

MONDAY

February 16, 2004

30 44
Partly Cloudy



This week's poll question at
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Would you support making women
eligible for the military draft?

ONE NASHVILLE, TWO CITIES

In State and Local, 3



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Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 61

State denies reimbursement for damage

University cleared of responsibility for October fire in three dorms

By Stephanie Hill
Staff Writer

The students who filed claims for damaged property after the Reynolds Hall electrical fire last October will not receive compensation.

The State of Tennessee Division of Claims determined that MTSU was not responsible for the fire and thus does not have to reimburse students.

Last October, university officials

informed Monohan, Reynolds and Schardt residents that they could fill out claims through MTSU's Human Resources office.

"The students were to file claims through the Risk Management Office in Human Resources here on campus and then those claims were sent up to Nashville to the Division of Claims Office," said Sarah Sudak, Housing and Residential Life director.

According to MTSU's housing license agreement, the university is not

responsible for the "theft, destruction or loss of money, valuables or other personal property belonging to, or in the custody of, students for any cause whatsoever."

The license agreement encourages students to have personal property insurance when moving into dorms.

However, many students were under the impression that they would receive compensation for spoiled food due to the power outage and other such damages.



Glenn

Brittany Leitnaker, a sophomore living in Reynolds Hall, had \$50 worth of spoiled food in her refrigerator after returning to the dorm.

"It took my roommate and I about two hours to disinfect our refrigerators and even longer than that to get the stench out," Leitnaker said.

Human Resources Services Benefits Office was the main office that handled the claims and directed the students on the appropriate path.

"We set up a table in the Reynolds common area after the incident," said Karen Milstead, a benefits specialist. "We advised students to pick up claims forms and provide estimates of damages. Then we sent the forms up to

Nashville and the claims office. Our work was then finished."

Milstead explained that the State of Tennessee Division of Claims dealt directly with the students on a one-on-one basis. It usually takes 30 to 90 days for a response to come from the claims office.

Leitnaker filled out a claim through the Risk Management office and waited 90 days before calling the Tennessee Claims Division.

Leitnaker, like all residents who filed claims, received a letter informing her that the state of Tennessee would not be compensating her.

See Fire, 2

'Til Saturday do us part



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Sophomores Jesse McDonald and Kirsten Boyce share a kiss Friday as Neil McDonald, Sigma Tau Delta member and "wedding" officiator, looks on. Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society on campus, held mock-weddings all afternoon Friday for couples who wanted to experience marriage for 24 hours.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon placed on probation

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

MTSU completed its investigation into hazing allegations against Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and put the organization on disciplinary probation until 2005.

The investigation follows an alumni commission request into an anonymous e-mail sent last semester that accused several members of SAE of hazing.

"The alumni commission did an excellent, excellent job," said Clint Hall, interim assistant dean of Judicial Affairs.

"Our investigation was successful because of their steadfast cooperation and their assistance."

One member was recommended for expulsion from the

fraternity and suspension for 14 other members.

MTSU cannot release the sanctions placed on individual students, due to the 1974 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Disciplinary probation includes the restriction of the fraternity to sponsor or participate in any social activities or intramurals through May 31.

"They are allowed to participate in spring 2004 rush and recruitment and they will be allowed to participate in Greek Week," Hall explained.

As part of their punishment from the alumni commission, SAE assumed a guest speaker who spoke on issues of hazing and fraternity responsibility.

See Hazing, 2

Political debate Friday in BAS

By Juanita Thouin
Staff Writer

A Democratic/Republican panel debate sponsored by the MTSU Raider Republicans this week will feature well-known political opponents, Larry Woods and Steve Gill.

Woods, a Nashville attorney by trade, coached former Vice President Al Gore in his 1992 vice presidential television debates and Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen in his television debates in 2002.

He also served as chief strategist for Bredesen's transition team.

He frequently appears on radio and television as a spokesperson for progressive and liberal causes.

Larry Woods is widely

known as a "Yellow Dog Democrat."

Steve Gill is a popular radio talk show host, formerly an attorney. His radio program on WTN-FM 99.7 is the highest rated morning show in Nashville.

Gill twice ran against democrat Bart Gordon for Tennessee's sixth district congressional seat. He is best known for helping mobilize Tennesseans against a statewide income tax.

The debate will be held Friday at noon in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the Business and Aerospace Building.

The debaters will take questions from the audience. The event is free and open to the public. ♦

Racism, justice issues focus of panel

By Patrick Chinnery
Editor in Chief

MTSU's African-American History Month committee sponsored a panel of four speakers Thursday to discuss several race-related issues.

"We're going to focus today on the intersection of race and the justice system in the country and in this state," said Amy Staples, associate history professor and discussion moderator.

The speakers walked the audience through the stages of judicial involvement, from a traffic stop based on racial profiling, to the importance of reg-

istering blacks to vote so they're eligible for jury selection, to the treatment of blacks in prisons and finishing with the implementation of capital punishment.

Joe Sweat, a member of the national and state boards for the American Civil Liberties Union, spoke about racial profiling.

"Talking to police officers, as I have, and they'll tell you there's no racial profiling going on in their department, that they're totally against it and that there are no officers under their command who practice racial profiling," Sweat said. "But, I think we have demonstrated

factually, that racial profiling does go on."

At the urging of the ACLU, state Rep. Henri Brooks, D-Memphis, and state Sen. Roscoe Dixon, D-Memphis, a bill was passed by the Tennessee General Assembly in 2000 that would allow police departments to voluntarily fill out forms indicating the reason for a traffic stop, the race of the driver and other relevant information.

Forty-four police and sheriff and MTSU's police department agreed to participate, and the state comptroller's office tabulated the results.

"The statistics are rather

interesting," Sweat said. "One could infer from them that racial profiling is going on in good old Tennessee."

According to the comptroller's report, black students made up 11 percent of MTSU's population in 2001, but accounted for 22.8 percent of traffic stops. White students comprised 84.7 percent of students, but only 72.1 percent of stops.

MTSU Public Safety Chief Jack Drugmond couldn't be reached for comment about the study Sunday.

Sweat said that although the

See Justice, 2



Photo by Megan Vaughan
Staff Photographer

The Rev. Sonnye Dixon of Find18 speaks Thursday at a panel on race and justice about the difficulty of mobilizing black male voters. The panel was held as a part of the university's month-long celebration of Black History Month.

Hazing: Chapter just got off probation for alcohol usage

Continued from 1

The commission found three incidents of hazing, including requiring pledges to hold a five-pound wooden paddle over their heads for a brief period and ordering them to do push-ups and sit-ups on two different occasions.

Hall consulted with other university officials before making the final decision as to the punishment.

"I sat down with some of my peers, Dr. (Gene) Fitch and the

director of Greek Life (Kim Godwin), and we sat down and discussed the appropriate sanctions," Hall said. "It's a bigger issue than just a judicial matter. It sets precedent and it should serve as a deterrent effect."

Since the allegations have come out, the Tennessee Beta chapter has elected new officers and all the pledges have become members.

Hall said he believes the new officers will treat this incident as a learning experience.

"As a credit to them, I've met

with a few of them and they seem to be right on par with understanding what the expectations are of the university and of their own alumni and of their own charter," Hall said.

While on disciplinary probation, any violations could result in more serious sanctions against the fraternity, Hall explained.

The chapter just recently got off social probation at the beginning of this year for disorderly conduct and alcohol consumption in 2002.

Despite the chapter's history, both Hall and SAE said they believe the fraternity will turn over a new leaf.

"I think that they're going to turn a corner and continue on a path of prosperity, hopefully," Hall said.

"We'll be fine," assured Adam Marshall, the new SAE president. "We're already looking forward to the fall and we're ready to go." ♦

Fire: University not liable for property damage in dorms

Continued from 1

"There was no point in time that the university said they would reimburse the students," said Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs. "They were told to go through the claims department through the state and that the university would assist the students in that matter. However, if the state denied their claim then there is nothing MTSU can do."

"We were not the ones to make that call [in dealing with the reimbursements for students]," Sudak said.

"The State of Tennessee determines if MTSU has been negligent and if so, then the state will pay claims," Milstead explained. "However, if the state determines that the university has not been negligent and then no claims are paid. The university does not pay the claims; that is the state's doing." ♦

Justice: More events planned for Black History Month

Continued from 1

Tennessee Highway Patrol wouldn't participate in the original study, they are now willing to do so.

The Rev. Sonnye Dixon of Find18, a group founded to encourage young black males to vote, spoke about the problems with getting them to register to vote.

He noted that the O.J. Simpson criminal murder trial encouraged many black males to get involved with the process.

While mentoring them about the voting process, Dixon said he discovered many black males didn't know they had to be registered to vote or have drivers' licenses to be selected for jury duty.

"I keep telling young folk, 'Look, if you want to make a

difference, you've got to get registered to vote,'" he said. "If you want to change, you have to get out there and vote."

Associate professor Robert Rogers of the Criminal Justice Administration Department addressed the issue of how blacks are treated in prisons.

He cited statistics that blacks make up about 13 percent of the American population, but almost half of the prison population and one in three black men will spend at least part of their lives in jail.

"There's clearly a racial imbalance, and that imbalance is found throughout the English-speaking world," he added, noting that Australia, England and Canada all have similar statistics for people of color in their own countries.

Black inmates are more like-

ly to be reported as troublemakers than white inmates by prison staffs, which are mostly white across the nation. He also said that drug laws were to blame for the high numbers of minorities incarcerated.

"Passing draconian drug laws, very harsh drug laws, disproportionately catches blacks and Hispanics in the net," Rogers said.

The last to speak at the conference was the executive director of the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing, Randy Tatel.

"There's a clear pattern of bias attributable to race in the application of the death penalty," Tatel said, noting that blacks make up 43 percent of America's death row population.

Even more dramatic, he said

there was a "race of victim bias," where those sentencing defendants found guilty statistically punished more harshly those who had killed a white person than a black person.

MTSU's African-American Month Committee is sponsoring several other upcoming activities to celebrate the race's heritage month.

On Friday, those who are interested can travel with a group to Birmingham, Ala., to visit the Civil Rights Museum free of charge.

