

MONDAY
April 5, 2004

▼ 36
▲ 61
Sunny



This week's online poll question
at www.mtsusidelines.com:
What do you think about the Tennessee
legislature's attempt to ban civil unions?

Tennis men halt losing skid at six with wins

In Sports, 8



MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper

SIDELINES

Volume 79 No. 76

Chapman gets most votes; Stewart wins

Candidate disqualified for violating electoral act

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

Presidential candidate Matt Chapman received the largest number of votes in the Student Government Association election, but the Election Commission disqualified him Wednesday.

Runner-up Jon Stewart has been certified as the president-elect, but will not be sworn in until April 16.

Chapman took 900 votes, Stewart took 868 votes and Ashley Elizabeth Graham received 800 votes in the March 16-18 election, according to results provided by John David

SGA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS

MATT CHAPMAN 900

JON STEWART 868

ASHLEY E. GRAHAM 800

Hays, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life.

The results of the election were provided after *Sidelines*

made a request under the Freedom of Information Act of 1996.

Chapman has appealed the decision to disqualify him to the Student Judicial Board. No date has been set for that appeal.

Chapman's campaign adviser, Dennis Clark, met with Robert Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment Management, Thursday to discuss the situation.

Glenn told Clark that it would be inappropriate for the

administration to step in at this point.

"For me to intervene would be overturning the basic covenant that exists between an institution and the student body in terms of self-governance," Glenn said.

Chapman said he understood the administration's position, but felt like problems within the SGA system weren't being addressed.

"I wouldn't want to be a president that people can say was appointed by the adminis-

tration," Chapman said. "However, I would like the administration to take a bigger role in advising students on some of the mistakes I feel they are making."

Glenn also said the Election Commission was acting judiciously in their consideration of Chapman's campaign violations, which included posting a Web site before campaigning was allowed.

"Basically what I told him

See Election, 2

A healthy dose of humor

Adams stresses caring attitude

By Tim Hill
Staff Writer

MTSU was one of the stops along Dr. Patch Adams' 21-year lecture circuit Thursday.

Adams is a doctor who believes that humor shouldn't be left out of quality medical care. He said his attitude about caring comes from his mother.

"Who I am is a result of what my mom was any given day of her life," he said. "I love people and serving people through love is what I do."

Adams is perhaps best known from the 1998 movie of the same name. Starring Robin Williams as Patch, the film grossed more than \$300 million worldwide and broke several records for a Christmas time release. Despite the money the film made, Adams didn't receive money for it.

"Nobody who was associated with the film has ever given one penny to my cause," he said. "It's the nature of capitalism, unfortunately. I asked them before I signed the contract if this film would get my hospital built, and they said yes, so I signed it."

The hospital that Adams wants to build is similar to the first one he opened illegally while he was a student in medical school. He and four classmates bought a run-down house on more than 300 acres in the mountains of West Virginia and opened their free clinic, called the Gesundheit Institute.

"We would truly get personal with our patients," Adams said. "There was not

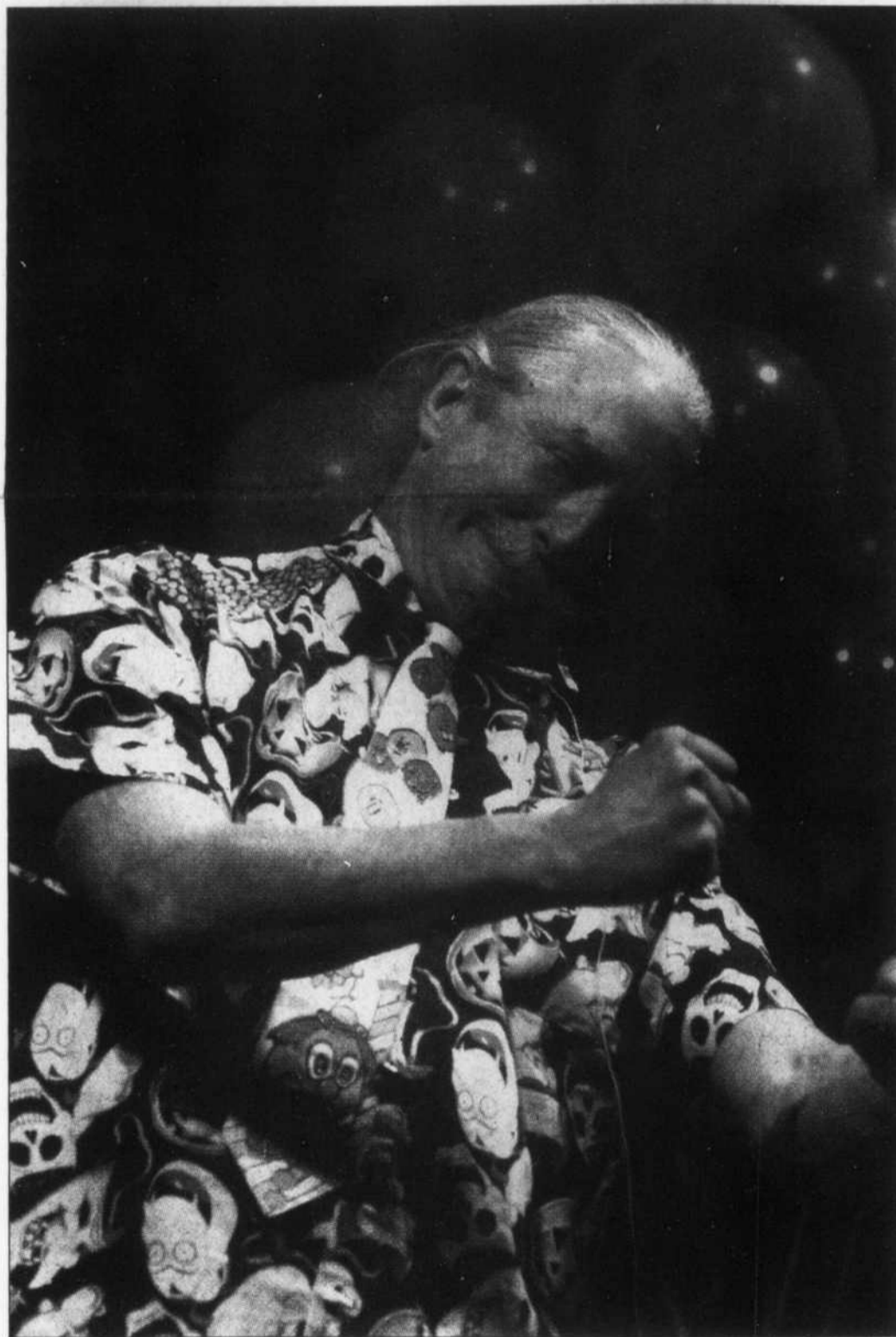


Photo by Seth Holland | Staff Photographer

Dr. Patch Adams, made famous by the 1998 movie bearing his name, speaks Thursday about the importance of humor in the health care industry.

any privacy. House calls involved us going through every drawer, cabinet and dresser looking for illegal prescriptions if we suspected someone was using them."

Adams said that in the 33 years the clinic was open, they never turned anyone away

because they felt that turning someone away was incompatible with being health care professionals.

There were some rules the clinic had to live by, however.

"There was no bartering/bargaining with insurance companies to get

prices down," Adams said. "We had no malpractice insurance because we felt like that would be us telling people, 'We don't trust you and don't like you.' We didn't have any release forms, either. If we

See Adams, 2

Haskew accepts nomination for UT presidency

Committee to review 47 candidates

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

Barbara Haskew, MTSU professor of economics and finance, accepted the nomination for the president of University of Tennessee this weekend and provided her credentials for the search committee to review.

There are a total of 47 candidates for review by the search committee as of yesterday. The committee will be meeting today in Nashville and will pick six to 10 finalists.

Haskew, who also served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, is currently serving as the interim director of the Tennessee Center for

Labor Management Relations.

An alumna of UT, Haskew outlined in her acceptance letter to the committee director the objectives and expectations of a president at UT.

"The university must be aggressive in achieving the goals that it sets and I think it has to

set very important goals," Haskew said. She emphasized creating partnerships with businesses, government institutions

and community groups to bring in more funds and create more educational opportunities for students.

Haskew, who met her husband as an undergraduate at UT, said that the university's

See Haskew, 2

SGA election results announced

Staff Reports

The Student Government Association has released results for the spring 2004 election, held March 16-18.

Below is a listing of those who ran for executive officer and senate positions, along with their respective vote counts.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Jason Hooper, 2,236

VICE-PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION

AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Candace Haynes, 881
Meredith Wilson, 818
Steven Helton, 504
Joey Torrento, 308

ELECTION COMMISSIONER
Lea Wilson, 2,169

SENATE POSITIONS

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED
SCIENCES (6 seats available)

Samantha Linton, 363
Misty Cox, 356
Frank Byers, 353
Bess Rickman, 339
(2 Remaining Seats to be filled)

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

(5 seats available)
Ashley Tyler, 272
Jonathan Campbell, 253
Rashaad Mills, 235
Shawn Kehoe, 231
(1 Remaining Seat to be filled)

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

(5 seats available)
Lindsey Grace, 266
Lindsey Miller, 256
Courtney Ledford, 255

See Results, 2

22-year-old junior killed in motorcycle accident

Friend recalls his athleticism, desire to help those in need

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

An MTSU student was killed March 28 in a three-vehicle accident in Cannon County.

Dustin Elam, a 22-year-old junior undeclared major, died from his injuries at Stones River Hospital in

Woodbury. He was the son of Sharon and Mervin Elam of Manchester.

According to the Tullahoma News, Elam was traveling eastbound on Highway 64 on a Suzuki GSX 600 motorcycle when Charles Macy, 42, of Bradyville, Tenn., tried to make a left-hand turn into a private driveway from the eastbound lane of Highway 64.

Elam's motorcycle went into a skid, striking another motorcycle driven by his brother, Christopher.

Elam's motorcycle continued to skid and struck Macy's truck in the left side. Elam flew from the motorcycle, and landed on an embankment nearby.

Elam was an outstanding athlete at Coffee County Central High School, where he graduated in 2000, according to friend Katie Floied.

Elam played baseball, basketball and football, and received several awards for his outstanding performance.

"Him and his brother were the

greatest athletes Coffee County has ever seen," Floied, a freshman animal science major, said.

Floied said Elam had been dating her cousin, Jenn Keele, for six years, and that the entire time she had known him, he was always a "light" to those around him.

"He was a really great person," Floied said.

She said that, though Elam had not yet declared his major, he was pursuing a degree in special education.

Floied said he was a Special Olympics volunteer in high school.

Elam also enjoyed working with special needs students at Motlow State Community College, where he went prior to enrolling at MTSU.

Floied said Elam was greatly loved in the community, and that his funeral March 30 was packed.

"Everything he did was to the fullest," Floied said.

In addition to his parents and brother, Elam is survived by two sisters, Sara Beth Elam, of Manchester, and Sonya Stephenson, of Murfreesboro. ♦

CRIME LOG

March 19

• 2:07 a.m.
Rutherford and East Main
James M. Wilkins, Murfreesboro, driving on a suspended license

March 20

• 1:50 p.m.
East Main Street
Michael R. Hutchinson, Nashville, charged with possession of a weapon on school property and aggravated assault. Subject threatened another subject at rugby game.

March 22

• 4:55 a.m.
Greenland Drive at Tennessee Boulevard
Chandra R. Tucker Vaughn, Readyville, cited in conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamines, possession of schedule II meta, possession of drug paraphernalia

March 30

• 12:44 a.m.
Greek Row
Russell P. Hudson, 19, Murfreesboro
Simple possession of marijuana

• 6:28 p.m.

Kirksey Old Main
Jonathan R. Harper, Murfreesboro, outstanding warrant for underage consumption of alcohol

March 31

• 3:10 p.m.
Voorhies Industrial Studies Complex
Report of stolen laptop

• 9:49 p.m.

Womack family housing
Harassing phone calls

• 11:03 p.m.

