

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 30, 2002



Partly Cloudy



Sweet treats

In flash*, inside



Blue Raiders seeking second Sun Belt Conference victory

In Sports, 6

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

How would you describe the media coverage of the Washington, D.C., sniper crisis?

An editorially independent newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

Volume 78 No. 39

Campus Briefs

Homecoming schedule set for November

Homecoming 2002 will take place on Nov. 16 this year, and will be preceded by a week's worth of competitive events.

The MTSU Alumni Association will sponsor some of the events, while the Student Government Association will sponsor others.

On Nov. 12, there will be a carnival on the Keathley University Center Knoll from 11 a.m. to 3 a.m.

On Nov. 15, there will be a Homecoming Golf Tournament at Indian Hills Golf Course at 12 p.m. with a 10:30 a.m. registration time.

Cost is \$75 per person, and forms are available at www.mtalumni.com.

There will be a Chili Cook-off in the Murphy Center at 5:30 p.m. with a Raider Rally at 7 p.m.

Homecoming day will begin with breakfast with President Sidney McPhee at 8:30 a.m. in the Alumni Center. The Homecoming parade will start at 10 a.m. beginning Tennessee Boulevard.

The Homecoming football game against Louisiana-Monroe begins at 2:30 p.m. in Floyd Stadium.

Admission application deadline set for spring

Officials have announced that Dec. 15 will be the deadline to apply for admission to MTSU for the spring 2003 semester.

The reasons cited were an increase in the quantity and quality of people applying to attend the university.

Hand-delivered and online applications must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. Dec. 13, while all other applications need only have a postmark of Dec. 15 or earlier.

Prospective students should apply no later than early January in order to register in time for classes. Applications received and processed after Dec. 15 will go on a waiting list.

For more information, call 898-2111.

Blood drive to be held at University Center

The American Red Cross, along with the School of Nursing and the Office of Greek Life, is sponsoring a blood drive Nov. 11.

The drive will be held on the third floor of the Keathley University Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Free T-shirts will be given to everyone who donates a unit of blood.

For more information, please contact Madeline Methvin of the American Red Cross at 893-4272.

Federal funding up in Rutherford County

Tennessee received \$1.20 for every dollar its taxpayers sent to the federal government in 2001, according to U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon. Rutherford County received a total of \$869.8 million.

This is a 111 percent increase over the amount the county received from the government in 1995. ♦

Ballot to resurrect plus/minus issue

By Juanita Thouin
Staff Writer

Should the plus/minus grading system be abolished at Middle Tennessee State University?

This is the question students will address during a referendum vote Nov. 4-6.

Last year, students voted on a plus/minus referendum that confused voters by asking if they were "for" or "against" the

referendum.

This year's electoral act has been simplified so students know exactly how their vote will count. To the question, "Should the plus/minus grading system be abolished at MTSU?" students will be given the option of answering "yes" or "no." A "yes" vote would mean the student wants the plus/minus grading system eliminated.

Ever since its inception in the fall of 2001, the plus/minus

grading system has drawn criticism from students. According to Student Government Association Senator Ryan Saylor, a sophomore aerospace major, the problem lies in its effect on scholarships and final transcripts.

Saylor argues that, in some instances, a single grade of B- can pull a GPA from 3.0 to 2.9—enough to warrant the loss of a scholarship requiring 3.0 or better.

However, Dean of Graduate Studies Don Curry points out that, in the only two complaints to his office, when he recalculated the students' grades under the old system, both individuals actually had their GPA go down instead of up.

Saylor noted that, in addition to the scholarship issue, there is concern over transcripts. He said he worries that, because the plus/minus system isn't applied across the board,

admission counselors for graduate schools or transfer colleges can't adequately interpret a student's academic record. He further argues that a grade of B might actually indicate the same level of achievement as a B+. But because one teacher used the plus/minus system and another didn't, those reading the transcript can't draw that conclusion.

See Grades, 2

Murphy Center hosts author

By Stephanie Hill
Staff Writer

Award-winning author and musician James McBride addressed a crowd of more than 200 people Monday at the Murphy Center, reading excerpts from his book, *The Color of Water* and discussing individuality.

McBride, who was originally scheduled to speak at the Presidential Convocation in August but missed his flight to Nashville, visits 10 to 12 schools each year between the months of September and November.

"I love coming to the South," McBride said. "There are good kids down here."

His book, which spent two years on *The New York Times* bestseller list, tells the story of his white, Jewish mother raised in the South, who fled to Harlem, married a black man in 1942 and struggled to raise 12 children.

"I think that people connect to this book because everyone

relates to the common factor—having a mother-like figure ... raising you and showing you that their love is dominant," McBride said.

He explained that his book began as a magazine assignment in Boston, Mass., that was published as a short story on Mother's Day in 1982.

"I gave it to my mother, and she didn't kill me. So I decided to write a book about it," he said.

Writing the book took extensive traveling to Suffolk, Va., as well as interviewing his mother.

"My mom is a very simple person," McBride said. "I think she was worried that her kids would not respect her as much after learning about her past. But we respect and love her even more now after learning about her life and the struggles she endured."

McBride also said he learned many surprising things about his mother while conducting

See McBride, 2



Photo by Steve Cross | Photo Editor

Author and musician James McBride plays to a crowd of 200 in the Murphy Center yesterday.

Editor, professor debate God's presence in morality

By Lindsey Turner
Editor in Chief

It might not normally seem so, but the editor of a secular humanist magazine and a professor of Christian Studies hold more similar views than not.

They just disagree on one fundamental point: that morality can exist without God.

Tom Flynn, editor of *Free Inquiry* magazine, and Randall Bush, professor of philosophy and Christian Studies at Union University, hold similar views, however, regarding legislating morality, the importance of history and the detrimental role of religious "brainwashing."

In a discussion Monday night in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building, Flynn and Bush hashed out the question of God and morality

and answered questions for a crowd of about 80.

Bush, raised in a conservative Baptist home, said that God—as the creator of all—is by default the origin and source for morality. Bush noted that, epistemologically, however, morality is possible without belief in God.

Bush's Christian beliefs, which Flynn labeled "command morality," lead him and others who follow a similar doctrine to do good, moral things because God says they should.

Flynn, who turned away from Roman Catholicism, asserts that command morality is mostly self-centered and focuses on what that morality can bring the individual—in Christianity, salvation.

"What I'm here to represent tonight is an approach to moral

decision-making that is rooted in this world, in this life, and that looks primarily at consequentialism," Flynn said.

Consequentialism relies on history, experience and tradition to establish standard moral codes, Flynn said.

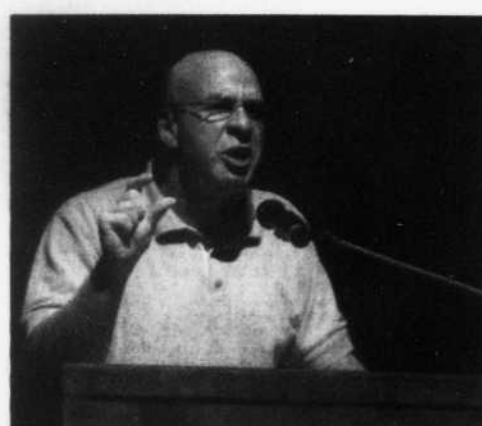
He said years of work have led humans to adopt and recognize core standards of morality that discourage killing, hurting, stealing and other "immoral" acts. Such "schoolyard morality" doesn't change, he said, even through-out periods of various religious dominance.

Both men asserted that history is of great importance when trying to determine the nature and validity of moral codes.

Americans tend to want to

See Morality, 2

Marijuana debated



Photos by Chris Nichols | Staff Photographer

Robert Stutman (left), of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and Steve Hager (right), editor in chief of *High Times* magazine, hash it out at last night's debate. The event was organized by the Ideas and Issues Committee.

By Jason Cox
Managing Editor

The benefits and drawbacks of marijuana and drug policy were debated in front of a full Tucker Theatre last night.

"Heads vs. Feds" featured Steve Hager, the editor of *High Times* magazine and an advocate of legalizing marijuana, and Robert Stutman, a former Drug Enforcement Agency agent once targeted by the

Colombian Cartel for assassination. Topics covered included the comparison of the government's policy on pot to that of alcohol and tobacco, its legitimacy as a medicine and whether it is a valid part of religious and spiritual ceremonies.

"In the end, we will have far more users if we legalize any drug," Stutman said, "and I personally believe that the negative

See Marijuana, 2

Faculty discuss purpose of Regents Online program

By Juanita Thouin
Staff Writer

In response to reported MTSU faculty concerns regarding the Tennessee Regents Online Degree Program, top administrators of the program answered a myriad of questions during a campus visit yesterday.

The biggest complaint among instructors was the amount of time involved in teaching an online class. Because online courses naturally lack the face-to-face interaction available in a regular classroom setting, teachers spend an extensive amount of time answering e-mail.