On Feb. 24, the committee is sponsoring another panel discussion, "50 years after Brown" about the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

For more information, contact Staples at 898-2569. ♦

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Monday, February 16, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 3

Board to meet Tuesday on rezoning students

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

Concerned parents and educators will meet with the school board Tuesday night to debate the issue of rezoning for students in the Rutherford County school districts, school board officials said.

The meeting Tuesday night at the county school board

building will tackle the emotional issue of moving students from their current schools to new or existing schools to relieve overcrowding in the northern and western sections of the county.

Jim Mahanes, public information director for the school system, said that the rezoning is the result of a "cascade effect" in the system caused by unexpect-

ed growth over the last 10 years. "We've had to build more schools," Mahanes said, "and obviously we have to put kids in there."

An increased number of new housing developments, especially in the LaVergne and Blackman areas of the county, have caused the board to rezone students multiple times. Some schoolchildren who changed

schools just two years ago could face being moved again due to rezoning.

"We think the [planning] commission should stop the growth," said Delisa Helton, president of the Cedar Grove Elementary School's parent and teachers organization in Smyrna.

While Helton's children will not be affected by the rezoning,

she said other parents who may have to leave Cedar Grove are very upset at the possibility of moving to another school.

"This is the best school in Tennessee," Helton said, "and no one wants to leave."

Cedar Grove, a school just south of LaVergne off Sam Ridley Parkway, was one of the county's top performers in achievement test scores last

year. The school is currently using 10 portable classrooms to handle the overcrowding caused by the many new housing subdivisions in the area.

Some of Cedar Grove's students may have to be rezoned next year when LaVergne Middle School opens and Roy Waldron School converts from

See Schools, 4

One Nashville, two cities



Photos from the Nashville Banner Archives, property of the Nashville Public Library

(Top) Former Nashville Mayor Ben West, second from left, meets with Rev. C.T. Vivian (to West's left) on April 19, 1960 after approximately 4,000 demonstrators met with him on the issue of segregation. The mayor was asked by Diane Nash (center), "Do you feel it is wrong to discriminate against a person solely on the basis of color?" to which West replied, "Yes." Six Nashville lunch counters began serving blacks a few weeks later. (Left) A protestor chastises downtown stores as part of a boycott against stores whose lunch counters refused service to blacks. (Above) Leaders of the civil rights movement march to the Davidson County Courthouse to confront West.

Draft bill still under review

By B.J. Chaplin
Staff Writer

Twin bills introduced to the House and Senate in 2003 seeking mandatory military service of all young people — including women — are still under review more than a year after being proposed.

The House version (H.R.163) of the Universal National Service Act of 2003 was introduced Jan. 7 of last year and then referred to the Subcommittee on Total Force nearly a month later on Feb. 3. "Executive comment" from the Department of Defense was requested at this time.

The Senate version of the bill — S.89 — was introduced on the same day. It was read twice before the Senate and then referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

Dan Amon of the Selective Service System said that the likelihood of the draft being reinstated is small.

"The Department of Defense is quite adequate to handle the war on terrorism and the war in Iraq," Amon said. "Any [draft]

"The Department of Defense is quite adequate to handle the war on terrorism and the war in Iraq."

— Dan Amon
Selective Service System

legislation is not likely to see the light of day."

A spokesperson for Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash., said that one of the main goals of the proposed bill was to "begin a national debate" with regards to war in Iraq, especially. McDermott was one of the cosponsors of the House version of the bill.

The bill's inclusion of women was a key part of the "national debate," according to McDermott's spokesperson. The inclusion of women asked the question "should every young person have the same level of risk?" he said.

Women would be required to register under the Military

Selective Service Act as a provision of the identical bills. Currently, only male U.S. citizens and male aliens living in the U.S. ages 18-25 are required to register with the Selective Service System.

The Selective Service System cites the 1981 Supreme Court decision in *Rostker v. Goldberg* in defending its current male-only draft registration policy. Because of the Department of Defense's policy that excludes women from close combat, the Selective Service System contends, the Supreme Court believed that instituting an all-inclusive draft would be "inappropriate today."

See Draft, 4

New development will feature Kroger

By Jason Cox
State and Local News Editor

A new proposed development on Hwy. 96 near Rutherford Boulevard will go before the Planning Commission for approval from that board Wednesday.

If passed, the project — which includes plans for a new grocery store as well as separate parcels for restaurants and the like — will go before the entire Murfreesboro City Council. If approved on three readings at that level, MC Properties and the other companies involved in the project will have to submit a site plan to the Planning Commission.

Bob Lamb, chairman of the Planning Commission, said the large plan would include a portion for an upscale condominium development, which would require the planned portion of land to be annexed into city limits.

"The residential portion of

the proposal was actually not in the city, and it has to be annexed and zoned accordingly," Lamb said.

"There's several outparcels that are zoned for things like restaurants and that kind of thing," he continued. "So maybe we'll get more eating establishments on that side of town."

Mike Clark, president of MC Properties, said that his company is proposing to purchase 70 acres of land, mostly zoned commercial, for a 66,000 sq. ft. Kroger store, approximately 51,000 sq. ft. of space for retail shops, and six front parcels for restaurants and banks. Part of the land would be sold to Old South Properties for the residential development, he said.

He said the project has been in the works for approximately eight to 10 months.

Lamb said that an additional portion of the 70 acres

See Development, 4

Dems hold caucus

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

Rutherford County Democrats gathered Saturday to select delegates to attend the district convention in Gallatin and represent the three presidential nominees who received the most votes in the primary election earlier this month.

Jacob Holt, founder and president of the MTSU College Democrats, was among the 84 people who attended the caucus at the Rutherford County Courthouse Saturday that will go on to attend the district convention Feb. 28.

Holt explained that according to state party rules, the county sends delegates for each candidate that received more than 15 percent of the total vote in the Feb. 10 primary. John Kerry, who won 35 percent of the popular vote, John Edwards, who garnered 26 percent and Wesley Clark, who finished with 24 percent, will all have representatives at the district convention. Holt is a delegate for John Edwards.

The district convention will be held at Volunteer State Community College and will include representatives from each county that is part of the sixth congressional district. From those delegates, six will be selected to be among the 88 delegates who will represent Tennessee at the national convention this summer in Boston.

Holt is eligible and hopes to be one of the six chosen to go to the national convention.

"The state party has a scholarship to send a representative under [the age of] 27 to the convention," Holt said.

He said that potential national delegates had to file their request to be considered for a spot at the convention by Feb. 5.

"The sixth congressional district," Holt explained, "will send two representatives for Kerry, two for Edwards, one for Clark and an alternate for Clark."

Other delegates that will be attending the district convention are ready to support any candidate who can beat George W. Bush in the fall.

"Thanks to Bush, I am out of a job," said Tony Pegel, an engineer from Almaden, "and I will stay out of a job until November to work for the Democratic Party. It's my full-time job to work against Bush."

Pegel, who will represent Wesley Clark at the district convention, said that he has turned down job offers over the last few months to concentrate on volunteering for Democratic campaigns.

Maureen McMullen of Murfreesboro, who will be part of the Kerry delegation in Gallatin, is concerned that not enough people, especially young people, are participating in the political process.

"We are selecting someone [a president] who will make important decisions," McMullen said, "that will affect our world, not just us privileged Americans."

Rutherford County will send 49 delegates for Kerry, 23 for Edwards and 12 for Clark. Even though Clark has withdrawn from the race, by state party rules he will be represented at all the district conventions. ♦

Drug arrests made in town

By Dave Paulsen
Staff Writer

Six individuals, including two Cummings Hall residents, were charged with felony possession of marijuana and/or possession of paraphernalia at a Sterling Gables apartment last Wednesday. Officer J.D. Vaught responded to an anonymous complaint of illegal drug use at a Sterling Gables apartment. Vaught received consent to enter the apartment and found the subjects in a back bedroom. "All were sitting in a smoke cloud," Vaught said. "Most of the subjects appeared to be under the influence of marijuana."

After receiving consent from the room's tenant, Officer Vaught opened a backpack and found a plastic bag containing a "green leafy substance," several empty plastic bags and an electronic scale. Another plastic bag containing the substance was in plain view.

"The total weight of both baggies containing the substance was 2.9 oz," Vaught reported.

The room's tenant claimed responsibility for a glass pipe with marijuana residue found in a drawer. She was issued a citation. The remaining five individuals were arrested.

• Murfreesboro police arrested

Jennifer Pleasant on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia at 104 E. Chestnut St. Wednesday afternoon. Among the items found at the scene were three glass crack pipes, two push rods, a marijuana pipe and a "syringe containing a clear liquid," according to a police report.

Officer Harry Haigh, who was aware of numerous complaints of drug activity at the residence, was allowed access into the home. Accompanying him was Officer Cary Gensemer, who detected the smell of crack cocaine and saw a large amount of paraphernalia in plain view in the back bedroom.

• Murfreesboro police arrested Dewayne McCullough on charges of simple possession of crack cocaine and driving on a revoked license Wednesday night. McCullough's car was stopped on Spring Street after police observed that he failed to come to a complete stop at a stop sign and made a turn without using a turn signal.

A driver's license check revealed that McCullough had a revoked license and ten prior charges of driving on a revoked license. Upon consent, police searched his clothing and found four crack rocks in his shirt pocket. ♦

Development:

Continued from 3

behind the store was slated for office complexes.

"We have been working with planning staff," Clark said, "trying to refine the plans so that it fits with the community."

Kroger is the only business that has committed to the project, Clark said, but negotiations with other companies were moving along.

"We'd expect to do business with several restaurants," Clark

said. "We have strong interest from several, but I don't want to name anybody yet. We're way ahead of the game."

Lamb said the proposal is still in the works and he did not expect final approval for another three or four months.

"There won't be anything out there in time for the fall semester," he said.

The developer under the proposal is the Harding Corporation. ♦

Schools: Board has five-year building plan

Continued from 1

grades four through eight to grades three through five.

Mahanes said that there are a lot of factors that go into the zoning decisions.

"We can't just draw a circle and say that this area will be zoned for this school," Mahanes said. "There are many factors that have to be taken into account, socioeconomic as well as logistics. Otherwise you have a district that is divided into schools of the haves and the have-nots."