East Main Street
Tony Cole, 27, driving on revoked license

• 11:43

Nicks Hall
Items taken out of rooms in Nicks Hall door to one room left unlocked

April 2

• 2:19 a.m.
Blue Raider Drive
Richard F. Howard, 21, of Nashville, driving on a suspended license

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

AN EGG-CELLENT TIME

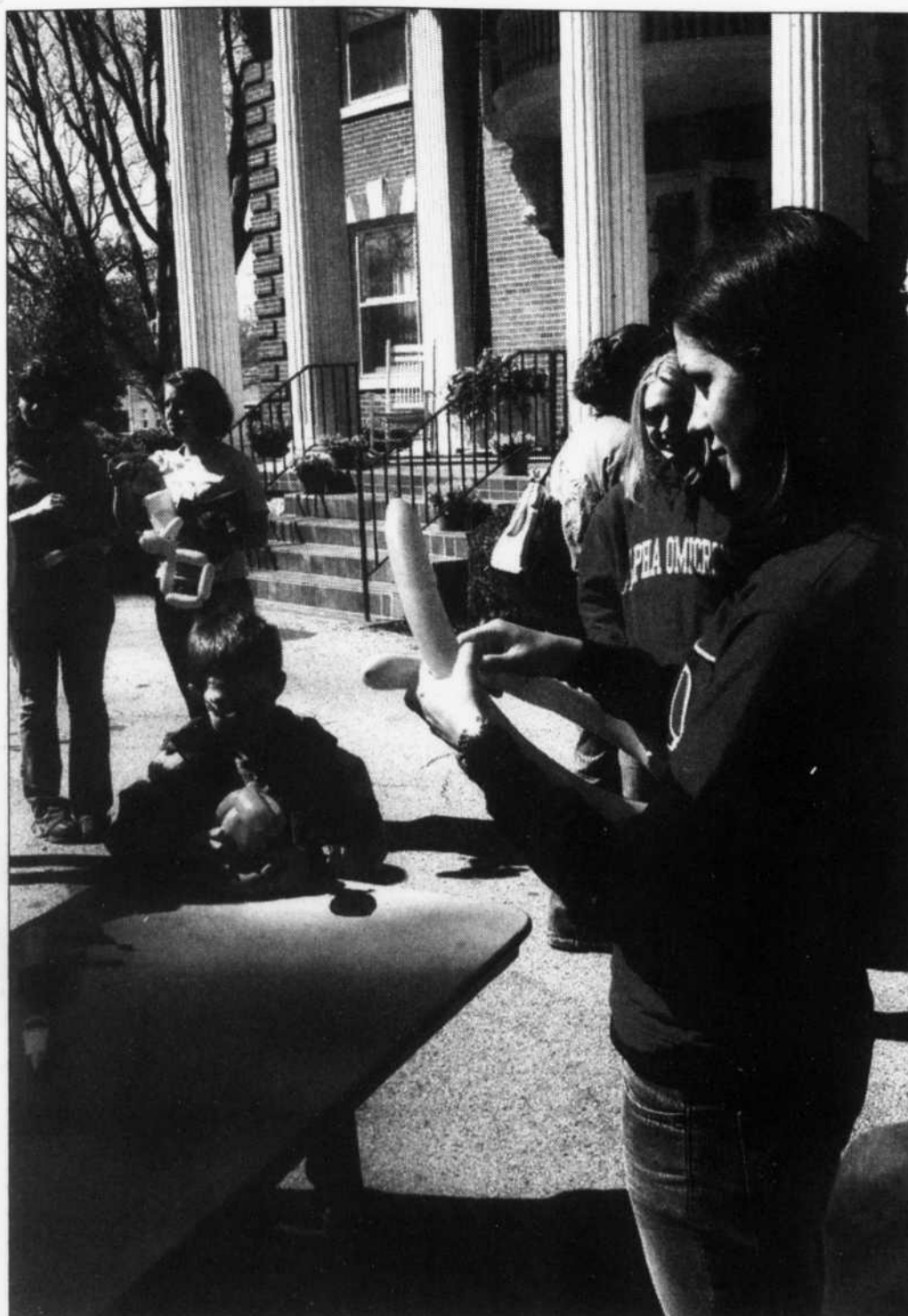


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer
Several sorority members make balloon animals yesterday during the annual egg hunt on the president's lawn, sponsored by the Panhellenic Council.

Adams: Teams of volunteers travel up to 300 days each year to deliver medical supplies

Continued from I

got sued, we wouldn't worry," he said.

Another thing that made the clinic stand out from others, he said, was that the staff refused to accept reimbursements from government programs Medicare and Medicaid, as well as private insurance companies such as Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

"We didn't want to deal with any of these because, from our experience, none of our patients ever had anything good to say about them," Adams said.

After the clinic closed in 1984, Patch and a group of volunteers decided to "go and love our enemies," and went to

Russia during the Cold War.

Adams began a habit during medical school of dressing up like a clown whenever he would visit people in hospitals, and he believed that continuing to do that in a poor nation would be just as effective.

"Orphanages in Russia are rampant with child abuse, and most children are involved in prostitution," he said. "When those children see clowns coming into their rooms, it will brighten their day a whole bunch."

Adams also discussed what care means.

"Care is the taking on of others' pain and things without expecting anything in return,"

he said. "You do it through loving others," he said.

Adams went to medical school during the 1970s, at the height of the civil rights movement and Vietnam War.

"In medical school, 90 percent of the doctors who taught us were arrogant, white pricks," he said. "Racism and sexism were also prevalent among those same professionals."

Adams travels 300 days out of the year, often with teams of volunteers. They have been to Kabul, Afghanistan, and are currently in Cuba, where they will be delivering more than 100,000 medical supplies into that country. ♦

Election: Stewart to be sworn in April 16

Continued from I

was that the Election Commission, as nearly as I could tell, has acted consistently with the rules and regulations," Glenn said.

"They are reluctant to get involved when upholding a student right, which is when they should get involved," Clark said.

Clark said Chapman is prepared to file an injunction in the Rutherford County Courthouse, depending on the student Judicial Board's decision.

"I think this is something that might have to be settled in court," Chapman said.

Chapman said he wants the issue to be resolved as soon as possible.

"I think what students want is what is most important in this election and the students clearly chose a leader that focuses on issues, that focuses on what he can do for them," Chapman said. ♦

Jason Cox contributed to this story.

Results: Several seats still available

Continued from I

Kim Concialdi, 233
(1 Remaining Seat to be filled)

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

(4 seats available)
Whitney Fisher, 151
Adedoyin Adeyeye, 144
Katie Crytzer, 137
James Pearson, 132
Carry Smith, 131
Chris Robison, 112
Dennis Clark, 97

COLLEGE OF MASS COMMUNICATION

(5 seats available)
Tyler Smith, 336
Jessica Reeves, 328
Kasey Talbott, 302
David Maxwell, 269
(1 Remaining Seat to be filled)

UNDECLARED

(3 seats available)
Sydney Schaad, 134
(2 Remaining Seats to be filled)

AT-LARGE SENATORS

(5 seats available)
Meagan Flippin, 1,373
Paul Bryant Fulcher, 1,334
Clay Kennedy, 1,287
Ben Griffin, 1,186
Mandie Thacker, 1,164
Nathan Nichols, 1,118

For more information, visit the SGA online at www.mtsu.edu/~sga. ♦

Haskew: Candidate upset with former presidents' actions

Continued from I

success has a heavy impact on the economy of the state.

UT has the best research programs in the state and its nine research centers have returned \$220 million on a state investment of \$7.5 million.

The most important aspect of a presidential candidate is accountability and gaining the trust of the university officials, students and faculty, Haskew said.

"All of their decisions, in their personal lives, with the employees that they worked with and the dollars that they spent, needed to be based in integrity," Haskew said.

Recently the achievements of the UT system have been obscured by the scandals of former presidents John W. Shumaker and J. Wade Gilley.

"I am irritated, and I suppose it would not be too strong to say angry, that those who

were in leadership positions at the University of Tennessee failed to recognize that as the president of the system, they had a obligation to put forward a very positive image for the university," Haskew said.

This presidential search is being conducted within the public forum to allow for scrutiny from the media and all of the candidates' biographies can be accessed through the UT-Knoxville Web site, at www.utk.edu/presidentialsearch.

Haskew said that her bid for the position doesn't necessarily mean her career at MTSU is over.

"I've had a very interesting and rewarding career at MTSU," she said. "Right now I am teaching and I always considered teaching and exciting thing to be involved in. I will see what direction my career takes. But I'm not retiring." ♦



Outraged?

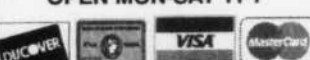
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STATE AND LOCAL

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Monday, April 5, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 3

Rutherford County job market 'excellent'

By B.J. Chaplin
Staff Writer

Despite concerns over the economy across the nation, Rutherford County Career Center manager Herb Lee insists the job market in this county is nothing short of "excellent."

Lee said Rutherford county is enjoying a larger number and variety of jobs available than in the last five years.

"We're creating new manufacturing jobs in Rutherford County," he said. He added that Rutherford's prosperity can be attributed to "a combination of existing employers who are expanding and new employers who are coming to town on a regular basis."

Lee noted that several companies,

such as GMC, Johnson Controls, Stinger Industries, Southern Container Corporation and Verizon have either expanded their operations in Rutherford County or are in talks to do so.

Although the manufacturing industry has seen the most success in Rutherford County, service, retail and distribution industries have also been doing well, Lee said.

The success of the distribution industry in particular is a "matter of geography," he added.

"[We are] within 500 miles of three-fourths of the marketplace in the U.S.," he said. "It puts us in an ideal situation to be a distribution center."

He also credits MTSU's growth and

the "caliber of graduates" as well as the implementation of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce's Destination Rutherford program for what he says is a thriving economy.

"Destination Rutherford is a bold four-year economic development program resulting from business and community leaders working together with a desire to improve the economic opportunity for [Rutherford County's] citizens of today and our citizens of the future," said the Chamber of Commerce's program brochure.

The plan's \$2.8 million budget is divided into three goals: economic growth and balance (\$1,920,000), leadership and community development (\$360,000) and educational advantage

(\$520,000). Destination Rutherford began last year and is set to last through 2006.

Under the plan, a projected 1,800 new primary jobs will be created. This "private/public partnership" has more than 200 investors comprised of local individuals, businesses, organizations and other institutions and has raised more than \$3 million to fund the plan, according to the brochure.

MTSU is listed in the brochure as one of Destination Rutherford's investors, and its president, Sidney McPhee, is listed as one of the 15 development council co-chairs.

Lee said Rutherford County has been fortunate in that it has not suffered many of the losses neighboring

counties have endured.

"The big [factory] closures have been in other parts of middle Tennessee," Lee said. "So for now — cross your fingers — Rutherford County has been relatively unscathed ... at least in recent months."

Lee said he believes Rutherford County's employment outlook will continue to be positive in the foreseeable future. Regarding Rutherford county's current economy, he said, "It's just hard to find a weak spot."

But Rep. Bart Gordon (D), in a statement released last month after a two-day phone-in event with local residents, was less optimistic about

See Jobs, 4

TDOS targets truckers

By Melissa Bowman
Asst. State and Local Editor

A program from the Tennessee Department of Safety is attempting to make Tennessee's roads safer for all drivers.

TDOS's SUPER program, an acronym for Stepped Up Patrol Enforcement Results, is putting Commercial Vehicle Enforcement officers on the lookout for trucks and other commercial vehicles engaged in speeding and other moving violations.

The campaign's goal is to improve the overall safety of all Tennessee drivers by reducing the number of motor vehicle crashes in heavily trafficked areas.

The program launched March 11, and according to Beth Denton, Public Information Officer for TDOS, it has been successful.

"To date, officers have issued more than 730 citations and written warnings, as well as conducted nearly 460 inspections," Denton said.

During every stop the officers make throughout the campaign, they will also complete an inspection of the truck. Denton said that trucks will not be pulled over just to be inspected. The inspections will only be made if the truck is committing a moving violation or other dangerous activity.

"If anything is found that is out of order as a result of these inspections, then possibly a trucker or his vehicle would be placed out of service," she said.