One MTSU online instructor noted that students in her virtual classroom expected "round-the-clock e-mail contact."

"The time difference is very, very critical," said another online instructor.

"We are looking at the issues of time, including virtual office hours," said Robbie Melton, the online degree program's associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs.

One solution being studied is class size. Currently, the average online class consists of 25 students. Administrators concede that, for certain disciplines, this may create too heavy a workload.

Only in its second full year of operation, the Regents Online Degree Program is growing at a tremendous rate. In the first year of operation, it drew 1,954 enrollees from across the state. This fall, the program enrolled 5,542 students.

As a statewide university program offering associate and bachelor's degrees, RODP consists strictly of online courses.

See Online, 2

Morality: History teaches lessons of morality



Photo by Chris Nichols | Staff Photographer
Ron Bush (left) and Tom Flynn (right) debate the origins of morality last night in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room. John Vile moderated moderated the event.

Continued from 1

forget the past instead of examining and learning from it, Bush said, adding that forgetting about history and its consequences can lead to a tendency for humans to incite change for change's sake — something not always beneficial to humans, he said.

Bush argued, however, that experience and rationality don't always provide humans with all the tools needed to make moral decisions, and that people can't always know where they're going just because of where they've been. When reason fails, Bush said, God can help.

Both Bush and Flynn expressed disappointment with the level of misunderstanding, misinformation and lack of education surrounding religion, particularly that exhibited by

religious believers who misinterpret scripture and pull it out of context to fit their own needs.

"Who would ever dream of reading Charles Dickens ... in that way?" Bush asked, noting that those who flip around in the Bible and pull out passages and infer meaning are ignoring the other, perhaps larger meanings within the book.

Bush said some Christians seem to believe that the Bible fell out of Heaven intact, in King James English, and that they aren't away of the translation discrepancies, the additional books of the Bible and other historical circumstances surrounding the book and its contents.

Both men agreed that people who appropriate scripture for their own good tarnish the efforts of those who profess to be true, loving Christians.

"Religion can have a very evil

face to it," Bush said.

Both men acknowledged that humans don't have the faculties to fully understand or comprehend an afterlife or most things associated with a creator.

Bush said his beliefs require a leap of faith, but that his worship brings him comfort and a peace that rationality doesn't. Flynn, an atheist, said he would rather focus on this life and its offerings, learning and achieving as much as he can.

"As imperfect as our understanding is, it's all we have and we have to make the best of it," Flynn said.

The discussion, moderated by political science professor John Vile, was sponsored by the Campus Freethought Alliance and Baptist Collegiate Ministries. ♦

McBride: Guest speaker stresses love of major

Continued from 1

interviews around Suffolk.

"I learned that my mother hung out a lot as a young person. She 'swung loosely' — we always thought she was just this Bible-thumping lady, but she was kind of a wild child too," the author said.

"The book also allowed her to open up about her life and talk about her family who considered her 'dead,' since she strayed from them so long ago."

McBride read excerpts from his book and told accompanying stories about his family to the crowd.

"Although this is a tribute to my mother," he explained to the

crowd, "I want to express the fact that I had a father and a step-father, both working class men, in my life. I was not raised, for most of my life, in a one parent home."

McBride also stressed the importance of majoring in a field that you like and will enjoy working in and not to be afraid to fail in life.

"You have earned the right to fail," he said. "As a college student, you have leaped from your communities to college to better yourselves. But unless you learn to fail, you can't be successful."

"Failure teaches you success. Study what you like. Do what you want to do in order to make our country a better place."

His jazz band also performed several songs.

"Music brought me peace — it was something I could do on my own," McBride said.

"Jazz makes me feel the freest. It is the most democratic form of music in that it is all over the world."

"Writing *The Color of Water* gave me a sense of peace about myself, since I never really knew who I was."

"It also rid my mother of all the secrets she had as well as reuniting my mother's sister and her together once, again, allowing my mother to ask for forgiveness in abandoning her sister so many years ago." ♦

Online: Degree programs on rise in nation

Continued from 1

consists strictly of online courses. Students select the university or college they want to graduate from, but then take courses offered by any of the participating schools.

"Society is no longer expecting only 10 or 20 percent (of its future workforce) to go to college," said TBR Chancellor Charles Manning. "Suddenly, it's 70 or 80 percent."

"How do we reach more students in a more economical way? I don't have all the answers. But one way is through technology," Manning said.

When faculty began to raise concerns, MTSU President Sidney McPhee took a keen interest in seeing problematic issues clearly addressed.

McPhee was instrumental in developing the program when he was employed as vice chancellor for the TBR.

"My support of this program is strong and unequivocal," McPhee said.

While online degree programs are on the rise nationwide, Tennessee's program is not intended to replace the traditional classroom setting. Targeted students are older adults who have full-time jobs and families and can't attend campus classes. Less than 20 percent of those enrolled in RODP fall into the traditional age group for students.

While Tennessee can boast of increasing the number of college educated persons in the 25- to 64-year-old range, creating a program that meshes with the

outside demands of this population presents some unique challenges.

One of the challenges is keeping students from dropping out.

"Retention has increased but it's still not where we want it to be," said Rosemary Owens, MTSU dean of Continuing Studies.

The national retention rate is 47 percent. RODP's retention rate is 65 percent.

Other problems addressed were the mandated software the program uses and additional financial compensation for the added workload.

According to Manning, assessment of the program and how it can be improved continues to be a top priority for the administrative staff. ♦

Marijuana: Stutman says spirituality claim fraudulent

Continued from 1

consequences of a significant number of more users are even worse than the system we have today if we fix it," citing that more than 160,000 adolescents referred themselves for treatment for marijuana dependency last year.

He added that, should the tide of scientific or judicial opinion change toward advocating legalization, he would support it because he is "a believer in democracy." Stutman challenged audience members who advocated legalization to vote and get involved in government to make changes to the policies they disagreed with.

"If you want to challenge the system," Stutman said, "be willing to change the system and follow the lead of Dr. [Martin Luther] King."

"I [initially] thought marijuana must be bad for you because it's fun," Hager said. "It really wasn't the big problem they said it was. It just was a

very serious, important issue [and] I'm in it for the long haul now."

In the debate, Stutman quoted a Gallup poll that said 67 percent of the American public thinks that marijuana should be illegal.

"I don't believe anyone should be thrown in prison for the use of any drug," he added.

"We actually incarcerate a tiny number of people who are arrested for possession for your own use," Stutman said. "Of all the people in state prisons in the U.S., less than half of 1 percent are there for mere simple possession."

Hager came back at Stutman with numbers citing that more than 720,000 people were arrested for marijuana last year, with 80 percent of these arrests for simple possession.

"What prisons do is they create crime," Hager said. "We've got to stop thinking that prison is a solution to the problem."

Hager said legalization would eliminate the profit from the marijuana trade and, in

turn, eliminate the corruption that causes violent crime related to that trade.

"Take the profit out of it," he said.

Both Stutman and Hager said that the clause in the Higher Education Act of 1998 that cuts off student financial aid to anyone convicted of a drug offense is a bad policy.

"I think we're both against targeting people who use cannabis for special recriminations," Hager said. "Those laws are improper because we don't do those things to people who create violent crime."

"I think that drug convictions should be treated as all other criminal convictions," Stutman said.

"I don't see lives destroyed by marijuana the same way I see lives destroyed by alcohol," Hager said in response to a question from the audience about the legitimacy of keeping marijuana illegal while tobacco and alcohol are legal. He said that the use of alcohol and tobacco will go down as mari-

CRIME LOG	
<p>Wednesday, Oct. 16 – 2:18 p.m. Theft under \$500 – recovered Recreation Center Stolen book bag recovered</p> <p>Wednesday, Oct. 16 – 3:42 p.m. Arrest Old Main Circle David Phillips received a state citation for driving on a revoked license.</p> <p>Thursday, Oct. 17 – 7:55 a.m. Leaving scene of accident Cope Administration Parking A MTSU work truck was hit while its driver was absent.</p> <p>Thursday, Oct. 17 – 4:41 p.m. Vandalism Greek Row A car had its windshield smashed.</p> <p>Thursday, Oct. 17 – 5:12 p.m. Possible suicide – prevented McFarland Health Services</p>	<p>A possibly suicidal male subject was transported to Middle Tennessee Medical Center, guidance services notified.</p> <p>Tuesday, Oct. 22 – 12:44 p.m. Theft Beasley Hall A bike was stolen.</p> <p>Tuesday, Oct. 22 – 7:52 p.m. Vandalism Sims Hall Student patrol assisted a lady in reporting her car's three flat tires. Public Safety investigated possible "foul play."</p> <p>Thursday, Oct. 24 – 5:01 p.m. Threats and trespassing warning Greenland Drive Lot An alleged reporter from Knoxville supposedly threatened a parking attendant and fled to Murphy Center. Once located, he was escorted from campus and received a trespass warning.</p>

Grades: Referendum on Homecoming ballot

Continued from 1

At the urging of SGA President Brandon Robbins, MTSU President Sidney McPhee has been investigating the controversial grading system. His findings indicate 51 percent of the faculty use the plus/minus system for all of their classes. Eleven percent use it for some of their classes. And 30 percent do not employ the grading system at all.