Mahanes said that the school board now has a five-year program for analyzing new school construction needs, the result of a newly formed building committee that includes members of the planning commissions from both the county and the city of Murfreesboro.

Mahanes said the committee, formed and headed by school superintendent Harry Gill, will determine what areas will potentially need new schools in the next five years.

Some parents have faith that

Gill, who assumed the superintendent's job this past fall, will make a significant difference in the long-term goals of the county.

"He will make positive changes in getting more parents involved," said Tara Engle, another parent from Cedar Grove. "Harry Gill will do a great job."

Gill was formerly the principal at Cedar Grove Elementary School.

Mahanes agreed that better communication is needed between the city and county planners and the school board, but he cites voter apathy as a main cause for the strain on the school system's resources.

"We deal with schools and education, we have nothing to do with how many new homes are built," Mahanes said. "Every citizen needs to be aware of what is going on at the planning commissions and the county commission."

Mahanes warns that there could be more reshuffling in the district in a few years due to the federal No Child Left Behind

Act, or as Mahanes calls it, "the No Child Left Standing Act."

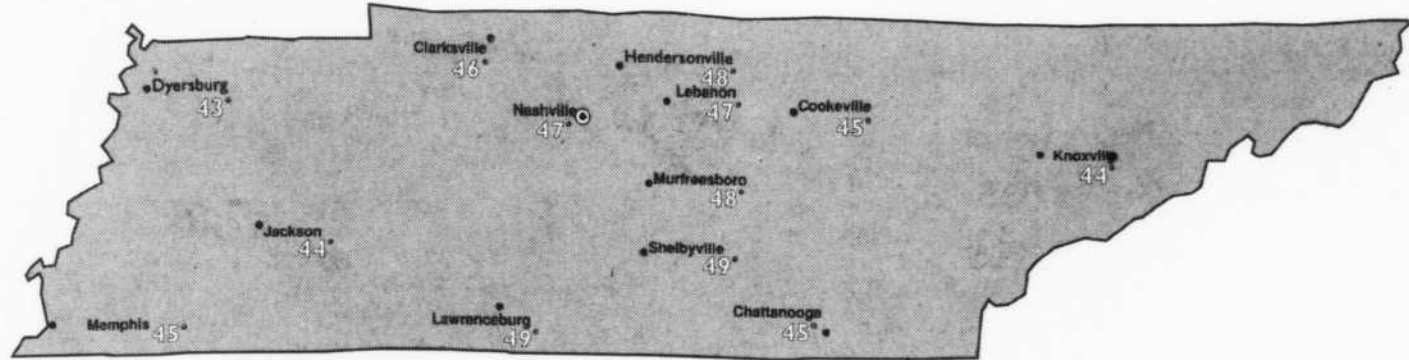
"If some schools are not making adequate yearly progress," Mahanes said, "then those parents can make a choice to [send their children] to schools that are [meeting the federal test standards.] And then we will have the problem again of some schools being overcrowded and others being under-populated."


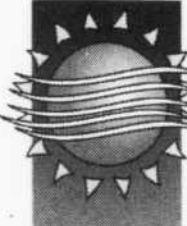
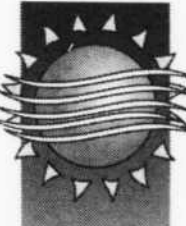
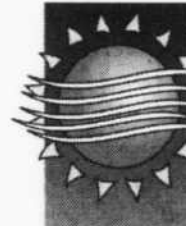

Having a high-performing school that attracts parents to the area is "a wonderful problem to have," said Kellye Goostree, principal of Cedar Grove.

"We have been inundated with parents concerned about the rezoning," Goostree said. "It's very personal. You want to help everyone stay here but that defeats the purpose of rezoning. It's very stressful [when parents] blame the ones who are trying to address the issues. Our primary motivation is to be fair and equitable, but there is no way to make everyone happy. We just want to do what's right." ♦

Tennessee Weather – Monday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 43° ▲ 27° ▼	 52° ▲ 32° ▼	 58° ▲ 34° ▼	 60° ▲ 46° ▼	 54° ▲ 42° ▼

Draft: Amendable to include women

Continued from 3

A 1998 General Accounting Office report titled "Gender Issues: Changes Would Be Needed to Expand Selective Service Registration to Women," however, said that the "Selective Service System could register women if its authorizing legislation, the Military Selective Service Act, is amended to allow registering women."

Under the bills, every U.S. citizen between the ages of 18

and 26 would be required to perform a two-year period of "national service" as "a member of an active or reserve component of the uniformed services" or "in a civilian capacity that, as determined by the [p]resident, promotes the national defense."

The president would determine the number of people performing military services, the types of civilian services allowed, acceptable claims of conscientious objection, penalties for "failure to perform civil-

ian service satisfactorily" and compensation benefits, among other aspects.

High school (or equivalent) students under the age of 20 as well as individuals with "extreme hardship" or "physical or mental disability" may be deferred from induction under the proposed act.

Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., was the only sponsor of S.89. H.R.163 was introduced by Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., and cosponsored solely by

Democrats: Reps. Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii, William Lacy Clay of Missouri, Elijah Cummings of Maryland, Sheila Jackson of Texas, Jim McDermott of Washington, Eleanor Holmes of Washington, D.C. (non-voting member), Nydia Velazquez of New York, Corrine Brown of Florida, John Conyers, Jr. of Michigan, Alcee Hastings of Florida, John Lewis of Georgia, James Moran of Virginia, and Fortney Stark of California. ♦

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From the Editorial Board Insurance policies could aid students

In light of the recent misunderstanding involving claims from residents of Reynolds Hall, the dormitory that caught fire last semester, we feel this controversy could've been avoided if both sides had put forth some extra effort.

Because the university wasn't negligent in the incident, none of the students' claims were paid. This naturally angered the residents, who not only were out of a place to live for several nights, but who also had to return to a residence that smelled of smoke and spoiled food.

With the university not at fault, there's no one to reimburse the residents or compensate for their hardships and additional living expenses. No one except for insurance companies.

Students living on campus are encouraged to purchase insurance policies, policies that would prove useful in instances such as the fire.

We encourage the university to take steps to further educate students on the benefits of having insurance, the residents' only hope of reimbursement if the university isn't at fault.

We also urge students, even those who don't live on campus, to investigate renter's policies. They're not expensive, and that peace of mind of knowing you're belongings are covered if the unexpected happens is worth the small price.

We hope this incident will serve as a reminder that the "it won't happen to me" mentality is flawed at best.

If students wish to receive reimbursement for damage done to their property, they should immediately start shopping around for the best policy to fit both their coverage and financial needs.

Students don't like to think their dorms could catch fire or their belongings could be stolen, and most won't lose sleep fretting about all the things that could go wrong, but they could sleep easier knowing that if the university isn't negligent, someone will handle their claim. ♦

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines'
occasional
watch for
mutton-heads.

While we don't have children ourselves, we're sure it must be every parent's fantasy to have their 12-year-old child attend a drunken sleepover. That's certainly the impression Jeffrey Yingling of Newark, N.J., gives.

Displaying the indulging, loving behavior every father should give to his daughter, he bought the eight children who attended his little girl's Jan. 31 birthday party an assortment of alcoholic nectaries.

"They kept begging me and begging me, and I told them no, it would get me in trouble," he told the court. "They finally talked me into it."

"It" being taking several of the kids with him to a drive-through liquor store and buying beer, wine coolers and vodka coolers.

And depending on whom you believe, the fun may not have stopped there. Some of the children's statements said Yingling encouraged the girls in attendance to start "dirty dancing" and gave a girl \$5 for putting on the best show.

For his part, Yingling denied ever supporting a lil' kiddie bump 'n' grind.

According to the



statements of the kids at the party, a few of the attendees vomited and a few passed out until everyone was asleep by 4:30 a.m.

In court, Yingling provided the time-tested defense sure to get one a lenient sentence: "I don't know why I did it."

Apparently, even after hearing the case, the judge didn't either.

"I'm sitting here, and I just do not understand what in the world could have possessed you to buy alcoholic beverages for 11- and 12-year-old boys and girls," Judge Robert Hoover scolded Yingling.

We're sitting here, and we don't understand, either.

Maybe Yingling never got to drink underage, and this was some pathetic attempt to live vicariously through today's youth. Maybe he finds drunken pre-teens fascinating. Or maybe he's just one can short of a six-pack. ♦

Original story from *mccogannett.com*, posted Tuesday.

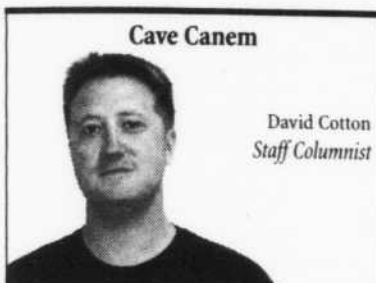
Republicans show their cowardice

The absent without leave debate surrounding George W. Bush is being treated as a "man to man" contest between Sen. John Kerry and the president. It seems a moot point, as the war stories of a man who has engaged enemies in combat will always trump the president's story of learning to fly a jet and of then being grounded for an inability to remain proficient at it.

But the Kerry campaign, whose supporters sometimes have a "he's-all-we've-got" tinge to their hopes, is taking no chances.

The president once enjoyed an unheard of popularity in the polls, despite the most notable events of his presidency having involved the destruction of the World Trade Center, the destruction of the Columbia, a corporate scandal, increased unemployment, a collapse of immigration law and the nation's entrance into two wars, one without apparent reason, and both with no end in sight.

AWOL isn't the same as desertion. Military personnel are human and personal problems may sometimes interfere with their performance.



Cave Canem

David Cotton
Staff Columnist

But the president has offered no such reason, instead choosing to duck the issue in cowardly fashion, first promising the release of all pertinent records and then refusing to do so, then releasing them sporadically. It seems Republicans fear this issue.

After playing on this country's paranoia, with orange-tinted terrorist alerts, mushroom cloud bedtime stories and a vice president who scurries and hides as if the sky were falling, the president reminds us that he is the war president, and we need him.

But, when poor kids were fighting and dying in Vietnam, Bush didn't even feel the need to show up for the very service that kept him from combat.

This isn't about the National Guard. Members of the National

Guard are honest American soldiers. But normal Guardsmen don't have the privilege to skip drill whenever they want.