The CVE patrol units will be placed every 25 miles along all of Tennessee's interstate system. In the metropolitan areas of Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga, the concentration will be higher.

Although the officers, or any other highway patrolmen, can stop the trucks for any potentially dangerous activity, the primary target of the campaign is speeding trucks.

"Speeding is a leading factor in traffic crashes. Through this statewide enforcement campaign, we're targeting drivers whose aggressive behavior makes it unsafe for other motorists," said TDOS Commissioner Fred Phillips in a March 31 press release.

Denton made sure to clarify that "most truck drivers do operate in a safe, responsible manner, but this is to stop the ones who aren't."

The CVE units do have the authority to pull over passenger cars as well, but, Denton said, this campaign's effort is focused on commercial vehicles' violations.

"[This is] an overall enforcement program to improve the safety for everyone on the roadways," Denton said.

This campaign is one of many enforcement programs headed by CVE and the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

"The message of this program is something that everyone, not just commercial vehicles, can heed," Denton said. "It's to slow down and drive safely to increase the safety on the roads for everyone." ♦

Down the rabbit hole



Photos by David McCombs | Staff Photographer
Murfreesboro Little Theatre performs *Alice in Wonderland*, a musical adapted from the book by Lewis Carroll. The play ran March 25-28 and April 2-4 at Patterson Community Center.



Abortion ban back in town

Staff Reports

A revised version of a proposed constitutional amendment that would remove constitutional protections pursuant to the right to abortion overwhelmingly passed the state Senate Wednesday.

After having been withdrawn, the bill was reintroduced by Sen. David Fowler (R - Signal Mountain).

As passed in the Senate, the amendment would read as follows: "Nothing in this constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or the funding thereof. The legislature shall have the sole authority to make and shall make such provisions for abortion as it determines reasonably necessary for victims of rape, incest and to save the life of the mother."

The original amendment was only the first sentence. As amended, if the proposal were ultimately to become part of the Tennessee Constitution, the legislature would have the authority to make exceptions, rather than leaving the matter up to the courts. ♦

Senate Abortion Resolution Vote

In favor:

Ben Atchley (R - Knoxville)
Mae Beavers (R - Mt. Juliet)
James Bryson (R - Franklin)
Tim Burchett (R - Knoxville)
Charlotte Burks (D - Monterey)
Jerry Cooper (D - Morrison)
Rusty Crowe (R - Johnson City)
David Fowler (R - Signal Mountain)
Jo Ann Graves (D - Gallatin)
Doug Henry (D - Nashville)
Doug Jackson (D - Dickson)
Bill Ketron (R - Murfreesboro)
Tommy Kilby (D - Wartburg)
Don McLeary (D - Humboldt)
Randy McNally (R - Oak Ridge)
Jeff Miller (R - Cleveland)
Mark Norris (R - Collierville)
Curtis Person (R - Memphis)
Ron Ramsey (R - Blountville)
Steve Southerland (R - Morristown)
Larry Trail (D - Murfreesboro)
Lt. Gov. John Wilder (D - Mason)
Michael Williams (R - Maynardville)

Opposed:

Bill Clabough (R - Maryville)
Steve Cohen (D - Memphis)
Ward Crutchfield (D - Chattanooga)
Roy Herron (D - Dresden)
Rosalind Kurita (D - Clarksville)
Jim Kyle (D - Memphis)

Present, but not voting:

Roscoe Dixon (D - Memphis)
John Ford (D - Memphis)
Thelma Harper (D - Nashville)
Joe Haynes (D - Goodlettsville)

Gay couples' marriage license requests rejected in Knoxville

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Four gay couples seeking marriage licenses from the Knox County Clerk's Office were turned down this week in what is believed to be the first such denial in Tennessee.

Kip Williams and his partner Jason Marcus said they made the request Friday, along with two other men and four women, in hopes that the publicity generated by their action would prompt "people to begin thinking about intolerance."

"Anybody should have the right to legally acknowledge their love," Williams said. "What could be wrong with two people stopping to love each other, especially with all the pain and grief in the world?"

Tennessee's constitution doesn't allow same-sex civil unions and state law defines marriage as between one man and one woman. The group's request came after the city of San Francisco decided to issue marriage licenses to gays and lesbians, prompting same-sex couples from across the country to travel to California to get married.

"We're taking this action to show that interest in gay marriages isn't just in big cities but is also in small-town America,"

"What could be wrong with two people stopping to love each other, especially with all the pain and grief in the world?"

— Kip Williams

Tried to get marriage license Friday

Marcus said.

Knox County Clerk Mike Padgett was prepared for the couples' request and the media spotlight that accompanied it because both Williams and Marcus had been in contact with his office about the planned event.

"These people, I'm sure, have an agenda," Padgett said. "They've been in contact with me about two weeks, and both have been very accommodating and very sincere."

In anticipation of the same-sex marriage license requests, Padgett sent his employees a memo several weeks ago outlining how they should handle the issue. The memo directed employees to process the application to the point of obtaining a valid photo identification

document until the same-sex issue is encountered.

The memo, which noted state law concerning marriage, said a person could be charged with a misdemeanor for issuing such a license. Clerks were advised to direct any applicant that questions the denial further to the county law department.

"DO NOT enter into any dialogue regarding your beliefs or opinions in this matter," the memo stated.

Padgett, who refused to comment further on the couples' request, said that he believed—through talking with other county clerks across the state—that this was the first attempt in Tennessee by same-sex couples to get a marriage license. ♦

Jewelry stolen from home

By David Paulson
Staff Writer

● A bag containing approximately 4 ounces of a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana was found under the passenger's seat of a car during a traffic stop on Broad Street Wednesday night. Officer Harry Haigh stopped the vehicle after it made an improper wide turn. A passenger in the car, Jason Holder of Murfreesboro, was arrested and charged with felony possession of marijuana.

● Police arrested Andre Howe for possession of a weapon Wednesday after finding two loaded handguns under his front seat during a traffic stop at Chelsea Place Apartments. The traffic stop was conducted after police observed that Howe's Oldsmobile had no visible registration. According to police reports, Howe "appeared very nervous" during the traffic stop

and refused to allow police to search his vehicle. A background check revealed that Howe had an outstanding warrant. He was arrested and the vehicle was subsequently searched.

● More than \$2,000 worth of jewelry was stolen from a home on Spencer Drive Tuesday afternoon. The suspect kicked open the back door of the home and took two diamond rings and two gold rings from a jewelry box in the victim's bedroom. The victim believes the suspect is a minor who knew about the jewelry and was not in school at the time of the incident.

● A shoplifter attempted to leave Kohl's Department Store with more than \$700 worth of merchandise in her buggy last Tuesday. The 62-year-old Murfreesboro resident was stopped by security and transported to the Sheriff's Office by Murfreesboro Police. ♦

Jobs: Gordon not as optimistic

Continued from 3

Rutherford County's job market.

"American businesses, including those in Rutherford County, are struggling to create new jobs necessary to sustain a recovering economy," he said. "We need to focus our energy on measures that will actually help businesses grow jobs here, not overseas."

According to the statement, nearly 3 million jobs have been lost in the U.S. labor market in the past three years, including more than 60,000 manufacturing jobs in Tennessee. Rutherford County residents, the statement said, have been asking Gordon to "implement policies that will be more conducive to job creation here at home."

Rutherford County's unemployment rate has consistently risen in the past four years: In 2000, the rate was 2.9 percent, followed by 3.4 percent in 2001, 4.0 percent in 2002 and 4.4 percent in 2003, according to the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Compared to the state of Tennessee, Rutherford County's rate has been consistently lower: In 2000, Tennessee's rate was 3.9 percent, followed by 4.4 percent in 2001, 5.1 percent in 2002 and 5.8 percent in 2003, according to the department.

Recently, however, the rate has declined in Rutherford County. December's rate was 4.0 percent, in January it fell slightly to 3.9 percent and in February the rate was reportedly 3.6 percent.

In February, Tennessee's rate was 5.3 percent, comparable to the national unemployment rate at that same time, which was 5.6 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Friday, however, U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao released some promising news for the nation's workforce regarding February unemployment numbers.

"Far above market expectations, today's numbers of 308,000 new jobs are the largest employment growth in nearly four years," she said. "Job growth has increased across all sectors, with construction seeing the largest job gains and is more evidence the economy has turned the corner and the nation's job market is getting stronger every month."

She cautioned against complacency, however.

"Yet as the [president] has said many times, we're not going to stop working until every American who wants a job can find one," she said. "That's why he has proposed, and why Congress should pass, his new Jobs for the 21st Century initiative, which will prepare workers for good-paying positions in high-growth fields that are creating the most new jobs."

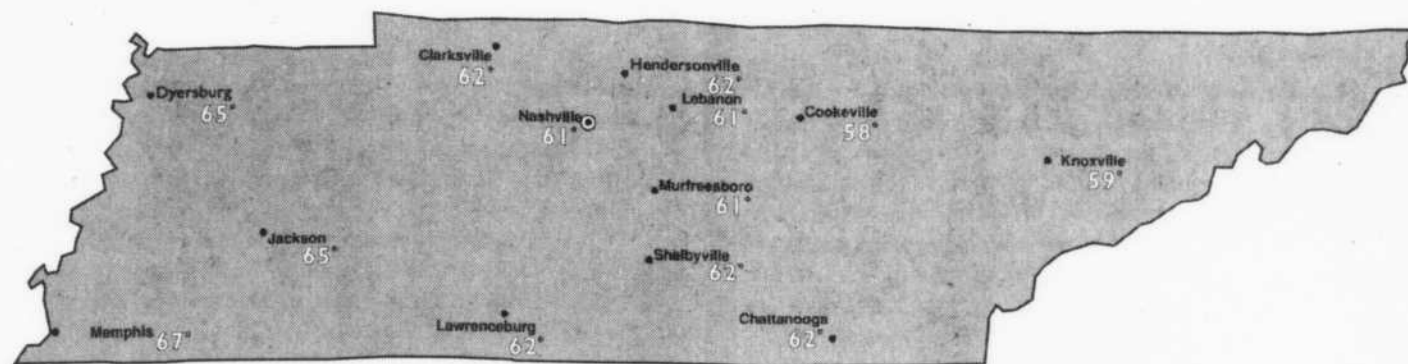
Introduced by Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) Oct. 8, 2003, the 21st Century Job Opportunities Act's purpose is "to establish a temporary emergency program to assist workers who have been laid off and who require immediate education and training to successfully re-enter the workplace."

The proposed bill would provide "Job Assistance Grants" to eligible unemployed undergraduates each year he/she is at an "institution of higher education."

The bill has since been referred to the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Wednesday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Drug tax still under consideration.

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Lawmakers like to point out next year's Tennessee state government budget will be funded without new taxes. At least for most people. But new taxes and some fee increases remain under consideration, although it's unlikely most people would pay them.

The tax, for example, would apply to drug dealers.

"Yes, it's a new tax. But it's on some very deserving people," said Sen. Randy McNally, R-Oak Ridge, who proposes to tax marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine and other illegal drugs.

Other pending legislation raises the prospect of a new tax on horse feed — if horse owners approve in a special referendum — and higher costs for such things as liquor licenses and electrical inspections. The Legislature could also make it more costly for out-of-state residents to get married in Tennessee.

The drug tax bill, which McNally said is modeled after a North Carolina law, requires those possessing a number of illegal substances to pay a tax that varies, depending on which drug they have.

The marijuana tax, for example, would range from 40 cents on "stems and stalks" to \$3.50 per gram for "all other forms of marijuana." The cocaine tax would be \$50 a gram, while LSD and methamphetamine would be taxed at \$5 per dose.

Those who step forward to pay the tax voluntarily would be granted confidentiality by the

Department of Revenue. This is not widely expected to happen very often.

People found in possession of drugs without a tax stamp could be required to pay the tax. Legislative staff estimated the bill would generate \$3.6 million per year in revenue, which would be split between local law enforcement agencies and the TBI.

Rep. Charles Curtiss, D-Sparta, said that when McNally first approached him about sponsoring the bill in the House, "I thought he was nuts."

"But the more I read and studied, the more I came to realize it's a brilliant idea," Curtiss said.

