) in the first scene of "The Baltimore Waltz."

Written by Paula Vogel, the play

chronicles the fantastical way Anna, played by Lynn Gangwer, and her brother Carl, portrayed by Jason Cook, deal with ATD (Acquired Toilet Disease). The disease strikes single elementary school teachers between

the ages of 24 and 40, and now it has struck Anna. Their one hope is to travel to Vienna to see Dr. Todesrochelm (which in German means "death-rattle"), a urologist of questionable methods.

The play is performed entirely by three actors; Gangwer as Anna; Cook as Carl; and Maudlin, who has the difficult task of playing everyone else, including The Doctor, Dr. Todesrochelm, a couple of shady characters and all of Anna's lovers.

"I have the most fun with the Dr. Todesrochelm," Maudlin says.

Maudlin adds that he also enjoys the Garçon, referring to the French waiter whom Anna first beds on her European excursion.

"Just 'cause you get to undress," ribs Cook.

One thing Maudlin's characters are never without are latex gloves, symbolizing that he is really The Doctor throughout the play.

"[The Doctor] is a surrogate for all men," says Dale E. McGuilliard, director of the play.

Lynn Gangwer finds playing Anna interesting.

"She's in this total fantasy world," she says of her character. "And she cares for her brother so much... (yet) she's really carefree about everything."

"Carl is like the All-American kid," Cook says. "I think he's the type of guy parents want to brag about."

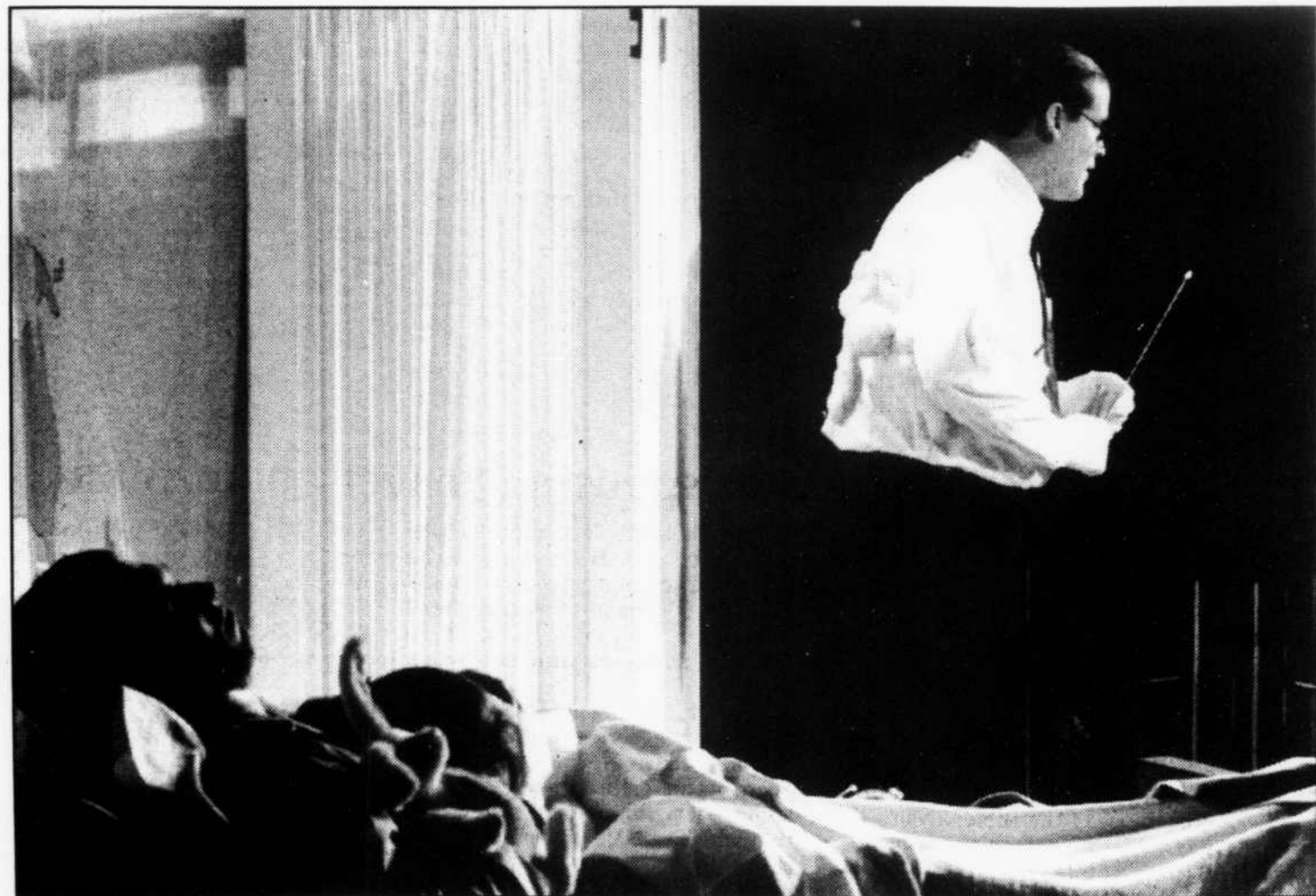
But that's about where normality ends in "The Baltimore Waltz."