The issue is the president's "bring it on" attitude. An inappropriate thing to say for anyone not in the fight, it was particularly disturbing, as he had ordered the children of others to back up that boast. Meanwhile, his own children of military service age were safe at home, just as he had been during his generation's war.

Apparently, service-based patriotism runs only so deep in both the Bush administration and the Bush family.

Just once, I'd like the president to personally live up to his boast and not duck the issue. Admit you were AWOL, and tell us why.

When Halliburton reveals one scandal after the other, don't shuffle Dick Cheney away: Bring him out. When your reasons for war turn out to be lies, be a man, take the heat, and don't try to blame it on those working for you.

But what should I expect from Republican courage? Trent Lott lets slip one racist Republican joke, and his comrades feed him to

the wolves.

Toby Keith struts around as if he's the greatest American ever because he drives big trucks and he wrote an odd song about a tag team match involving the Statue of Liberty, American eagles and foreigners.

Nashville's own Republican propagandist, Steve Gill, proved he was all man by bashing an immobile, unarmed French car. When any of these guys volunteer to grab a rifle and hump a rucksack in Iraq, then I'll be impressed.

Republican election hopes this year will rest upon the notion of "if you're afraid of terrorists, and you should be, stick with us."

But Kerry's fighting beside American warriors in combat and then facing the political backlash of speaking out against the politicians who sent them, sure beats the Chicken Little routine coming from those who avoided combat in the Bush administration. It's time for America to have the courage to vote for change. ♦

David Cotton is a graduate student and can be reached via e-mail at dpc2b@mtsu.edu.

Bush served with honor

President George W. Bush is a marked man. I'm not referring to al-Qaeda, the world's most dangerous terrorist organization, but to Sen. John Kerry and his loyal supporters in the mainstream media.

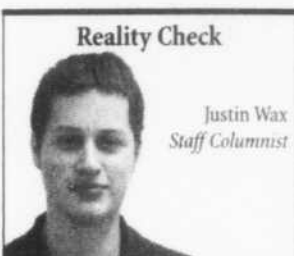
Associated Press writer Jim Krane won this week's "Let's Harass Bush" contest. In a story about Osama bin Laden's recruitment woes in Iraq, Krane began his story, "A letter seized from an al-Qaeda courier shows Osama bin Laden has made little headway in recruiting Iraqis for a holy war against America, raising questions about the Bush administration's contention that Iraq is the central front in the war on terror."

The beginning of this article sounds like Krane is applying for a key position in the Kerry campaign. This guy has to be on the Democratic National Convention payroll.

First of all, what's this nonsense about an al-Qaeda courier? The guy is a terrorist. Krane makes his capture sound like a simple mail-delivery-gone-wrong incident, when in fact our troops have nabbed another al-Qaeda terrorist in Iraq.

Krane goes two for two on his liberal bias examination when he writes that bin Laden's Iraqi jihad numbers are down. Instead of saying this is a win for the American people in the War on Terror, Krane writes this development is "raising questions about the Bush administration's contention that Iraq is the central front in the war on terror."

My last question for



Reality Check

Justin Wax
Staff Columnist

Krane: Who exactly is "raising questions" about Bush and his belief that Iraq is the central front for the War on Terror? Is it the American people? No. It's a bunch of liberal journalists who act like they're in a competition to join Kerry's payroll.

Sure, these people will ask Bush scores of questions about his military service in the National Guard. They'll demand Bush release his pay stubs and military records and demand that he produce witnesses (all of which he has done) - even if this happened 30 years ago.

But will the AP and other liberal cohorts ask Kerry a diffracted question he had with an intern just three years ago? Not likely, unless somebody else makes it a story.

Bush, the man who has protected the homeland from terrorism since Sept. 11, 2001, defeated al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, ousted a ruthless Iraqi warmonger and terrorist and continues to wage war against al-Qaeda in Iraq, is on trial by the liberal media.

Nevermind that he has been forthcoming about his service in the National Guard. Heaven forbid CNN mention fellow fighter pilot Col. William Campenni (USAF), who vouched that Bush served with honor.

Col. Campenni, who proudly served with the Lt. Bush, said that being a fighter pilot in their squadron was no walk in the park.

Campenni wrote a detailed letter to the editor of *The Washington Times* demonstrating the commitment required by Bush and other F-102 pilots. The mission of this unit was to intercept Soviet nuclear bombers during the Cold War.

Flying in this squadron had its risks. Campenni wrote, "Our Texas ANG unit lost several planes right there in Houston during Lt. Bush's tenure, with fatalities."

Campenni also noted that men who served in this unit were committed: "Because of the training required, signing up for this duty meant up to 2 1/2 years of active duty for training alone, plus a high probability of mobilization."

Tuesday Bush released his military payroll records. Friday Bush ordered that his military records be released.

Does this sound like a guy who has something to hide? Compare this with Kerry's Clintonesque answer in regard to his rumored affair: "Well, there is nothing to report. So there is nothing to talk about. I'm not worried about it. No."

Rest assured that I believe in innocent until proven guilty. But also keep in mind where there's smoke, there's fire. ♦

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

Buy Sidelines merchandise, coming soon.

slopinio@mtsu.edu

Clarification

In the article "Carrier closure results in 1,300 lost jobs," (Feb. 9) the closing of the Morrison, Tenn., plant was due to the company's strategy of "leveraging our manufacturing scale and reducing the complexity of our business model."

Sidelines is happy to clarify the matter.

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.

Experience liberty

Are you proud to live in this country? How do you show your patriotism?

We're all unique, and that's one reason this country is so great. We're able to show our uniqueness in everything we do, so why should showing our gratefulness to this country be any different?

One way to show our patriotism is to use our right to vote. I can't stand people who complain about the country's leadership when they didn't take the time to vote for change. I don't vote, but I don't complain. I don't understand politics, and I don't think I ever will, so I show my pride in other ways.

Another way to show our patriotism is taking advantage of the freedoms we have. We have the freedom to have or not have religion. We have the freedom to be educated or not. My favorite freedom is the freedom of speech and press.

Without these freedoms, new ideas and creativity would fail to be expressed. Without ideas being expressed, there would be no changes in this country for the common good.

Teenagers want freedom from their parents to live and enjoy life for themselves. As adults, we feel that same need from our country. Freedom is powerful, and if you don't know what your rights and freedoms are, I strongly suggest you find out.

Freedoms give us responsibility, but they also make the country more enjoyable to live in. Patriotism can also be expressed by following



Kacey's Corner

Kacey Hercules
Staff Columnist

the laws that are in place to keep us safe. I know some of the laws make us feel like our freedoms are being taken away, but if you aren't going to do anything to change them, then you need to learn how to deal with them. Our leadership is doing the best it can to keep us safe. That doesn't mean they don't make mistakes, but we all do.

Change is a very big part of patriotism. If an artist is proud of his work, then he keeps improving so it will become a masterpiece. If a mother is proud of her child, then she will teach the child how to have a better life than she did.

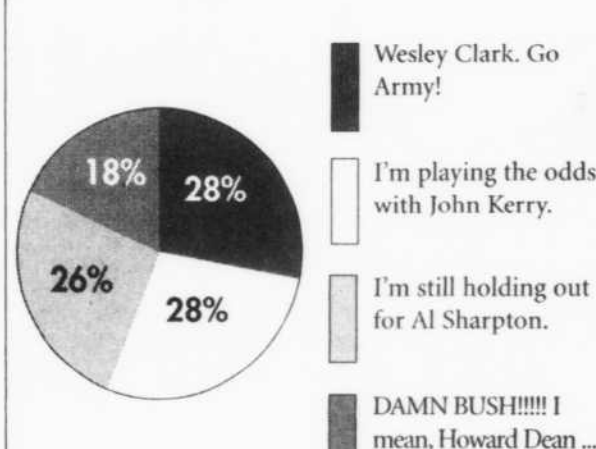
If you are proud of something, you'll always try to make it the best it can be. Everyone in the United States has a duty to this country. It could be fighting for our protection, changing what needs to be changed or just changing yourself to make a difference around you. Whatever it is, that's your right and responsibility.

One thing to remember is U.S. spells "us." Without us working together for a brighter future and a safer place to live, there would be no United States of America. ♦

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

Sidelines online poll results

Last week we asked readers, "Who is your choice for the Democratic presidential nomination?" Here's what you had to say:



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Micah Miller
Jeri Lamb
Wendell Rawls

*denotes member of editorial board

Professor travels country showing canine companions

By Adam Parker
Staff Writer

As a child, none of Melodie Phillips' siblings were dogs.

Then she went to the University of Miami and bought a Siberian Husky named Samson for protection.

Soon Phillips' relationship with Samson went from necessity to lifelong friendship.

She decided that no family is complete without a dog or two. Phillips now owns 11 dogs.

Phillips, an MTSU associate professor of management and marketing for the last 10 years, would not only become her dogs' best friend, but also a coach and teammate of nationally ranked show-dogs.

Long before assembling her current roster

of award-winning canines, Phillips started attending dog shows while working towards her Ph.D. at Louisiana State University in the 1980s.

In 1995, Phillips made the transition from spectator to participant in the dog shows.

After attending a dog show hosted by the Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club, she decided it was time to act.

what did they call that dog?" Phillips says of the much-maligned term.

St. Bernards, Phillips' favorite breed of dog, are the gentle giants of the canine species, she says.

Weighing up to 200 pounds and strong enough to drag as much as 5,000 pounds, according to Phillips, they often want to do nothing more than curl up in bed with their owners.

"In fact, I just told my husband

And they don't show their dogs from mid-May to mid-August in order to bypass the hottest months of the year-round sport.

The family has driven that motor home all over the United States, including a commute from the MTSU campus all the way to Arizona.

"This last weekend we were in Atlanta, the next weekend we'll be in Greenville, S.C. And then two weeks

In fact, I just told my husband that my little pup is like a living, breathing teddy bear. She's just 50 pounds, she's fluffy, and fuzzy and just a snuggle muffin.

Melodie Phillips
Associate Professor

Since then, her dogs have become serious contenders in these tournaments, and they have proven it with awards.

Her first taste of championship came in 1999 with her Siberian Husky Elroy.