"It gets at the lifeline of the drug trade, which is money," McNally said. "Rather than saddle the taxpayers with the increased cost of incarcerating drug felons, it puts the burden on drug dealers."

The bill approved faces a vote in the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday. The House version is in the Judiciary Committee.

The proposed increase in license fees for liquor stores, wineries, bars and restaurants that sell liquor-by-the-drink would be the first since 1963, according to Danielle Elks, executive director of the state Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

As amended in a House committee, the bill would charge most businesses an extra \$300 fee when they renew their liquor license after July 1, then increase the regular annual license fee as well.

The bill was drafted in negotiations with industry interests

that are supporting the legislation, Elks said. It's estimated to generate \$826,500 a year. The money would go to the ABC, which will then need no appropriation of regular tax dollars for its operations.

The bill is sponsored by Sen. Douglas Henry, D-Nashville, and Rep. Tommy Head, D-Clarksville, the chairman of the finance committees in their respective houses.

The Legislature already has passed a bill that likely will mean higher license fees on hunters and fishermen. That bill authorizes the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission to increase the cost of hunting and fishing licenses starting next year.

Among other pending legislation that could raise taxes or fees:

— Authorization of a vote by horse owners on whether to impose a 5-cent tax on each 50 pounds of horse feed. The money would go to the Tennessee Horse Council "for the purpose of financing a program of promotion, protection, network research and education designed to improve the equine industry."

— Increase of fees charged by sheriff departments for various services. For example, the fee for serving legal papers in person would be increased from \$20 to \$40, and the cost of processing a bail bond would rise

from \$5 to \$10.

— Increase of electrical inspection fees, generating an extra \$5.4 million in revenue statewide. Fees vary across the state.

— Authorization for county commissions, by two-thirds vote, to add a \$1 litigation tax to each general sessions court case in the county if funds go toward public school drug-testing programs. It faces a House subcommittee vote Wednesday.

— Repealing the exemption out-of-state residents enjoy from a \$62.50 fee charged to Tennessee couples who get a marriage license without attending a "premarital education course."

— Raising the fee charged for operating an underground storage tank for gasoline or other products from 4 cents per gallon of tank capacity to 6 cents per gallon, generating an estimated \$8.5 million a year. The money would go into a fund facing a deficit that is used to cover cost of cleaning up environmental damage caused by defective tanks.

— Raising the cost of a sewerage disposal system permit by \$10, generating an estimated \$260,000. The money would be used to establish a groundwater research and development fund in the Department of Conservation and Environment. ♦

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From the Editorial Board Election escapades could discourage voters

The spring 2004 Student Government Association presidential election has been nothing short of a debacle, and one that makes those in power in the SGA look less than honest.

After much controversy and almost two weeks of holding the results of the election from *Sidelines* and the voting public, the SGA has finally announced the winners. Strangely, the candidate with the most votes won't be the next president.

Matt Chapman received 900 votes, almost 40 more than the runner-up. But Chapman has been at the heart of much controversy since he entered the presidential race, so it comes as barely a surprise that he's finally being ousted from the contest once and for all.

First, there was a question about Chapman's eligibility. After almost kicking him out of the race for not having acquired his 45 credit hours at MTSU, the Election Commission decided to let Chapman run.

Chapman, however, messed up by publishing his campaign Web site two days too early, which brought him under fire again. The Student Judicial Board reprimanded Chapman, but Chapman appealed and was allowed to keep the site up pending further investigation. But the Election Commission decided last week — after the votes had been counted — to disqualify Chapman from the election altogether.

This action on the part the SGA may be within the realm of their jurisdiction, but it certainly seems a little odd. It's bad enough that the constant Chapman controversy wasn't resolved before students actually went out and cast their votes, but it's even worse that the SGA chose to oust Chapman — the elected winner — after the ballots were in.

There has long been a problem on this campus with student apathy. SGA leaders continuously lament the lack of voter turnout in these elections. This year, though, an impressive 2,666 students voted in the election, but 900 of those votes for president are being thrown out. Those 900 students won't get the chance to cast their vote for the qualified candidate of their choice, because the SGA waited until after the election to disqualify a candidate they had been flirting with kicking out for weeks.

But Chapman says the matter isn't over yet. Hopefully, the election escapades of 2004 won't discourage too many students from voting in future elections. Every vote counts, right? ♦

Pre-emption: What's the big deal

This election season, I've been keeping one eye on Sen. John F. Kerry. I've tried to keep both eyes on him, but one eye insists on napping while the senator torments us with another boring, uninspiring "oral communication" (I'm not sure something so monotonous and void of emotion is fit to be called a speech).

Another reason why it's a struggle to endure Kerry is his constant recycling of old lines. There's only so much you can take. On Feb. 28, Kerry's "oral communication" blasted (for the millionth time) Bush's "unilateral pre-emption."

He said Bush's policy of "unilateral pre-emption" was responsible for losing the war on terror and amplifying anti-American hatred. First of all, Kerry owes an apology to the people of Spain and all the other allies fighting in Iraq for this lie. Encyclopedia Britannica defines unilateral as "done or undertaken by one person or party." We did not take "unilateral" pre-emptive action against Iraq.

There are 1300 Spanish troops in Iraq, but you won't hear Kerry mentioning their contribution to the war on terror. Instead, Kerry rambles on about "unilateral" this and that. *USA Today* published a letter from al Qaeda which said



Reality Check

Justin Wax
Staff Columnist

that the Madrid attack was "part of settling old accounts with Spain ... America's ally."

After the al Qaeda attack on Spain, Kerry didn't say a word. How could he? Just a few days before, Kerry had been raging about Bush's "unilateral pre-emption" from Kerryland. If Kerry said a word about the Spain tragedy, he'd be admitting that America did have an ally in Iraq — something he can't bring himself to do.

Listen to liberals on CNN, NBC, CBS, etc. as they try to paint Bush as a unilateralist, oil-lusting thug who cares nothing about American soldiers fighting for freedom in Iraq.

These folks won't tell you there are Spanish troops fighting in Iraq, unless of course one gets killed or their government decides to withdraw troops. You won't hear the truth that we've helped Iraqis experience freedom, democracy and unprecedented progress.

There's a disproportionate amount of time covering the insurgency problem in Iraq rather than the freedom progress there.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) recently released a poll that revealed 70 percent of Iraqis believe things are going well or better since the war began. Listen to CNN, and you'd be convinced only seven people feel that way. Time for Blather, Brokejaw and friends to face reality: Most Americans aren't fooled by their liberal bias and propaganda.

And this accusation about Bush's "immoral" pre-emptive attack on Saddam: Britannica defines pre-emptive as "marked by the seizing of the initiative." Interesting to note that when Kerry says pre-emption, you'd think the Black Death had resurrected itself.

I'm thankful for Bush's pre-emptive action against Saddam. Bush seized the initiative and did everything to prevent another terrorist attack. Isn't that what the liberals are ticked off about now? Bush didn't pre-emptively destroy al Qaeda to prevent the World Trade Center attacks? They detest Bush because his pre-emption led to the removal of a dictator who

violated UN resolutions, sponsored terrorism and linked himself to al Qaeda.

The brilliant historian Victor Davis Hanson wrote in *National Review* that the idea of pre-emption is nothing new. He writes, it's "as old as the Greeks." He mentions the experienced Theban general Pagondas and his decision to pre-emptively attack the Athenians even though they "posed no immediate threat." Pagondas' decision paid off as he won the battle, and, interestingly enough, the Athenians never attacked his army again.

Memo to Kerry and liberals: You can't have it both ways. Don't blame Bush for pre-emptively nailing Saddam and then turn around and blame him for not pre-emptively preventing al Qaeda from flying planes into the World Trade Center.

Please climb down off the fence, throw away your "blame Bush" megaphones and take a stand to further freedom and democracy. ♦

Justin Wax is a freshman history major and can be reached via e-mail at jtw2n@mtsu.edu.

City cops far too plentiful

Murfreesboro has way too many police officers.

They're everywhere. Sometimes driving around at night, it seems as if they divide up into little battalions at the station and then go around like a gang trying to bust people for anything they possibly can.

When I told a few people about my topic for this column, people told me countless stories about the mistreatment this person or that person had received from cops in town.

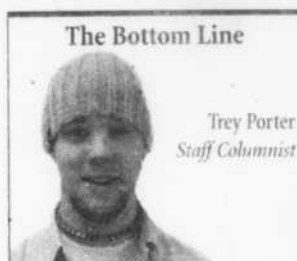
I understand why people don't like them. I also understand police officers have a job to do. There are, however, many occasions when they cross the line.

For instance, is the speeding problem on East Main Street so bad that they have to hide in the bushes and tickle people in the middle of the day for going 40 or 45 miles per hour on a road that could not get any straighter?

That's not protecting and serving. That's ridiculous.

Some areas are dangerous and thus call for a heightened police presence. I don't know if the officers are ever in those areas or not, but I do know a few places they always seem to be. This brings me to my next great example of stupidity.

Just how dangerous is the Shell station on Rutherford Boulevard? Each and every night there are two, three, sometimes four police cars at the Shell. They're not getting gas. They're not protecting the business from the neighborhood, and they're not responding to a help call.



The Bottom Line

Trey Porter
Staff Columnist

They're hanging out. These protectors of our community are just loitering about the Shell station, eating, talking, judging and staring at people, all while getting paid. Talk about tax dollars at work. This is a shame. The officers aren't even friendly.

One would think there were an organized crime ring being run out of the Shell station. I could even understand their presence if there was a prostitution operation or a methamphetamine lab in there.

The funny thing is there's not one.

No. In fact, it's just a gas station that happens to be really close to campus and thus visited by many college students. The officers who are supposed to be out patrolling the community, keeping the peace and watching out for the common good are hanging around at a gas station.

Let's not kid ourselves though. The cops who are throwing down medium pizzas from Shell's deli like there's no tomorrow are probably giving out the occasional underage consumption violation or even possibly deterring some 20-year-old from buying beer four months before he or she is supposed to.

The question is this: Is the trade off worth it?

The simple answer is no. It's not worth it. I guess

it helps them meet their quotas to hang around the Shell and harass the college crowd or hide in the bushes on one of Murfreesboro's five streets and give people tickets.

People don't pay their taxes with the hope that some guy with a chip on his shoulder who turned out to be an officer is going to come driving out of bushes on their local street to bust them for going six over.

The image the officers are sending the college community is one of disrespect and ill will. That's an unhealthy relationship. That image needs to change.

This is the part of the column where I always try to inspire and convince the reader to change his or her stance and make society better. Unless anybody reading this plans on being a cop in town, there is very little changing to be done.

The bottom line is there are way too many officers on the road in Murfreesboro, and that isn't changing anytime soon. Drive under the speed limit, and when you're out, just remember to be careful.

Finally, one more thing: Don't ever try to rob the Shell station on Rutherford, because there are about 10 officers hanging around waiting for some action. ♦

Trey Porter is a sophomore journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at yellowcardsweep@yahoo.com.

Movies teach lessons

Have you watched any good movies lately?

Over Spring Break, one of my friends and I rented 10 movies and watched two movies that I personally owned. Seven of them were really good.

I'm not a big movie fan, but I can read a 500-page book in a day and a half if given a chance. My friend gave me a new outlook and respect for movies.

Movies can do many things for people. They can entertain them. They can make them look at and experience the outside world without having to go through the things people on the screen have to go through. They can also show them how to solve their own troubles in life.

I always knew movies were entertaining, and that's why I wasn't too into them.

I thought I was killing brain cells, not to mention losing time looking at a box with pictures for two hours. At least with a book I was expanding my vocabulary. For most people, when they need a good laugh or just need to escape, the box will be there.

Movies can help you realize that people have bigger problems in their lives than their dog dying, and they made it through.

These kinds of movies can encourage people to go on living or to try to change the world around them.

It can also scare people who thought life was all about peanut butter



Kacey's Corner

Kacey Hercules
Staff Columnist

and jelly sandwiches. How can life be so cruel that a teenager could get a deadly disease? Whatever the case, most people cry at the end of these movies.

Have you ever watched a movie and someone said that character is just like you, or you said to yourself, "Did they make this movie about my life or what?"