"It's not a realism play at all," Cook warns.

McGuilliard offers an alternate explanation.

"Surrealism. Subconscious. Truth is found through the subconscious."

"The Baltimore Waltz" runs Feb. 14-17 and 20-24. All curtain times are 8 p.m. in the Arena Theatre of the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building. ●



Brian G. Miller / staff

Carl (Jason Cook) and Anna (Lynn Gangwer) sleep as the Public Health Official (John Maudlin) educates



Dr. Judson solves your problems

Exciting new hobbies, Judson style

Dear Dr. Father Judson:

I am bored. Here it is, the middle of the winter and I have already seen all the movies at Blockbuster (including the free community service series, which isn't really that bad). Don't get me wrong, I go out with friends and I never miss any of my classes, but I just feel like something is missing. I think I could just use some excitement. Do you know what I mean?

Snowbound Student

Dear Snowbound:

No, I don't really know what you mean. My life is a whirlwind of excitement. I wake up, open my mail bag and read letters written by losers such as yourself. If you want some advice as far as finding something fun to do, I would suggest starting some kind of hobby. You can create a hobby out of just about anything imaginable. I, for instance, am working on a collection of navel lint that I am going to craft into a bed pillow for my great-grandmother. Give some thought to what interests you and then go for it!!!

Best of luck

Dr. Father Judson

Dear Dr. Father Judson:

Help! I find myself perusing the Oil of Olay shelf in the store. But my husband is a cool rock-and-roll singer with a youthful vim and vigor I envy. He's swamped by nose-ringed chicks and I'm just his "old lady." What can I do? How can I be cool again?

Over-the-hill-and-under thirty

Dear Over under person,

Have you considered how cool it would be to permanently scar your body by getting a tattoo? You know, nothing says "Hey! Look at me; I'm young and cool," quite like a gigantic spider tattooed on your thigh. Also, have you considered starting your own rock-and-roll band?

I would shy away from the nose-ringing thing. Everybody is doing it and you don't want to be just like everybody, do you? Yeah, if you want to rekindle those flames of youthful vim and vigor, get the spider tattoo and start a band. That would be cool.

The very un-cool

Dr. Father Judson

Dear Dr. Father Judson,

I've noticed in every column your picture is different. Man, you have got some seriously wicked facial hair patterns. Do you have to shave every hour to keep from looking like a werewolf? Are you a werewolf? Is the moon really made of cheese? Can you get me some tickets to Fiddler On A Hot Tin Roof?

Just Wondering

Dear Just Wondering,

First off, I am not a werewolf and I don't appreciate the people who are trying to circulate that vicious rumor. When it comes to hair, I am actually thinning a little on the top. The reason my hair looks so strange in my "mug" (the little picture at the top of the column) is because it isn't really my hair.

In actuality, the hair you see is really made from a magic marker. Yes, every Wednesday night I come up to the paper and let them draw all over my face with a magic marker and pose for a new picture just so idiots like you can write me and ask if I'm a

Please see FATHER on page 6

FATHER

my hair.
In actuality, the hair you see is really made from a magic marker. Yes, every Wednesday night I come up to the paper and let them draw all over my face with a magic marker and pose for a new picture just so idiots like you can write me and ask if I'm a werewolf! Get a life jerky!

Thanks for writing
Dr. Father Judson

P.S. The moon is not made out of cheese and I don't know anything about fiddling on a hot tin roof. ●

* Dr. Father is neither a licensed therapist nor a lycanthrope. Sidelines assumes no responsibility for those following his advice (or those caught out with him during a full moon). If you must write Dr. Judson, do so at Box 42 but please — stop sending him silver bullets. It's making him nervous.

ENTERTAINMENT EXTRA!

TODAY
Anthony Grooms, author of "Trouble No More" in PH109 at 3 p.m.
ARENA THEATRE continues its run of "The Baltimore Waltz" at 8 p.m.
THEBORO gets funky with Johnny Jackson's Soul Satisfaction at 8 p.m. Only \$4 at the door.
BUNGANUT PIG Lindey plays live at 8 p.m. No cover.
JONATHAN'S starts the show with Primetime at 10:30.
KUC THEATER (Student Programming 2551) has its final showings of "Dead Presidents" at 6:30 and 9:00 for \$2.
MAINSTREET tunes in to Channel C and In Harm's Way at 10 p.m. for 4 bucks.
THE POLITICS OF PREJUDICE a lecture by human rights activist Tim Wise. The LRC Multi-Media Rm. at 7 p.m.
SQUEEZER'S Redstone and Godwater rocks at 10 p.m.