Smoothie, a male St. Bernard named for his smooth coat, made the Top 10 in the all-breed competition and Best in Specialty in 2000-2003.

"My bitch was a top 10 St. Bernard in 2000," Phillips says of Mercedes, her female St. Bernard.

People who are unfamiliar with dog shows might wince at the mention of "bitch," but they need not worry. The title is not as derogatory as it sounds.

Within the context of a dog show, "bitch" simply means a female dog.

Any dog show participant will be flattered if his or her dog is dubbed "winner's bitch."

"That's just the lingo, but at first it's kind of like, 'What,

that my little pup is like a living, breathing teddy bear," Phillips says of her youngest St. Bernard. "She's just 50 pounds, she's fluffy, and fuzzy and just a snuggle muffin."

The bed reaches capacity crowd when she and her 6-foot-7-inch husband share their king-sized bed with about 350 lbs of St. Bernard every night.

In order to maintain the St. Bernards' health, Phillips and her husband must constantly look out for the dogs.

Heart attacks, hip dysplasia (the solution of this deformity involves rebuilding the dog's hips) and seizures commonly affect the dogs.

In fact, her first St. Bernard, Bogey, suffered from all of the above. Afflicted with seizures and hip dysplasia, Bogey died at age 3 from a heart attack.

Also, they don't tolerate heat and do not handle flights well, according to Phillips.

In order to cope with these environmental obstacles, Phillips and her husband travel from show to show in 35-foot temperature-controlled motor home.

after that we'll be in Franklin," Phillips says. "So, we can pretty much stay in the Southeast and show two or three times a month, which is all we like to do."

"It's pretty tiring," she says of her frequent travels.

Phillips has never competed internationally because judges in other countries look for different standards, such as head structure and body type, than they do in the United States.

But there is a different reason that Phillips and her dogs do not travel abroad.

"Myself and a lot of my friends are fairly leary in terms of placing dogs overseas because we had a big problem in China with people acquiring St. Bernards and starting St. Bernard farms and then slaughtering them for meat," Phillips says.

Phillips may not be going to overseas dog shows any time soon, but she is looking forward to the St. Bernard National Dog Show, which will be hosted at The Houston Woods just outside of Cincinnati, Ohio this year. ♦

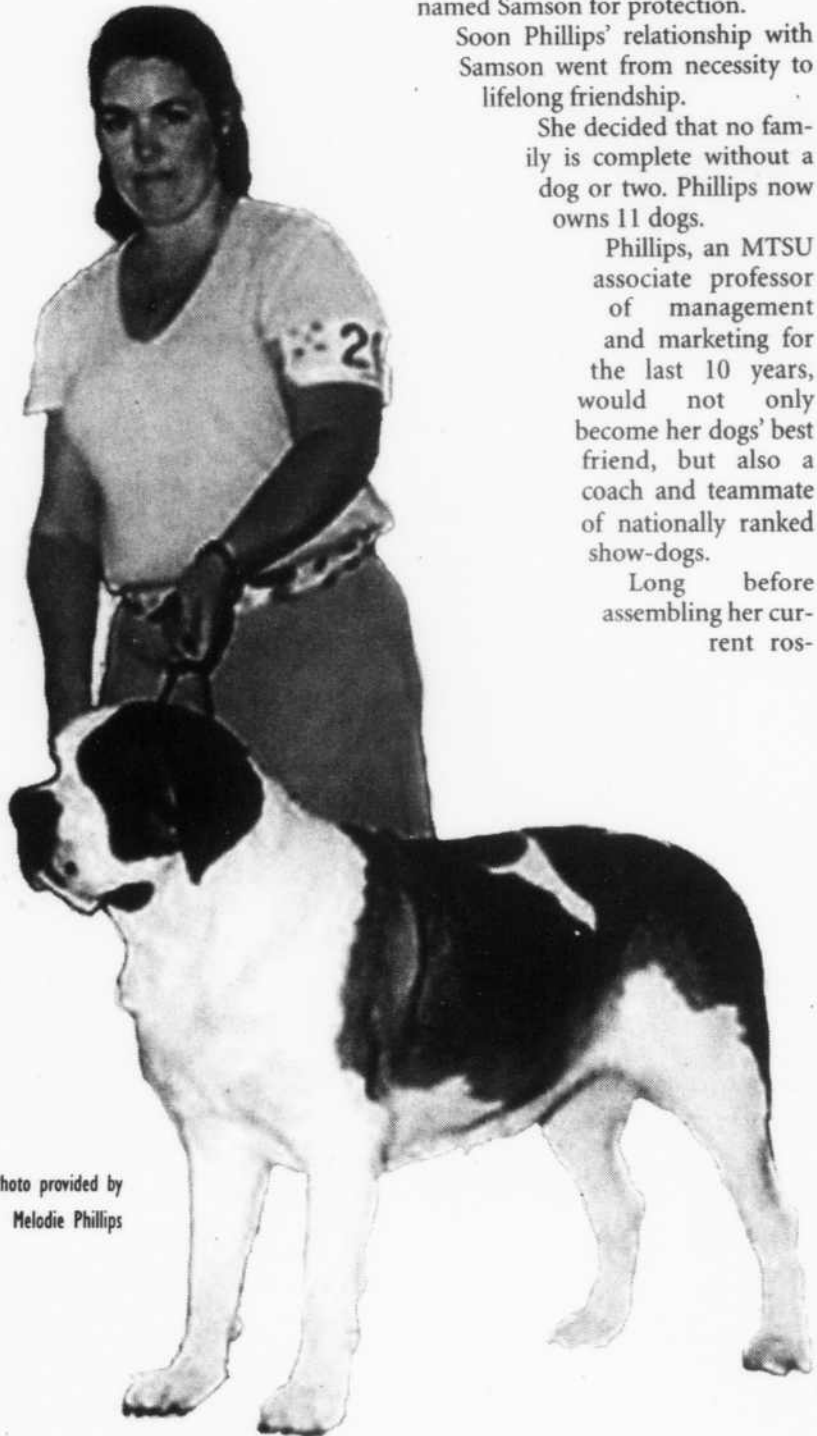


Photo provided by
Melodie Phillips

Piloting program available to average citizens

Be a Pilot classes offer flying lessons, certification to all different kinds

By Emily Nance
Staff Writer

Imagine being able to rent an airplane and fly to destinations such as Key West, Fla., and Cape Cod, Mass., without the never-ending nightmare of traffic, which is so familiar to these vacation destinations.

If this sounds enticing, the Be a Pilot program may be for you.

The average person can now become a pilot, thanks to a coalition of the aviation community known the General Aviation Team 2000. GA Team 2000 founded Be a Pilot, a national educational program to help the public become more familiar with general aviation (flying for personal and business reasons).

"We get people from age 10 all the way up to age 50," says Dispatcher Justin Ray of Aviation Specialists, Inc.

"Today, general aviation is a \$20-billion-a-year industry. It supports more than 500,000 jobs and generates more than \$102 billion in economic activity, according to the 400,000-member Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association based in Frederick, Md.," reports Justo Bautista of *The Record* in Bergen County, N.J.

"And in a typical year, general aviation's small planes carry a hefty 90 million passengers, according to the association."

Candidates must meet only a few requirements before train-

ing to become a pilot. The candidate must be at least 16 years old, speak English and pass a basic medical and vision exam.

Contrary to popular opinion, perfect vision is not required.

A wide range of licenses are available to those who complete pilot training.

The licenses include student, private, recreational, commercial and airline transport pilot.

Each level requires more and more hours spent in flight and simulation, but brings with it even more privileges.

For instance, the private pilot license requires a minimum 40 hours of flight instruction and supervised practice flying, a 50-question written knowledge test (now taken on a computer) and a flight test, or check-ride, with an Federal Aviation Administration-designated examiner.

To maintain their status, private pilots must pass a simple doctor's office exam for an FAA third class medical certificate every two years and every three years for those under age 40. Pilots also review with a flight instructor once every two years to assure skill level and knowledge of current regulations and recent changes.

Varying by regional location, most pilots rent airplanes for \$60 to \$70 an hour. Newer models can cost upwards of \$90 an hour. A private pilot certificate costs approximately \$4,500 to \$6,500, and a lifetime invest-

ment of not only money, but time as well.

"We charge about \$105 per hour for the Cessna 172," Ray says of program prices in Chattanooga.

Many pilots pay as they go, but some take out personal loans to finance their training.

Two participating flight schools include Maxair at Murfreesboro Municipal Airport and Aviation Specialists, Inc., out of Chattanooga, Tenn.

The Web site for Be a Pilot currently offers a printable certificate for a \$49 introductory flight lesson, which is honored by participating flight schools.

Sophomore psychology major Jim Copple expresses concern over the program.

"I think they ought to regulate that. If you aren't born here, you shouldn't be able to do [the program]," Copple says. "You know, if we got domestic terrorists trying to do that, then it's a problem."

Monica Mathis thinks differently about the program.

"Well, if you are interested in flying or Aerospace, I think it would be a wonderful idea," Mathis, a freshman business major, says.

"But, personally, I would never do it."

Be a Pilot placed nearly \$1 million in national television advertisements on 11 cable networks to prompt new interest in general aviation in April of 2002.



Most recently, holiday-themed advertisements aired in December 2003, encouraging viewers to give "The Gift of Flight."

This came in time for the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' first flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

All the big advertising dollars spent must have paid off

because according to the Jan. 30 Be a Pilot newsletter, "The industry-backed program generated 34,056 pilot prospects in 2003, up 1.3 percent by year-end despite lagging 25 percent during the second war in Iraq. Results were up 4.3 percent over 2001."

Sponsors for Be a Pilot include aircraft and equipment

manufacturers, pilot organizations, aviation trade associations and aviation publications and businesses.

For more information about the Be a Pilot program, contact Tony Patterson at 494-1900 or via e-mail at flymaxair@earthlink.net. ♦

Non-traditional spring break offered

By Melissa Coker
Staff Writer

Beaches, beer and sleeping until two in the afternoon ... ahhh, such soothing spring break activities.

But wait, what if there's more to life than scantily clad women and men?

That's a crazy concept.

MTSU's Alternative Spring Break, now in its eighth year, is all about using the vacation time to spring into action through helping others (and developing lasting relationships in the process).