When these things happen, you should make a point to watch the film carefully. You may need the advice given.

If the outcome for the character was positive, the character may want to use the same steps, but if the outcome was negative, that's one less mistake you will have to experience.

These types of movies lead to long conversations and an action plan.

I encourage you to watch a movie and truly think about why you're watching it. What are you getting out of this enjoyable past time? I may enjoy movies more now, but the picture box still doesn't beat a good sink-your-teeth-in book. ♦

Kacey Hercules is a sophomore social work major and can be reached via e-mail at kah2x@mtsu.edu.

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines'
occasional
watch for
mutton-heads.

An April Fools' joke went a bit awry when no one else found the prankster's shenanigans amusing.

Randy Wood of West Monroe, N.Y., made a phone call to his ex-wife urging her to come over because he had something he thought she should see.

The woman arrived at Wood's home to find him hanging from a tree. Naturally, the unsuspecting ex-wife completely freaked out. Like any normal citizen would do, she phoned for help.

After the 911 call, Wood did his whole "April Fools!" thing, having secured himself in a lineman harness.

Help arrived. An ambulance, deputies and firefighters came to the rescue that wasn't needed. Needless to say, after the "Thank God he didn't hang himself" wore off, the prank factor set in.

We have no problem with April Fools' jokes. In fact, we encourage them.

It's the one day of the year when you can get away with doing almost anything in the name of getting a laugh.

Almost anything. When your prank escalates to calling the authorities to drop what



they're doing to save you from your doom, that's a completely different matter.

Wood could face jail time and a hefty fine for his gigglefest.

It's time to set some ground rules for proper and improper practical jokes.

It's definitely OK to poke fun at your institution, governing body, fearless leader or any combination thereof.

It's also acceptable to make a mockery of yourself or what you do, so long as you do so in a classy and/or witty manner.

However, messing with people's emotions — especially when death is involved — is a bit extreme.

We hope Wood will pay the \$1000 or serve the time and learn that next year he should point his humor in another direction and away from the gallows. ♦

Original story via 1010wins.com, posted Saturday.

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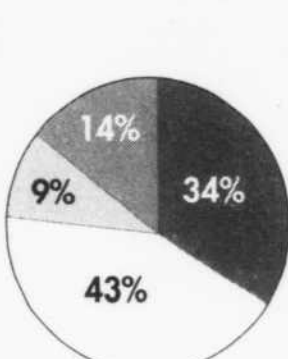
Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. *Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

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

Sidelines online poll results

Last week we asked readers, "How do you think the SGA election results should be handled?" Here's what you had to say:



Settle the controversy, then release the results.

Release the numbers now.

Never release them — let's not have a president.

We had an SGA election?

100 people voted in last week's poll.

Poll results are not scientific.

Animé phenomenon is here to stay

By Adam Parker
Staff Writer

"The animation is more lifelike, characters are more detailed and the stories are better," digital animation sophomore Kyle Brown says about his attraction to animé cartoons.

Brown has been a dedicated fan of the genre since the early '90s when the Sci Fi Channel began showing animé movies occasionally. At that time, Brown's animé of choice was *Demon City*.

As an animé fan, Brown was in the minority. Then, animé was an underground phenomenon in the United States. The art, which originated in Japan, was most popular in Asia.

Its popularity in the United States rarely went beyond the small circle of friends that enjoyed it together. If you were an animé fan, you were at the mercy of comic book stores and hobby shops to fulfill your needs.

Maybe you could find that video, trading card or figure. Maybe you couldn't.

Then *Pokémon* happened.

Pokémon's slogan was "Gotta catch 'em all," and a lot of American kids tried their best to do just that by watching every episode and buying every figure and trading card they could.

Pokémon may have come and gone, but it left its mark — animé in the United States is here to stay. Now, American audiences get their daily doses of animé on Toonami, a programming block on the Cartoon Network that runs Monday through Friday, from 4-6 p.m.

But many college-aged Americans have grown up watching their fair share of animé — whether they realize it or not.

"*Transformers* was animé until an American company took it and it went downhill," Jim Taylor, a junior computer science major, says.

So was *Voltron*, another popular robot cartoon from the early '80s.

Animé characters are drawn differently than American cartoon characters.

The most notable differences occur from the neck up.

Unusual hairstyles, large, expressive eyes and facial features that look almost as European as they do Asian, are the most common traits of animé characters.

Shows that are marketed to children, such as *Pokémon*, are drawn in solid colors with very little attention given to shading, light sources or subtlety.

Tenchi Muyo, which appeals to older audiences, is different. It is drawn with shadows, numerous light sources and explosions with nearly as much detail as their real life counterparts. Warm colors and dark colors in *Tenchi Muyo* are comprised of numerous colors that seamlessly fade into each other.

The plots in animé shows, unlike American films or cartoons, are more futuristic, more violent, sexier and more absurd.

And these plots have their basis in Japanese history, especially the ones that are fantasy-oriented.

In the wake of Japan's World War II defeat, the country as a whole needed its spirits lifted to get back on its feet.

These cartoons, where the hero combats the bad guy, gave hope to many Japanese citizens during a hard time — something that Japanese viewers could learn at an early age, animé fan Piya Kungvalkulkij says. ♦



Illustration by Matthew Adair | Staff Illustrator

Fashion showcase to feature diverse clothing styles

MTSU students' original designs will be modeled

By Erica Payne
Staff Writer

Milan, New York and Paris are the fashion capitals of the world, but lately some MTSU students have been working hard to make Murfreesboro more fashionably aware, too.

A fashion showcase titled "Fashionably Fly 24/7" will be held April 20 at 7 p.m. in the Alumni Memorial Gym. Although the show is approximately two weeks away, it's creating quite a buzz on campus.

Troy Cheairs, senior textiles, merchandising and design major, and Semaj Thomas, senior English major, are spearheading the project.

Though the African American Student Association is sponsoring the fashion show, "it's not a black thing," Thomas insists. The goal of the fashion show is to unite MTSU students of various races and ethnicities in the name of fashion.

This goal is evident in their selection of models. Thomas and Cheairs chose models based on personality, boldness and versatility.

Goichi Okazaki, one of the

male models in the show, is a freshman recording industry major. Okazaki has released two hip-hop albums in Japan and hopes the fashion show will help give him face recognition.

"I want to try to get my face out there. To get my beats out," Okazaki says. His Asian ancestry gives him an added flare, he adds.

Cheairs and Thomas decided to put on this fashion show because they've never seen a multicultural fashion show at MTSU.

"We wanted to do something big before we graduated," Thomas says.

Because Cheairs is a textiles, merchandising and design major, he has a very clear vision of how the show should be conducted.

"I'm a very visual person. I know what I like to see," Cheairs says.

Terry Summers dances with MTSU's Performing Arts Company and is assisting Cheairs and Thomas. Summers models in various showcases in the community. He helps the models perfect their stroll and choreograph the scenes.



Photos by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Samaj Thomas, Jai Rhodes, Terry Summers and Goichi Okazaki practice modeling for the upcoming show.

"Fashionably Fly" is different from any other fashion show, because it has more attitude, according to Summers, who enjoys working on the show.

"I always like to give back to the community," Summers says. Kanesha Harper, president of the AASA, is very excited about the fashion show.

"It gives students an opportunity to get together," she says.

"Fashionably Fly" will feature clothing from daywear to after 5 [p.m.] attire," Harper says. "They've got a lot of ideas."

Brittany Curry, a freshman, is an experienced model who honed her skills with a modeling agency in Atlanta while in

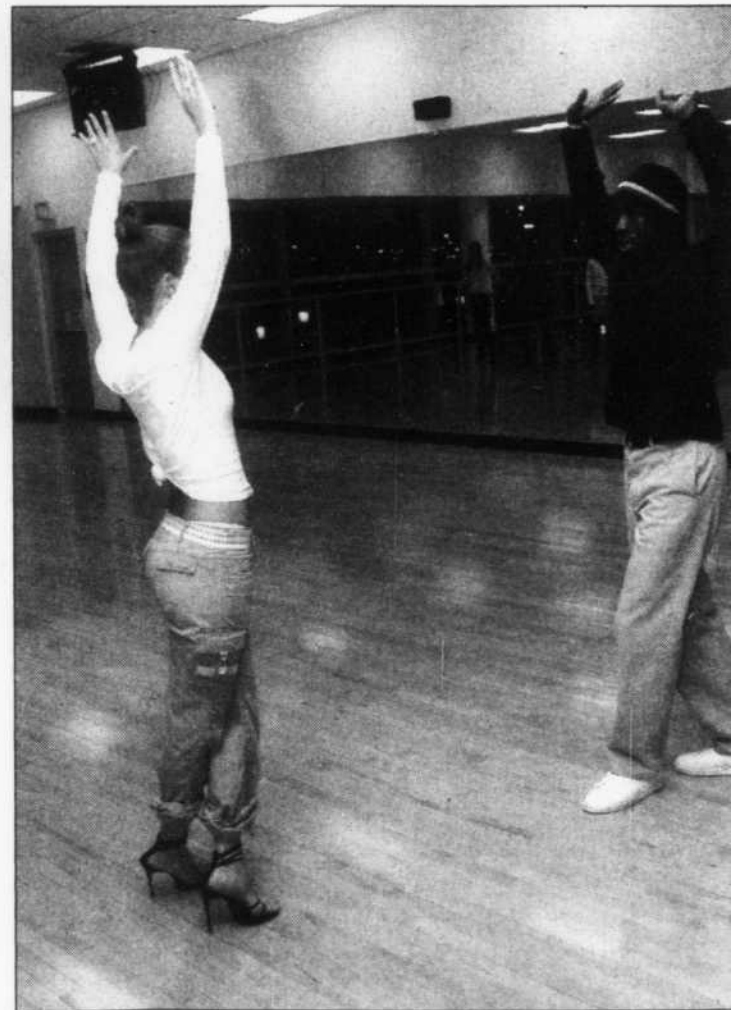
high school. She wants the audience to realize the talents of Cheairs and Thomas.

"I feel privileged to work with them," Curry says.

"Fashionably Fly" will not only feature clothing from establishments such as Wet Seal, Remix and Leslie's, but will also showcase clothes from Cheairs' and Thomas' fashion line, Revolution Clothing.

Cheairs and Thomas have done a lot of grunt work to get the word out. They sent out a campus wide e-mail to recruit models and have also employed the power of radio by advertising the fashion show on WNPL Blazin' 106.7.

Junior radio and television



Photos by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Terry Summers instructs Sheena Buntyn to help prepare for MTSU's fashion show "Fashionably Fly 24/7".

major and former Blazin' disc jockey Ruben Hunter will host the show. DeeJay Rob Storm will provide the music.

Tickets for the fashion show will be on sale in the Keathley University Center Wednesday. ♦

Word Search

B L C K G O D D N U O H
W J D Z U B I B D N A U
D E C V A L E I N A P S
D R F E L G A E B Q G K
R K I C H O U E R I E Y
E O L B D Z Y J F G T H
H M Q X T M W E I N E R
P P N H J P L Z T F S K
E Y I R E T R I E V E R
H H N I R O D A R B A L
S S M O R P X Q U G S W
M A L T E S E V T R H A

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Bird
Hound Dog

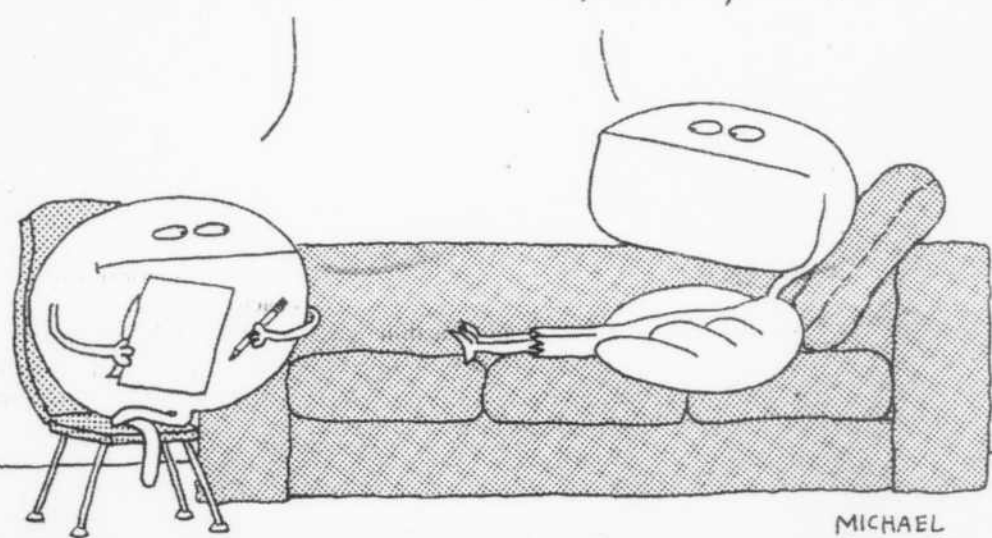
Husky
Labrador
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Von

Well, this sounds
like a phobia...