Although concerned about having such a variance in usage, McPhee has elected not to reverse, at this point in time, the faculty decision on plus/minus grading.

"I'm very cautious about — for lack of a better word — meddling in matters that are the prerogative of the faculty," McPhee said.

He and Diane Miller, vice provost for Academic Affairs,

speak with one voice on this issue. Both said they feel the system hasn't been implemented long enough to draw any real conclusions about its advantages and disadvantages.

"I'm inclined to recommend all faculty use it or get rid of it altogether," McPhee said. "But we need a better understanding of all the issues and concerns."

"We need to know whether it works for or against the student," Miller said.

McPhee welcomes a student vote on the proposed Senate referendum.

"Obviously, student input is one variable we will take into consideration," he said.

According to Jennifer Dooley, Faculty Senate president, the official stance of the Faculty Senate is that grading decisions should be left up to the instructors. She did say, however, that it's been a while

since the Senate actively discussed the plus/minus grading system and revisiting the issue would not be out of the question.

Curry suggests that, before placing their vote, students calculate their own grades — both with and without the plus/minus grading — to see if the system is working to their advantage.

Quality points and a guide to figuring GPA can be found on page 52 of the 2001-2003 undergraduate catalog.

The SGA referendum will be voted on at the same time that students cast ballots for homecoming king and queen — Nov. 4-6.

To vote, students must log onto MTSU's WebMT. There they will find a SGA voting icon. Student ID and password must be entered, ensuring each student votes only once. ♦

War takes economic toll

By Michael Haynes
Staff Writer

Economist and former President of the Atlanta Federal Reserve William Ford discussed the possible economic effects of an attack upon Iraq during Monday's honors lecture.

The Sept. 11 attacks had a direct impact of \$40 billion, half of which will be paid by foreign insurers, Ford said.

Since the attacks, there have been multiple indirect impacts including the effects on airlines, which profoundly affected the tourism industry as well.

Airlines saw a decline in ridership immediately following Sept. 11 as people were afraid to travel by plane or wanted to avoid the hassles of airport screening.

"If we were to attack Iraq, the three major airlines will be bankrupt," Ford said.

There would likely be a decline in ridership, and there would be a significant increase in petroleum prices to about \$40 per barrel.

"We're already seeing a spike in oil prices for the possible interruption of oil supplies," Ford said.

The Sept. 11 attacks profoundly impacted financial markets and have had the greatest impact on the economy.

"The stock markets were starting to falter; since then they have seriously collapsed," Ford said.

"401-K plans, some have joked, are now 201-K plans because they've lost almost half their value."

Ford said the terrorist attacks have also affected the way Americans live their lives and the way they run businesses and universities.

Before Sept. 11, businesses had emergency planning to protect against acts of God and attacks on corporate infrastructure.

"Most of them weren't very serious because they cost a lot of money," Ford said.

"Since 9-11, there has been a surge of demand for office space in New York because corporations, even the ones that are staying in New York — many aren't — are moving out and setting up duplicate facilities outside of Manhattan Island."

The duplicate facilities are designed to safeguard corporate data against a potential attack so that the corporation would

not be incapacitated.

Hundreds of billions of dollars have been spent on hardening-up the higher infrastructure in America.

These expenditures, which include airport security, security in public and private buildings and security officers, are what economists call dead-weight loss, Ford said.

"For everyone who has to buy that stuff, it just adds to their costs," Ford added.

The expenditures on security divert money from employee training, benefits and wages and salary.

Furthermore the added security impacts more productivity as well, due to long queues at security points.

The attacks have also affected fiscal and monetary policy. The federal government has gone from a \$129 billion surplus the previous fiscal year to a deficit of \$159 billion this fiscal year; this represents a change of \$288 billion.

The federal government's fiscal year is Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

Ford predicts that the federal deficit will be \$175 billion this forthcoming year, but this figure does not include the cost of a war. ♦

"I don't see lives destroyed by marijuana the same way I see lives destroyed by alcohol."

— Steve Hager,
Editor in Chief of High Times

juana use goes up.

"I'm not a big supporter of alcohol," Stutman said.

"We made two mistakes [with alcohol and tobacco], adding a third drug would just be another mistake."

Stutman also said that prohibition of alcohol, while it failed as public policy, was "a huge public health success. Virtually every disease, both mental and physical, tied to alcoholism declined by about 50 percent."

A staple of Hager's argument were the medical benefits of the marijuana plant.

"There are people who are alive today because they used marijuana as medicine," Hager said, citing the benefits of

cannabis to people suffering from glaucoma, multiple sclerosis and AIDS, among other diseases.

"You will grow free medicine if you put those seeds in the ground."

Hager added that a federal court ruled yesterday that "the [federal] government should get out of arresting the sick in California."

Stutman countered by saying that "most of you don't have glaucoma," adding that a recent study states that marijuana smoking can have negative effects on depth perception for the same reason that marijuana helps glaucoma patients — the release of pressure on the opti-

cal nerve. Stutman also offered a statistic that marijuana smoke contains five times the carcinogens in tobacco that cause throat and lung cancer. He also said that AIDS deaths are doubled by marijuana use because of the deleterious effects of marijuana smoke on the immune system.

He said that marijuana should be subjected to the same processes and tests that medical drugs are currently subjected to.

Another issue discussed was spirituality and marijuana and how the two are related.

"Marijuana is an intrinsic part of my culture," Hager said. "I believe these plants are here from God. He added that many members of the counter-culture consider marijuana to be an important part of their spirituality."

Stutman countered by saying that, for most marijuana users, "the issue of spirituality is a façade."

MTSU Ideas and Issues Committee sponsored the debate. ♦



WORLD BRIEFS

Compiled By Patrick Chinnery - Assistant News Editor



Snipers killed elsewhere before D.C. attacks

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — Long before a series of sniper attacks terrorized the suburbs of Washington, D.C., police say the suspected gunmen may have begun their reign of terror on the West Coast with the slaying of a Tacoma woman and a shooting at a synagogue.

Authorities said Monday they had linked John Allen Muhammad and John Lee Malvo to the February shooting death of a 21-year-old woman whose aunt once worked for Muhammad's auto repair business.

Police also identified the pair as suspects in a May shooting at a Tacoma synagogue in which no one was injured.

The connection to Muhammad and Malvo is based on information from a Tacoma man who came forward last week and told authorities he loaned the pair his guns. Ballistics tests matched the weapons to slugs found at both shooting scenes.

Malvo, 17, and Muhammad, 41, currently face murder charges in both Virginia and Maryland in the three-week series of attacks that killed 10 people and wounded three.

Tacoma Police Chief David Brame said a man contacted the FBI last week and told authorities he'd allowed Muhammad and Malvo to borrow his weapons, including a .45-caliber semiautomatic handgun, while the pair were staying with him earlier this year.

U.S. wins support from weapons inspectors

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Giving some needed support to the United States, top weapons inspectors backed delivering a tough U.N. warning to Saddam Hussein.

They insisted it was up to the Security Council, not inspectors, to decide on war or peace in Iraq.

At a Security Council meeting on Monday, the inspectors

also made clear they'd like some changes in the new inspection regime envisioned by the United States.

But the key issue remains the dispute in the council over whether a new U.S. draft resolution gives a green light for the use of force against Iraq.

The inspectors' comments laid the basis for ongoing negotiations, beginning in capitals of key Security Council nations on Tuesday and wrapping up late in the day at another full council meeting.

The United States has been pressing for a vote this week on its draft resolution, but administration officials said Monday it could be pushed back a week. That would delay a high-stakes showdown in the divided council until after the Nov. 5 U.S. congressional elections.

North Korea refuses to give up nuclear program

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — North Korea rejected demands that it give up its nuclear weapons program Tuesday, marring the country's first talks with Japan in two years on establishing diplomatic ties, Japanese officials said.

Since the North admitted earlier this month that it had a project for developing nuclear arms, Japan has insisted that scrapping the program was a precondition for normalization between the longtime rivals.

The two days of talks, which opened Tuesday, have also been overshadowed by the issue of the North's abductions of Japanese in the 1970 and 1980s. The North's negotiators on Tuesday accused Japan of breaking a promise that five surviving abductees — now on their first trip back home — would be returned to North Korea.

During the talks, the North "completely denied" calls for the country to give up its nuclear weapons program, a senior Japanese delegation official said on condition of anonymity.