ASB is a life-changing program that's grown quickly at colleges and universities across the country, says Rob Patterson, Graduate Assistant of Student Organizations and Community Service.

Past pilgrimages have sent participants to Kentucky, West Virginia and Alabama.

This year, a group of 10 to 20 people will travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in various volunteering from March 21-25.

Students will join with a homeless and abuse shelter called North Street Maintenance, serve meals and just spend time with the people who stay there.

At night, participants plan to pass out needed materials to the less fortunate individuals and families.

Some evenings are also set aside for taking tours of the capital and other sightseeing excursions.

"Expect a lot of laughter, a lot of fun and some sad times when you see how hard some people really have it," Leah Beth Bean, coordinator of the program, says.

"But in the end, it's the best week of your entire college career. And the one thing you will say on your way home - 'I am so coming back next year!'"

Bean, who went on the West Virginia trip in 2001, says it was by far the best spring break she's ever had.

Her group stayed in a very small town but in a very large log cabin in the hills that was



used mostly for alternative spring breakers.

While snow softly fell around them, they had a wonderful time and still managed to remove 17 tons of trash from the creek and help rebuild the home of a cancer-stricken man through their efforts.

"We also got to take a tour of the dam and the people there really treated us like family," she says.

"Everyone knew who we were and they were so grateful we were there to help make their town better."

Bean also says ASB is so much more than the "typical" Florida or Cancun-style spring break.

The group of 20 participants may be total strangers to you at first, but by the time everyone returns to MTSU it's like a family.

"You get to spend a week putting smiles on people's faces and really making a difference," she points out.

"When you're on ASB, you don't want the week to end. With another spring break, you may not even remember the

week," she says.

"You'll bring back so much with you and as college students it will mean a lot more as you go on with your life than a drunken week in Florida," she adds.

"You can honestly say you helped people and still had the best time of your life."

ASB is open for every student.

It's a trip for everyone - whatever skills you have.

The cost of the trip is \$50, which covers most of the food.

Students are encouraged to bring extra money for eating out and any extra spending money to use on the break.

The university pays for the rest.

If ASB sparks your alternative interest, pick up an application in Keathley University Center, Room 326.

The deadline to apply is Wednesday at 4:30.

Interviews begin Friday.

Call Bean at 931-494-8899 or e-mail her at LBB2i@mtsu.edu with any questions. ♦

Campus Calendar

Monday, Feb. 16

Honors Lecture Series
Martin Honors Building
Room 106, 3 p.m.

Topic: "Public Education: No Child Left Behind"
Speaker: Gloria Bonner, dean
For information, contact
898-2152.

Cason-Kennedy Nursing Bldg., 12:30 p.m.
For information, contact
898-2987.

AAHM Alumni Achievement Awards Reception
Alumni Center
For information, contact
898-2987.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Perspectives on Popular Music
John Bragg Mass Communications
Building Room 241, 12:30 p.m.
Speaker: Bill Levine, English
Topic: "Who Is Qualified to Speak For Jazz?"
For information, contact
898-2449.

MTSU Guitar Festival
Through Feb. 24
WMB Music Hall, 8 nightly
For information, contact
898-2493.

Blue Raiders' baseball game
vs. Indiana/Purdue-Fort Wayne
Reese Smith Field
3 PM

Choirs and Orchestra Concert
Wright Music Building Music Hall, 7:30 p.m.
For information, contact
898-2493.

Blue Raiders' tennis game
vs. Memphis
Murfreesboro Racquet Club
2 PM

Thursday, Feb. 19

Stones River Chamber Players
WMB Music Hall, 7:30 p.m.
For information, contact
898-2493.

Saturday, Feb. 21

Murfreesboro Kennel Club
Tennessee Livestock Center
For information, contact
898-5799.

Labor-Management Conference through Feb. 20
Clarion Hotel, Chattanooga
For information, contact
895-4166.

Block and Bridle Heifer Show
Livestock Center
For information, contact
898-2419.

JAWC 'MTSU Night at the Theater' for Laramie Project
Murfreesboro Center
for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.
For information, contact
898-2193.

Regional Science Olympiad
Campus-wide
8 a.m.
For information, contact
898-5085.

Demomania
Keathley University Center, 9:30 a.m.
For information, contact
898-2072.

Lady Raiders' basketball game
vs. Arkansas-Little Rock
Murphy Center
2 p.m.

Lady Raiders' Basketball Game
vs. Arkansas State
Murphy Center
7 p.m.

Blue Raiders' baseball game
vs. Indiana/Purdue-Fort Wayne
Reese Smith Field
2 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 20

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute Field Trip
James Union Building
Faculty Dining Room
6:30 a.m.
For information, contact
898-5766.

Sunday, Feb. 22
Blue Raiders' baseball game
vs. Indiana/Purdue-Fort Wayne
Reese Smith Field
1 p.m.

Blue Raiders' tennis game
vs. Purdue
Murfreesboro Racquet Club
12 p.m.

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Research Coach will be February 16, 2004 - February 27, 2004

The hours will be from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday-Thursday and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Fridays .

**Call Kaye Condit at 904-8530 to schedule an appointment
Bring your assignment with you!**

Coming Soon: CHAT REFERENCE!

MT Men's Basketball

Next Game Feb. 19
Blue Raiders
at Arkansas State
Tipoff at 7 p.m.

SPORTS

MT Women's Basketball

Next Game Feb. 19
Arkansas State
at Murphy Center
Tipoff at 7 p.m.

8 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, February 16, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Retired professor hopes for sellout crowd

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

Just imagine one day walking into Murphy Center to watch the Blue Raiders and every seat is filled with loud fans.

For a former professor and long-time Blue Raider supporter, that dream could come true Feb. 26.

Aaron Todd has created Operation: Full House for the men's game against perennial foe Western Kentucky University. His goal is to break the attendance record that was set in 1974 at Murphy Center.

On Jan. 26 of that year, 11,600 fans packed inside the "Glass House" to watch the Blue Raiders defeat Austin Peay State University 90-87 in overtime. That record still stands.

Games played since then include a matchup in 1998 against then-No. 3 University of North Carolina that drew

11,380 fans.

Todd is putting his dream together even after being diagnosed with cancer just three months ago.

"I realized it [the cancer diagnosis] is just a bad break," Todd said. "You can't control breaks; all you can control is your reaction to them."

Todd is not doing this for himself but for the university. He is getting the support of the community behind him and is looking for more.

"This is for the belief for all of us, because anything that helps athletics helps MTSU, and anything that helps MTSU helps this whole area," Todd said.

The Todd family has a long tradition with the university and Rutherford County dating back to 1807. Todd's grandfather helped bring the university to Murfreesboro during his time as a state legislator. Todd's brother,

his two sons and his five grandchildren have also been big supporters of the university.

Todd taught at MTSU from 1963-2003 and is a basketball season ticket holder.

Another goal Todd has is to bring the students and faculty back to MTSU athletics, especially with the upcoming mandatory attendance average set by the NCAA of 15,000 people per home football game.

"I think they should realize that the athletics program is basically the university, and when you support that, you are supporting the university, you are supporting the entire community," Todd said.

This is just the beginning for Todd. In the future he hopes to increase football season tickets and sell out Floyd Stadium.

Tipoff for Thursday's game is 7 p.m. Tickets can be ordered by calling 898-2103. ♦



Photo courtesy Media Relations

Retired professor Aaron Todd celebrates with MT faithful at the Bunganut Pig Feb. 4 for Signing Day.

MT women improve overall to 16-6 Conference win could give boost for tournament

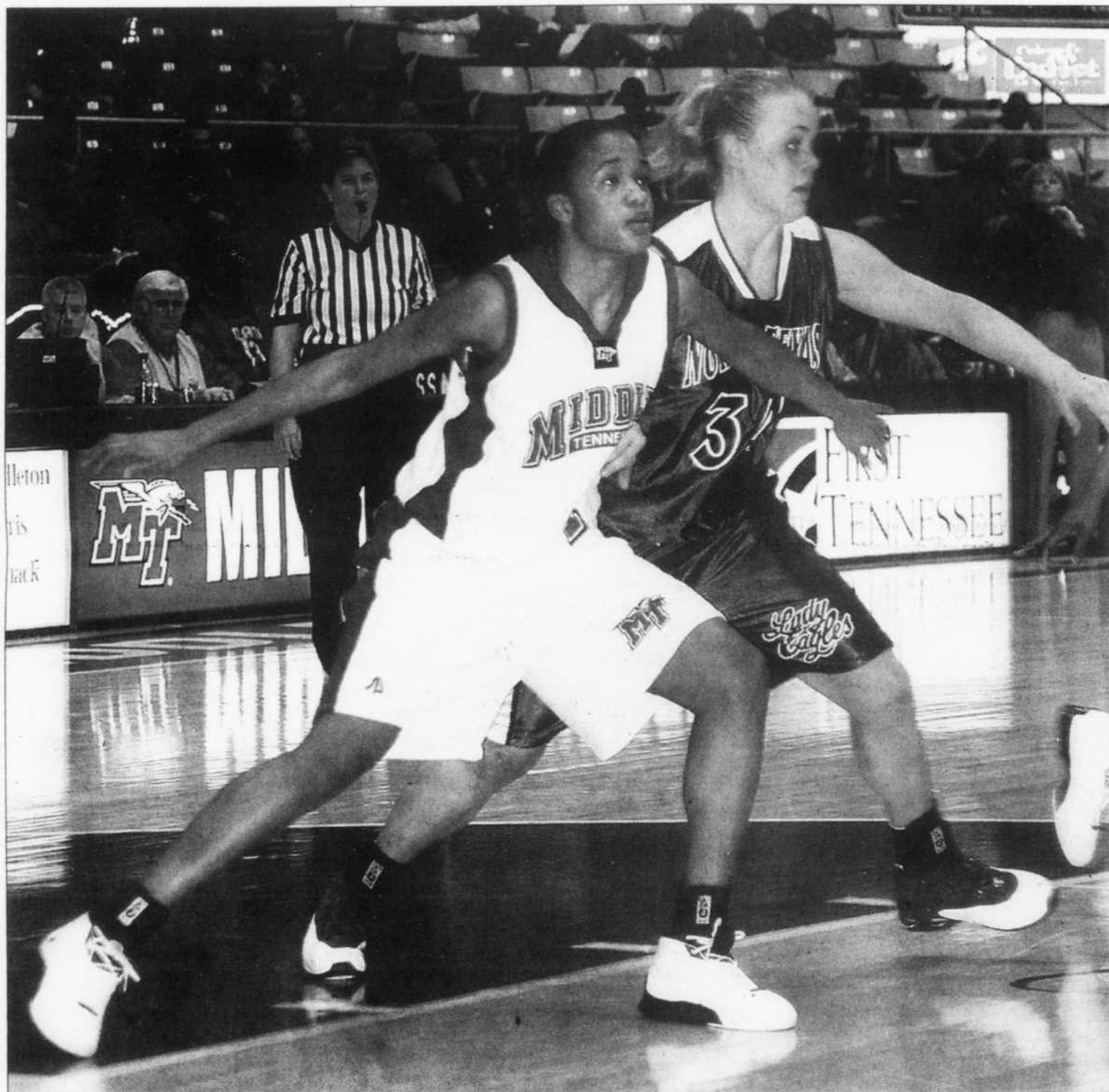


Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer

MT power forward Krystle Horton boxes out University of North Texas's Kelsie Edwards in MT's 64-55 win on Thursday.