FRIDAY
Kappa Alpha Psi hosts a Fashion and Talent Show at 7 p.m. in the Music Hall, WMB.

ARENA THEATRE
curtain goes up on "The Baltimore Waltz" at 8 p.m.
THE BORO gets your motor started with The Evinrudes and Hoo Boo Coo at 9 p.m.
BUNGANUT PIG welcomes Blue Like Me at 9 p.m.
CACTUS JACK'S (Located at I-24 at 231S behind Bubba's Boot Outlet) rocks when Wheatfeild blows into town. Party starts at 9 p.m.
MAINSTREET gets crazy with Cotton Appleseed and The Naked Poeeaters Band. Show starts at 10 p.m.
SQUEEZER'S gets tough with Hard Case at 10 p.m.

SATURDAY
ARENA THEATRE dances the night away with "The Baltimore Waltz" at 8 p.m.
THE BORO The doctor is in as Doctor Gonzo takes the stage at 9 p.m.
BUNGANUT PIG welcomes namesake The Bunganuts at 9 p.m.
CACTUS JACK'S let's Wheatfeild mosey in for another night. Same time; same price.

JONATHAN'S gets nuclear with the Radioactive Flowers 10:30 - \$5 for 21 and up, \$8 for 18 - 21.
MAINSTREET Every Mother's Nightmare bursts into town with Ballistic Whiplash at 10 p.m.
SQUEEZER'S gets hasty with Fool's Rush In at 10 p.m.

SUNDAY
THE BORO gets shaking' as Alex Ogbourne takes the stage 8 p.m. No cover.
KUC THEATER presents "When Harry Met Sally" 4p.m. \$2
SQUEEZER'S welcomes A Million Worlds and Canvas to the stage at 10 p.m.
STONES RIVER CHAMBER PLAYERS perform in the Music Hall of WMB at 3 p.m.

MONDAY
Zeta Phi Beta and Phi Beta Sigma sponsor a Documentary and Dialogue on "James Weldon Johnson" in the LRC Multi-Media Rm at 6 p.m.
THE BORO welcomes Cotton Appleseed at 8 p.m.

BUNGANUT PIG welcomes the Warren Brothers at 8 p.m.
CACTUS JACK'S encourages male bonding with Men's Night and 2-for-1 cocktails.
KUC THEATER continues its run of "When Harry Met Sally." 6:30 & 9p.m./ \$2
SQUEEZER'S holds its own with Big Vessel at 10 p.m.

TUESDAY
Dr. John Pleas, the author of Walking will be speaking in the Alumni Center at 3 p.m.
ARENA THEATRE begins its second week of "The Baltimore Waltz" at 8 p.m.
THE BORO hosts Hard Case at 9 p.m.
BUNGANUT PIG hosts Ladies' Night featuring Lisa at 8 p.m.
CACTUS JACK'S gives it up for the sisters with Ladies' Night and 2-for-1 cocktails.
KUC THEATER "When Harry Met Sally" the show was at 6:30 & 9 p.m./ \$2.
MAINSTREET gets otherworldly with A Million Worlds at 10 p.m.
MUSIC DEPARTMENT is sponsoring the African-American Musical Arts

Competition in the Music Hall, WMB at 7 p.m.
SQUEEZER'S keeps it warm with Rub at 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Take Four at 10 a.m. with "Mother of the River" in the KUC Theater.
ARENA THEATRE presents "The Baltimore Waltz" at 8 p.m.
THE BORO proudly pledges allegiance to The Nationals at 8 p.m.
BUNGANUT PIG welcomes the Columbia Highway Bluegrass Band at 8 p.m.
CACTUS JACK'S spotlights you! It's Karaoke Night with David Lovell.
KUC THEATER continues its run of "When Harry Met Sally" at 6:30 & 9 p/ \$2
JONATHAN'S rocks this and every Wednesday with Tall Paul at 9:30.
MAINSTREET rocks with Hoi Polloi and Shadowcaste at 10 p.m.
SQUEEZER'S gets wild with Timberwolf at 10 p.m. ●

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Feb. 17-18 2:15-4:30-7:00-9:30
"Bed of Roses"
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CHEAT
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SPORTS

Thursday, February 15, 1996

SIDELINES

Page 7

Raiders claim third straight road win

Gaither's 27 leads Middle to 78-75 victory at SE Missouri

By Rob Nunley / staff

At times it wasn't pretty, but in the end the Blue Raiders pulled out a 78-75 win over the Indians from Southeast Missouri Monday night at the Show-Me Center.

The victory was the third straight on the road for the Raiders (13-8, 7-4 OVC), and tied the club for second place in the OVC with Tennessee State University. The Raiders now trail conference-leading Murray State by two games, with five left to play, before the OVC tournament at the end of the month.