Bush signing bill to revamp voting machines, educate

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is signing legislation to revamp the nation's voting system and protect against the kinds of errors that threw his own election into dispute two years ago.

The White House scheduled a morning bill-signing ceremony for Tuesday, starting Bush's two-day respite from campaigning for GOP House, Senate and gubernatorial candidates in next Tuesday's elections.

Under the Martin Luther King Jr. Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act of 2002, states will receive \$3.9 billion in federal money over the next three years to replace outdated punch-card and lever voting machines or improve voter education and poll-worker training.

The new law's protections against voting error will not affect next week's balloting but are scheduled to be mostly implemented in time for the 2004 congressional and presidential vote.

Al-Qaida an effective fund-raiser around world

WASHINGTON (AP) — Al-Qaida draws much of its income from contributions by a worldwide network of individuals and charities, including some in the United States, the CIA says.

"The organization tries to raise funds from mosques, Islamic charities and individuals — rich and poor — throughout much of the world," a recently released CIA statement said. "This has helped corroborate our view that al-Qaida relies on a steady stream of contributions."

The capture of al-Qaida operatives and the dismantling of the group's camps and bases in Afghanistan has provided U.S. intelligence with a greater understanding of its financial operations, particularly the emphasis al-Qaida places on fund raising, according to the

statement, which was written in April.

2003 model cars show decline in fuel economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Those shiny new 2003 model cars headed for showrooms average 20.8 miles per gallon, about 6 percent below the high point for passenger vehicle fuel economy set 15 years ago.

Back before Americans thirsted for gas-gulping sport utility vehicles, 1987 and 1988 models averaged 22.1 mpg.

Among the highest achievers, the percentage of vehicles getting more than 30 mpg drop to 4 percent from 6 percent a year ago. Only 33 of the 934 cars, trucks and vans listed in the 2003-model annual fuel economy statistics released Tuesday by the Environmental Protection Agency are that efficient. That compares with 48 of the 865 2002 models.

Moscow siege shows dark side of chemical weapons

WASHINGTON (AP) — The deadly end to a Moscow hostage crisis illustrates the dangers of using incapacitating gases, a type of weapon the Pentagon has suspended research on to avoid violating a chemical weapons ban.

Still, U.S. officials have not criticized Russia for using the gas that killed more than 100 of the 800-plus hostages being held in a Moscow theater by rebels from Russia's embattled Chechnya region.

American military and diplomatic officials said Monday the gas was an opium derivative, part of a class of drugs that researchers suggested two years ago the Pentagon should investigate for development as nonlethal weapons.

Russian authorities have refused to identify the substance used, even keeping in the dark doctors trying to treat freed hostages sickened by the gas.

Hundreds remained hospitalized Monday, including more than four dozen in critical condition.

Israeli troops kill fugitive, demolish homes

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Israeli troops killed a suspected Islamic militant in his hideout and demolished the home of another Hamas suspect in separate raids Tuesday in the West Bank, Palestinian witnesses said.

Also in the West Bank, soldiers dismantled Havat Gilead, an illegal Jewish settlement outpost, without resistance from about 20 settlers living there. Last week, settlers scuffled with soldiers trying to drag them away.

A growing dispute over settlements is threatening to bring down Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's coalition government

and force early elections.

Coleman's problem: How to tackle Minnesota legend

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Republican Senate candidate Norm Coleman will find himself up against a revered figure in Minnesota politics if former Vice President Walter Mondale runs as expected in place of the late Sen. Paul Wellstone.

Political experts say Coleman, the former St. Paul mayor, will have to use everything he has to overcome the affection many Minnesotans have for Mondale and the sympathy vote he is sure to get.

Moreover, Coleman will have only four or five days to make a case against Mondale, whose late entry into the race could, paradoxically, give him a powerful advantage. ♦

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OPINIONS

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, October 30, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board Legalization requires supporter effort

Prohibition – an antiquated-sounding concept – is still alive and well in America, much to the dismay of freedom fighters, pot-heads and generally rational individuals.

The United States' stance on marijuana prohibition was debated last night by *High Times* editor Steve Hager and Drug Enforcement Administration veteran Robert Stutman.

Hager, a proponent for legalization, said prohibition creates more crime because it establishes a black market system in which prices inflate and people commit crimes to gain access to drugs.

Stutman, however, argued that – though he doesn't take issue with marijuana smokers – the detrimental effects of legalization outweigh any benefits that may come of it.

Stutman neglects to acknowledge that, because marijuana is relegated to a black market, that it is naturally going to be associated with harder, more dangerous drugs such as crack, heroin and cocaine because it is sometimes sold in the same markets.

Stutman, surprisingly, is against the clause of the Higher Education Act of 1998, which denies federal financial aid to students with drug convictions on their records.

Both Hager and Stutman agreed that the only way for marijuana prohibition to end is for legalization supporters to get involved.

It might be hard to fathom, but a former DEA man is actually right: the only way to achieve the goal of legalized marijuana is for believers in freedom to remove their mouths from the bong and go out, get involved and challenge the system. ♦

Regaining livelihood after atrocity



Wit and Wonder

Callie Elizabeth Butler
Staff Columnist

It's over. The illustrious sniper has been apprehended, and the newest American threat has been demolished.

So, what now? Over the past year, our nation has been so immersed in terrorism, homeland security and international scandal that without some new occurrence on the forefront, we're left wondering what to do, what to watch, where to be and perhaps even whom to be.

While the latest national atrocity is being contained and you begin eagerly awaiting your next scandal, international attack or other act upon America, why not try being yourself? That's right – be yourself.

By "yourself," I'm referring to your identity prior

to terrorism, war, obsessive security and all these feelings that have oftentimes dictated your life. There are simple steps to regaining your livelihood and your identity and not allowing yourself to become further assimilated into a countrywide obsession, skills that you can carry into the next big crisis to engulf the nation.

Step one: Break the fixation. Perhaps the one progressive yet simple step is to watch the television programs you always did prior the new focus on American security. Other channels exist besides CNN and C-SPAN. Don't tape your favorite episode of *Law and Order* just so you won't miss the tidbit of news on the latest mad bomber. As much as you've been aiding these networks' ratings, you should be aware of how repetitive their content generally is. Their "breaking news" will still be airing, combined with a colorful graphic to draw your attention to the urgency of the situation, hours later. So, watch that

series you've watched for years or the movie on HBO you didn't finish a few nights ago.

Step two: Do it all. Don't allow a nation engulfed in fear to stop you from doing everything you'd planned. Part of attaining normalcy, that popular word on everyone's tongues over the past year, is returning to your normal habits. One example is to travel to places you made plans to visit. Go to New York. Go to Washington, D.C. Travel abroad. Go by plane, by car, by boat or by train. Enjoy yourself. Don't allow brewing mayhem fostered by government leaders and irresponsible media outlets to keep you from your traveling antics.

Step three: Rekindle your past interests. Remember those books you read on art or mud wrestling before becoming immersed in who shot which passer-by on what day of which week in what area of which town? They're still there waiting for you. National attention

has been drawn away from so many other areas and piled into an obsession with war and up to the minute mayhem. Don't let your former interests go too far astray in your struggle to decipher the inner workings of a sniper's mind. The next time you're in your favorite bookstore, skip the rack of mass market, 50-page magazines with names like *The Heart of American Terrorism* and keep walking as you pass the display of terrorism literature promising "an eye into the mind of the al Qaeda." Return to your favorite comic book rack, to that shelf with your favorite authors' works still nestled safely on the shelf.

Step four: Speak up! Speak, shout, complain, protest, sing, yak and express all your thoughts about America, even those of a negative nature. Your silence will not protect the United States. Too often, we silence ourselves – much like the Democrats did when voting on the resolution to invade Iraq –

in an effort to bring peace and prosperity back to the country. However, remaining complacent only increases the problem. To improve this country and return it to the calm, prosperity we seek, we must address issues now, not later.

Practice these four simple steps, and you'll truly attain that normalcy we've all been talking about. You'll maintain your identity and clear thinking as you are bombarded by media and governmental messages about the nation around you. Most of all, remember that when you invest your money and time into a growing national obsession with war and terrorism without retaining your normal practices, you further it.

So, break the fixation, do it all, rekindle your past interests and continuously speak – you're helping our nation to heal. ♦

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at ceb2k@mtsu.edu.

Animals need showers, too



I'm Just a Girl

Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

Watch out, Yogi. There's a new bear in town.

Recently, a bear in Alaska made headlines in a bizarre breaking and entering incident. The bear entered a house, took a shower and wiped his face on a bathrobe.

Needless to say, I'm amused.

It's certainly comforting to know that, among all sorts of wild animals, there is at least one bear worth saving. I'm finally starting to get all the animal rights activism.

Previously, the whole concept of treating animals better than humans always unnerved me. However, this is no ordinary bear. If a wild animal can be more civilized than many people, I suppose we should treat him as well as, if not better than, our fellow homo sapiens, some of whom take fewer showers than the bear, I might add.