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

After playing their worst half in recent memory, the Lady Raiders outscored the University of North Texas 43-23 after intermission to pull away for a 64-55 victory at Murphy Center Thursday night.

Patrice Hastings led three Lady Raiders (16-6, 6-3 Sun Belt Conference) with at least 15 points, scoring 20 points along

with seven rebounds. Krystle Horton scored 19 with four steals, while Tia Stovall added 15 points and seven rebounds.

The Lady Eagles were led by sophomore guard Jill Medlock, who scored 13 points, while UNT point guard Erika Bobo chipped in 11 points to go with six rebounds and three steals.

UNT took control in a sloppy first half. The Lady Raiders committed 14 turnovers, gave up 10 offensive rebounds and shot 29 percent from the field en route

to scoring 21 points and finding themselves in an 11-point deficit at the break.

"It was absolutely the most atrocious, embarrassing performance of basketball I've ever seen," Middle Tennessee head coach Stephany Smith said. "I thought we played better defensively after the 12-minute [media] timeout, but in the first six minutes of the game, I thought they [UNT] scored every time they came down the floor."

A 17-6 MT run to start the second half tied the game at 38 with 12:31 remaining when Tia Stovall found Patrice Holmes on a backdoor cut for a layup.

"When you know you're not playing to your ability, that's all you need to get yourself focused," Stovall said.

The Lady Eagles answered and extended their lead back to five, but Tia Stovall's layup and free throw 5:08 remaining

See Basketball, 9

Sun Belt loss for men credited to poor shooting

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team traveled to Denton, Texas, last Thursday to take on the University of North Texas in a Sun Belt Conference matchup.

Despite a game-high 26 points from junior guard Mike Dean, the Blue Raiders fell short in the game's final minute and dropped the contest 69-64.

Shooting 36.5 percent from the field, the Blue Raiders dropped to 12-10 overall, 4-5 in SBC play with the loss.

The Mean Green were led by Leon Hopkins, who scored 22 points, 17 of which came in the second half.

Hopkins sank two free throws after a three-point attempt by Dean rimmed out with just less than 10 seconds remaining.

"We got the shot we wanted, and it just didn't fall," Dean said afterward. "We ran the right play, and I was able to get a good look at it, and that's all you can ask for in that situation."

The Blue Raiders were put in this situation after battling back from a 12-point deficit early on in the second half.

The Mean Green led by 10 with 2:28 remaining, but two defensive stops and key buckets by MT's Bryan Smithson and Steven Jackson brought the score to 67-64 in the game's final minute.

"Our team never quits," MT

head coach Kermit Davis said. "We battle like heck, but our margin for error is so small."

This margin for error included a first half that saw the Blue Raiders hit zero three-pointers as well as uncharacteristically low scoring outputs from more than one Blue Raider.

While Dean set career highs in points and field goals attempted, MT leading scorer Tommy Gunn was held to just six points, the first time in 24 games that Gunn has not scored in double figures.

Michael Cuffee added 13 points and a career-high seven rebounds for the Blue Raiders, yet no other Blue Raider tallied double figures.

While MT struggled to score,

three other UNT players joined Hopkins in scoring double figures.

Michael DeGrate scored 17, while Marqus Mitchell and Jerome Rogers added 10.

"The bottom line was their players made plays, and we didn't," Davis said.

"We had a bunch of wide open looks and just didn't put them in the goal, and we fumbled a lot of balls around all game long."

After defeating Denver on Saturday, the Blue Raiders will be back in action on Thursday as they travel to Jonesboro, Ark., to take on Arkansas State University. ♦

Defense key for Blue Raider victory Saturday

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee got a much-needed Sun Belt Conference win with a 65-48 victory over the University of Denver Saturday night.

With the win, MT improved their record to 13-10 on the season and 5-5 in the SBC.

The Blue Raiders' key to victory was their defense. They held Denver to 30 percent from the field, a season low, and out-rebounded them 43-31.

"You really have to give Middle Tennessee credit," Denver head coach Terry Carroll said. "In the second half, I thought they came out and took the fight to us, particularly on the boards. Normally, we are a good shooting basketball team. Tonight, we were 15 of 50. You can't expect to win games shooting the ball like that. But their defense had something to do with that obviously."

The Blue Raiders started out the game trailing 6-4. After two free throws by Michael Cuffee the Blue Raiders were up 8-6 and never trailed the rest of the game. The first half ended with MT ahead 33-28.

In the second half, Denver appeared to be making a comeback as they tied the game at 37 with 16:28 remaining. MT then went on an 18-6 run over the next six minutes and went on to victory.

During the run, MT head coach Kermit Davis

decided to back off the half-court pressure and let his defense control the game.

"I thought they tried to be a little more aggressive against the press in the second half," Davis said. "They were doing a better job. We really got lucky a couple times when they missed a couple wide-open shots when we were trying to cover out of our press. They got about five, and we decided that we were guarding so well that we're not going to take any chances, and if they were going to beat us, it would be in the half-court."

MT was led by Tommy Gunn, who scored 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Mike Dean scored 16, while Michael Cuffee added 12.

With the win, MT moves into a tie for third in the SBC East Division and is two and a half games behind Western Kentucky University. One of MT's remaining four games is against WKU at home Feb. 26.

The victory gave Davis his 100th career Division I-A win. Junior Mike Dean moved into a tie for ninth on MT's single-season three-pointers list. He only needs one more to tie for eighth and five to tie for seventh.

The Blue Raiders go on the road for their next two games. They will play at Arkansas State University Feb. 19 and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock Feb. 21. ♦

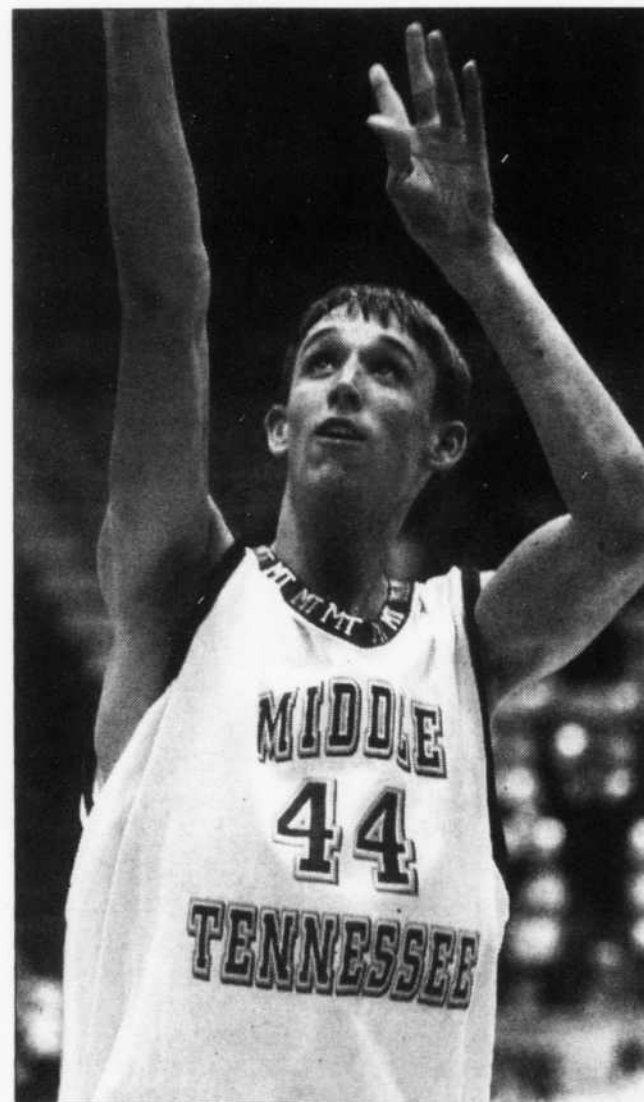


Photo by John Festervand | Staff Photographer

MT forward Kyle Young follows through on a free throw in MT's 65-48 win over Denver on Saturday.

Basketball: Women defeat UNT

Continued from 8

tied the game at 48, and her bucket and free throw on the next trip down gave the Lady Raiders a lead they would never relinquish.

"We knew how sloppy we played in the first half," Holmes said after the game. "We just knew we had to come out in the second half pick up the pressure, box out, and I think [in the second half] we really fought hard."

Holmes, Horton and Stovall combined for 38 second-half points, and MT held the Lady Eagles to 29 percent from the field for the second half. The Lady Raiders were 20 of 24 at the charity stripe, good for 83 percent, while UNT hit just 8 of 17 free throws.

The Lady Raiders face Arkansas State University Thursday night at Murphy Center to start their last two-game homestand of the season. Tipoff is at 7 p.m. ♦

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Blue Raiders face Yellow Jackets

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

After a loss at No. 57 Virginia Tech Saturday, the Middle Tennessee men's tennis team will travel to Atlanta to take on No. 44 Georgia Tech.