"Three road games in a row," Raider head coach David Farrar told *The Daily News Journal*. "I think that has established us as a contender."

The Indians' record fell to 8-15 with the loss, while their conference record dropped to 5-8.

The revenge factor was almost certainly in the back of the Raiders' minds going in against SEMO, who defeated Middle on the Murphy Center hardwood back in January with a last-second 3-pointer.

The Indians' shooting accuracy almost came back to haunt Middle late in Monday night's game, but the Raiders were able to hang on to a wide enough advantage to come away with the win.

After allowing SEMO to build a lead that grew to as many as six points in the first half, the Raiders toughened up on defense and tied the score at 30-30 in the final minute of the half behind two free-throws from forward Aylton Tesch. A lay-up from senior Tim Gaither and a Tesch putback allowed Middle to take the lead at halftime, 34-31.

Middle took command in the second half, never relinquishing the lead but allowing the Indians to tie the score five times in the half.

Red-hot shooting from behind the arc powered the Raiders late in the



Brian G. Miller/staff

Junior guard Roni Bailey puts up a jumper during the Raiders' win at TSU Saturday. The Blue Raiders will be riding a three-game winning streak when they face Tennessee Tech tonight at Murphy Center.

game, as Gaither canned two consecutive 3-pointers with just under four minutes to play to give Middle an eight point lead.

SEMO's William "Bud" Eley answered with a turnaround jumper, but local hero Nod Carter drained

another 3-point bomb with 1:37 remaining to put MTSU up 71-62 and apparently seal the victory for the Blue Raiders.

But the Indians wouldn't quit, as the tandem of Chris Chambers and Leonard Hassell combined for three 3-

pointers in the final 1:30 of the game. Luckily for Middle, Gaither, Carter and K.J. Harden were able to connect on enough free throws down the stretch to hold out for the win.

Gaither turned in one of his more impressive performances this season, racking up 27 points on 8-of-11 shooting, including five-of-six from 3-point range. The four-year starter from Gainesville, Ga. also dished off two assists and collected five steals in 34 minutes of action.

Carter and Tesch were also big contributors to the Raiders' effort, scoring 20 and 18 points, respectively. Carter was also deadly from behind the 3-point arc, connecting on three-of-five attempts, while Tesch hit six of nine from the floor.

Tesch, Roni Bailey and Brent Secrest each had five rebounds for the Raiders, who were out-rebounded 38-25 by the Indians.

As a team, the Raiders shot 45 percent from the floor to the Indians 56 percent, but connected on an impressive 65 percent from 3-point range.

The Raiders will be in action tonight at Murphy Center, when they will host their OVC arch rivals, the Golden Eagles from Tennessee Tech.

The Golden Eagles are led by the 3-point accuracy of senior forward Greg Bibb and the post-play combination of 7-1 center Lorenzo Coleman and newcomer Art Quarterman. Middle handed Tech a 78-68 loss at Cookeville back in January.

Tech will be entering Murphy Center after suffering a 93-74 shellacking last Monday night against the Austin Peay Governors. Forward Carlos Floyd led the Golden Eagle attack against APSU with 20 points and seven rebounds.

Saturday night, the Raiders will host the Colonels from Eastern Kentucky University. The 12-10 (6-6 OVC) Colonels defeated the Raiders earlier this season in Richmond.

Tip-off for the MTSU-Tech game is scheduled for 8:15 tonight, and Saturday's game with Eastern Kentucky is scheduled to begin at 7:30. Admission to all Blue Raider home games is free for students with a valid MTSU I.D. ●



Robobservations
Rob Nunley

End of year brings same old coaching controversy

Here we go again.

Remember last year's big controversy in the MTSU basketball program? You know, the whole "Save Dave/Dump Dave" thing.

In case you can't recall or weren't around during that particularly unpleasant time, let me refresh your memory.

About this time last season, when the Raiders' record was admittedly a little less than spectacular, the demands for the head of the responsible party began flying. The party in question was Coach David Farrar. Area media quickly jumped on either side of the issue, and as rumors flew, so did the press ink. The sports staff of this paper, for example, wrote a lengthy editorial expressing our view that the coach's contributions to men's basketball at MTSU extended far beyond what happened on the court or how many people were in the stands.

You know the rest. Farrar stayed, some people rejoiced, others grumbled.

Well now Farrar's contract is up at the end of this year, and at the conclusion of the Raiders' season the coach is set to meet with Athletic Director Lee Fowler and President Walker, who will decide whether or not to keep him. So now with five games remaining until the tournament, the same people that cried for Farrar's dismissal last year are just as adamant once again.