But the plot thickens. Apparently, this is a well-known bear. The same bear injured a dog in the area earlier this month. Authorities are hoping the bear will hibernate soon so they don't have to kill it.

Why kill the bear? What did he do? He just took a shower. The woman left her door open and knew there were rumors of a bear in the neighborhood. This seems asinine.

He didn't even eat the fresh cheese pinwheels cooling in the kitchen. He just took a shower, drank from the toilet, much like other house pets, wiped his

face, napped in the yard and had a little snack from the trash.

There must be some other way to deal with this supposed "problem." What's wrong with having a bear in your neighborhood if he's only going to shower and nap in your yard – and occasionally injure your dog.

Just don't own a dog.

If your dog can't shower and wipe his face on a bathrobe, you're better off with a bear anyway.

It's time we started treating these brilliant animals like we treat each other.

We should let them screw up a few times before we do anything about it.

The bear is proof that not all animals are savage beasts that just want to hunt and kill.

In fact, this sheds a whole new light on bears. Think of what this will do for state parks. No longer will people be afraid to go camping on account of being eaten by a bear.

They may be a little more reluctant to use the showers, but at least they'll still be spending their hard-earned money to enjoy the lovely scenery and wildlife – up-close and personal.

It's time we stopped being so prejudiced against bears. If a bear can figure out how to work a shower and wipe off his face, he's certainly deserving of a peaceful coexistence with the neighbors.

If people don't want bears in their bathrooms, they can simply lock the door. ♦

Wendy Caldwell is a sophomore math major and can be reached via e-mail at VISA717@aol.com.

Tipping made simple



Yesterday's Tomorrow

John Miller
Staff Columnist

As I sat down in the middle of a double of one of my last shifts, my friend asked, "So, are they still going to let you write for *Sidelines* while you're in France? Because you should do a column on how to tip."

Rachel, this is for you.

Over the past five years, many things in my life have changed, but something that has remained constant is my working at the same restaurant.

I've had a few other jobs on the side, but there aren't many things that compare to how physically and mentally taxing the restaurant industry can be.

When my friends who work at the mall complain about their jobs, I just want to say, "Adam, you fold clothes at the Gap. That's not a job, it's a hobby."

There are many positions you can have in the restaurant business, but for the purpose of this column, I'm going to focus on serving.

First of all, servers get paid a whopping \$2.13 an hour, most of which gets eaten up by taxes. This means, more or less, that we live off our tips.

Let's say you have four people go out to eat, and they have a \$75 bill. What should they tip?

Well, the industry standard is 15 percent. This isn't for the greatest or the worse service ever, just the average. OK kids, pull out those calcula-

tors. \$75 multiplied by 15 percent equals \$11.25. This is the minimum you should leave for adequate service, but don't ever be scared to leave a little more.

I need that extra dollar more than you do, I promise.

For those of you who don't want to carry a calculator with you every time you go out to eat, here is a simple formula. Take 10 percent of the original bill, which is \$7.50. Now, take half of that, which is \$3.75. Then add the two together \$7.50 plus 3.75 equals \$11.25 or 15 percent. If you're looking for yet an easier way, just double the tax, unless you're drinking alcohol.

Now that we all know how to tip, let's look at why you should tip. As mentioned, servers only make \$2.13 an hour. This means if the server only has a three table section, and the party of four with the \$75 tab doesn't leave a tip, they've cost the server a third of what he or she should have made.

Some may argue that the service wasn't up to par: the server took forever to greet you, the food wasn't cooked properly or a thousand other things.

I go out to eat quite often, and I realize all those little things that can go wrong.

I also know that sometimes it's the server's fault. However, the majority of the time, there are a million things that can go wrong the server has no control over.

For instance, let's assume that, just before you sat down, the adorable little monster at one of the server's other

tables throws his drink everywhere.

At this point, the server has a situation to deal with they did nothing to cause, so it takes a couple minutes longer for them to greet your table.

Later that night, when your steak arrives, it's over- or undercooked. Once again, this is probably not the server's fault. The new guy on the grill hasn't quite mastered his job.

I could write a 10,000 word essay on all the other things that can go wrong.

Servers earn every penny of their 15 percent. The next time you go out to eat, be patient and sympathize.

Don't get mad at the person who has been on his or her feet for 10 straight hours without a break because your refill didn't get there fast enough.

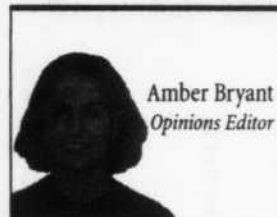
If you're going to be one of those people who gets upset, blows up over a little thing and then stifles the server, I just hope you're smart enough to pay cash. If you pay with a credit card or personal check, just remember someone now has your personal information. They might call you at 3 in the morning for two weeks straight asking if Daniel is there.

Worse yet, they might order \$500 worth of toys from Toys-R-Us and send them to Toys-for-Tots in your name just in time for Christmas.

Just remember, what comes around goes around, or, as we say in the restaurant business, "That's karma." ♦

John Miller is a senior pre-law major and can be reached via e-mail at jcm2r@mtsu.edu.

From the Opinions Editor News station disregards all ethical judgment



Amber Bryant
Opinions Editor

My aunt was one of four passengers in a violent car accident Friday afternoon in Watertown, Tenn. Another car hit the car she was riding in head on, killing the mother of her friend instantly and landing my aunt in the trauma ward of Vanderbilt, unconscious and bleeding in the brain for a dismal three days.

Instead of finding out via police officer or hospital staff, as is usually the custom, my grandmother was notified by a distant relative who'd heard from a friend who'd seen the story on WKRN News Channel 2.

In a horrible lapse of ethical judgment, the station had decided to toss all human regard to the wind and reveal my aunt's name before my family had been properly notified.

In 1995, my youngest sister was the victim of an unusual crime and Channel 2 was the only station even remotely accurate and discreet in reporting it.

For the past seven years, I've trusted the station's handling of

information, as much as you can trust any media outlet, and shared that homage with others if the subject ever came up. After watching my family suffer from the possibility of such a painful loss, knowing in the back of my mind that the reporters and editors in charge of broadcasting the accident couldn't care less about anything but ratings, I've decided to stop giving them free promotion and work in the other direction.

A name has no news value whatsoever, especially when covering car accidents, which, unfortunately, happen all the time.

They could've gotten ample credit for covering the story without revealing her name, which we still haven't figured out how they obtained, since she was sans identification.

The media is responsible for keeping citizens informed and watching government and private industries, not for unnecessarily blurring out information that gives an unprepared relative that horrible chill in his or her stomach when all he or she wanted to do was watch television.

Great job, guys. I hope you get the attention you were aiming for. ♦

SIDELINES

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Letters to the Editor

Bredesen unworthy candidate Publication should be balanced

To the Editor:

I find myself constantly amazed at the ridiculous nature of your newspaper. But on the other hand, why should I be surprised that a staff made up of liberal students has endorsed Phil Bredesen for governor ("Bredesen's our guy," Oct. 23)?

I noticed that a picture of Van Hilleary visiting MTSU last weekend appears on the front page of the same edition. No article or interview with Hilleary accompanies the picture. I'm sure that, if Bredesen had made the visit, there would be a big spread featuring an interview with him and a billion reasons why I should cast my vote for a man who raised taxes in Nashville three separate times in his term as mayor.

You write that Hilleary "has worked hard to paint himself as one of us — someone with common sense, strong values and a belief that government should be as unobtrusive as possible." That sounds like my ideal governor. You go on to say that he has shown himself to actually be uninformed and divisive, yet you give no evidence.

All I gather from the editorial is that I should vote for Phil Bredesen because he was mayor of Nashville when two new sports teams came to town and a library was built. These events occurred mostly due to the robust economy that the whole nation, and especially Tennessee, experienced during the '90s, which Bredesen had absolutely nothing to do with.

Bredesen is indeed a successful businessman, mostly due to taking advantage of many Tennesseans' HMOs. These are the facts that you fail to report. Bredesen means more wasteful spending, and a continuing gradual movement toward a government based not on capitalism and individual freedoms but on socialism, something the founding fathers would roll over in their graves about.

Randall Thomason

America has right to gun safety

To the Editor:

If there were ever an excuse to vote Democrat this November, it should be to buck the interests of the gun lobby.

For years, Charlton Heston, the National Rifle Association and their Republican "yes men" have blocked any chance for a reasonable, national gun registration system. We register our cars with the government, why not our firearms?

We know now for a fact that the gun used in the sniper killings was purchased by none other than John Muhammed. Had there been a gun registration system, within hours of the first killing, investigators would have known who the sniper was, what he drives and what he eats for breakfast.

I'll give it to the NRA — guns don't kill people, people do — but lax gun laws kill even more.