Georgia Tech is undefeated on the season at 4-0 with wins over Georgia State University, Emory University, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and Georgia Southern University. In those four matches, they have lost only one point. The point came against Emory University, when Noah Tyler lost to Yori Masuota at the No. 6 spot.

Georgia Tech is loaded with experience. Four seniors grace their roster:

Scott Schnugg is 4-0 in singles and doubles matches this season; West Nott is 4-0 in singles and 1-0 in doubles; Jason Pieters is 3-0 in singles and 4-0 in doubles; Joao Menano is 3-0 in singles and 4-0 in doubles.

GT's doubles team of Schnugg and Jose Luis Muguruza is No. 27 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings and has won the only match they played this season.

The Blue Raiders are looking to bounce back from their 6-1 loss to VT. The Blue Raiders are 5-3 all-time against GT. The last time the two schools played each other was last year, when then-No. 23 GT won 4-3.

MT is currently without one of

their co-captains, Trevor Short, who is suffering from a knee injury. He did not play against VT and is questionable against GT.

The Blue Raiders are 2-3 on the season. Four of their five matches have been against ITA-ranked opponents. In those matches they are 1-3, with their only victory coming against No. 52 University of Louisville. They lost to No. 51 Indiana University and No. 75 Arkansas-Little Rock.

The Blue Raiders play GT today at 1:30 p.m. They will then host the University of Memphis Feb. 20 at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro at 2 p.m. ♦

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Track squads win seven at Invitational

By Matthew Adair
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's and women's track teams made a strong showing last Saturday at the Middle Tennessee Valentine Invitational at Murphy Center, winning seven events.

MT senior sprinter Mardy Scales ran his fastest time of the season in the 55-meter dash at 6.21 seconds, 0.09 seconds faster than second-place DJ Spann.

The Lady Raiders matched the men with Tiffany Owens clinching a win in the women's 55-meter, beating out Eastern Kentucky University's Nicole Gibson by 0.01 seconds. Kishra George followed in fourth place in the 55-meter at 7.24.

Blue Raider Xavier Darden won the 200-meter dash at 21.38 seconds, besting former MT track member Brad Orr (21.72). Wesley Dupar-Scott took fourth place in that event at 21.87 seconds, while Sean Waller took seventh with a run of 22.07 seconds.

Nicole Marcus won the 200-meter dash for the women, finishing in front of teammates George and Kerry Barrow with a time of 24.42, her best this season. George and Barrow also ran for season-best times in the event with times of 24.65 and 24.92, respectively.

MT's newest additions,



Photo by John Festervand | Staff Photographer

MT's Mardy Scales, middle, wins the 55-meter dash. Xavier Darden, left, finished third.

James Thomas and Laetitia Florimond, took victories of their own in field events. Thomas earned a victory in the weight throw with a 51-2.5 mark, falling just short of his personal best set three weeks ago at the Blue Raider Invitational.

MT also filled out a few of the other rankings in that event with Willie Parker throwing a mark of 42-11, earning him seventh place.

Florimond, meanwhile, helped MT wrap up the women's shot put with a 45-3.5,

her best so far this season. Teammates Meaghan Byrd and Kelly Enoch made strong showings of their own. Byrd tied for third place with a throw of 40-1, while Enoch beat her own best throw this season with 39-9.5, taking fifth place.

KeKe Deckard took second place in the triple jump with a mark of 39-6.25 and fourth in the long jump with a mark of 17-8.25.

The men's 55-meter hurdles became a tight contest between sophomore Linnie Yarbrough

and senior Garland Martin, who finished with 0.01 seconds between them. Yarbrough took the victory in that event with a time of 7.30 seconds in finals.

In the women's 55-meter hurdles, Candice Robertson placed fifth (8.27) with Jerkita McClorin behind her in sixth (8.58).

Both teams will compete again at the Sun Belt Indoor Track & Field Championships Feb. 28-29 at Murphy Center. A time has not yet been set for the competition. ♦

Lady Raiders drop in Atlanta, Kruse wins fifth straight

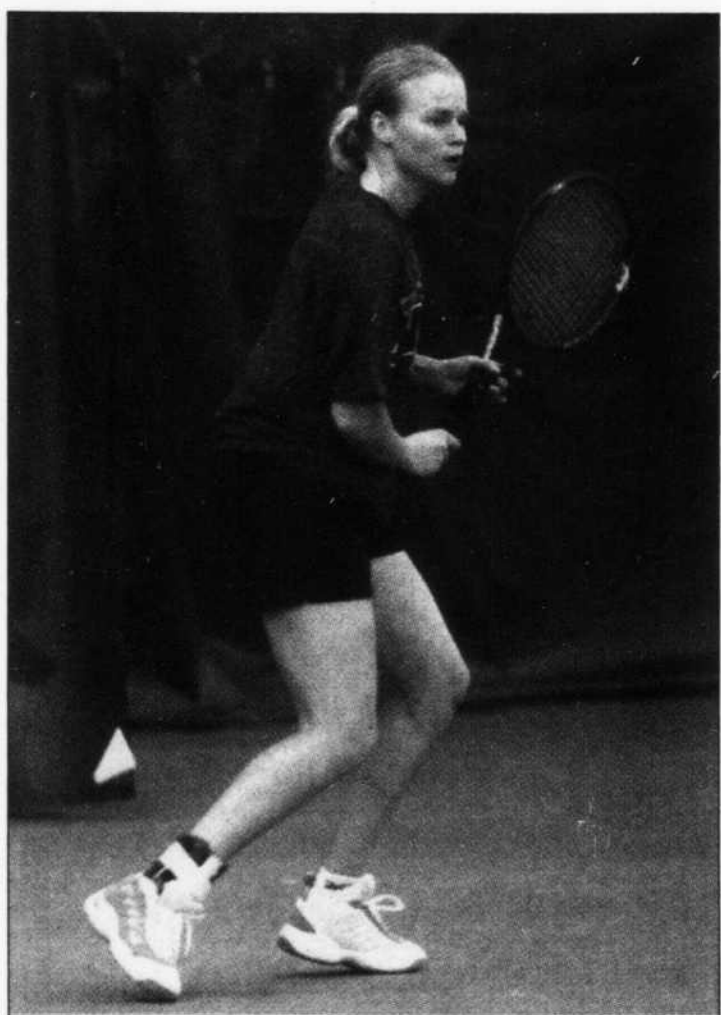


Photo courtesy Media Relations

MT senior Manon Kruse, pictured above, moved to 11-3 this season with a win at Georgia Tech last Wednesday.

By Matthew Adair
Staff Writer

Shelton told Georgia Tech media relations. "They are a dangerous team and have talent all over, so I thought that getting that point really set the tone for the entire match."

The Lady Raiders came away from their match at Georgia Tech last Wednesday with mixed results, with senior Manon Kruse taking her fifth consecutive victory, while the women's team suffered a 6-1 loss overall.

The Yellow Jackets seized a 1-0 lead with wins in the No. 2 and No. 3 doubles matches. GT freshmen Alison Silverio and Lindsey Stauss prevailed 8-2 over Ana Maria Cibils and Jacqui Williams at No. 3 while Maria Nieto and Lyndsay Shosho came from behind to win the deciding doubles match 8-6 over Jennifer Klaschka and Laura McNamara at No. 2.

The loss was the first for Klaschka and McNamara this season.

Middle Tennessee took its only doubles victory as No. 33 Kruse and Carien Venter defeated Kelly Anderson and Sekita Grant 8-5.

"We knew coming into the match that the doubles point was going to be key," Yellow Jackets head coach Bryan

Cibils pushed her match against Nieto into three sets before losing 1-6, 6-3, 0-10.

Kruse's 6-4, 6-1 win in the No. 1 match over Shosho was the Lady Raiders' only singles victory as GT went on to clinch the match as Grant defeated MT's Emily Vest 6-0, 6-0.

Kruse's win improved her overall record to 11-3 this season. She currently holds third place in Lady Raiders records for most career singles wins with 68 since she began playing for MT in the 2000-01 season.

The loss dropped MT to 3-2 for the season. The Lady Raiders go back on the road again Friday to play against the University of Arkansas-Little Rock at 2 p.m. ♦

Men lose to Virginia Tech Saturday 6-1

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

The 63rd ranked Middle Tennessee men's tennis team fell to 2-3 on the season as they lost 6-1 to No. 57 Virginia Tech on Saturday.

The Blue Raiders opened the match with a victory, as MT's Brandon Allan and Kai Schledorn defeated Andreas Lauland and Soren Spanner 8-6 at the No. 1 spot. Allan and Schledorn, currently No. 46 in the nation, kept their dual match record perfect for the season at 5-0.

At the No. 2 and No. 3 spots, however, MT was not as successful. VT's Angel Diankov and Morten Schultz defeated Aidan Fitzgerald and Kirk Jackson 8-4, while Hokies Arvid Puranen and Brent Wilkins won 8-6 over Rishan Kuruppu and Andreas Siljestrom to give VT the doubles point.

In the singles matches, the Blue Raiders lost three of the five matches in three sets. The first of the three came in the No. 2 match, where Soren defeated Schledorn 6-4, 4-6, 6-2. Puranen defeated Fitzgerald 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 at No. 3.

Diankov then defeated Jackson 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4), 10-6 in the No. 4 contest.

In other matches, Lauland defeated Siljestrom 7-6 (2), 6-4 at No. 1, and Schultz defeated Kuruppu 6-3, 6-4 at No. 5.

MT's lone point came when Anant Sitaram defeated Wilkins 7-5, 6-3 in the No. 6 match.

The Blue Raiders struggled without senior Trevor Short, who is out indefinitely due to a knee injury he suffered in practice last Tuesday. Short usually plays at No. 1 singles



File Photo

MT senior Kirk Jackson returns a volley against Indiana University on Jan. 24.

and No. 1 doubles with Jackson.

"It was another disappointing loss. We continue to lose very close matches, and I hope it makes us better in the end," MT head coach Dale Short told www.goblueraiders.com. "We're really looking for our identity right now. All of our matches

have been winnable, but we just haven't gotten the job done."

MT's next match will be against No. 44 Georgia Tech today in Atlanta at 1:30 p.m. After that, the team will return home to play the University of Memphis at 2 p.m. Friday. ♦



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