I was afraid
you'd say that



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Monday, April 5

Honors Lecture Series
Paul W. Martin Honors Building
Room 106, 3 p.m.
Jim Burton, dean,
Jennings A. Jones
College of Business
For information, call:
898-2152

"Expanded Realities" Lecture:

Susan Bowen
McWherter Learning Resource Center
Room 221, 7:30 p.m.
For information, call:
898-5910

Tuesday, April 6

June Anderson Women's Center
Brown Bag Series
"Can't We All Just Get Along?"
Speaker: Deana Raffo,
director, student affairs
Business and Aerospace Building
SunTrust Room, 12 p.m.
For information, call:
898-2193

Wednesday, April 7

MTSU Retiree Reception
James Union Building
Tennessee Room,
3-4:30 p.m.
For information, call:
898-2880

Thursday, April 8

Chemistry Spring Seminar
"Tennessee Scholars Program,"
Ruth A. Woodall, director,
Tennessee Scholars,
Davis Science Building
Room 100, 11 a.m.
For information, call:
898-2956

Windham Lecture Series:

Nell Painter
JUB Tennessee Room, 4 p.m.
For information, call:
898-2536

Arabian Horse Show

Through April 11
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
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MTSU Concert Committee presents:
Live broadcasts from WMTS 88.3's radio
shows Shut Up and Drive and Blazin' in
da' Boro
KUC Knoll, 12 p.m.
For information, call:
898-2551

"On The Knoll" concert,

featuring bands Tony Danza Tapdance
Extravaganza and Destroy Destroy Destroy
KUC Knoll, 5 p.m.
For information, call:
898-2551

Friday, April 9

Good Friday
no classes

Saturday, April 10

Blue Raider tennis match
v. Tulane
Buck Bouldin Tennis Club
12 p.m.

Sunday, April 11

Blue Raider tennis match
v. University of Alabama at Birmingham
Buck Bouldin Tennis Club
12 p.m.

Submit all campus events to:

slfeatur@mtsu.edu

or JUB 310.

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To Qualify:

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To Apply: SUBMIT

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- 1000-2000 word essay
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The due date for all applications has been extended to **April 7, 2004**

* On or off campus work in any print or broadcast medium applies.

** Applications are available in JUB 306 and the Journalism Office, Mass Comm 249, or contact Jenny Crouch for more information at 898-2815

*** Short tapes of radio and television broadcasts are accepted. Clips of written work must be professionally presented. Committee requires six copies of each printed article and three copies of audio/visual tapes.

SPORTS

8 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, April 5, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Tennis men halt losing skid at six with wins

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

After six consecutive losses, the Middle Tennessee men's tennis team rebounded to defeat two higher-ranked teams last weekend.

The No. 74 Blue Raiders defeated No. 54 Louisiana-Lafayette 4-3 Friday and then won over No. 57 Old Dominion 4-2 Sunday at Buck Bouldin Tennis Center.

ULL was without Evghenii Corduneanu, their No. 1 singles player, who injured himself in practice last week. The Ragin' Cajuns still won the No. 1 match, however, when MT's Kirk Jackson got into an altercation with ULL's Amanjot Singh and defaulted with Singh up 7-6 (3), 4-2 in the second set.

The Blue Raiders captured the doubles point behind the No. 28 duo of Brandon Allan and Kai Schledorn, who defeated Singh and Ivan Kovalev 8-3 in the No. 1 doubles match. Allan and Schledorn improved to 23-9 on the year with the victory.

Jackson and Trevor Short shut out Michael Tarkowski and Marc Castellana 8-0 earlier at No. 2.

The Ragin' Cajuns tied the match 1-1 when Shaun Ellison defeated MT's Anant Sitaram 6-1, 6-2 at No. 5. Rishan Kuruppu then defeated Tarkowski 6-2, 6-0 at No. 6 for his 10th singles victory of the season.

MT went up 3-1 when Schledorn defeated Marc Castellana 6-3, 6-0 at No. 3, but a loss by Short to Kovalev (4-6, 6-2, 6-3) at No. 4 and Jackson's default allowed the Ragin' Cajuns to

tie the match again.

The match came down to the No. 2 contest pitting MT's Andreas Siljestrom against ULL's Robin Ley. Siljestrom took the first set 6-4 before Ley shut out the Swede 6-0 in the second. Siljestrom then captured the final set 6-3 to give the Blue Raiders their first victory since March 8.

"We managed to win ugly today," MT head coach Dale Short told MT Media Relations. "We did not play great tennis. There was a lot of intensity and pressure in the match because a loss would have assured us a low seed in the conference tournament."

The Blue Raiders continued their winning ways against Old Dominion Sunday in another tightly contested

match.

Siljestrom and Aidan Fitzgerald defeated Zoltan Csanadi and Adriano Mello 8-3 in the No. 3 doubles match, but Allan and Schledorn lost 8-6 in the No. 1 contest to the No. 6 doubles team in the nation, Ivan van der Merwe and Nathaniel Grover.

Short and Jackson, however, were able to survive an extended match against Calin Milos and Niklas Oskarsson at No. 2 and win 9-7 to give MT the doubles point.

In singles, No. 18 van der Merwe won 6-4, 6-4 over Jackson at No. 1, while Henrique Cancado defeated Kuruppu 6-0, 6-3 at No. 5 to give the Monarchs a 2-1 lead in the match.

See Victory, 10



Photo by Tiffany Evetts | Staff Photographer
MT senior Kirk Jackson returns a volley Friday against Louisiana-Lafayette.

Cajuns continue conference woes

Blue Raiders break slide with 9-6 win

By Michael Bailey
Staff Writer

The Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns (18-8, 4-1 Sun Belt Conference) improved their SBC record to 4-1 by taking the first two games of a three-game series at Reese Smith Field against host Middle Tennessee.

Since a 6-1 win over Dayton March 19 the Blue Raiders (16-11, 1-4 SBC) are 2-8. According to MT head coach Steve Peterson, a combination of miscues all over the diamond caused the slide.

"We are making fundamental mistakes on defense, we are making physical mistakes pitching, and we are making mental mistakes hitting," Peterson said. "We are about halfway through the season, and the fact of the matter is you have to produce."

Friday night, the Blue Raiders and Ragin' Cajuns engaged in a 14-inning contest, with the visitors ultimately coming out victorious.

"I was hoping we were going to win it in the ninth," MT left fielder Shane Kemp said. "But we didn't get enough timely hits, and we made a few defensive mistakes that cost us the game."

Kemp made considerable contributions to the Blue Raider cause during the four-hour long contest. In the top of the first, he threw out ULL second baseman Justin Merendino, who was attempting to stretch a single into a double.

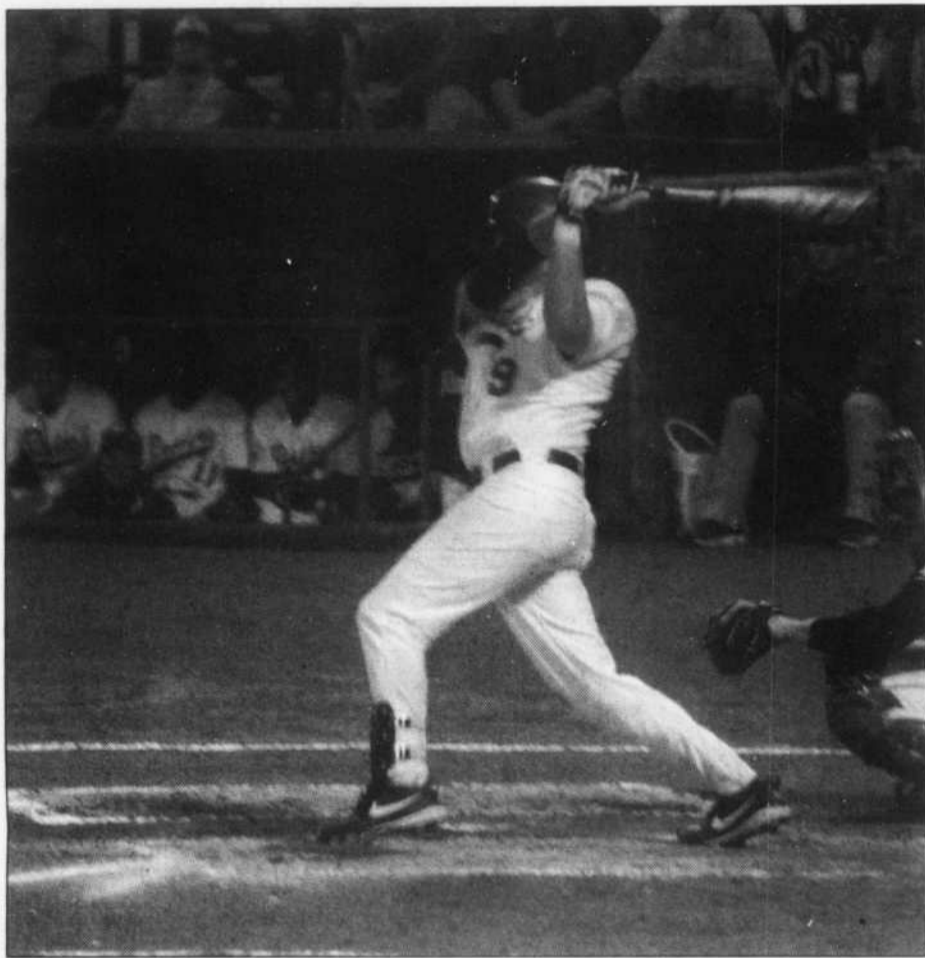


Photo by Julie Madewell | Staff Photographer
MT third baseman Brett Carroll connects in Friday's 6-5 loss to ULL.

In the ninth inning, the Blue Raiders trailed by two runs with one base runner and no outs as ULL reliever Patrick Green threw Kemp a fastball up and in.

Kemp promptly deposited it over the left field fence to tie the game 4-4. MT did not score again in their half of the ninth, and the teams entered the first of several extra innings.

ULL struck next in the top of the 13th

on an MT fielding error. After bobbling a hard grounder by Merendino, MT second baseman Eric McNamee's throw sailed out of junior first baseman Josh Archer's grasp, allowing Lafayette's John Coker to cross home plate to go up 5-4.

With their backs against the wall again, Kemp was faced with another

See Cajuns, 9

Team splits two with Tennessee Tech

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee split the home-and-home series this past week against Tennessee Tech, with each team winning on their home field.

In the first game of the series last Tuesday, MT (16-10, 1-3 Sun Belt Conference)



McNamee

played host at Reese Smith Field. The Blue Raiders got off to a quick start as Eric McNamee doubled down the right field line and scored two batters later by a double from Brett Carroll.

The Blue Raiders scored two more runs in the fifth when Jeff Beachum blasted a home run with McNamee on base to give the Blue Raiders a 3-0 lead.

Jeff Kasser started his first collegiate game and had five shutout innings for the Blue Raiders grabbing the win. TTU had six hits in the game, with Justin Showalter having two of those hits.

The loss for TTU came from pitcher Kyle Copeland, who allowed a base runner in all five innings he pitched, giving up three runs on seven hits. The Blue Raiders grabbed a much-needed 3-0 win, and traveled to TTU's Quillen Field in Cookeville for the final game of the home-and-home series.