This has nothing to do with taking away the right to bear arms. It has everything to do with every American's right to life and safety.

Matt Anderson

To the Editor:

So I guess you guys are for the lottery.

At least that's what I could assume from your lead story on Monday that read more like a public relations release for William Ford and proponents of the lottery ("Campus to host lottery debate before election," Oct. 28).

The story featured tear-jerking anecdotes about how Tennessee's "education has not been receiving the amount of money it needs to operate effectively" and only offers Ford's pro-lottery point of view as a fixture. There were no quotes from the opposing point of view.

Did Ford himself write this story? If you couldn't get comment from the opposite side, say so. If you didn't even bother to try, say so.

Also, *Sidelines'* opinions page has been looking less like a campus paper and more like the *Wall Street Journal* lately. Do any of your columnists represent the leftist point of view? The only liberals I see on the opinions page are the respondents whose letters are printed. What happened to the days of Angela White? If it's going to take people writing in to present both sides of the story, so be it.

Luke Jonathan Schneider

'Open Line' crew doing the best they can

To the Editor:

As a part of the show's crew, I would like to respond to the editorial regarding *Open Line with MTSU President Sidney McPhee* ("Open Line" should tackle real questions," Oct. 24).

I read a lot of criticism from this paper after every show, yet am unaware of any attempt on the behalf of the editorial staff to call in and ask their questions on the air. How can the questions be addressed if no one asks them?

Also, the questions are pre-approved on these shows because of language. Channel 10 is on-air and at the mercy of the Murfreesboro Cable Commission, so cursing isn't allowed.

We don't keep the tough questions from President McPhee. In fact, we encourage them. That was the reason this show was created.

Yes, the Greek counsels and the Student Government Association were featured during this show. We were featuring Dr. (Bob) Glenn and these students fall directly under his office. We could count on them to ask questions that were directly involved with his job. However, we didn't stop anyone else interested in participating from being in the audience.

Another thing to consider is time constraints. How many questions can be asked and answered in an hour-long show?

Many of the questions that you referred to as lacking have been asked and are on tape or on file for the next show. We couldn't fit them all in this particular episode. Next time you decide to criticize something, make sure to look into it more and maybe ask some of the questions you feel are being omitted.

Virginia Dumoulin

Adventures in Chinese dining

Filler



Brandon Morrison
Staff Columnist

I love Chinese food.

Nothing satisfies my hunger more than a big plateful of Chinese food.

Sweet and sour chicken, fried rice, white rice, lo mein — it's all good.

I recently went to a Chinese restaurant to get my fix. The meal was great. After I was done, the waitress brought the check and a fortune cookie.

Her deep, brown eyes kept darting back toward the table as I gathered my things to leave. She kept leaning over to one of the other waitresses and pointed in my direction.

They both kept whispering to each other and giggled the entire time.

I broke open the fortune cookie and ate it quickly.

The waitress walked back and took up my plate.

She accidentally dipped her finger in some of the extra soy sauce on the plate.

She looked up, smiled and slowly licked the sauce off her finger.

I picked up the check and headed to the front to pay my bill. In line, I glanced at my fortune and was shocked.

"There's a good chance of a romantic encounter soon."

I laughed silently to myself. "That's rich," I thought.

"That'll never happen."

After paying the bill, I walked out of the restaurant. My waitress was pressed up against the window, waving goodbye to me.

She had a sad look in her eyes.

After a tear or two, she tossed

back her long, black hair and walked back to her other tables, where she glanced back for one last look.

As I sat down in the car, something bothered me.

I couldn't put my finger on it, but something about the meal didn't add up. The fortune, the waitress's incessant giggling, that funny feeling in my stomach, what did it all mean?

Then it hit me.

I jumped out of the car and ran back inside. I flung the door open and looked for the waitress. I couldn't ignore it anymore.

I knew what that feeling inside of me was and nothing could keep me from doing something about it.

After frantically running around the restaurant, I turned a corner and there she was.

As she turned her head, her long, silky brown hair shimmered as it flowed across her nicely shaped back. When she saw me, her eyes glistened and a big smile broke out across her face.

We stood there for a minute in silence.

Everything else around us seemed to fade away. Nothing else mattered to the two of us except each other.

She walked up to me.

"Is there something else, I can do for you?" she asked.

"No," I answered.

"But there is something I can do for you."

I reached into my pocket and pulled out a five dollar bill. "Here, I forgot to tip you."

I walked out feeling satisfied and knowing that I had taken care of all the loose ends of my nearly ill-fated meal. ♦

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

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SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, October 30, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Blue Raiders seeking second Sun Belt Conference victory

By David Hunter
Staff Reporter

The Middle Tennessee football team looks to improve its standing in the Sun Belt Conference Saturday it travels to New Mexico State University, despite the ever-widening gap between it and the New Orleans Bowl.

At the beginning of the season, the Blue Raiders were considered one of the favorites in the race for the Sun Belt Championship. Now after losing two games inside the conference, MT is now having to take on the role of spoiler as they play the Aggies, who are 5-3 overall and 3-0 in the confer-

ence.

The record has the Aggies in first place in the standings. MT is tied for fifth place in the standing with a 2-6 overall and 1-2 in the conference.

"This is a time when we find out who the real men are on the team," said MT defensive lineman Jerry Vanderpool. "We have nothing but men on the team. No one on this team is going to give in on the season."

Another problem for the Blue Raiders is injuries to key players.

Last week, starting quarterback Andrico Hines pulled a groin during practice and was limited in playing time against Idaho. Hines' injury is exam-

ined on a day-by-day basis. The MT starting quarterback against Idaho, Josh Harris, was knocked out with a broken collarbone and is done for the year.

"What a courageous effort. I've been coaching a long time and haven't seen an effort like that," head coach Andy McCollum said.

Hines played most of the game on one leg. He was not able to run the ball out of the pocket like he had been able to in previous games.

For this week's game, McCollum will have Hines, Andre Green and freshman Clint Marks ready under center.

See New Mexico, 7



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Andrico Hines was injured at practice last week and is sketchy about playing.

Soccer team loses home closer vs. Cajuns



By Angelica Journagin
Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders lost their last Sun Belt Conference game before the tournament Sunday against the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, 3-1, at home.

The Ragin' Cajuns (6-7-3, 3-3-1 SBC) came out strong in the first half, scoring twice in the first 16 minutes of play to lead the game 2-0. ULL's Jenny Brown scored at the minute 20 mark with a header off a cross into the box by Stephanie Durand.

In the minute 16 of the game, Durand got another assist when she played a through ball to Stacy Smith, who shot a floater toward MT keeper Emily Shrum. The ball ricocheted off of Shrum's hands and into the net.

The Blue Raiders (8-11-1, 3-5-0 SBC) had sever-

al opportunities in the first half to cut in to the ULL, but all of their efforts fell short. In the 35th minute, the Blue Raiders' Laura Miguez had a ball headed for corner of the goal. The potential shot hit the crossbar and bounced away. Emily Carer chipped a ball over the ULL keeper, Liza Preseault, however, tenacious defensive play by the Ragin' Cajun defense kept the ball out of the net.

The Blue Raiders finally got a goal in during the 41st minute with Caroline McHugh's cross to Carter.

"We fell behind early to a good defensive team," said Blue Raider head coach Aston Rhoden. "We created opportunities much like against South Alabama, but couldn't find the final touch to get the ball in the goal, and that's what's missing."

The second half went much as the first, with the Blue Raiders failing to finish on their opportunities.



Photos by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Ashley Elliot (left) fights with a University of Louisiana-Lafayette forward for the ball at Sunday's game. No. 28 Sarah Linder (above) duked out the ULL player in hopes of evening the score. The Blue Raiders lost to ULL 3-1, dropping them to the No. 7 spot in the Sun Belt Conference tourney.

The ULL defense kept a shot out by Jenny Cox that would have tied the score. The Blue Raiders out shot the Ragin' Cajuns, 19-6, in the match and had six corners to their five. Shrum had two saves in the first half before being replaced by freshman Danielle Perreault, who had one save in the second half. Preseault had four saves in the match.

A win moved even farther out of reach for MT when the Ragin' Cajuns' Sara Vienberg's corner kick found the head of Meredith Smith to hit the back of the net during the 68th minute. Smith's goal was the last of the match, which ended, 3-1.

"We are starting to find a way to win in each match," said ULL head coach Dave Poggi. "Any time you can win two matches on the road in conference play, it is a huge statement. The tough matches we

See Tourney, 8

Coaching classes not worth your time at MT

Sports commentary

Erich Heinlein
Staff Reporter

Did you know that you can minor in sports-related subjects, not called physical education?

It's true.

Athletic coaching is just one of a host of minors that you can minor in.

Sports classes that you can take are coaching football, basketball, basketball and volleyball for women, along with coaching in a host of other sports. Then there's my personal favorite: advanced coaching of football.