Stories are popping up in area newspapers, and talk radio is all abuzz about whether or not Farrar should be let go. People are taking sides, and although the Blue Raiders are sitting at second place in the OVC and unquestionably a much better team than they were last year, (and don't forget the five highly-touted junior college recruits that should be leading the team to more success next year), the biggest story concerning the Raiders is the coach's job security. Nothing has changed.

Including the stance I am taking on the subject. Is it too early to make "SAVE DAVE" signs?

In a recent article by *Tennessean* senior sports writer Larry Woody, headlined "Farrar's support at MTSU erodes," he writes:

"Recent years have brought seasons of silence. MTSU's average attendance through 11 home games is 2,327, down from last season's already-dismal average of 3,078"

You can't argue with the numbers, attendance is embarrassingly low at home games. But can you blame that entirely on the coach? Fowler is quoted as saying that the lack of attendance is "not entirely David's fault." Fowler also says that he has talked to a small number of people who constantly complain to him that they have been long-time MTSU "supporters," but will not attend a game as long as Farrar is coach. These people even go so far as to root against the Blue Raiders in hopes the coach will be fired.

That disgusts me. How can someone even claim to be a supporter of the program and act like that? I don't call someone who whines because "their" coach was fired and they don't like the replacement a supporter. (I would tell you what I do call them, but children might read this).

You know how I define a supporter? It's a person who comes out to games because he or she gives a damn about the 10 or 12 guys out there busting their humps on the court. It's certainly not the kind of person who gives money to the program just because that's what all the society-types are doing, and then comes to games like they're cocktail parties, chatting away with their cronies and only noticing the occasional dunk or 3-point shot.

Would you like to see an example of what a fan should be? Come out to tonight's Tech game and look behind the visitor's bench, or up over the Southeast tunnel. Those people are

Lady Raiders suffer second OVC loss at SE Missouri

By Sean P. O'Toole / staff

Over the past two weeks, the Lady Raider basketball team has had its ups and downs.

Lately there have been more downs than ups.

Despite 29 points from Heather Prater and 13 more from freshman Jonelda Buck, the Lady Raiders (18-3, 9-2 OVC) suffered their second loss in three games to Southeast Missouri (9-12, 6-7 OVC) at the Show-Me Center Monday night, 82-81.

The Lady Raiders now hold a one-half game lead over Austin Peay in the race for the OVC crown.

With the score tied 36-36 at halftime, Middle jumped out to an early three point lead to start the second half, but SEMO then jolted the Lady Raiders on their way to a 15-3 run that built up a lead of as many as 16.

But the Lady Raiders would not die. Trading baskets with SEMO for much of the second half, they shrank the Otahkian lead to one, but Cortney Neeley missed the second of two free-throws with 15 seconds remaining, and the Otahkians escaped with a victory.

SEMO's star forward Gray C. Harris, who was held to just 17 points in the first game between the two teams, erupted for 28 points and 8 rebounds. Sarah Miller also added 15 points.

Head Coach Lewis Bivens said that Harris' performance was not the only reason the Lady Raiders were defeated.

"Her (Harris) 28 points were big," Bivens said. "But our overall defense was not very good, and it has not been good as of late. We have had no rhythm or combination of offense and defense working for us."

Bivens also remarked that the Lady Raiders momentum needs a serious shot in the arm.

"We do not have any momentum," Bivens said "There is no zest right now, and we are not getting those little

spurts of confidence and energy that we need. Oh sure, we will have little spurts every other game, but, we just have no consistency as of late.

Prater added, "It is frustrating. We had some bad days of practice before the loss to Austin Peay, but we have had good practices the last week, so losing is harder to handle. We just do not know what went wrong."

There was some bitter-sweet history to this game. Prater, who had made it very clear that she was not thinking about personal goals, broke the all-time MTSU record for 3-point baskets, formerly held by Kristi Brown, a teammate of Prater's from 1990-93.

With her 5-of-9 mark from behind the arc in Monday night's game, she put her career total at 210, giving her a second all-time record as a Lady Raider. (She also is already the all-time assist leader.)

"I did not think about it during the game, but I knew that I was close, and some people reminded me during the game," Prater said.