Beachum

TTU turned the table on Middle Tennessee in the second and final game of the series last Wednesday. TTU starting pitcher Collins Hughes, who came into the game with a 22.85 earned run average, held the Blue Raiders to two hits in the first six innings of the game.

Shay Horseman took the mound for MT and allowed one run on two hits in five innings of work. The lone run against Horseman came in the fourth inning, when Justin Showalter doubled to left, scoring Brent Bilodeau.

See Split, 10

Lady sluggers sweep Lipscomb in doubleheader

By Matthew Adair
Staff Writer

They can beat them at home, and they can sweep them on the road. At least, that's what the Lady Raiders showed Lipscomb in their second doubleheader of the year.

For a while in game one, however, no one was sure exactly how the contest was going to turn out.

The two teams were tied 1-1 going into the bottom of the sixth when the Lady Bisons took advantage of a single by Sara Meek, plating Kristen Tidwell and giving them the lead over Middle Tennessee 2-1.

The Lady Raiders struck back though and tied the game once more 2-2 with another RBI single by Muriel Ledbetter, her 10th run batted in this season, which brought home Kristina Heib.

MT's pitching held the Lady Bisons scoreless in the game's finale. Crystal Bobo earned the win on the mound while a Lipscomb pitching error allowed MT's Angie Huebner to clear the bases and drive home two runs in a 4-2 win in the first part of the doubleheader.

Bobo is now 6-8 for the season, allowing two runs on seven hits and striking out four.

The Lady Raiders came back strong in the second match, seizing an early lead over Lipscomb as Candis Littrell plated Huebner with a single in the top of the second. MT held the Lady Bisons scoreless

through the first half of the game, earning two more runs as Courtney Mitchell sent the ball over the left field wall.

Mitchell's 230-foot homer was her fifth home run for the season, putting her in fifth place in that category in MT history.

Lipscomb earned its only run of game two when Lady Bison Megan Olsen came home after center fielder Michelle Wilkes dropped the ball. Ledbetter replaced Trish White on the mound after White was called on a balk and shut down Lipscomb's attempt to close the gap with MT by striking out Lauren Parker at the close of the fifth inning.

Frizzell took over the mound once more in the sixth after the Lady Bisons put runners on first and third. Mitchell snatched up a hit to second base, forcing a double play by throwing the ball out to first, where Brittany Herald picked off Lady Bison Julia Davidson.

Frizzell picked up the win with 5 1/3 scoreless innings, giving up one hit and striking out two.

MT secured their lead in the top of the seventh with a two-RBI single by Ledbetter, bringing home Wilkes and Littrell and earning the Lady Raiders the victory.

The Lady Raiders continue their road series next against Birmingham Southern this Tuesday in Birmingham, Ala. First pitch is scheduled for 5 p.m. ♦

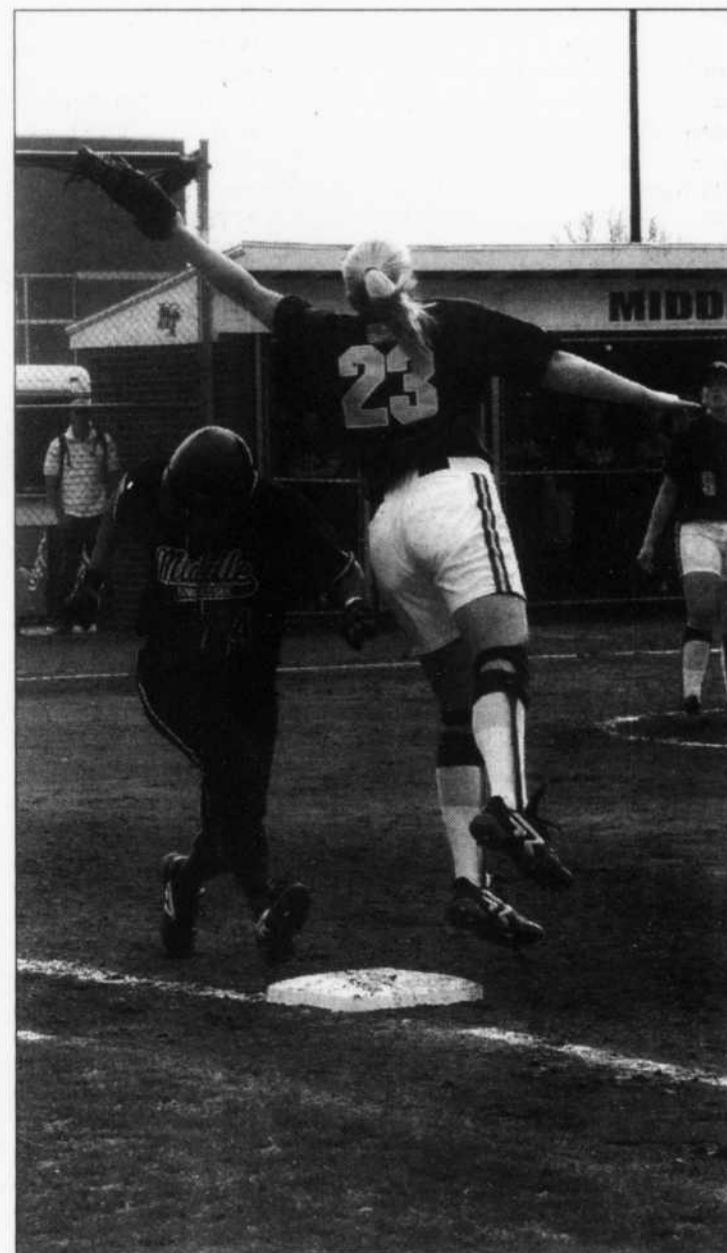


Photo by Julie Madewell | Staff Photographer
MT's Leah Grothouse ducks as Lipscomb's Jennifer Cannon is pulled off the bag in a March 4 doubleheader.

Track squad places in Texas, Georgia

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee track team spent the weekend running in both the Texas Relays and the Yellow Jacket Invitational.

Four runners competed in the Texas Relays in Austin, Texas, in two different events. This foursome brought home second and seventh place finishes. In the 800-meter relay, MT's Sean Waller, Xavier Darden, Tim Hicks and Mardy Scales completed the event in the runner-up spot to Mississippi State. The Blue Raiders finished with a time of 1:23.35, while the Bulldogs ran 1:22.95.

It was the same foursome in the 1600-meter relay, but the running order was changed to Darden, Scales, Hicks and Waller. The team ended the race with a time of 3:07.01, good for seventh place.

"We had a good showing in the 4-by-

200, and anytime you can finish in the top three in the Texas Relays, it's encouraging," Blue Raider assistant coach Roger Kerr told MT Media Relations. "We did not run as well as we would have liked in the 4-by-400, though. We got off to a tough start and were forced to play catch-up. It's disappointing because we hoped to run faster."

The rest of the team was on the campus of Georgia Tech University for the Yellow Jacket Invitational.

Another school record fell this season as Kishara George finished fourth in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 59.23, an NCAA Regional qualifying mark. The old MT record was 59.57.

Another fourth place finish by the Lady Raiders was in the 1600-meter relay. The team of Kerry Barron, Contrena Brown, George and Rosemary Okafor had a time of 3:42.96, an NCAA Regional qualifying mark.

For the men, Garland Martin finished second in the 110-meter hurdles in 14.05 seconds, while Linnie Yarbrough was fourth at 14.12. Both times are NCAA Regional marks.

Martin also had a sixth-place finish in the 400-meter hurdles, with Yarbrough coming in 11th. Wesley Dupar-Scott had an eighth place finish in the 100-meter dash in a time of 10.73.

In the women's 100-meters, Tiffany Owens was 10th at 11.89 seconds, and Karina Francis was one spot behind with a personal record time of 12.05. Nicole Marcus was 15th at 12.06. Owens had a personal record of 24.45 in the 200.

In the field events, Greg Jones finished third in the triple jump. J.J. Sturm finished fifth in the long jump and eighth in the triple jump. Willie Parker set a new school

See Track, 9

Kruse climbs while women lose

By Matthew Adair
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders seem to be stumbling as they prepare to close out their season, taking their sixth loss in the past nine games against South Alabama last Friday in Mobile, Ala.

But as is often the case for the Lady Raiders tennis team, Manon Kruse took a personal victory away from a losing match.

South Alabama jumped to an early lead in doubles play, winning both the No. 2 and No. 3 slots. Klara Jarova and Andrea Kurekova defeated MT's Jennifer Klaschka and Laura McNamara 8-4 at No. 2, while Dominkia Nemcovicova and Marlieke Jager beat Emily Vest and Ana Marie Cibils 8-2 at No. 3.

The Lady Raiders' No. 11 team of Kruse and Carien Venter earned MT's only doubles victory at No. 1, beating Catherine Perkins and Katarina Palenikova 8-4.

The victory gives the Kruse/Venter team a record of 17-1 this spring and also ties Kruse with the current doubles

win record at 86. Kruse has already broken the singles record for the Lady Raiders with a win at Murray State on March 5. The Lady Raiders earned a win in that match, defeating Murray 5-1.

Kruse's record, however, was not enough to help the Lady Raiders in singles play.

The Jaguars took the lead 3-0 with singles victories in the No. 6 and No. 4 positions, but the Lady Raiders attempted a comeback, tying South Alabama when Kruse, Klaschka and McNamara defeated Jager (2-6, 6-1, 6-1), Nemcovicova (7-5, 6-2) and Klara Jarova (6-1, 5-7, 6-3).

The match's decisive game, however, went to the Jaguars. Palenikova defeated Venter in No. 3 singles, giving MT a narrow defeat of 4-3. Venter is 9-7 this season, holding the third highest win percentage of the team at 56.2 percent.

The Lady Raiders will travel to the Sun Belt Tournament to close out the Spring 2004 season April 23-25 in Mobile, Ala. The Sun Belt Conference has yet to release game times and brackets for the competition. ♦

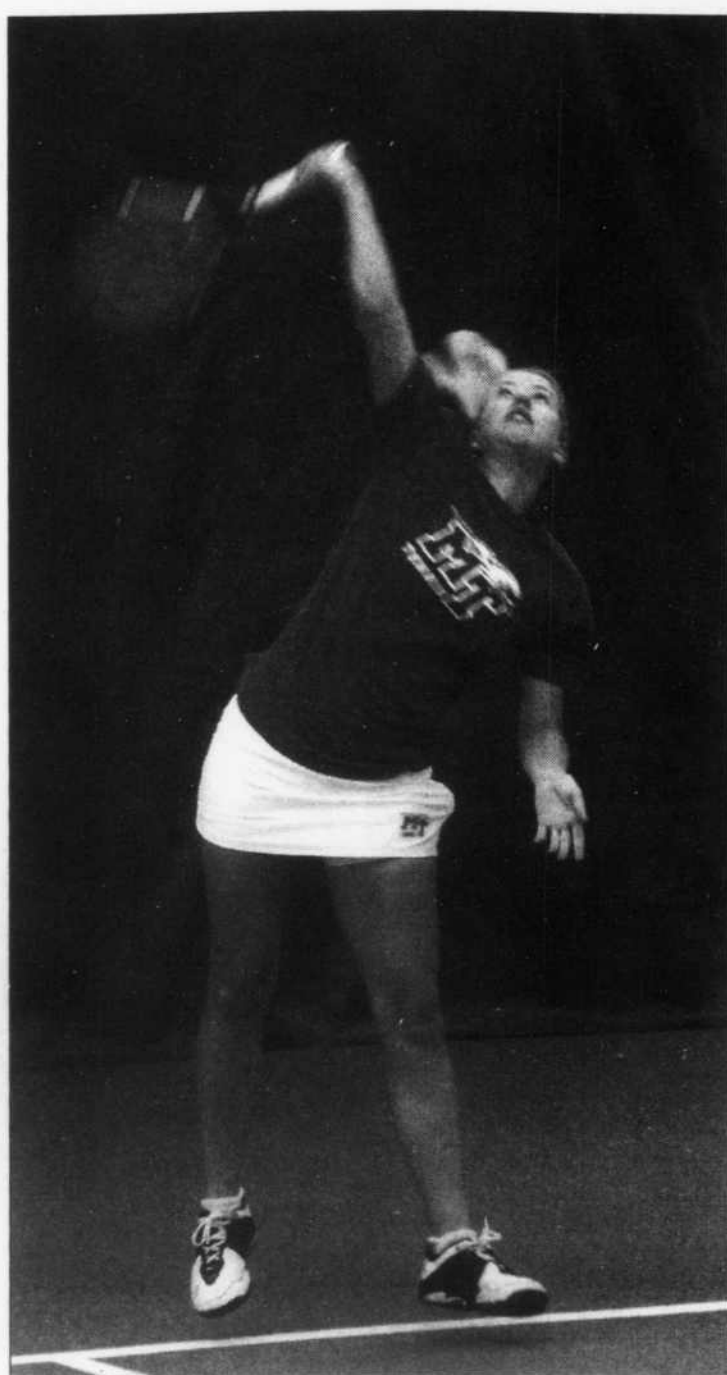


Photo by David Maxwell | Staff Photographer
MT junior Jennifer Klaschka serves in MT's 4-3 loss to Marshall March 28 at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro.