And if it makes you feel any cozier, you can even take the class from Andy Mac himself.

If you choose coaching in any other sport, then you will get to take that coach for the Blue Raiders (Tara Miller, volleyball assistant coach, teaches the women's volleyball/basketball class).

You can also take a sports in literature class. Yes, it does involve literature if you plan on taking it.

This is truly a sad day in sports.

When Harvard opened up as the first college in the history of America, its original purpose was to educate.

The 300 Division 1-A colleges in existence today claim to have the same goal.

However, when our school exchanges large wads of money just for playing teams that have social value (and Boots Donnelley claims it's for travel purposes), one can't help but wonder.

And, by the way, every dime of it goes into the athletic department.

When I looked at the schedule books for this semester, I couldn't help but shake my head when I saw so many classes that emphasized sports.

After all, in order to coach right out of college, it is a known factor that you start at the high school and middle school levels and you have to teach — which means we have more of those.

If you went to a high school that had any prestige in sports, you should know what I am talking about. Those people who let you play cards in class, allow you to view porn on the Internet, and so forth. (No I have never done these things in class, but I have heard stories.)

And for those of you who didn't know, well now you do. In order to coach a college or pro team, it is a well-known fact in the sporting world that you must have played in high school and college with some varying degree of success.

These classes are a gift for

See Classes, 7

Several MT tennis players end fall season on a low

Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee's seven-seeded doubles pair of Daniel Klemetz and Kirk Jackson lost in Round 16 at the Region III Championships in Lexington, Ky.

Tulane University's Jorge Lievno and Goran Vasiljevic defeated the duo Sunday, 9-7. In the first round, Klemetz and Jackson defeated Jorge Escallon and Nadim Naser of the University of South Florida Saturday 8-5.

"Kirk played very well in this tournament and has played well all fall," said Blue Raider head coach Dale Short. "He has stepped up and made himself better and shown he deserves to play with some of the big guys."

Jackson also competed in the

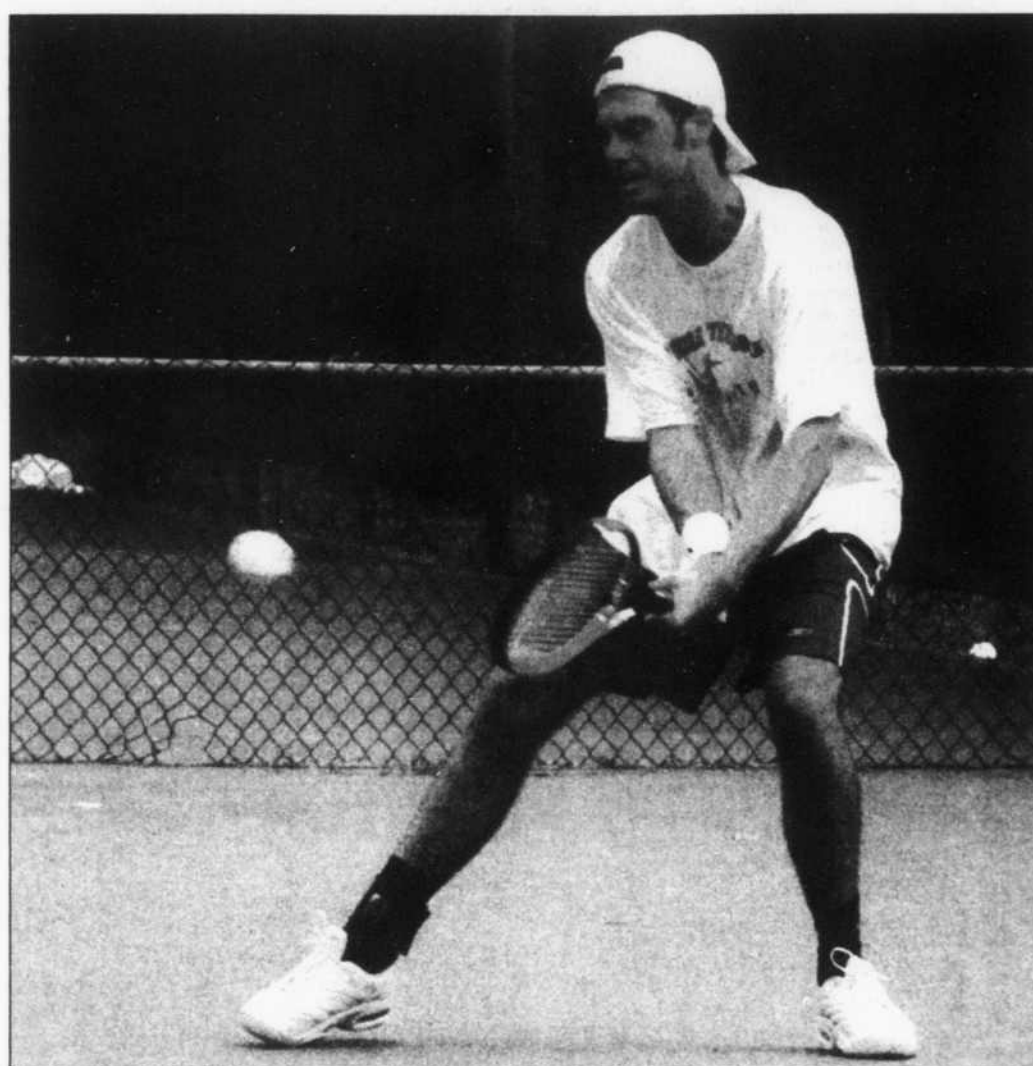
singles events at the tournament. The junior had wins over Mississippi State University's Jerome LeBelicard and the University of Kentucky's 14th-seeded Evan Austin on Friday. He then won 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 over Matt Behrmann of Florida before dropping a 4-6, 4-6 decision to second-seeded Bobby Reynolds of Vanderbilt.

Freshman Brandon Allan won his first-round match before falling to the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga's Jason Ontog, 1-6, Friday night.

The various defeats end all the Blue Raiders' fall seasons except Klemetz's, who will be playing in the National Indoor Championship in Dallas, Texas. Klemetz will enter the event Nov. 7, seeded at the top position. ♦

File Photo

Kirk Jackson, partnered with the No. 1 nationally ranked Daniel Klemetz, fell in the 16th round at the Region III Championships in Kentucky. Jackson also fell in the singles match — after defeating three separate players — to Bobby Reynolds from Vanderbilt in Nashville.



Sports Briefs

Compiled by Angelica Journagin
Sports Editor

Piniella named manager

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — For Lou Piniella, the opportunity to work near where he grew up was just part of the appeal of becoming the manager of the struggling Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Piniella was introduced after finalizing a four-year, \$13 million contract that makes him the second-highest paid manager in the majors behind Joe Torre of the New York Yankees, who earns about \$5 million per year.

Oakland gets manager

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The Oakland Athletics didn't look far to replace Art Howe — just one seat down the bench.

Ken Macha will be introduced as the A's new manager on Tuesday, his agent said.

Macha was Howe's bench coach for the past four seasons as Oakland made three straight trips to the playoffs.

The loquacious former big league catcher and infielder was a top candidate for several managerial vacancies this fall.

Indians get young manager

CLEVELAND (AP) — Eric Wedge will fit right in with the youthful Cleveland Indians. He's as young as most of them. The Indians will make the

34-year-old Wedge the youngest manager in the majors, a team source told The Associated Press.

Wedge, who managed Cleveland's Triple-A team in Buffalo the past two seasons, will be introduced at a news conference Tuesday at Jacobs Field.

Winn traded for Piniella

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle Mariners obtained All-Star outfielder Randy Winn from Tampa Bay as compensation for letting manager Lou Piniella go to the Devil Rays.

Seattle also agreed to send minor-league infielder Antonio Perez to the Devil Rays.

Mets introduce manager

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Mets officially introduced Art Howe as their new manager, confirming the worst-kept secret in baseball.

Howe agreed to a four-year contract worth \$9.4 million after being released from the last year of his deal with the Oakland Athletics.

Players file for free agency

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Tom Glavine, Jim Thome and Ivan Rodriguez were among 70 players who filed for free agency as baseball's offseason began.

Frank Thomas of the Chicago White Sox, who is under contract, also opted to explore the market, his right because the team exercised a provision in his deal that would defer most of his salary without interest.

Meanwhile, Atlanta Braves catcher Javy Lopez decided against free agency, deciding to exercise his \$7 million option for 2003.

Bat boys could leave bench

NEW YORK (AP) — Commissioner Bud Selig will consider new rules regarding who is allowed in the dugout after the child's play by the San Francisco Giants' bat boys during the World Series.

Darren Baker, the 3 1/2-year-old son of Giants manager Dusty Baker, was nearly hurt at home plate in Game 5 last Thursday when he ran out to retrieve a bat while the ball was still in play.