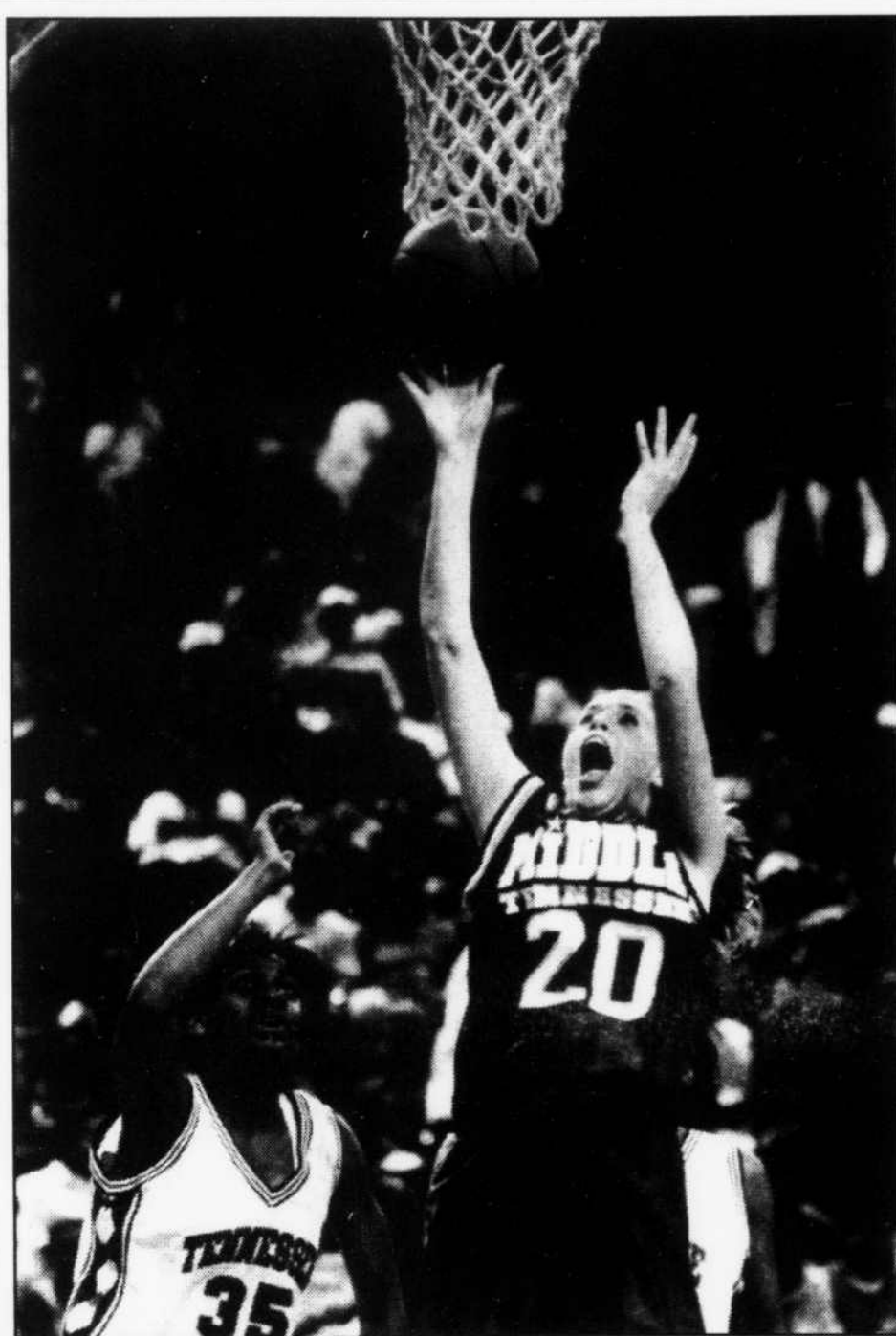
The Lady Raiders must now find a way to regain their confidence, as they host Tennessee Tech (10-10, 6-4) tonight and Eastern Kentucky on Saturday. Middle defeated Eastern 74-55 in Richmond on Jan. 21.

But first up is a rematch with the Lady Eaglettes, who the Lady Raiders pulverized on Jan. 11 in Cookeville, 88-57. The Lady Raiders' coach has no doubt tonight's game will be one of the biggest tests of the season for his team.

"They will be very inspired to beat us," Bivens said. "We beat them like a drum on their home court, so they will be looking to do the same thing to us."

"It is a big game for us," Prater said. "We need it for confidence coming into the tournament, or even just until we get Jessica (Beaty) back. But until then, it is just going to be one game at a time."

Tip-off for tonight's game is scheduled for 6:15. ●



Brian G. Miller/staff

The turnaround... And it goes!


Lady Raider freshman center Jonelda Buck takes a shot during a recent game. The Lady Raiders will be looking to get back on the winning track tonight at 6:15 against Tennessee Tech.

Please see ROB on page 8

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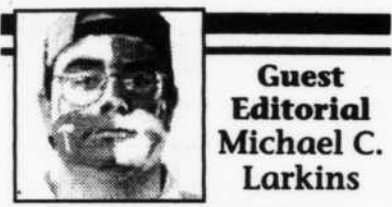
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Raider fan issues challenge to apathetic fans



Guest Editorial
Michael C. Larkins

Recently, while watching Blue Raider basketball action from the confines of the Monohan lobby with fellow members of the fan group known as "The Freewilly Gang," we were rudely interrupted by a voice informing us that we were cheering too loudly.

This call for silence from an obviously typical and apathetic MTSU student embodies the very apathy that reeks throughout the MTSU student body.