Box Scores MT vs. South Alabama

Singles

1. No. 55 Manon Kruse (MT) def. Marlieke Jager (USA) 2-6, 6-2, 6-1;
2. Jennifer Klaschka (MT) def. Dominkia Nemcovicova (USA) 7-5, 6-2;
3. Katarina Palenikova (USA) def. Carien Venter (MT) 7-6, 6-2;
4. Ana Rupic (USA) def. Ana Maria Cibils (USA) 6-0, 6-3;
5. Laura McNamara (MT) def. Klara Jarova (MT) 6-1, 5-7, 6-3;
6. Andrea Kurekova (USA) def. Emily West (MT) 6-3, 6-1.

Doubles

1. No. 11 Kruse/Venter (MT) def. Perkins/ Palenikova (USA) 8-4
2. Jarova/Kurekova (USA) def. No. 48 Klaschka/McNamara (MT) 8-4
3. Nemcovicova/Jager (USA) def. Vest/Cibils (MT) 8-2

Cajuns: MT now 2-4 in SBC

Continued from 8

game-changing opportunity. With one out, Kemp blasted a hanging curveball onto the facade of Floyd Stadium to tie the game 5-5.

ULL's Coker matched Kemp's late inning heroics when he singled an Eric Blevins pitch to left field that scored teammate Dallas Morris. MT's longest game since 1985 ended 6-5 in favor of the Cajuns.

Saturday, MT showed ill effects of the previous night's disappointing loss as ULL won 9-3 in the conventional nine-inning format.

Blue Raiders starting pitcher John Williams, coming off a 14-strikeout performance at New Mexico State last Saturday, did

not make it past the fourth inning after surrendering five earned runs.

"John didn't have a good fastball or his good breaking ball, and they hit his mistakes," Peterson said. "The difference between the two ball clubs is they are battling and getting a good pitch to hit, and we are not."

Ragin' Cajuns pitchers Ian Pecoraro and Jeff Morgan allowed only seven hits all game and blanked the Blue Raiders over their final five at bats en route to a 9-3 win.

The Blue Raiders won 9-6 Sunday after jumping out to an 8-0 lead in the first inning. *Sidelines* will have the full story in Wednesday's issue. ♦

Track: Two school records fall

Continued from 8

record in the hammer throw with a distance of 139-05, finishing ninth. James Thomas was not far behind in 10th with a throw of 139-0.

For the Lady Raiders, KeKe Deckard finished fourth in the long jump, and Roland Howard added a eighth in the triple jump.

Finally, in the distance

events, Zack Wood and Tarik Thabet both finished fifth in their respective events, Wood in the 3000-meter steeplechase and Thabet in the 3000-meter.

"We did some good things today, and the field was tough," MT head coach Dean Hayes told MT Media Relations.

Middle Tennessee's next meet is next weekend at the Sea Ray Relays on the University of Tennessee campus. ♦

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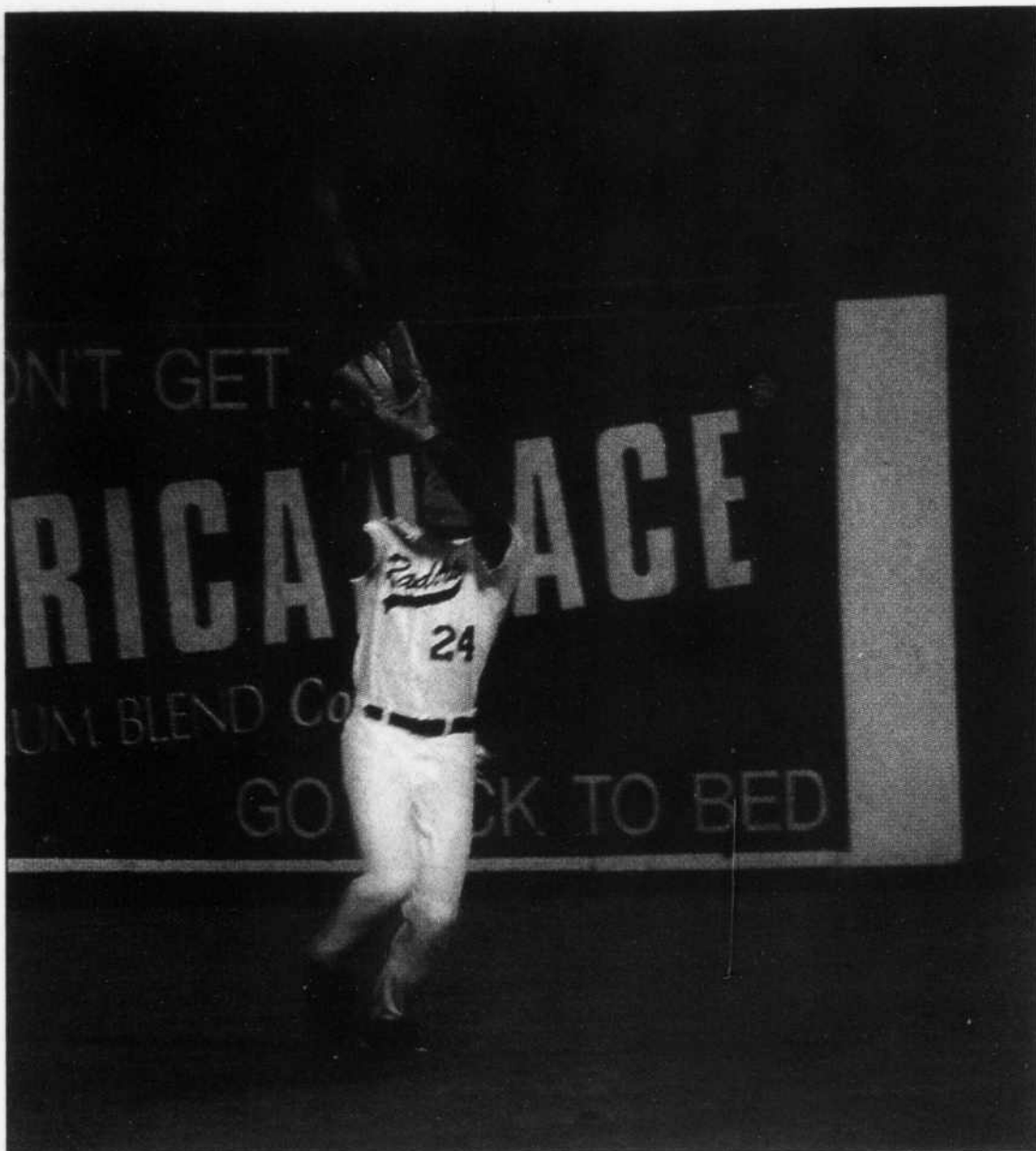


Photo by Tiffany Evetts | Staff Photographer

MT outfielder Shane Kemp catches a ball against Tennessee Tech University March 30.

Split: Golden Eagles win in bottom of ninth

Continued from 8

MT pitcher Eric Blevins was scheduled to start for the Blue Raiders, but did not make the trip due to sickness.

The Blue Raiders tied the game in the top of the seventh when Shane Kemp scored on a double from right fielder Marcus Taylor. MT missed an

opportunity to take the lead in the top of the ninth when, with runners on first and second with one out, TTU relief pitcher Colt Ashman (4-1) held the Blue Raiders to a flyout and a popout.

The deciding run came in the bottom of the ninth, when TTU batter Nathan Marty drove in the winning run off

MT reliever Matt Scott, giving the Golden Eagles a 2-1 victory. Ashman grabbed his fourth win of the season for TTU (4-11), while Scott dropped to 1-1 on the year.

The Blue Raiders travel to Clarksville, Tenn., Wednesday to take on Austin Peay at 6:30 p.m. ♦

Lady Raiders off to Alabama

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

After sweeping the Lipscomb Lady Bisons in a doubleheader Wednesday, the Middle Tennessee Lady Raider softball team will continue play on Tuesday, traveling to Birmingham, Ala., to take on the Birmingham Southern Panthers.

The Panthers have played several more games than the Lady Raiders this season, as they currently stand at 15-22 overall.

Birmingham Southern College hails from the Big South Conference and will be eligible for postseason play this season after sitting out a provisional year for the NCAA.

Despite having only one senior on the roster, the Panthers have five talented pitchers and have played excellent defense all season, holding opponents to 2.92 runs per game.

Ami Rodgers (2.07 earned run average, 17 strikeouts) and Erin Haggard (0.75 earned run average) lead the pitching staff, which has a collective 2.55 earned run average with 157 strikeouts. Opponents are batting .246 against the staff with 49 extra base hits.

Offensively, Nikki Rombough and Jennifer Wellborn lead the Panthers.

Rombough, last year's NCAA Division I Independent Rookie of the Year, has started all 37 games in the infield and currently leads the team in batting with a .318 average and 35 hits.

Wellborn leads the team in almost every other offensive category. The freshman catcher has 13

runs, seven doubles, four home runs and 45 total bases.

MT will look to counter BSC's youth with the leadership of several upperclassmen, including senior Cortney Mitchell. Mitchell, who was recently named the Sun Belt Conference's Hitter of the Week, hit her fifth home run of the season in last week's contest with Lipscomb. The two-run blast moved Mitchell to fifth place in the Lady Raider record book for home runs in a season.

Mitchell also had a huge Spring Break, going seven for 12 from the plate with five runs batted in.

After a 6-5 victory over Alabama-Birmingham March 23, Mitchell expressed her confidence in this year's team.

"We've had a tough week on the road, and the second game [against UAB] was a definite gut check," Mitchell told MT Media Relations. "Coming back like that showed the team what kind of pride we do have."

Crystal Bobo will likely defend that pride on the mound against BSC. Bobo leads the team in innings pitched, strikeouts, appearances and starts. She has a 2.38 earned run average.

The Lady Raiders now stand at 14-12 on the season and will look to cap off their road trip with wins over BSC and Western Kentucky. The team will travel to Bowling Green, Ky., for its first SBC games, taking on the Lady Toppers in doubleheaders on Friday and Saturday. ♦



Mitchell



Bobo

Victory: Siljestrom lands final blow twice

Continued from 8

Trevor Short defeated Mello 6-4, 7-6 (3) at No. 4, and Schledorn won a three-set match (2-6, 6-4, 6-4) over Milos at No. 3 to even the match for the Blue Raiders.

The deciding match once again involved Siljestrom, who lost the first set 6-0 to Csanadi

at No. 2 and fought off two match points in a 7-6 (7) win in the second set.

Siljestrom used his newly found momentum to capture the third set 6-4 and give the Blue Raiders the victory.

Sitaram led Niklas Oskarsson 4-0 in the third set of the No. 6 match before Siljestrom's win.

"We really battled today, starting with the doubles," Dale Short told MT Media Relations after the match. "It was good to see a team that was really bleeding heading into the weekend work so hard and get two wins."

The Blue Raiders go on to face Vanderbilt University in Nashville Wednesday at 2 p.m. ♦

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