Finchem avoids club issues

NEW YORK (AP) — The leader of a drive to open Augusta National Golf Club to female members wants PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem to address the issue this week in his state of the tour speech.

Martha Burk said Finchem was ducking the subject.

Mourning on injured list

MIAMI (AP) — Miami Heat center Alonzo Mourning was placed on the injured list, more than a month after doctors said his kidney condition would sideline him indefinitely. He is eligible to return Nov. 12.

Raptor undergoes surgery

TORONTO (AP) — Toronto Raptors forward Lamond Murray underwent surgery to repair a ligament tear in his right foot and is expected to miss at least eight weeks.

Jackson head scans clear

KIRKLAND, Wash. (AP) — Seattle Seahawks receiver Darrell Jackson was released from a Texas hospital, one day after sustaining a concussion and having a seizure in the locker room after a game against Dallas.

Jackson underwent a scan and tests on his head and neck, and results were negative.

Paris Maters players leave

PARIS (AP) — Three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten was knocked out of the Paris Masters first round by qualifier Radek Stepanek 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Also, Arnaud Clement beat Rainer Schuettler and Todd

Martin withdrew with lower back pain after reaching the main draw through qualifying.

BCS standings on edge

NEW YORK (AP) — Notre Dame narrowed the gap behind second-place Miami in the Bowl Championship Series standings, with Oklahoma holding on to the top spot.

The difference between second and third is so tiny that if Notre Dame beats Boston College next weekend, it might be enough to move the Fighting Irish ahead of Miami.

The Miami Hurricanes visit the weakling Rutgers this Saturday.

Don King insists on rights

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Don King repeatedly insisted in testimony that he told rival boxing promoter Bob Arum about his exclusive rights to Julio Cesar Chavez before the fighter jumped ship.

King is seeking more than \$14 million in damages to compensate him for the loss of profits from Chavez fights while the boxer was working for Arum's

Las Vegas-based Top Rank Inc.

NBA players suspended

NEW YORK (AP) — Rick Fox was suspended for six games, Doug Christie was banished for two, and every member of the Sacramento Kings who left the bench during a fight with the Los Angeles Lakers last Friday got off scot-free.

Miller to miss first weeks

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Reggie Miller, hobbled by a nagging ankle injury, will miss at least the first two weeks of the NBA season to see if it heals with rest. If not, he will consider surgery.

Yachting race underway

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — America's Cup challenger leaders Alinghi beat Mascalzone Latino by two minutes, 11 seconds, and OneWorld beat GBR Challenge by 1:05 as second-round racing resumed after a four-day postponement for high winds. ♦

New Mexico: Aggies in longest winning streak since 1974

Continued from 6

Running back Dwone Hicks had by far his biggest game of the season last week. Hicks rushed for 202 yards on 25 carries.

"I just really wanted to get the opportunity to get out there and try to run a little bit," Hicks said. "We did run the ball pretty good as an offense. We didn't get the chance to get a win, so that takes everything away from personal performance."

The running game has improved in the past four games by averaging 208.8 yards on the ground and 10 touchdowns. MT is currently in second place in the SBC with 186.1 yards rushing per game. NMSU is in the top spot with 220.2 yards per game.

Freshman quarterback Paul Dombrowski leads the Aggies. In last week's 26-21 win over Arkansas State University, Dombrowski ran 114 yards and scored on a 29-yard TD run. He was also 16 for 23 passing with 141 yards and a TD pass to H.B. Briscoe.

"He does a great job of running and throwing," McCollum said.

"He's a tremendous athlete who runs their offensive system very well."

Dombrowski leads the Aggies in rushing and passing. He has run for 546 yards with six touchdowns. On the passing side, Dombrowski has passed for 723 yards and two touchdowns.

The Aggies' defense has the top-rushing defense in the SBC.

They have only allowed 126 yards rushing per game. In last week's victory over ASU, the Aggies gave up only 93 yards rushing.

"They have done a good job of shutting down a lot of teams," Hicks said.

The Aggies have a four game winning streak, the longest since 1974. NMSU is trying to earn their first bowl berth in 42 years.

The last bowl game they played in was the 1960 Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas, where they defeated Utah State 20-13. NMSU is also trying to achieve their first undefended record at home since 1967.

For the Blue Raiders, it will be their final game of the season on the road.

Last season's game is one for

the history books. Coming into the fourth quarter, the Blue Raiders were down 35-11. However, MT had drives that went 70, 88, 80 and 68 yards. All four possessions resulted in touchdowns. In that quarter the Blue Raiders had 289-total yards. The defense did not allow a first down by NMSU.

The Aggies will be looking for some payback after losing last year's game that they believed they should have won.

"I am sure they have had us marked on their calendar," Vanderpool said. "They are expecting to go in there and have an easy win in their win column, but we are going to fight like MT should."

The game is Saturday at 5 p.m. in Las Cruces, N.M. ♦

Classes: School's focus should be learning

Continued from 6

student athletes whose only intention in life is to go pro. This is not something that should be offered to student athletes, because let's face it — they should be here to learn just like everybody else and universities shouldn't have to worry about whether or not its student athletes are passing classes

like walking, like they did at UT, just so they can stay eligible.

While sports can be considered a good money maker for the university, it should not be glamorized to the point that we are more concerned about teaching people how to coach these sports than English.

The bottom line is this: colleges are built to educate students, not make money off of

sports and glamorize them.

Before things get repaired in college sports, college presidents are going to have to remember this: the first college in the United States opened primarily for education.

All other colleges in the country are built primarily for the same purpose. ♦



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Sun Belt Conference Football Overview

2002 Sun Belt Conference football standings

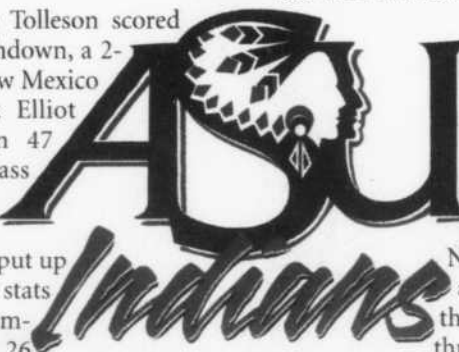
	W-L	Pct.	Pts.	Opp	Streak
New Mexico State	5-3	.625	211	206	W4
North Texas	3-5	.375	106	124	W2
Arkansas State	4-6	.400	173	303	L3
Idaho	2-6	.250	197	314	W1
UL Monroe	2-6	.250	158	304	W1
Middle Tennessee	2-6	.250	167	222	L1
UL Lafayette	1-7	.125	132	256	L4

Arkansas State

opponents to 50 yards per game of offense less than last season.

Full back Shane Tolleson scored his first career touchdown, a 2-yard run against New Mexico State. Quarterback Elliot Jacobs has thrown 47 consecutive pass attempts without an interception. Jacobs continues to put up impressive passing stats this season after completing 18 of 26 attempts (69 percent) for 205 yards, marking the second time this season he has passed for at least 200 yards in a game. Jacobs is completing 52.7 percent of his passes on the season.

Chuck Allen's two interceptions of Paul Dombrowski gave the Indian defense eight picks on the season, three more than all of last season. Wide receiver Chuck Walker set career highs in receptions (five) and yards (51) in the game against New Mexico State. The ASU defense has made huge strides this season. Through 10 games, the defensive unit has produced more interceptions, forced fumbles, recovered fumbles, tackles for loss and sacks than all of last year — all the while holding



New Mexico State Aggies

Paul Dombrowski's interception in the first quarter broke a streak of 69 consecutive passes by New Mexico State without an interception. It was just the second interception thrown by the Aggies this season. New Mexico State entered the game with the fewest interceptions thrown in the nation this season.

The Aggies failed to score on their first drive of the game for just the third time in eight games. H.B. Briscoe caught a pass in the first quarter to extend his pass-catching streak to 19 consecutive games. By being shutout in the first quarter, it broke the Aggies' streak of 13 consecutive quarters in which they had scored.

All three interceptions that the Aggies have thrown this year have been turned into touchdowns by the opposition.

Paul Dombrowski's touchdown run in the second quarter was his sixth rushing touchdown of the season. He leads the Aggies in touchdowns. ♦



Tourney: Next game against North Texas

Continued from 6

earlier this season are beginning to pay off."

With the win, ULL finished the 2002 regular season in fourth place, marking their highest finish ever in the SBC standings.

"I am very happy for my

team and proud of what they have been able to accomplish this season," Poggi said.

"I said from day one that we would need significant contributions from our freshman players in order to be successful this season and that is exactly what has happened and that is why we are where we are today."

The SBC Tournament begins Nov. 6 at the Cage in Mobile, Ala. The No. 7 ranked MT is slated to begin the tournament playing the No. 2 ranked University of North Texas.

ULL will be playing the No. 5 ranked Western Kentucky University. ♦

Should the plus/minus grading system be abolished at Middle Tennessee State University?

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