In the midst of an incredible three-game winning streak which includes road victories over rivals Austin Peay, Tennessee State and Southeast Missouri, the student body should be making noise that could wake the dead from every dorm room, lobby and seat in Murphy Center.

Instead, the majority of MTSU students would rather pack in Murphy Center for a mediocre performance from a morally degenerate, third-rate band that calls themselves something Zombie?

Night in and night out, the

The student body should be making noise that could wake the dead from every dorm room, lobby and seat in Murphy Center.

men's and women's coaches and basketball players lay it all on the line for Middle Tennessee State University; however, most of the MTSU student body either does not care or says, "Oh yeah, that's great" in a matter-of-fact tone of voice.

While I'm on the subject, where is this MTSU Greek system that supposedly gets out and whole-heartily extends its services and support to the community and MTSU? Lay off the booze for a night, guys, and join together in support of a worthy cause like the players and coaches that give their hearts for the pride and integrity of MTSU.

Needless to say, this MTSU

student has had enough.

Therefore, I'm issuing a challenge to the entire MTSU student body:

Be proud of your university by cheering for your Blue Raiders. Bring a group of friends to magnificent Murphy Center and experience the thrills of an exciting Blue Raider basketball game. Admittance to home games is free with a valid student I.D., so why not come on out? For that matter, stay at MTSU for a weekend, instead of running home to Mommy and Daddy. Who knows, you might actually have a good time.

In fact, you could start tonight. The Raiders and Lady Raiders are facing off against their arch rivals, the Golden Eagles from Tennessee Tech. While everyone is in agreement that this year's squads are much improved over Raider teams of the past, area media are reporting that the support is still not here because attendance numbers are still mediocre.

Prove the media wrong tonight, and every night, by showing them just how much support the Blue Raiders actually have.

Michael Larkins is a senior Radio/TV major and a member of "The Freewilly Gang".

ROB

continued from page 7

what college basketball should be about—pride, honor and school spirit. A real supporter is so hoarse after a game from cheering that they can't speak the next day, and so worn out from the excitement that after a game they can barely leave the gym.

But let's give the Farrar nay-sayers the benefit of the doubt for a moment. You say that the coach is the only reason you aren't supporting Blue Raider basketball, and if he was gone you'd be there every night, right?

Well, let me ask you a simple question.

Where in God's name are you when the Lady Raiders are playing? There's certainly nothing to be ashamed of or to dislike with them, and you still aren't showing support. I guess since they're only the 34th best team in women's college basketball they're just not good enough for you.

Wait, I know. You're afraid that if you go to a women's game, you might see Farrar looking on from courtside, is that it?

Who knows why support isn't there for Raider basketball, or for that matter why people seem opposed to David Farrar remaining coach at Middle Tennessee State? All I know is, I like the man, I like what he's done with this team, and I don't see how Fowler and Walker can possibly justify not renewing his contract, especially considering the success he's had this season.

Show some gumption, gentlemen. Keep the coach, and if any so-called "fans" give you grief about it, they weren't really fans to begin with.

Tennis team tries to rebound at Miss. State

By Joel Frey / staff

Following an embarrassing loss to Tennessee at the O'Charley's Invitational two weeks ago, the men's tennis team hopes to rebound today in Starkville, Miss. as they square off against Mississippi St.

However, it will not be an easy task for Coach Dale Short's Blue Raider squad.

Not only is State a traditional SEC power, they usually make noise on the national collegiate scene as well. Heading into this afternoon's match, the Bulldogs are ranked sixth in the country.

Besides this intimidating factor, the status of top seed Fred Niemeyer heading into the match is questionable.

Niemeyer was diagnosed with tendentious in his shoulder last week which prevented him from participating in the National Indoors in Dallas.

Although team doctors initially felt Niemeyer would be ready for today's match, soreness in the shoulder has troubled the Blue Raider All-American throughout the week.

He received a cortisone shot on Wednesday and will still travel with the team.

Short said despite these factors, he feels his team will be ready for the Bulldog challenge.

"Obviously, it will be a blow to our depth if Freddy won't be able to play but we will take him with us and we really won't know if he will be able to play right before match time," Short

said. "This match is a big opportunity for us so it would be nice to have everyone playing."

Following the UT loss, Short said he was considering some juggling of the line-up.

"After that match I realized I might have to start considering making some adjustments in the line-up in order to match up better with our competition," Short said.


These changes also might affect the nationally ranked doubles tandem of Niemeyer and Anthony DeLuise.

"Even though Freddy and Anthony are one of the best teams in the country, I might have to pair them with other people so as to have more insurance in winning the doubles point," Short said.

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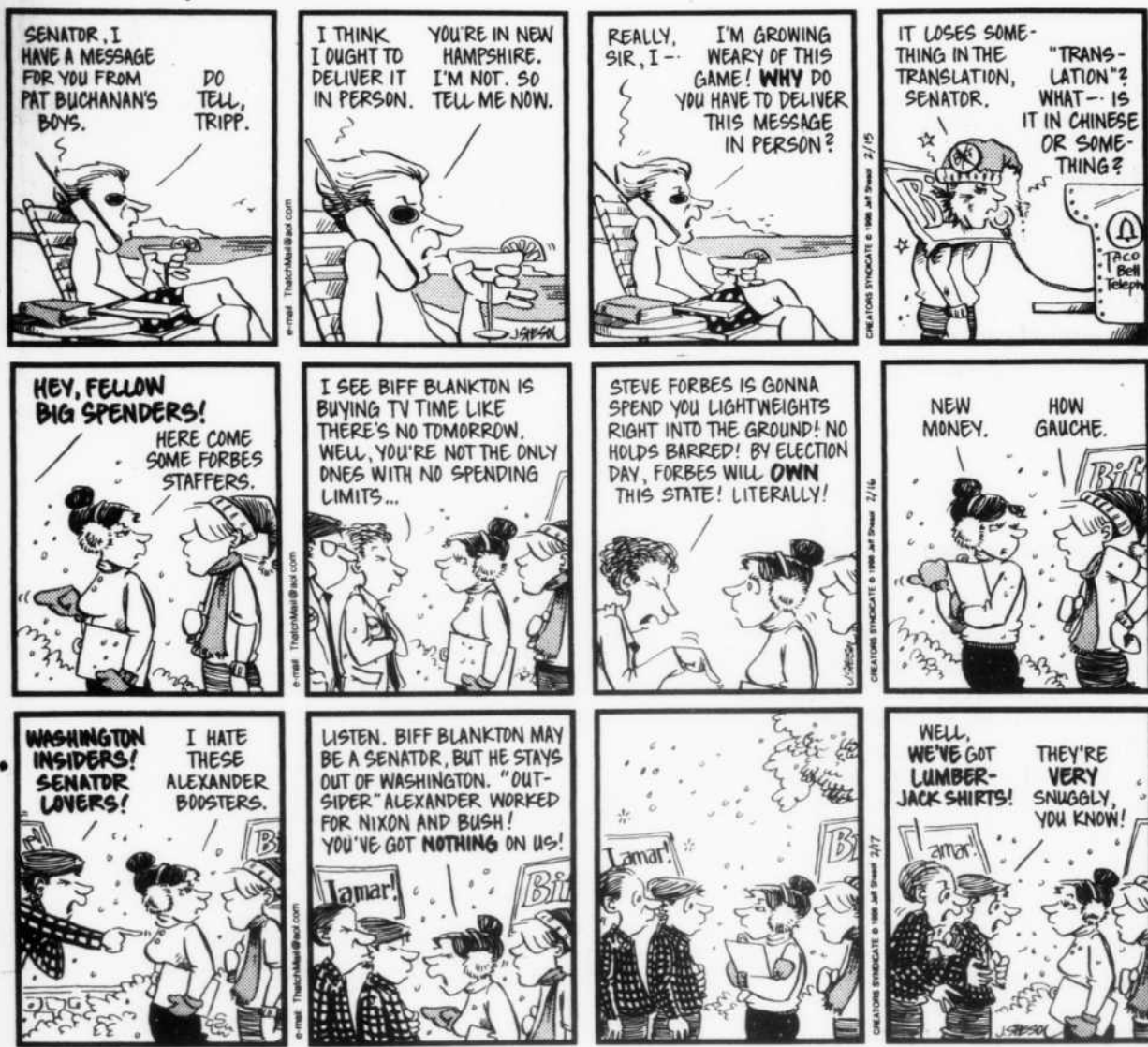
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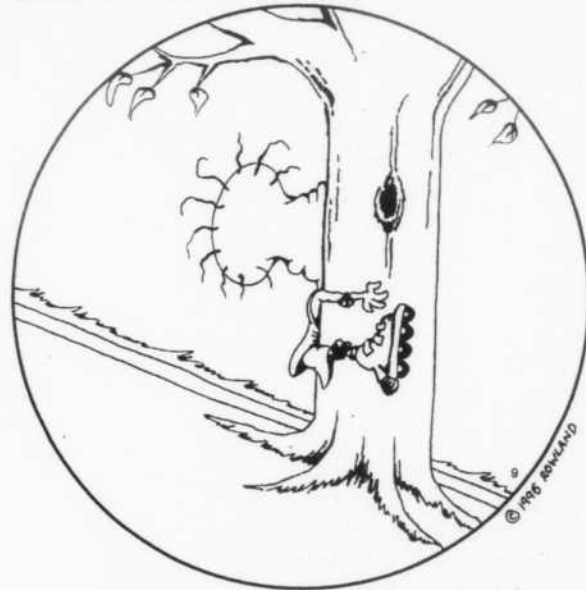


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